

Dear Supporter,

One of the great things about sitting down to write these updates is the chance it gives me to reflect on God's faithfulness over the preceding year. And what an amazing year it's been!

Let's dive right in with an update on one of my previous prayer requests. At the end of 2011 we found ourselves looking for another COO after the previous one had been in position for less than a year. This was putting us all under quite a lot of pressure for such a key role. Our prayers were answered as God prompted the wonderful Terri Roberts to come and fill the newly vacant position. For those of you who don't know her, Terri is a great friend from my Reading days. She was on the leadership team of the Boiler Room, so we've known each other for quite some time now. Terri is forging a wonderful working environment at our main office in Guildford, and is an amazing addition to the senior 24-7 team.

In many ways this year has been more of the same good things at 24-7 Prayer. We had a fantastic day reconnecting with 24-7 activists from all over the UK at our network day in York, and I had the privilege of reconnecting with some friends from YWAM who are based there. Our Eurogathering was in Frankfurt for the second year running, and punks and nuns were among the eclectic mix of attendees. Our time together included updates on what God is doing in our continent, and receiving some excellent seminars presented by people from both within and outside of the 24-7 movement. I had another couple of speaking opportunities this year, and although I don't naturally warm to this kind of thing, I enjoyed the 'stretch' of preparing and speaking at a church in Richmond, and a large local church gathering in Bexley, at Danson Park. Another repeating theme was moving office again – we've now

consolidated everything in Guildford, which I hope was our last office move for a long time!

So what's new this time around? The highlight of the year was definitely my trip to the World Prayer Assembly in Jakarta, Indonesia. Several of us from the US and UK joined around 8,000 other people at the conference, praying for a wide range of global situations,



and asking God to bring change. I particularly remember an immensely powerful time of prayer, for the changes that are going on in Egypt at the moment. The culmination of the event was definitely the most impacting, as we joined with 100,000 others in the national stadium of Jakarta to pray for the nation, and the nations. The number in the stadium was even dwarfed however, by the 2.5 million Christians across Indonesia that joined with us via satellite linkup!

From Jakarta we flew up to Medan, where several of the 24-7 team were due to speak at church events. During our time there, our host was the pastor of a church that has seen phenomenal growth over the last 20 years. The church has grown from 119 members in 1993 to over 40,000 today! The pastor put the majority of this growth down to prayer. As we entered the prayer room at one of the church buildings, there was a tangible sense of the power of God. This was again displayed at several of the church meetings we attended, with the passion for intimate prayer clearly evident in the congregations. The church was not just active in prayer, however. They were planting new churches every month, and

had translated the bible into 5 local languages. Social justice was also at work, with clinics set up and run by the church. What an amazing encouragement! I left challenged about both my prayer life and how I live out my life for Jesus.

More recently back in the UK, I've had the opportunity to help Andy Freeman in putting together some of the content for a new 'Ancient Paths' section of the 24-7 website. We're developing a resource to encourage exploration of the wealth of resources in the Monastic and Contemplative traditions of the church. I've written a Compline for the site, and have provided a library of some of my photographs for a reflective section. More soon!

Andrea and I have managed to fit in some great breaks around all the working too. We had a great time with friends in South Africa in May, touring the wine regions around Cape Town, going on safari and relaxing on the Garden Route. In June we spent some retreat time on Holy Island with the wonderful Ray Simpson. Andrea is a complete gymnastics nut, and we were fortunate enough to get Olympic tickets for the women's all round gymnastics final. And finally, we took a few days in the Lake District in late Autumn, enabling me to tick off another 9 of Wainwright's fells.



Again this year we have a lot to be thankful for. As I'm reminded reflecting on my trip to Indonesia, we're also desperately in need of prayer to see this nation and the nations impacted by the Good News of Jesus Christ. Please could you join me prayer, particularly in:

- Thanking God for Terri's appointment as our COO, and praying for energy for her, and great success in improving 24-7's operational effectiveness.
- Praying for continuing fruit from the World Prayer Assembly, both in my life, and the lives of the thousands of others impacted through those attending the gathering.
- Praying for clarity of direction and calling for 24-7, as we plan for the year ahead. One of our major new initiatives will be to reach more and more young people with daily devotionals, via podcasts and our smartphone app. Our advent podcasts are currently doing brilliantly again, and are at number one in the iTunes religion and spirituality chart. Please pray for continued effectiveness, and particularly for young people to be powerfully impacted by the content we're providing.
- Praying that our new Ancient Paths resource will result in a deeper walk with Christ for the thousands that will use it.

Andrea and I wish you a wonderfully blessed Christmas, may you know Jesus closely with you both now and in the year to come.

In Him,