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UPCOMING EVENTS

I WILL BE ENJOYING A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY TO GREECE WITH MY BEST FRIEND KERRIE, OVER THE NEW YEAR!

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"The joy of a great celebration, sharing rich gifts and warm (Christmas) Greetings"
Isaiah 9:3
The Message (paraphrased)



Warm Greetings!



~ AMANDA LEWIS;

DEC 28TH 2008 ~

A Time Of **RESOUNDING!**

Crăciun Fericit!! (Happy Christmas)

I think I can honestly say that Dec has been my busiest month yet!

Not only has there been Christmas activities happening, but there was an Australian Short-Term team here! It was wonderful to be able to share this Christmas season with 8 more fellow Aussie females! Though you can just imagine four Aussies and A Kiwi in one apartment- we had fun! (as did all.) It was like a fresh breath of encouragement but at the same time provided me with some new challenges to be faced.

The first challenge, was that I became the tour guide and translator for the team; taking them to all the different places until they were able to do it themselves etc.

I am very thankful for Coco, my new language teacher, who has really brought my Romanian to the next level. It's only been since mid-November that I have really started to verbalise what I've been learning, and in God's strength, especially with the team here, I have found myself being able to converse with the locals. Praise the Lord!

However, another challenge I found myself facing, which took me a while to identify, was some 'reverse culture shock'. I didn't understand till I processed what I was going through, that although I'm not back in Australia, the fact that 'home' had come to me, I realised there was some clashing occurring which I struggled to cope with! Made me think, that if I'm struggling with that now, what it's actually going to be like when I go back to Oz!?



Another challenge was that of taking my driving to the next level! I have now driven by myself here, and although I was very nervous, God was with me!

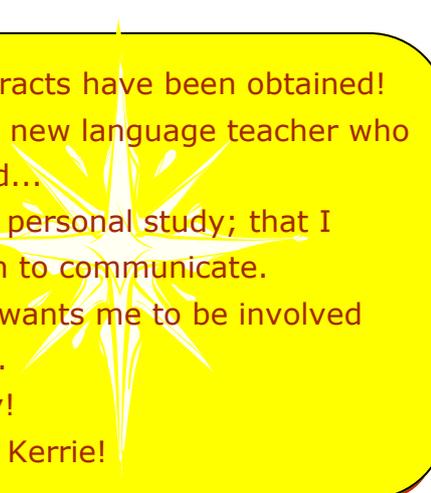
Amongst all the business I have been so encouraged by God's presence and the way He has met all my needs over these last two months.

I am thankful for the time that Anna and I were able to spend together in Hungary for Anna's birthday. God really has blessed the two of us and our friendship.

Our team office has also made some transitions and changes. As of the end of December, we say farewell to our old office (to which the final clean was done yesterday) and hello to our new office which is also Kathleen's new apartment! The team is now small for a few months, and I especially wish to ask for your prayers for Tyler, who has been

Please Pray...

- » **Praise** that Anna's and my rent contracts have been obtained!
- » **Praise** for a smooth transition to my new language teacher who is better suited to my learning style and...
- » **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 discernment and wisdom about what ministries God wants me to be involved with, and that my visa can be acquired without too much hassle.
- » **Pray** for good health- both physically, mentally and spiritually!
- » **Pray** for a wonderful, refreshing and safe time in Greece with Kerrie!



**"FOR UNTO US A CHILD
WAS BORN."
ISAIAH 9:6**



bedridden with a damaged back now since the beginning of December. He will have an MRI on the 30th Dec, and is having daily injections to help the pain!

Some of the activities I joined with the Aussie team in doing and in which they helped with, included children's programs in Sacalaz (village ministry); more outings with the orphans; Wednesday Kids Club; a weekend at Hunedoara Castle (about 3 hours drive away) for a fundraiser for Potters House; and taking them shopping and sight seeing.

This last week over Christmas has been one busy week in which there was a great lack of sleep- but it was replaced but much laughter!

Aside from two morning airport trips on the 20th and another yesterday; We had a 'bake off' and Christmas decorating day where we made a whole bunch of biscuits which were to give away to various people, and this also included making a gingerbread nativity scene, which we bashed with a mallet on Boxing Day whilst playing a card game called Killer Bunnies!

Kez and I went to Oradea to visit Kelly from 22-24th Dec which was fun, and a forced time of rest for me! Then Kelly came back to Timisoara with us in time for the Christmas Eve festivities. We went to Anna's church for a 6pm service, to which I was encouraged to see some of the mum's and children from Kids Club there! After the service, about 25 of us piled into cars to go Carolling. We left the church about 9:30pm and went to the first persons house. It seemed as if, as we went to each of the 10 houses, we were provided with more and more food the further we went down the list. By the end of singing the songs over and over, we got the hang of it, sometimes walking up 8 flights of stairs singing carols (literally breath taking). We finished at the last house about 3am and what was an even greater blessing was that as we got to the last couple of houses, snow started to fall! It was amazing, and we were all wide awake again, dancing in the snow, and throwing snow at each other!

I awoke Christmas morning, to see the snow still falling, and the ground, rooftops, cars and trees covered in snow. We decided to go outside and build some mini snowmen and I found myself being thrown snowballs at by an old man who is one of my neighbours! So I threw them back! ;) It certainly was the white Christmas I was hoping for! God is Good!

Back into the warm apartment, I began preparing and cooking a Christmas roast for 8 people! And about 3pm we sat down to enjoy the meal together! Three Aussies, a Kiwi, an American and three Finish girls! I think the biggest multicultural Christmas for all of us!

We went to Vox church Christmas night before heading into the Centre to take some photos of the lights and snow and enjoy the Christmas spirit! Though we had to go into MacDonald's to defrost ourselves!

I pray you also had a wonderful Christmas with your Family and Friends! And that, amongst all the business of food and gifts; that you remember Jesus, the greatest gift! He is the reason we have Christmas after all!

I also want to say a big THANK YOU to all who sent gifts and emails and letters and cards. It really means a lot to me to know the love and support of my family and friends back in Oz! I hope you all have a wonderful New Year, and that you would know God's richest blessings and love in 2009! La Mulți Ani!

PS: Thanks for my 'prayer bear' Mitch and family!

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SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN TIMIȘDARA, ROMANIA!

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