

# The Murfins - Serving with FamilyLife

July 17th, 2014



## Chris is now a US Citizen!

As many of you know, we spent seventeen days in the US in June. These were an action-packed 17 days in which we saw roughly 40 families, traveled over 1,800 miles, and accomplished all of the administrative and ceremonial tasks to allow Chris to become a US citizen. We were very grateful to see so many of you, but we wish we could have seen you all!



All this activity ended on a difficult note when Lisa's mom was admitted to the hospital on our last day in the US. We are pleased to report she is healing well, but we ask your prayers for her complete recovery.

Ironically, now that we have Chris' US Citizenship, we are able to pursue extending our stay in the UK. We believe that we have only begun the work that God has for us here in the UK, so we are in the process of doing all that needs to be done to stay here for another 4-5 years, minimum. We do need to raise additional support to continue working in the UK, so we appreciate your prayers to this end.

## Building Foundations

In May, after 10 years of leading FamilyLife UK, our colleagues and directors Mark and Christine began a three-month sabbatical away from the ministry. Lisa and I have taken over many of their roles in addition to ours so we are being kept quite busy while they're gone. Also, during their absence we will not be hosting any of our day events, but we are working hard to secure and prepare for events in the fall. Right now we have events scheduled in Northumberland, locally in Gerrards Cross, and are also looking to run an event in the northern European country of Estonia, and possibly training a team in Malta. It is amazing to see how God is using FamilyLife resources, developed in the UK, to help families around the world.

FamilyLife's hope is to continue to build and expand our volunteer network around the UK. With only 4 full-time staff though, we have to ensure whatever we do will scale effectively to reach more and more people. Over the past 18 months, we have been reviewing and analyzing the manual processes that were in place and now Chris has begun building our database and web platforms to be able to support this initiative. He aims to have the prototype complete by the end of August.

Thank you for support. May God bless your summer and keep you safe during any travels.

*Chris and Lisa*

## Ethan's Escapades!

I am doing eight induction days at the Chalfonts Community College over three weeks in July. I have already completed four of those days. These are basically days to help me get to know some of the 1,800 students and teachers at the school and to learn my way around the building. How does this differ from home school? For starters, I have to wear a uniform, which isn't so bad now that I am getting used to it. I am enjoying getting to know tons of new people. They all know my name, but I don't know theirs yet!



## Together

Last month, Chris finalized and launched the third in the series of three FamilyLife websites. This one focuses on our 9-session Together study.



The three websites that have been developed are:

[www.FamilyLifeUK.org](http://www.FamilyLifeUK.org)  
[www.ADayTogether.org](http://www.ADayTogether.org)  
[www.TogetherInMarriage.org](http://www.TogetherInMarriage.org)

Be sure to visit these sites and sign up to receive FamilyLife UK's updates. While you are on our TogetherInMarriage site, be sure to look for upcoming pictures of our recent *Together* group. We were blessed to go through this study with five newly married couples who were a massive joy.

## Our Calendar

We would appreciate prayer over the coming months for these events and milestones:

July 29th: Together Graduation: Five young couples are completing our first Together group.

August 16th—22nd: We will be at Staff Summer Bible Conference. Pray we would meet God afresh and grow in our love of Him.

October 4th: What is Love Actually dinner in Bournemouth.

October 10th—12th: We are launching *A Day Together* in Estonia!

October 17th—18th: We are attending the Global Leadership Summit.

October 25th: FamilyLife Fundraising Concert

October 28th—November 3rd: Training FamilyLife Malta!

November 15th: We are hosting *A Day Together* in Northumberland.

December 6th: We are hosting *A Day Together* in Gerrards Cross.

## Praise Items

- Praise God for stretching our 17 days in the US and allowing so much to be accomplished.
- Praise God for His grace in Ethan's first few days of public school.

## Prayer Requests

- Please pray that we are able to lay the foundations for a scalable database platform that will allow for effective follow-up and growth of the FamilyLife network.
- Pray for God's leading and direction as we stand in for our directors who are on sabbatical.
- Pray for Ethan to find a good balance between making new friends and continuing his education.
- Please pray God would protect & use the couples graduating from our *Together Group*..
- Pray for our financial support needs to be met in order to continue with the work in the UK.

## Weekend to Remember

Please don't forget to contact us if you or someone you know would like to take advantage of a discount off the normal registration price for a Weekend to Remember getaway. For more details and the fall schedule, please visit <http://www.familylife.com/weekendtoremember>

