

The Murfins - Serving with FamilyLife

October 8th, 2015



A Time For Everything

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. So begins Ecclesiastes 3. This summer has been a season of behind-the-scenes preparation, edification, and walking through trials.



A Time for Speaking

This summer FamilyLife trained several new couples from the UK, Malta, and Spain. In addition to one other couple from the UK, both Lisa and I have now also been trained as FamilyLife Facilitators. Facilitator couples represent FamilyLife back in their communities, helping to strengthen marriages and family life. They volunteer their time to speak at and organize events such as the one-day couple's seminar A Day Together.

A Time for Cross-Cultural Training

As part of our switch to UK staff, we were required to attend a cross-cultural training program in Budapest, Hungary, joining other Agape staff from across Europe. We counted it a privilege to serve at a church who served impoverished and homeless people every Sunday. Here we are with the pastor of that church.



A Time for Together "in Nederlands"

This summer saw the publication of the Together material in Dutch. Henk Veltman & Tiny Veltman-Boer from The Netherlands have been equipping couples there as well as in Belgium, Surinam, and Dutch Antilles. There was also a training in the Netherlands on 22 August, where 20 couples were trained to use Together to be intentional in their marriages and encourage a movement of others doing the same. Please pray for the ministry to continue growing in these areas.

A Time to Study Ecclesiastes

At the end of August, we attended our annual Agape Summer Bible conference held at Nottingham University. This year we focused on an in-depth study of the book of Ecclesiastes. Lisa was responsible for planning the Bible lessons and activities for all the staff children as well. It was a large but rewarding task.



A Time for Community

Early in September, before the English Autumn shut out any chance of outdoor activity, we and a few other households on our street organized a Community BBQ. We had a fantastic turnout and it was exciting to see our community being knit more closely together. During Lisa's immigration issues (see reverse) the neighbors were getting ready to send a petition to the Home

Office: "Who would coordinate our parties and bring us together?"



A Time for Refusal and then Acceptance

In the midst of everything else going on, we were rather shocked on September 16th to receive a notice from the UK Home Office that Lisa's request for her visa renewal had been refused. The next 9 days were a scramble to seek counsel and gather documentation to support a Spouse Visa application which was ultimately approved 2 days before her previous visa was set to expire!

For a complete rundown of everything that happened and how God provided, you can read the full story online at: <http://themurfins.com/accepted>

A Time for A Day Together

After getting Lisa's visa in Cardiff on September 25th, we whizzed across the UK to Rochester in Kent to host A Day Together. The room was packed to overflowing with couples from many varied circumstances and places. Please pray for those who attended to get help with any issues that were brought to light and to embrace and act on God's relationship restoring principles.



Please pray for our upcoming events over the next 6 months. Pray for the logistics and planning in hosting these events and for God to move transforming lives.

10 October - Northumberland

14 November - Manchester: Flourish Couples Event

29-31 January - Annual Vision & Equipping

19 March - Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands

14 November - Amersham, S. Bucks

16 January - Central London

19 March - North East London

Thank you for your loving prayers and support. Together we are making a difference in the UK and across Europe!

Chris and Lisa

Praise Items

- Praise God for the way he carried us through Lisa's UK Visa refusal and ultimate acceptance.
- Praise God for the 26 couples that attended our recent Rochester, A Day Together.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for Ethan as he studies for his final year of school, preparing for his GCSE exams.
- Pray for fruitful follow up from our Rochester event; that new Together groups will be established.
- Pray for Lisa's mom, who is still struggling with bones breaking and constant pain.
- Pray God to grow us in our ability to communicate to His glory.

Ethan's Escapades!

I've had quite a busy summer too. We only get 6 weeks vacation from school, and it was filled with different activities. I was at Staff Conference, and I served at a Holiday Club with Scripture Union. On September 20th I was baptized at our local church. My mentor, Tim drove up from Devon to lead me through that.

