

Timișoara- my new home!

~ AMANDA LEWIS; JUNE 30TH 2008 ~



...

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRANKLIN GRAHAM 'FESTIVALUL SPERANTEI' (HOPE FESTIVAL)

Franklin Graham, along with local church and civic leaders, will hold the festival from July 4-6.

The stadium, which can hold more than 32,000 guests has potential for several satellite locations in surrounding areas and countries, where a live broadcast of the festival will be shown.

Please pray that God will bless this outreach in Romania and that many will come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour!

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A Time Of TRANSITION!

To think that I am already in my second month of being in Timisoara... Time seems to be getting away, yet I have already done and seen so much!

God continues to show me His faithfulness and plans, and I am so thankful for all that He has done to get me here and help me settle in.

The week of travel prior to my arrival in Romania was amazing in itself. I met another lady and a couple who's daughter's had worked and been missionaries in Romania!

Sensing a common factor??

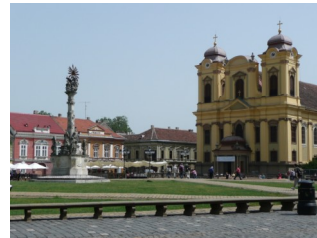
Since arriving in Timisoara on May 20th, I have seen many of the ministries that International Teams, as well as other missions, are currently involved with.

I thought in this newsletter, I would tell you of these ministries, that you might join me in praying as to where the Lord would have me serve Him best. (With my schedule beside me, I will try to at least list them all.)

The **Kindergarten** run by the *Vox Domini* church, at this stage has three

teachers and anywhere from 10 to 30 children. Kathleen (our IT team leader) teaches English to the older children each Friday and I have been asked to consider helping out on a Friday morning with one of the little girls who is handicapped in her lower body.

The one and only **playgroup** here, is held on a Tuesday morning. It is linked to the *Sfântă Treime* church, where Bec is involved with the mothers and their children who are aged from 0-2. Jen is also involved with a **kids group** there for ages 3 to 7.



Piața Unirii, Timișoara

'**Potter's House**' is a place of intervention that is run for street children and those from difficult backgrounds. Covering a wider age group, they are given meals, taught various educational basics (including English) as well as bible studies and teaching them responsibilities. It has just recently gained state approval for it's programs, as well as receiving some financial assistance. As apart of this approval, they have also agreed to increase from 25 to 50 children.

The '**Day Centre**' is run by *Mana*, another Christian organisation. It is a place of rest and safety from life on the streets, and a place where (generally) teens can feel loved and cared for. However some struggle to part with their...

Please Pray...

» Please pray for me as I continue to adjust to being in my new home here in Timisoara... For developing relationships with other members on my team, my Romanian family, the Romanian people and continued relationships back in OZ.

» Pray that God will use me in my weakness, and show me what He wants me to do and what ministries to be involved in. Also that He will grow me into who he wants me to be!

» Pray for quick 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!

» Pray that as I learn more about the Romanian Culture, that I would adjust to it and not judge it and compare it to the Australian culture.

**"BE STILL AND KNOW
THAT I AM GOD"
PSALM. 46:10**



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drugs, and try to hide them instead! It is also a challenge for them to be thankful for what they are given and not to take it for granted.

There is a **girls home** which is linked to the day centre, and a **boys home** which is in the process of being built. The girls home has around 10 girls who were previously on the street or come from abusive families. There is a couple who live with them as house parents, and they are currently looking for new house parents for the boys home when it is ready.

I have been to both Socodor (about an hour and a half out of Timisoara) and Sacalaz (20 mins out) to watch and help with the **children's programs**. Being villages, children also came from surrounding villages to join in and hear the message being told!

June 1st is International Children's Day, so there was a programme in a local park where there was an opportunity for those who are usually outcasts in society, to actually feel like they are special and valuable- a rare thing here!

For the men, there was a soccer championship and the final was certainly humbling to watch as they all walked onto the field together and lined up for their team photo! A real sense of teamwork and 'mateship'!

I had the privilege of going to Cornesti (30 mins away) to visit the **home for women** with babies and little children that they would otherwise have to give up. There are also many **children's camps** held there over the summer and they are looking into setting up some housing for the elderly who have nowhere to go.

These are the ministries I have visited so far, but I have also been visiting various churches. At the moment, I considering Vox Domini as a church to

call home. The church was set up mainly for international students and is quite contemporary (especially in music). With two services already on Sunday mornings, and about 300 people attending, they are looking into creating a new church. The last Sunday of every month, they have an English service, and every second week, instead of meeting in the big church, they meet in house churches. In the house church there is a time of worship together before breaking into smaller groups for a bible study, based on the same passage that was preached the previous week. At the house church I attend, we break into two groups- Romanian and English! (There is an English translation at the services.)

I have had the opportunity to experience various cultural aspects. From foods, to travel and local attractions like the zoo, shopping centres, squares and parks.

I have been on two road trips to Budapest in Hungary, the second one of which I got to drive on the motorway at top speed of 145kph. I am slowly getting used to driving on the right hand side and driving manual (first time since I was a learner). But what was amusing was ending up at the Serbian border on the way home from the first trip!

I am enjoying settling in and have a great peace that this is where God wants me! I have and continue to make new friends frequently and pray that God will nurture these relationships.

I have really been challenged over these past two months to just 'be' and not 'do'. There is a time for everything, and as much as I want to get into the ministry- now is the time for settling, building relationships and growing closer to the Lord.

Thankyou for your emails, letters and words of encouragement... Your love, support and prayers keep me going in so many ways. God Bless!

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