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UPCOMING EVENTS

I WILL BE HEADING TO BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND FOR TWO WEEKS OF 'ACCESS' TRAINING WITH UK INTERNATIONAL TEAMS FROM SEPT 14TH- 27TH

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THERE WILL BE AN AUSTRALIAN SHORT-TERM TEAM COMING TO TIMISOARA FROM NOV 28TH TO DEC 20TH

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So many choices...!

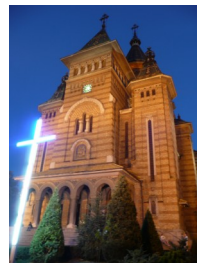
~ AMANDA LEWIS; AUG 26TH 2008 ~

A Time Of EXPLORING!

What a fully-packed summer it has been! Just adding to the heat of mid to high 30s for the longest duration on record and only a few days of rain to ease the sweat!

The Franklin Graham 'Hope Festival' was a real site to see. Thousands of people, young and old turned up to the organised events that ran from July 4th-6th. The final session saw the stadium at almost full capacity. Over 50% of those who attended were from Timisoara, compared to other festivals where more people have come from surrounding villages. So the task is now to keep following up those who publically came to Christ; linking people up with local churches.

Valea Drăganului was the location (www.fundatiaemanual.ro) of the **English Family Camp** I went on from July 7th-13th. A team of Americans and a group from Timisoara accompanied families for a week of fun. Long days were evened out by the encouraging conversations and opportunity to hear and share life stories with those who went. And of course there were relationships being built that will



Piața Victoriei, Timișoara

hopefully last into the years to come. There were also some adults, teens and children who committed their lives to Christ, which is always a praise point!

Since the week after returning from camp, I have officially started my **Romanian Language Lessons** two days a week. It is a blessing to be able to start understanding what is happening around me. From simple directions to being able to say hello to people on the streets- anything and everything helps!

The summer has also been a quiet time. Yes, there has been lots happening, but mostly away from the normal places of action.

Potter's House, the Day Centre, Vox and other places all run camps over the summer- usually from 6 to 12 days long. Our (IT) team meetings therefore have been small, with some weeks only three of us attending. None the less a great chance to pray for everyone!

At the beginning of August I had the opportunity to attend the Elim Pentecostal church to hear **Nick Vujicic** give a wonderful talk about how God can use us just as we are. It was an amazing talk of the freedom we have in Christ, and that even when we are on the edge and at our lowest point, feeling useless and rejected, God will help us get up. Nick used the visual analogy that he had to use his Bible to push himself back up after 'falling' down; that he can't do it alone.

Please Pray...

- » **Praise** for the Franklin Graham Event and English Camp that both went well and **pray** for those that gave their lives to Christ.
- » **Praise** for the time I have had to live in a Romanian family, and **pray** for Anna's and My relationship to grow as we live together.
- » **Pray** for discernment and wisdom about what ministries God wants me to be involved with, and that contracts and visas can be acquired without too much hassle.
- » **Pray** for my time in England, that I would be able to process everything and that God would guide me and use this time to grow me, and refresh me for my return to Timisoara.
- » **Pray** for continued language learning as I do both formal and personal study; that I would understand the grammar and be able to apply it as I learn to communicate.
- » **Pray** for good health- both physically, mentally and spiritually!

"FAITH BY ITSELF, IF IT IS NOT ACCOMPANIED BY ACTION, IS DEAD"

JAMES 2:17



CHECK OUT MY BLOG & FACEBOOK FOR MORE PHOTOS & NEWS:

www.mandalewis.blogspot.com

(Click on website for link)

The following day, I taught an **English lesson**, to which I used an Australian theme. I was amazed that all three of the business people thought Sydney was Australia's capital- I guess it just goes to show that it should be ;)

I'm am constantly praying about where the Lord wants me to be involved here. I have had many opportunities to visit and participate in the local ministries, mostly involving children.

Two recent opportunities I have had, is to go along with Dawn, an American missionary with GEM, to take groups of orphans on **various outings**.

The first outing was with children from four to eight years old to the local **swimming pool**. Most of these children have some form of disability whether physical, mental or both. Only having to jump in once after a girl who was 'testing' the water, the excursion was success, but a test in many ways.

The second outing was with an older group, who were from eight to in their twenties,

though mentally not above ten. This trip was to **the local zoo**, and with all but two being wheelchair bound (only one jumped out of his chair with excitement) we mainly walked around, looked at all the animals, and played at the playground. This day was a struggle for some of the kids, however, as it was about 37°C.

So, now that I have been here for just over three months, I am beginning the next stage of my transition...

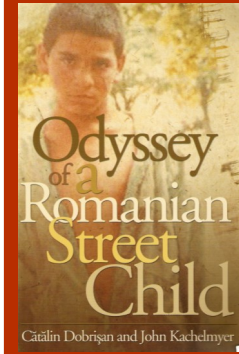
Two days before I leave for England, I will be saying goodbye to my time spent living with my Romanian Family- Flavian, Corina and Alexandru. My time spent with them has been a great time of learning the language and about the Romanian culture, and I am very grateful to God for my time with them.

This also means that when I return from my training, I will be moving into an apartment with Anna, who is from New Zealand. Anna and Jen, have been sharing the apartment, but of course Jen will be moving out when she get's married to Adi on the 13th Sept- a very timely situation. **(please note the address below is my new address)**

The beginning of October will also mean the possibility of visiting the **children's hospital**. However, this is dependant on who becomes the new director, as one of the candidates likes volunteers and the other doesn't. So please pray for this, as it is a great ministry opportunity.

I can't forget to mention also, the short-term team who are coming with International Teams in December. Please pray for their time here, as we will most certainly be getting into the Christmas season and activities. Please pray and contact IT ASAP if this trip is on your heart. (The deadline for applications is mid September)

BOOK RECOMMENDATION



"What is it like to be a young child living on the streets (in Romania)?"

Cătălin Dobrișan tells his story with the help of John Kachelmyer

*...
But be forewarned: This story is a grim reality that will stir your heart and is not for the faint hearted.*

International Teams:

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SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN TIMIȘDARA, ROMANIA!

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