

Dear Supporter,

This time last year I was writing this letter to you as night-time temperatures were getting as low as minus 19 here in the UK. I'm glad to say that a couple of weeks ago Andrea and I were celebrating our first anniversary away in the Lake District, and the weather was so warm we could eat breakfast on the terrace of our holiday cottage overlooking Ullswater. We live in extreme times!

As Europe seems to be going into political and financial meltdown, social and political upheaval contorts the Middle East, and famine and war continue to plague Africa, I hope that this newsletter provides some encouragement that God is at work, even if we sometimes don't understand what he's up to. Many of the situations I asked prayer for in my last newsletter have seen God providing His way forward. Our 2020 Vision, focussing on prioritising prayer, mobilising mission and developing leaders has seen significant progress. We've been able to produce several new prayer resources, including our incredibly popular 'Prayer Spaces' video podcasts (the Advent season is currently available on www.24-7prayer.com/podcasts). The previous Lent 'Prayer Spaces' was the number one download on the iTunes religion and spirituality chart, with over 6,000 people downloading these daily devotionals. Our ultimate vision for the prayer part of the movement is to become the resource that people turn to not just for prayer rooms, but when they want inspiration for prayer, whether Christian or non-Christian – although of course we will always be unashamedly Christocentric! Mobilising mission and developing leaders primarily happens through our Boiler Room Communities, and these efforts will be significantly boosted in the New Year as Roger Ellis from Revelation Church in Chichester (where 24-7 Prayer began) joins our team and kick starts our new US/UK internship

programme. As well as our London office, we now have more permanent space in Guildford. It's vital that we don't have to keep moving around as a charity, particularly now that we're of a reasonable size. I calculated that each of the four times we moved in the last 18 months we were losing about a month's productivity, which was massively frustrating because all the team wanted to be doing was getting on with 24-7's mission, rather than lugging boxes and furniture around! In answers to these prayers we have a lot to be thankful for.



Another answer to prayer was that we found our Chief Operating Officer, the wonderful Etienne Piek, formerly the organisational mastermind of the Global Day of Prayer. Much of the start of this year was spent jumping through the many hoops that the UK Border Agency puts in the way of employing anyone from outside Europe. The process has become particularly bureaucratic since the UK immigration cap was introduced, but we were convinced God was saying Etienne was the right man for the job. We eventually got Etienne into the country and working for us, and since he arrived he's made an amazingly significant impact on the effectiveness of 24-7 to deliver operationally. Etienne's plan was to move his family over to the UK after a while, but after the death of his father in law he's had to move back to South Africa to be with his family. We had a very sad afternoon just this week as we said farewell to Etienne, and although he gets to be with his family again sooner than he had planned, he shared in the teams' sadness that he would not be continuing in his role. The good news is that Etienne is still involved, and has great plans

for 24-7 in Cape Town. The challenge for 24-7 Prayer is that we desperately need a new COO. We really had to fight in both prayer and action for Etienne, and we're not quite sure what God is up to, given we heard Him so clearly on Etienne being the right person for the job. Please join me in praying for this key role, one which we think is vital for the future of 24-7. We need a really high calibre individual as we stretch from being a small charity to a more mature one, with significant reach and commitments. I don't think it's an exaggeration to say that this is our most key appointment for several years, and finding the right person is essential for the charity to flourish.

On a more personal front, I've had a great year at 24-7, along with all the hard work dealing with the immigration issues and the usual accounting deadlines I'm responsible for! In March we had the privilege of praying for and sending out one of our senior leaders to help with the aftermath of the Tsunami in Japan. He grew up there, and had been waiting for 40 years for an opportunity to open up for him to go back in and serve the



Japanese. Invitations in that culture are really important, and John miraculously received everything he and his team needed to be able to minister to the people there, who are turning back on generations of resistance to receiving assistance in the aftermath of the natural disaster. I've done a couple of speaking engagements – not my usual thing, but I've really enjoyed sharing about what God is doing through 24-7 and encouraging people to get involved. I also had the privilege of co-leading a discussion

group on 'Monastic Principles for the Modern World' at our European Gathering in Frankfurt, where we were encouraging young Christians from all over Europe to 'Aufstehen!', or 'Stand up!' and engage in prayer and action for Jesus in our continent - the only continent where Christianity is in decline.

So, lots to be thankful for and lots still to petition the Lord for! If you have some time, I'd love it if you could join me in:

- Asking God to call our new COO – that the person on His heart would hear the Spirit's call, and that we at 24-7 would know the person He's calling too!
- Thanking God for an amazing year. So many miraculous openings, so much provision, so many testimonies of people being touched by the King of Kings. He is Lord!
- Praying for one thing I've not mentioned – a year of prayer we're calling in partnership with Alpha: Kingdom Come 2012. Check out the resources on www.24-7prayer.co.uk and get involved!
- Praying that there would be much kingdom fruit from Aufstehen as young people encouraged at the gathering engage in prayer, mission and justice across Europe



Andrea and I wish you a very Happy New Year.

In Him,