



The little train that...

~ AMANDA LEWIS; OCT 3RD 2012 ~

A Time Of ENIGMAS!

A whirl wind of a journey, I am in denial that this is my final newsletter whilst at college. Looking through my previous letters and reliving the emotion and stories, I am lost for words as to what this all really means.

I feel like this is an all too common part of my life, just getting settled and establishing new and wonderful friendships and then having to think about changes and inevitable farewells. I think I could probably say it is the hardest part about what I know God has convicted me to do for Him. But that said, as hard as it is, I know it is a cost I can only hold out to Him and ask him to help me bare.

Before I first set out for Romania in 2008, I knew these seasons were going to be a roller-coaster and test every part of me. Little did I realise how much my heart and faith would be tested. The number of times God has asked me, 'how much are you willing to give up for my sake and my people?!' seems immeasurable and each time I can only bow my knee at His feet.

My heart longs to serve the Lord wherever He sends me and in whatever

He wants me to do. I only pray that He would use me as He sees fit for His Glory.

Having just arrived back from an awesome [road-trip to Toowoomba](#) to visit Shez's hometown, it was great to get away from the stress and work of college life. I had the privilege of seeing

more of this beautiful country, which I try all the more not to take for granted, and enjoyed seeing God at work in the lives of people. It was a blessing to share about our trip to Israel and the

impact it continues to have, as well as spending time getting to know Shez's friends. Waterfalls, coffee, chai lattes, walking

around parks and taking in the sites of the annual Carnival of Flowers and taking train rides down to Spring Bluff. It was a fun-packed week of just hanging out! A highlight was definitely going to the Lady Antebellum concert in Brisbane and knowing most of the songs after having listened to them all week.

The week was all too soon complete and it was time for the solo trip back, via some old family friends. With hours of time to reflect, I am thankful for the many blessings God has given me!

Today I arrived back college for the last leg of this season and am already feeling the pressure and stress rising.

I know that by His grace, God has got me through every semester of college so far,



Golden Guitar
@ Tamworth!

UPCOMING EVENTS

STUVAC 12th- 16th Nov

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Rroma Project Due
16th Nov

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Exams 19th-23rd Nov
(TBC)

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Graduation 1st Dec

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Personal Retreat
4th- 10th Dec

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Please Pray...

» **Praise** God for the friendships He's blessed me with at college over these past two years and **Praise** that Shez's and my road trip to Toowoomba went smoothly and we were able to spend quality time together, away from the stress of college and especially our projects.

» **Praise** God for all that He continues to teach me as I trust Him with my future plans and **Pray** that I would be patient, waiting for Him to reveal what those plans are.

» **Pray** for these last seven weeks at college, that I can cope with the stress as I study and that I would manage all my commitments and time well.

» **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 studying.

**“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.”
Hebrews 6:10 (NIV)**



**Check out my
Facebook
for more photos**

and I don't doubt He will get me through the next seven weeks, as overwhelming as they seem. My prayer is that somehow, amidst the stress, God would help me to see clearly and that I would be able to enjoy and embrace the time I have.

I also don't want to just see the remaining assignments and of course my project, as just another academic task, but hope they will continue to shape my faith and help me to grow in my personal relationship with Christ. I don't think it would be possible to have made my schedule any more full [this semester](#), but I have no regrets for taking on the extra load, i.e. Israel. I have learnt and continue to learn so much every day I'm here and whilst I will most definitely leave college with more questions than answers, it has been all the worth while and an adventure I would encourage everyone who is serious about Christ, to pursue.

Still unawares about what [next year](#) will hold, I am thankful to have been offered a place to stay in December, to take a [personal retreat](#) and pray about the year ahead. I am excited about the journey, though my emotions change every minute, and I am thankful that I can trust God to lead me in His perfect timing. I would appreciate your prayers as I continue to think through and make decisions about what my future holds. Yes, I am still considering the ministry proposal to return to a different part of Romania, but with everything else taking priority until the end of college, I don't feel I can give this adequate attention in the immediate future.

[After college](#), I will certainly be initiating meetings with my church, International Teams and individuals to talk through my options further, but I know my future post-college is not going anywhere and I can entrust it to God for the moment. I also certainly hope to catch up on long overdue coffees with friends who I haven't seen enough of. I know I thought I would be able to see more people, being in the same city and all, but the busyness of college has certainly taken its toll in many ways. Sorry if you had the same expectation.

[Thank you](#) again for all your prayers, love and support over the last two years. There is no way I could have got through any of this without you all. I treasure your friendship and partnership in the Gospel more than I can express in words and only pray that you will continue to be encouraged through this ministry into the coming years.

Dare I say, 'watch this space!'

In His Hands,

~Manda~



Photos:

Left: Meagan (from High School) and Matt's Wedding; Toowoomba Road-Trip: The Chocolate Cottage at the Village Green; Queen Mary Falls; Crows Nest Falls; Spring Bluff train station; Lady Antebellum Concert in Brisbane.

Above: The QLD/NSW border; Girraween National Park; At Shez's friend's farm with Phoebe the calf; Japanese Gardens.

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