

Happy Christmas! I seem to be trying to do everything at once at the moment, so here's a Christmas greeting, and the latest instalment of my prayer letter. It's been a busy few months, so I'd better crack on...

Thank you so much, those of you who have been praying for the work of the 24-7 Prayer structure team. The team have been investigating how we can work more effectively as an international movement, after such amazing growth over the last six years. I don't know if you remember from my previous newsletter, but at the start of this year a group of us flew out to Switzerland to begin discussing where we should focus our efforts. Having taken away lots of interesting research topics from this first meeting (mine were regional vs relational leadership, and end issues and outcomes - three models of church), we had a few months to put together papers that would then form the basis for making a recommendation to the wider movement on future ways of working.

I have to say that I found the whole process very frustrating! Having been used to working in a business environment, I found our progress painfully (and unnecessarily?!) slow. I think this also is a part of my personality - I'm the kind of person who likes to consider facts, make decisions, and to move forward, even if the outcome needs to be modified - rather than engaging in too much naval gazing. After our second structure team meeting in Reading, I was just about ready to burst, but thankfully God came to my rescue! Right at the last minute, after all our material had been completed and discussed with the International Leadership Team, a couple of key discussions took place that resulted in the material being presented to the wider movement in a really effective and empowering way. We still have a lot of work to do on this, but the foundations are good, praise God.

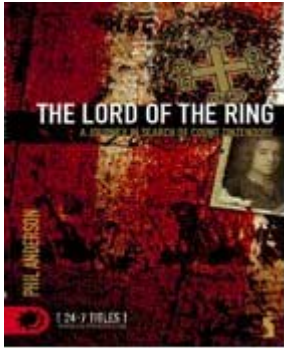
The presentation of the material happened at our annual International gathering, the 'Roundtable', held this year in London. This turned out to be a very busy time for 24-7 staff in the UK, as the nation hosting the gathering bears the responsibility for its organisation. We were based

out of three venues for the week; the 24-7 City Boiler Room, City Temple, and Methodist Central Hall, so to say the days were 'logistically challenging' would be an understatement.

For me the roundtable was particularly timely. It was so good to get a reminder of the amazing things God is doing in the earth at this time, through 24-7 Prayer. Stories of communities with dramatic crime reduction as 24-7 Prayer tents were planted in South Africa, and people considered the lowest of the low in a walled town in Mexico, being given hope through the work of some of our friends who were brave enough to answer God's call to the hearting and the lost. Sometimes its easy to get blazé about these things when you work for an international prayer movement, but God was calling me back to realising just what an amazing thing I'm involved in. He is good!



Another reminder of this was our recent network day in Belfast. Around 60 key 24-7'ers joined another 20 or so leaders from across Ireland to share stories about what God is doing in their localities, and to encourage and pray for each other. One highlight was Phil Anderson's 'early bedtime story', as he read from his recently published 'The Lord of the Ring', a biography of Count Ludwig von Zinzendorf, father of the modern missions movement and catalyser of the 100 year prayer gathering that started on his estate at Hernhutt in Germany. If you



fancy a good read for the New Year, check out www.24-7prayer.com/shop and grab yourself a copy! Many people stayed on in the evening for a celebration, and a talk by 24-7's head honcho, Pete Greig. During the whole evening, there was a great sense of expectation, and God's presence was very tangible. I think he has some great things in mind for Ireland, both North and South, through the young people that were gathered there...

Back in the office in Chichester, we've also has a busy time over the last few months. Our previous bookkeeper Tom Ellaby, from my church in Reading, had to move on, and for three or four months I was without a replacement. This increases my workload by about a day and a half a week, so I was a little under pressure! We've now got the wonderful Anna Ward (no relation) working with us, and she's doing a great job of getting up to speed with the peculiarities of 24-7's accounts and payroll systems. Some days the office can be quite entertaining. When everyone is in, its me and five women! I think I'm coping ;-)

In my previous letter I asked if you would pray for the finances of the movement, and this is another area for praise. Although we haven't exactly been awash with cash, we have had enough to keep us going over the last few months without any major crises, and this has been a definite blessing with all the other things that have been going on; financial distractions would definitely have raised the stress levels way beyond reasonable!

In November I had the chance to get away and take a break from working for two and a half weeks in South Africa. There's not enough space to tell you about the whole trip, but I had an amazing time in Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Hermanus, Johannesburg and The Kruger, where we saw all the 'Big Five' - water buffalo, rhino, elephant, lion and leopard. We also saw cheetah, as well as a veritable encyclopaedia

of other reptilian, mammalian and avian wildlife. What a fantastic holiday!

Although we had a brilliant time, I'm looking forward to the Christmas break so that I can catch up with a little rest and relaxation, back at my parents place near Cirencester.

Please join me in thanking God for:

- The fact that 24-7's finances have been stable enough for us not to be distracted from all the other things that God has been calling us to, over the past six months.
- The way that He has been working through the discussions on 24-7's future organisation and direction.
- The miracles that He keeps doing through the prayers of ordinary people like you and me!

Please could you also pray for:

- Continuing wisdom for me, and all the others involved in shaping the way that we run 24-7 over the years to come. We want to focus on building the kingdom of God; there just seem to be so many ways of doing that ;-)
- Please pray that we would be able to distinguish between the things he wants 24-7 to do, and things that others need to pick up.
- Continued blessing on our finances.
- Good working relationships in the UK and International offices, as we seek to work hard, and to spend time praying, encouraging and blessing each other in all we do.

May God bless you deeply over this Christmas time, and in the coming year.

Thanks so much for your support,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Pete'.