The Murfins - Serving with FamilyLife

May 22nd, 2015

The Harvest is Plentiful

Some days it just feels like there's so much going and when we stop to reflect, we are affirmed to see that God really has been on the move. The past couple of months have been filled with such days and so here's a summary of what's been happening and the fruit we're seeing.

A Day Together - Bournemouth

Following on from the **What Is Love, Actually?** event that we hosted in Bournemouth on Valentine's Day this year, we were privileged to host another **A Day Together** event in April. There were many young couples at this event and several who are not-yet-believers, which is always encouraging. One person wrote this on their feedback: "Absolutely Fantastic! Honest, down-to-earth speakers with helpful discussion times too. We both go home encouraged."

European Leadership Forum Malaga

In April, Agapé UK paid for Chris to attend the Agapé European Leadership Forum in Malaga, Spain. Agapé Ministry Leaders from 18 European countries were present to share ideas about how to better partner and collaborate with other countries and ministries in order to be more effective with minimal staff. The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

Digital Strategy

We kicked off the design and planning stage of our Digital Strategy initiative in March. Chris has already begun to design and build a prototype web platform, and filming will begin over the summer for the content of the platform. We hope to have the initial phase of the platform ready by the end of 2015. This will be a unique way to engage with potentially millions of people across the UK.

A Brazilian Church in London

We recently had the privilege to strengthen connections with some Portuguese-speaking friends we first met in 2013 and who attend a Brazilian Church in London. They are eager and feel led to equip their circle of friend's lives with intentional marriage resources. We were excited to share FamilyLife resources with them, especially considering some of our resources have already been translated into Portuguese.

What is Love, Actually? in Chesham Bois, South Buckinghamshire

"It wasn't scary...it was fun!" - A comment a not-yet-believing husband said at the end of the evening last Friday. He was smiling and really enjoyed the night. This was great to hear because his wife wasn't even sure he would turn up for the event! We plan to hold **A Day Together** in Chesham Bois in November, and we encouraged people to attend that too.

Another not yet believing husband was very enthusiastic and said he was interested in coming to ADT and inviting some of his friends too. You should have seen the surprised look on his wife's face!

A Day Together at Gold Hill, South Buckinghamshire

This weekend, we are hosting another **A Day Together** event at our local church, Gold Hill Baptist - we are trying to pour into our local as well as national communities. Especially exciting this time is we have two German couples attending who serve with *Campus für Christus* (Cru in Germany) and who want to learn more about our event with the potential of taking it back to Germany. This will also be a time for Lisa and me to brush up on our German!

Thank you for being a part of our lives with your support and for the way you partner with us in God's work in the UK and beyond.





Worship at the Leadership Forum



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Reporting Structure Transfer from Cru to Agapé

On July 1st, we are switching the ministry we report to, and are paid through, from Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ) to Cru's UK arm, Agapé. We still feel called to and will still be serving with FamilyLife, but administratively we will be reporting through a different division of Cru. Please be in prayer as we make this transition.

If you currently support us financially, first we want to thank you. Second, there is absolutely no change you need to make, whether you give to Cru in the US or to Agapé in the UK. Below are a few questions you may have and hopefully we have answered them sufficiently. If you'd like to know more detail about anything, or have a question that isn't answered here, please don't hesitate to contact us (familylife@themurfins.com).

Why are you making this switch?

There are many reasons for this change, some hierarchical and Cru-policy driven, others pragmatic. After prayerful consideration, we feel led to now report directly to Agapé in the UK. This allows us to be served by an HR team that is closer to us physically, on the same time zone and with fewer levels of hierarchy. It also means we can be a better steward of the donations and gifts we receive by saving approximately \$800 per month through less tax, Social Security and benefits charges; this helps tremendously with some of the shortfall we've experienced recently. It also removes a need for us to be physically out of the UK for 6 months every 5 years, due to Social Security requirements, which allows us to stay focused on serving here.

Will your assignment change as a result?

No. Our immediate reporting structure is not changing in that we continue to report to the FamilyLife directors here in the UK. It is just changing our upward HR reporting line and the way we are paid and our expenses are reimbursed.

Does this change anything in how we donate to you?

No, nothing changes. If you already give to our account at Cru in the US, those donations will still be tax deductible to you, and the money will be processed and forwarded automatically by Cru to our account with Agapé in the UK. Similarly, those who give to our Agapé account in the UK do not need to change anything.

Praise Items

- Praise God for our events this year so far in Malta, London, Gerrards Cross and Bournemouth.
- Praise God for the increasing number of not-yet-believers attending our events and taking steps on their journey toward faith.

Prayer Requests

- Pray that God will lift up new partners to support our ministry and living expenses.
- Pray for God to increase our faith and trust as we rely on Him for all of our needs.
- Pray for Ethan as he is moving into a very intense year of exams in school.
- Pray for speaker training that we are attending at the end of June.
- Pray for a smooth transition to UK Staff.

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.



Ethan's Escapades!

I turned 15 on April 23rd and even though Dad was away in Spain, he was still able to virtually join me and some of my friends for a party.

I get next week off school and then only have seven weeks of school before a six week break. I am ready for Summer!





