

Building Resilience Together!



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Please Pray...

» **Praise** God for His gracious provision for every need during the RWN conference. **Pray** for wisdom as we follow up evaluations and other future needs of the network.

» **Pray** that we will receive Zeke's Romanian residency card in time for us to travel to Australia. **Pray** for safe travels, and that we will all remain healthy, especially that Zeke won't get any respiratory infections.

» **Pray** that God will provide for our family's financial and ministry needs for our next term of service. **Pray** especially that God will provide for Zeke's medical costs, including his lung operation after we return.

» **Pray** for clear direction as to how God wants us to use our Home Assignment. **Pray** that all our medical appointments will go smoothly. **Pray** that there will be mutual blessing as we share at many churches during our HA.

Generous Giving!...

In the few weeks prior to our fourth Rroma-Workers Network Conference, we felt the challenges and stress, asking God if this is really what He wanted us to be doing. It seems to happen before every conference... the doubts come, yet we cling to His promises, knowing that God is able to provide for every need, as He has done so many times in the past. Then there is the waiting, praying... for the commitments of others; for the finances to be provided; for the registrations to come in... then the first deadline comes and goes; the extension comes and goes... Finally in the remaining week before conference, when I get the phone call to ask "Can I come, and bring my wife? Oh, and there's this other couple, can they come?" And a second third and fourth phone call... "So is it ok for another man to join us, we will all need sponsorships." "Oh, and his wife, can she come to? All six of us?"

I tell Josh I said yes to six more... You can imagine the look on his face as he's already trying to calculate if we have enough sponsorships, when I say "is now the time I should tell you that this morning I was

praying for 10 more people to come?"

Thank you to each and every one of you who gave generously to provide the sponsorships for workers to attend. While it swallowed up our deposit money for the next conference, your gifts provided just enough for all those who asked, to attend.

I am reminded of a devotion I read recently from Psalm 112:5, "Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice."

God has truly been generous with us, giving us life and forgiveness. In turn, it is beautiful to watch his people be generous in sharing His love and resources with those in need. THANK YOU!

Resilience...

After beginning the conference with some ice breakers, Everyone was put into four groups, which would become their groups to present a pantomime, skit, song etc in front of everyone later in the week. The theme was to illustrate what "Building Resilience Together" meant to them. Soon the room was filled with people looking up the definition of resilience and asking what it meant. We spent the



week delving into this theme through various means, and explored aspects of it in the workshops.

Sadly on the first morning of conference, one of our speakers sent a message to say his (young) cousin had suddenly passed away and he wouldn't be able to make it to the conference. On the second day of conference we heard that some of our workers coming from Hungary, had lost their church building in a fire on the weekend, but that they still wanted to come, even if not for the whole time. And one lady, who suffers from a herniated disk, after being at conference for only one day, said she needed to go home. However, without a ride home, we made a plan and she was

"For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline." 2 Timothy 1:7

able to stay for the week. The spiritual opposition came from all angles, but we are so grateful to the Lord that He provided, even through these challenges. We are also thankful to one of our speakers who offered to do a second workshop, so with some reshuffling, it all came together, and dare I say, just as it needed to be. We were also greatly encouraged by the number of workers who attended, who were from a Roma background themselves, the most to date of our four conferences. There really were some valuable conversations during the week, and we hope to now be able to visit some of these workers over the coming few years. We look forward to sharing more stories about the conference when we come to visit you soon, but in the mean time, praise God with us for a wonderful week and for all He did.

Home Assignment...

Ministry can certainly be stressful, as can living in another country. We know this presently as we wait on Zeke's Romanian residency permit, in the hope that it will arrive before we soon fly out. But despite this, God continues to reassure us that it's in His hands. So please, don't give up praying with us!

We still have plenty to prepare before we leave, as Josh tries to get our laundry back to a working state (which got put on hold with Zeke's birth). Isla will also finish up her three years at gradi with her final performance this Friday (14th). And, of course, there's the preparing our house for someone else to care for it in our absence. But we look forward to seeing so many we dearly love and miss, and although many catchups won't seem like enough time, we are grateful for the opportunity to come before having to be back in time for Isla to start 'Big school' and for Tilly to now start at 'gradi'.

Please pray with us as we trust God to provide for our ongoing needs for our next term of service, recognising the increased needs in our support, as well as the present reduction in our financial support. Will you join our partnership team over the coming term? We are thankful that God already knows all this and goes before us!

In His Hands,
Josh, Manda, Isla, Tilly and Zeke

Upcoming Events

Home Assignment

End June to End August.

Sharing @

7/7- Bankstown

Community

14/7- Canowindra

21/7- Castle Hill Baptist

4/8- Zeke's Dedication/
Tilly's Birthday

11/8- Phillip Island Baptist

13/8 (PM) Glen Park,

Eltham North

18/8 (AM)- First Romanian

Baptist (VIC)

18/8 (PM)- Maranatha

Baptist (VIC)

25/8- CHBC

Recommissioning



75%

Current
Support

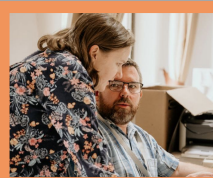
We are forever grateful to all who partner with us through your prayers, financial support and encouragement. Please continue to pray that God will provide for our spiritual, mental, physical and ministry needs, and let us know if you'd like to join our partnership team.

www.pioneers.org.au/give

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Photos: Easter (May 5th) Photos from RWN Conference (May 20-24th); Ezekiel's now Australian; Visit from a friend; Josh at global Roma Conference, Albania; Isla at gradi

