

Cultural Shifts!



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Please Pray...

» **Pray** for our family, that we will have patience, love and grace for one another as we continue to work on and wait for each step of our Visas to allow us to stay in Romania.

» **Pray** for good health, energy and rest, and that we will continue to grow in our relationships with Christ.

» **Praise** God for guiding us through Isla's trip to hospital, and for providing people to help us get through it.

» **Pray** that the Lord will open the right doors to provide our housing in Valcea in His perfect timing, but that we will know what to do and when!

» **Pray** that we can continue to develop the RWN as we talk with workers, work on the website and prepare for 2020's conference.

From anywhere to everywhere...

Since leaving Râmnicu Vâlcea on 4th October, we've already stayed in 8 different locations within 5 different countries. We would be lying if we didn't say we're a bit over living out of suitcases and looking forward to settling down in one location again.

We trust that all of this travel is anything but a waste of time, as God has continued to remind us along the way that He has already gone before us and prepared everything in His timing.

Cancelled appointments...

As part of our visa process, some of our Australian documents required an 'Apostille' stamp to give them credibility overseas. We were still waiting for the last document to be received in Sydney when we made enquiries about getting these particular stamps. When we called the Sydney office, we were told that it would take up to two weeks to get an appointment, with processing and return post taking up to an additional week. After discussing this situation, we decided to ring back and make the appointment in Sydney for someone to take in our documents. A different lady answered and informed us that they normally don't make appointments for people overseas, but after we explained our situation, said that she would make an exception for us. When she then looked at their availability, she said that there had been a cancellation at lunchtime on the following day. Even

this lady marveled at this short-notice appointment which she said rarely happens. In the hope that the last document might yet arrive that afternoon, we scheduled the appointment. Later that evening, it was confirmed that the final paper had indeed arrived. All our papers were taken to this office in Sydney, and after a one hour wait, were stamped and completed. Praise God, an expected 3-week process was resolved in 24 hours!

3rd Roma Europe Conference...

Waiting for our papers from Australia and also for another from Bucharest, we made the decision to continue on with our plans to attend the conference in Bosnia and Herzegovina for those who work with Roma across all of Europe. Praise God that around 250 people participated in the conference from not only Europe, but India and America as well. It was a great time of fellowship as we focused on the topic of 'partnership'.

During the conference there was also an opportunity to meet with those who serve Roma in the same country as one another. It was such a blessing to meet more workers serving across Romania, and to also have the opportunity to share with them about the Roma-Workers Network, and our expected May 2020 Conference. There is enthusiasm for a national conference for workers in Romania to get together, and we are blessed to be in the position to coordinate such an event. Please pray with us as we continue preparations for



this, and especially that we can get the location and dates booked in.

Isla's Excursion...

The Roma conference finished on Saturday morning and we decided to take advantage of the afternoon and drive across the Croatian border where we stayed that night. The following morning during breakfast, Isla twisted around in her chair and fell off, landing on her head. After some intense crying and signs of initial shock, she calmed down and it appeared that she was okay. We continued on with our plans to drive towards Budapest, where we planned to wait for our visa paperwork to arrive in the coming week. After more than an hour's wait at the border crossing into Hungary, we decided to stop for lunch at the first place we found. Whilst eating lunch in a shopping centre, Isla's mood changed before she proceeded to throw up. With this being anything but normal for Isla, Josh went to find out where the nearest hospital was so that we could get her checked out for concussion or any other injuries. Whilst he was trying to buy a SIM card to get data and thereby GPS, Isla's condition worsened and we soon found ourselves in an ambulance heading to the local hospital in Mohács. We are so grateful

"for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord" Ephesians 5:8-10

that God provided a lady in the shopping centre who spoke English and who was able to translate for the situation to the emergency worker on the phone, and then to the paramedics. We're also thankful for the understanding doctors and nurses who went out of their way to both help Isla get the care she needed, and also to help us through such unexpected circumstances where we didn't know anyone or anything of where we were. After 24 hours of observation and no further sign of concerns for Isla's health, we drove on to Budapest where we continued the wait for our visa.

More Paperwork...

After two weeks of staying in two different Airbnbs in Budapest, we prayed, consulted others, and made the decision to head across the border into Serbia, where we are now (a non-EU country). In light of the fact that we have less than three weeks worth of days remaining on our 'EU visitors visas', we recognise the need to preserve those days for when we have our paperwork in Budapest. We are grateful again for God's provision of special consideration to apply for our e-visa from Budapest, partly because the Romanian Consulate in Sydney is closed until further notice. However, this requires us to have temporary 'residence' in Budapest when we apply, but still with the need to leave the EU whilst we wait for our approval, so that we have remaining days to pick up our visa when it's ready. It's all incredibly complex, and this is just for the first phase of our visas. We will still need to complete the second phase once we're back in Vâlcea.

We are grateful to hear that our last document has been received in Budapest by courier today, and we now plan to get our e-visa application submitted this weekend.

We continue to be amazed at God's ways and timing, and ask you to also pray with us regarding our purchase of a house in Vâlcea. Please pray with us that we can finalise this soon after our arrival back in Vâlcea, and that He will go before us in this process as well. It has been incredible how this opportunity has come about, but we'll save that story for our next newsletter. Thank you for standing with us!

In His Hands, Josh, Manda and Isla.

Upcoming Events

Currently applying
for our
religious visas in
Budapest.

—
Manda's Mum & Aunty
visit in November

—
Our ITeams Aust.
Director visits in the last
week of November



Isla's hospital
adventure

97% **Current Support**

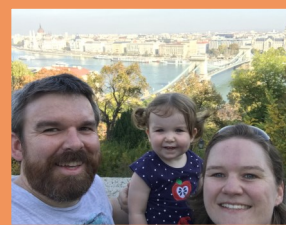
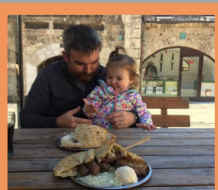
We are forever grateful to all who partner with us through your prayers, financial support and encouragement. Please continue to pray that God will provide for our spiritual, mental, physical and ministry needs, and let us know if you'd like to join our partnership team.

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Photos: Visiting Adi & Jen in Timisoara; Exploring Sarajevo, it's cuisine and attending the Roma Conference; Checking out some of Budapest whilst waiting for our Visas.