



does God surprise?

After visiting Romania one year ago, it was time to return. Just six days after arriving back from Canada, Doug along with Kevin Westfield hosted the 2009 short term mission training, first in Galati and then again in Constanta. The fourteen church planters are now in their second year of working to establish churches in their communities. Last year saw thirteen short term mission teams land in Romania and help highlight the church plants in those communities.

In the town of Lumina where one of the church planters lonel (pronounced: Eo-nell) and his wife live and serve, a team from England visited at the end of July. lonel leads a group of 20-30 people who meet on a Sunday morning but as a church are not well known in the community. While at the 2009 training event in Constanta, he shared with the church planters how the team came prepared with a focus on kids. On one day together they hosted an event in a large field in the center of town which attracted over 100 children (they were hoping for as many as 30).

This 'disruption' caused such a fuss that the authorities showed up to ask lonel and the team to disband. Rather than canceling the event, they moved over to the building where the church meets on Sundays. This space is big enough for 35-40 people (max) and so people continued to spill out onto the streets.

The next day lonel had to go to the local mayor's office and answer questions for causing a disturbance in town. He defended himself saying there is no law that says they couldn't meet in a public park, in fact in his opinion that is the point of a large public space to give children the opportunity to meet in a safe and secure environment. In spite of opposition from the local orthodox priest and a few others there was nothing that lonel or the team had done wrong.

Needless to say the town of Lumina (which means light) now knows of the new church in town and can see its light shining bright within the community.

lauren's update

Who starts school when they are two? Well the answer is, Lauren that's who. Thanks to a new friend at church advocating for us, Lauren has been offered a place in a Nursery School. It's a special school for children with extra needs. Normally in England children don't begin until age 3 but in Lauren's case they want to intervene as early as possible to give her the best start they can into regular classes later on.



ikea in coventry - warwickshire

This is a strange idea to us, school at such a young age, and we were concerned that this was just child care, but we have visited the classroom. It is classes with structured learning and play time. Five days a week for two and half hours each morning Lauren will spend time with therapists and child development specialists who understand what it takes to help her. We are excited and see this as a continued answer to the prayers. We feel that this is another step closer to seeing her completely healed and living a full life.

Of course the added benefit of a small break each day for Kara is welcome!

one country highlight from each region - 2009

region 1 baltics	region 2 atlantic	region 3 mediterranean	region 4 central	region 5 balkans	region 6 eastern
estonia primary leadership training hosted in estonia for leaders from within the region to gather and look to the future of their countries and explore new ideas to reach into their communities	england kidshaper conference in england focused on leaders of kids ministries meant to inspire and connect existing kids ministries as well as mobilize teams into europe	spain development toward a church planting project in spain with an aim to see 6+ new churches planted in the nation over the next few years	czech republic launched six new church plants in the eastern region of czech republic at the beginning of january up to twelve stm teams to follow this year including a prayer team in may	romania invasion '09 to bulgaria, an stm initiative of several bc churches to see 40+ young canadians serving at the largest youth conference in the region followed by outreach evangelism	ukraine continued leadership training in the crimea region of ukraine; further development of a church planting project in crimea to be launched in january 2010, church partners needed!