

Dear Supporter,

Time for another instalment of my newsletter, keeping you up to date on what is happening with me and my work at 24-7! I hope that the beginning of 2006 has been a good season for you.



*New Year in Leuven*

I had a great break over Christmas and New Year, when we closed the 24-7 office for a week. As usual, I spent some time at home with my parents, followed by a slightly more unusual New Year location, in Belgium. My brother has a friend living in Luwen, and we went over to see him for the New Year weekend. What a fantastic way to see in 2006!

No sooner was I back in the UK, than I was running around in the 24-7 office like a wild thing. We were right up against our audit deadline for our accounts submission to the charity commission, and thankfully I managed to get everything completed and delivered right at the very last minute. It definitely gives me a target to improve on this year, although its always a challenge getting the accounts together from various Boiler Rooms and Mission Teams, then sending them to our accountant and the auditors before their final journey on to the Charity Commission and Companies House!

One slight bombshell that had been dropped on my housemates and I just before Christmas was that we had to move out of our lovely house just north of the Thames. We weren't given much notice, and because of this, I had to move out into another friends house before finally moving again into my new residence! I'm usually quite good with change, but a month into the whole shenanigans I was feeling quite unsettled. It all reinforced my feeling that by far the biggest sacrifice I made when I made the decision to work for 24-7, was that I could no longer afford to

buy my own place. Only in April had I finally sorted out my new house with one of my fellow housemates, and it feels good to be settled again - for now at least.

We're at quite a crucial stage for the 24-7 movement right now. We've been running six years, and although our traditional outlook has been that we would stop the movement tomorrow if God told us to, we're feeling called more to being good stewards of what He continues to do in and through prayer rooms, boiler rooms and mission teams all over the globe. As a result of this, we're looking at how we can be a "blessing" and "building" movement, as we try to put something in place that will support and resource 24-7 over the years to come. To enable us to do this, a global team of about 15 of us are looking at how we can structure what we do more effectively. Solutions range from minor tweaks to our structure, through to fundamentally new ways of doing what we do, potentially with different people doing it. Obviously this needs loads of prayer! At the end of January, the team gathered in Switzerland to begin the process of restructuring, and we left the gathering with the task of writing papers on a whole range of subjects that will help us to decide on the way ahead. We gather again at the start of June, and have a couple of days to refine our thinking before presenting our results to the current leadership of 24-7. Obviously we could really do with your prayers for this process, as its vital for the future of the movement.



*Out and about in Basle*

I'm not sure if I've mentioned it before but I've had the pleasure of driving around in a car (Ashley the Astra!) that Dave and Thea, a couple of friends from Reading, lent me for the year and a half that they were away with Dave's work. Its been a great blessing being able to drive to and from the 24-7 Chichester office, and God was definitely looking after me when the water pump failed just before the whole cam belt was about to go. Now that would have been expensive! Thankfully Ashley is

in fantastic working order and is back with Dave and Thea. I'm going back to the Reading-Chichester train journey to see if I can do without a car, as I'm not sure I can afford to own my own.

The next thing on my list is to say a big thank you to those of you who prayed about the staffing situation at 24-7. I was having a fairly hard time keeping the office running late last year with very high turnover of both paid and volunteer staff. I've now got a great team of both types of staff, and we're managing to keep the 24-7 office running - not quite like the well oiled machine I'd prefer it to be, but we're doing a lot better than we were. I'm certainly very blessed by Tom, who was in the Crossroads youth group that I used to be a leader of at church. He's currently looking after bookkeeping and other financial reporting; a gap that I would have had to fill had he not been around to help!

Over the last three years, 24-7 has unfortunately seen its level of income drop year on year. We've managed to keep going, but with our staff making a lot of sacrifices, trying to do as much as they can with fewer people around to do it. We're making a much more conscious effort this year to raise funds, and the last couple of months have seen us put plans in place to improve the way that we communicate with our existing supporters, and to foster closer links with some of the churches that see 24-7 as a key part of their church life. Please join us in praying that this would be fruitful!

A couple of days before writing this, I travelled up to Birmingham for our latest UK network day. These



*Worship at the Network Day*

are times of gathering once every six months or so, to share what God is doing in our nations, to encourage one another, and to pray. They're always enjoyable times, and this was no exception. It's fantastic to keep ourselves grounded in the daily miracles going in prayer rooms and 24-7 communities all over the

place. This time Andy Freeman, 24-7's Boiler Room supremo was sharing on how we can form genuinely Christ centred communities. It was a great day, and these times are really helpful for me in the way they remind me why I'm on this journey of faith with 24-7 Prayer.

This leads neatly on to prayer needs. I'd really value your prayers for:

- 24-7's fundraising efforts. Please ask that the Lord would provide for the things that He would have us do, as He has promised! We're also hugely conscious of the thanks that we need to give Him for the way in which He has provided over the 6 years that 24-7 has grown from nothing to an international movement!
- The structure team. The future direction of the movement is dependent on our efforts at this time, so we all need to be listening well to each other, and making ourselves very open to God speaking to us. Please pray also that we would subject our intellect to the teaching of the Holy Spirit, and that we would truly come with the attitude that His wisdom is so much better than ours!
- Our staff. Praise God for the way in which our office team has come together and is working well under a lot of pressure.
- My home! I'm so grateful to have a place that I can be settled in, for a while at least. Please pray that my home would be a blessing to me and to others.

Thank you so much for your prayers. As always, you can catch up with more regular updates at my internet blog address below.

May God bless you richly,

In Him,