



~ AMANDA LEWIS;

DEC 21ST 2010 ~



A Time Of NEW CHALLENGES!

The sparkling lights adorn the shopping centres, the cicadas are singing and I've got that familiar buzz of excitement that comes with the festive season!

Far from what I've known for the past two years of temperatures down to -13°C and singing carols as the snow falls into the early hours of the morning, this Christmas marks a change in the seasons in my life.

Much has happened since my arrival back down under on 18th September.

After recovering from my jet lag, it was straight into getting the ball rolling once more. Insurances, Medicare, Election Rolls, Doctors and Dentists- you name it, I did it all in the first few weeks of getting back!

Add to the list, a real answer to prayer, sitting in the driveway as we pulled in from the journey home from the airport. After a few weeks of driving lessons around the Hills District, I am now able to use [my car](#) and am so humbled to receive this gift.

Finding my feet, the [meetings](#) began! [Catching up](#) with family and friends (sorry if we haven't caught up yet) and trying to establish the 'where to now.'

I met with International Teams, SMBC (college) and CHBC (church) leaders and after much prayer made the decision to accept the proposal to [stay on with International Teams](#) for at least another four years (i.e. two years of college and another term on the mission field).



Our Tree!

[My role with IT](#) for the next two years will include things like mentoring and talking with those interested in going to the mission field; helping out with IT events such as 'Reachout' and I'm also looking into leading a short term trip. Of course, considering all of

this, my studies will take precedence, but by doing this, there will be a greater continuity and support and I have a real peace in the decision made.

Many people have asked me how I am going to [finance my studies](#), having relied on support for the past few years. Well, thankfully I qualify to receive Fee-Help (HECS) from the Australian government to cover the costs of my degree.

However, as anyone who has studied at SMBC knows, my degree also includes a certificate in Biblical Studies which is not covered and unfortunately, whilst I do receive some benefits from the government from 'Aus-Study', the cost of living on campus is a fair sum in itself.

Due to staying on with IT during this time, I will need continued financial support, the same as when I was on the Mission field, allowing me to study and

UPCOMING EVENTS

**I WILL BE MOVING
INTO SYDNEY
MISSIONARY AND BIBLE
COLLEGE (SMBC)
ON THE
31ST JANUARY 2011
TO BEGIN MY
TWO YEAR DEGREE.**

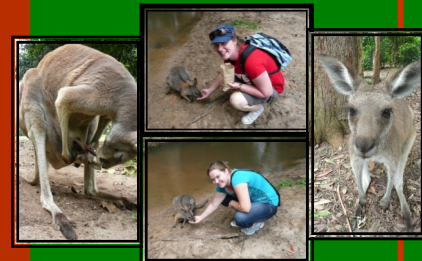
**COLLEGE MISSION
(LOCATION STILL
UNKNOWN)
APRIL 3RD-10TH**

Please Pray...

- » **Praise** for the way God has shown me the next steps to take in staying with International Teams and **Pray** that I will be able to balance my commitments to study, ministry and rest.
- » **Praise** God for the opportunities I've had to share about my ministry in Romania and pray that hearts would be challenged and changed for the growth of His Kingdom.
- » **Praise** God for the opportunity to spend time rekindling my relationships with family and friends, especially over this Christmas time.
- » **Pray** that I would settle in well to a new life at college and all it brings.
- » **Pray** that the Lord would continue to provide for my financial, spiritual and physical needs as many changes take place over the coming months.



"THE ONLY THING THAT COUNTS IS FAITH ITSELF THROUGH LOVE... A LITTLE YEAST WORKS THROUGH THE WHOLE BATCH OF DOUGH."
GALATIANS 5: 6,9 (NIV)



CHECK OUT MY FACEBOOK FOR MORE PHOTOS

work in ministry whilst in Australia.

For those of you who are interested in [supporting me](#), you may consider giving to my regular support needs through IT, or if you feel led, you can give directly to SMBC or myself if you want to help me through college. Please talk to me further if you would like to know more.

I will be [moving into college](#) on 31st January and am looking forward to what lies ahead... new friends, new challenges and much more. But, that being still a month away, I am enjoying this present season of Christmas and spending time with family and friends.

Other recent happenings include giving [talks](#) at church, at an 'IT Journeys Night' in a cafe and at my old Girls' Brigade. I was also encouraged to attend and briefly share about God's Faithfulness at the recent [50th Anniversary](#) for International Teams here in Sydney. It was a real celebration to see and hear just how far IT has come and also get a glimpse as to where it is going. And speaking of celebrations- I was pleasantly surprised when I got home one November night to hear the news that [my brother](#) Adam and his girlfriend Fiona are now engaged with plans to marry next November. And I had the joy of visiting friends in Coffs Harbour for a weekend and spending a week with my best friend Kez in Queensland.

The surprises went on as I received an email from my old High School asking me if I would go in for an interview, as I had been nominated for an award. I certainly didn't expect to be going to the principles office again let alone another 'speech night'! but with great delight, a few days later I received another email which read "We have conducted all the Interviews and we have some great news -you have been selected as the [Alumnus of the Year 2010](#) - Congratulations!" It was a humbling feeling indeed, and not easy keeping it a secret until the presentation.

The year ahead is already looking full, as I sat down with my 2011 diary and filled in all the SMBC details alone, but I intend to keep you updated at least every quarter whilst I'm at college.

So you know, I am currently also waiting to get my [new prayer cards](#) printed, so if you don't receive one in the next few weeks, just let me know and I'll get onto it.

[THANK YOU](#) to everyone for your love, support, prayers, encouraging letters, cards, emails and Skype chats. Without you, I would not have been able to serve as I did in Romania, nor would I be able to continue to serve in the years to come. Ministry in any form takes a team to make it work, and I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the part you have played. God is at work and whilst, at the end of a year we take the time to reflect and mull over what's been, it is also a wonderful chance to look forward with expectation to the great things the Lord will do in the coming year.

Let's celebrate with all our hearts, the real reason for this Christmas season. A tiny babe that came to save the world! Happy Birthday Jesus- The Greatest present of all!!

I pray you enjoy a Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

With Him I Serve,

~Manda~

Photos: Dad's Birthday Dinner; My cat taking in the Christmas Atmosphere; Sharing at the IT 50th celebration; My 'new' car called 'Lily'; Getting back into my home culture at Australia Zoo with Kez;

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SHARING GOD'S LOVE THROUGH
INTERNATIONAL TEAMS!

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