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UPCOMING EVENTS

**Leadership Training for
Cambodia - 10th Sept**

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**Anna coming from NZ
21st Sept - 2nd Oct**

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**Adam and Fiona's Wedding
5th November**

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**End of Year Exams
14th - 18th November**

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**Cambodia Mission Trip
27th Dec- 28th Jan, 2012**

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Cultural Crossings...

~ AMANDA LEWIS; SEPT 3RD 2011 ~

A Time Of PRIORITISING!

Continually amazed at the way God brings about His plans, I've been reflecting on just how much I am completely dependant on Him.

Nothing happens outside of his will and I can't imagine living life any other way. My life certainly wouldn't be nearly as amazing, adventurous and even testing, if it wasn't God calling me to live for him.

Recently I gave my first sermon at college. It was challenging to think that God wants to use me, an ordinary person who just wants to love and serve him with my life. I preached on Romans 1:8-17, talking about how God wants his people to be outgoing, overflowing and ever-growing. Through his ministry, Paul never outgrew the word of God and it's a challenge for us to persevere no matter what circumstances we are in!

These past months, I have heard many lectures, sermons and testimonies and each day I thank God for the privilege to study his word fulltime, whilst so many people would long for such an opportunity.

On top of the college community and weekly schedules, I have loved being able to attend a Children's ministry conference on teaching children the Old Testament; a Biannual Preaching Conference; ReachOut- a missions Conference in Katoomba on the theme of being an

Ambassador for Christ and a most enjoyable International Dinner at college, where we all dressed up and tried many different cuisines.

My eyes have certainly been enlightened to [God's global vision](#) and I loving being part of it.



Spring @ SMBC!

I have recently started a cross-cultural communication assignment on one of the Muslim cultures, and part of this assignment requires spending 15-20 hours observing and talking to people from the culture. I was blessed to be able to have dinner at a refugee families house and hear about their lives. They have been through so much hardship and yet remain so positive. Many stereotypes were broken as we shared a meal and as I saw their hearts and hospitality. It was an amazing experience and time of learning. I have also enjoyed wandering the streets around Sydney where some of these people reside and attended an *Eid* festival as Ramadan came to a close for this year.

On another note, In my last newsletter back in April, I told of plans that were in the process for leading a trip.

Please Pray...

- » **Praise** God that I am not feeling so overwhelmed but loving every aspect of college and especially growing ever closer to Him.
- » **Praise** for new friendships made and **Pray** that I would have time to continue building on my pre-existing relationships with friends and family.
- » **Praise** that things are starting to come together for Cambodia and **Pray** that God would raise up His team to go and provide for all our needs.
- » **Pray** that I would balance my priorities and commitments to study, ministry and rest and that I would be diligent in doing my assessments and preparation for exams.
- » **Pray** that the Lord would continue to provide for my financial, spiritual and especially my physical needs, as my body battles against spending so many hours behind desks.

**“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.”
Romans 1:16 (NIV)**



**Check out my
Facebook
for more photos**

Well I'm pleased to say after many meetings and much prayer, I will be leading a Short Term Mission to [Cambodia](#) this coming January with International Teams. It is an amazing opportunity we will have a supervisor working with us to meet college requirements as the trip is also doubling as my Cross-Cultural Field Education for college.

This being the case, Deb (another student) and I will be heading to Phnom Penh, Cambodia on the 27th December, as we are required to spend a full four weeks in the receiving culture. We will then head to Siem Reap in time to meet the rest of the team who will arrive on the 8th January and will head home together on 28th January. With little time to rest, I will then restart College for the year just two days later.

You may also remember, at the end of last year I received an [award](#) from my old High School, WCC. The money from that reward has been assigned to the training and support of the team going to Cambodia and will prove a true blessing indeed.

Whilst the [program for the trip](#) is yet to be set, depending on the team's gifting and abilities, it may include English teaching and other activities for children, youth and university students in a centre in Siem Reap and also two villages further north. I continue to pray that God would raise up His team to go and look forward in expectation for the plans He has in store for us. If you are interested in coming, please pray about it and contact International Teams. The closing date for [applications](#) is 30th September.

The [rest of this year](#) certainly leaves me with lots to do and organise as I prioritise and balance all my commitments- to [college](#) with assessments and end of year exams; my brother Adam's [wedding](#) in Bowral on 5th November, the weekend before Stuvac ; the Cambodia trip and everything else.

Seeing the way the Lord has got me this far through the year, I continue to give thanks as I tick off each assignment and think about how much I have learnt. I am grateful for having [passed all exams](#) and subjects last semester and whilst there is a great deal more reading this semester, I know that somehow, with God's help I will get through this one!

Please continue to pray with me as the Lord reveals his plans to me, that I would be obedient and faithful as he calls me to serve Him in whatever part of the world He places me. I continue to miss those around the world who I no longer get to see regularly, and especially as the 9th August brought about the first anniversary since I left Romania. I trust that in His timing, God will lead me into the next season of my life and whilst I don't know what that picture looks like yet, I'm glad He does!

I am thankful to be able to see [Anna](#), as she comes to Sydney in a few weeks time. Jen, Adi, Kathryn and I will be able to spend time together and us girls are planning to head to the Blue Mountains for a few days as well as doing the other Sydney attractions. Friends are a true blessing, too often taken for granted, but I know I will treasure this opportunity to get together in this part of the world, as we reflect on our lives back in Romania together and also talk about the here and now.

Thank you always for your continued love, support and prayers! May you all continue to be blessed to be a blessing to those around you.

In His Hands,

~Manda~

PS: Happy Father's Day to all Dad's entrusted with this important role.

Photos: Cairns Holiday with Kez- Paronella Park, Cape Tribulation, Breakfast with the Birds (Elvis the Black Cockatoo), Snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef; SMBC International Dinner & Annual College Soccer Comp;

Sharing the love of God through International Teams



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“For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose.” Philipians 2:13