

The Murfins - Serving with FamilyLife

November 14th, 2014



Christmas Outreach: Sharing Life—Sharing Jesus

I have always wanted to be that person: the one who reaches out to share the love of Jesus by inviting my neighbors into my home at Christmas. I never seemed to muster the courage, but God has given us just the nudge we needed to make it happen this year. We aren't going small either! We are part of a community outreach with four other families to reach 63 homes in our neighborhood.



Back in July I met a lady, Di, who lives around the corner from us for coffee. People had been telling us about each other – how we would really click. They were so right! God completely led the conversation that day and before we knew it our passion to see all of the churches in our community working together more led to the decision that we needed to start by being more intentional together in our neighborhoods. This decision and all those that have followed seemed to have happened supernaturally. He brought together ladies from four different churches to work with us. This has already accomplished the goal of our various churches being more intentional in **sharing life and sharing Jesus**. The relationships growing through these meetings are precious, and our first event is already planned!

The "Save the Date" gift tags have gone out this week and on December 14th we hope to have a large Christmas Tree at the center of the T-junction in our neighborhood that each family can see and help decorate. We will gather at 4PM for old-fashioned carol singing and then four or five houses will host Open Houses with mince pies and mulled wine. Our hope is that people will get to know one another a bit better and feel comfortable entering each other's homes and lives. Please join us in praying for friendships to grow and for the love of Jesus to be tangible throughout.

FamilyLife—Near and Far

One of Agape UK's key values is for each ministry to grow, "in [their] corporate and individual commitments to God's mission in the world." Toward this aim FamilyLife recently sent staff to the Baltic and Malta.

In October we co-hosted, with our partners in Holland, **A Day Together** event in Riga, the capital of Latvia. The audience included seven missionary couples serving in the Baltic states of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. Here are two quotes from participants:



"If you are not good at talking about your relationships then I recommend this day together. It is really good for helping you to communicate more deeply."

"Many couples know what is right but they don't put it into practice. This helps to change that."

Outcomes from this outreach included: investing in the marriages of staff couples, several couples investigating bringing FamilyLife ministry to their countries, and three couples from Estonia want to test our Together study in consideration of translating it. Very encouraging!

FamilyLife also went to Malta this month. Leslie & Charmaine Caruana, from Malta, and their team brought together 70 couples for the weekend, with much of the content being pulled from our **A Day Together** event. It is such a privilege that we can be part of God's plan in using our events and resources overseas. We are privileged too that you partner with us, and we can be your hands and feet in the UK and Europe.

We pray you have an enjoyable Thanksgiving. Thank you from our home to yours.

Chris and Lisa

Transforming Marriages at StAG



*Andy and Tiffany Atkins are very enthusiastic about their experience of our **‘Together’** marriage resource which they describe as: “liberating”, “transforming” and “a window for the Gospel in our relationship.”*

The couple are members of St Andrew’s the Great, Cambridge, known locally as StAG, and they wanted to be part of helping strengthen marriages in their church.

Andy: **“Together** is a great discipleship tool which brings together Biblical teaching on marriage with practical application. I like that it’s designed for a small group of couples and the material opens up conversations enabling a level of depth in marriage and spiritual life. It was great to see the Holy Spirit resourcing marriages. I also like the missional purpose of Together.”

Tiffany: “I really enjoy doing this with Andy. Also, having dinner with the other couples means we get to talk about real, deeper things.”

Andy and Tiffany are starting a third group this autumn and are positively evangelical about it!

Tiffany: “I think everybody should do it at least twice as it’s really helpful to do the application exercises again.”

Andy: “It’s great to see marriages transformed and also how people begin to relate emotionally to God as Abba, Father. We hope to see multiplication of groups through the whole church.”

Together Group

Earlier this summer our Together study that we were leading came to a close and 5 young couples graduated with flying colors.

Go online to read an article where Mel (one of the participants from our **Together** group) reflects on her experience along with her husband Dave and four other couples, and how they benefitted as a couple.



<http://themurfins.com/daveandmel>

raise Items

- Praise God for His provision of time with Lisa’s sister, Nicole, safe travels, and amazing memories.
- Praise God for His provision of amazing partners to reach our neighborhood.

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for upcoming A Day Together events on Nov. 15th, Dec. 6th, and Jan. 17th.
- Pray for the fruit of new friendships and trust from our Community Christmas event on Dec. 14th.
- Pray for a special grace and wisdom from God as we work with people in very challenging circumstances. (Due to confidentiality we can’t share more now.)
- 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 latest schedule, please visit:

<http://www.familylife.com/weekend>

Ethan’s Escapades!

It was such great fun to have my Aunt Nicole visit us from Minnesota. It was exciting to spend some time during my break from school visiting London, showing her the sights, and we were gifted a two-night stay in Paris as well!

