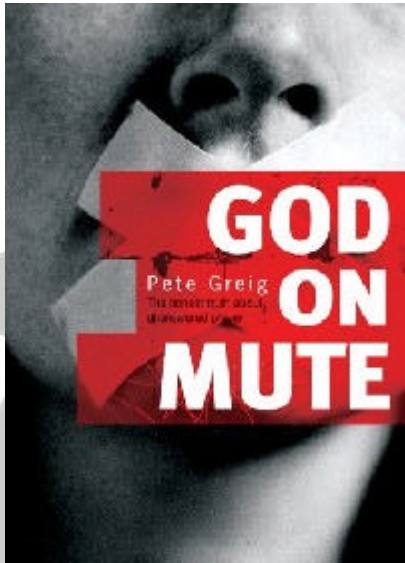


Dear Supporter,

The fact that its five months since I last wrote to you seems incredible to me - it's one of those times where it simultaneously seems that I was writing so recently, and yet so much has happened between Christmas and now. Well, welcome to the latest edition of "how much can I get on two sides of A4 paper!"



In my last newsletter I mentioned the new book that 24-7 had just released, Lord of the Ring. Interest in this book and Pete Greig's last book, the Vision and the Vow, drove up the number of hits on our sister website www.mustardseedorder.com to over 1 million in March. Just as this was happening, Pete's new book 'God on Mute' was published. With the voice of honesty and experience, Pete explores the challenges of suffering, disappointment and silence from on high. For me it's a real privilege to have seen, and to have joined in with the path that Pete has had to walk as he's journeyed with the frustration of

unanswered prayer. I highly recommend this book to you - as with all 24-7 resources, you can get a copy from www.24-7prayer.com/shop.

As tends to be the way with 24-7, we're currently slap bang in the middle of a period of trying to do everything at once! Three of my areas of responsibility are white hot right now; finance, fundraising and facilities management.

After seven years co-located with Revelation Church down in Chichester, we've decided to relocate our International Office. This has come about due to the double pressures of Revs having to renegotiate their building lease, and our somewhat precarious finances at the

minute. As a result, the Chichester office team will be packing everything up next week for our move to join the UK team in their London offices. As is often the case with this kind of thing, I think God is going to move us into a new season with this change in circumstances, and I think we're all looking forward to the additional sense of community that will be brought about by the two teams working in the same location.

The second two 'F's can be bundled together. Over the last few months we've seen a decline in the level of regular support to 24-7, and this has got to the point where it's critical. I'm working on various initiatives to help with this, but as much as the activity (more than!) we need to lift the situation before God. I have one of those strange feelings of quiet about the whole state of affairs, and I think that God is going to use it to refocus our attention on some of the things that we wouldn't have been as concerned with otherwise. That being said, we still need to bring money into 24-7 urgently if we're not going to have to stop doing many of the things we do, and also reduce peoples' pay - which is always a horrible thought, as people who work for 24-7 do so incredibly sacrificially.

As a result of all this, I've been doing a lot of financial work recently. Lots of reports on what we use our money for, how we raise it, and how we might improve our levels of support amongst people we know. In the first week of May we literally dropped everything else we were doing to 'Stem the Flow,' and hopefully even started to reverse it. There's then all sorts of work to do to improve the situation further, and I'll be looking for someone to help us with the task of fundraising and looking after our supporters better than we have been.

Another very real part of the battle we are in is in the area of health. Many of 24-7's leaders or their partners are currently struggling with crippling ill health. I just heard this morning that the wife of one of 24-7 Ireland's leaders has lost her short but intense fight against a brain tumour. It just brings home the reality of the fight that we are in as we encourage people around the globe to meet afresh with Jesus.

In the midst of all these very really practical needs, it's vitally important for me to continually remind myself of the way in which God is still touching people in amazing ways through 24-7. And thankfully, as you can see on the www.24-7prayer.com website, there are plenty of reasons that this incredible movement of prayer, mission and justice should continue. The following report recently came from a Portuguese prayer room:

"God was moving and touching people, from what we saw of the drawings on the wall, and the writing in the 'Share Book'. The words most frequently used were 'Love' and 'Father'. Some wrote about how they had forgotten how good it is to just stay still in His presence, alone with Him, no distractions, no nothing... Even if our Prayer Room were for just that one person to come closer to God again, it was more than worthwhile."

On a more personal front, I'm praying about whether or not I will be able to go over to the States this summer. For several years now I've had a group of friends who are based in Portland on the West Coast, and who run the 'Downtown House of Prayer' group there. I first met them when they



came on a pilgrimage to the Boiler Room in Reading in its first year, and I've been in touch with them ever since. It's their seventh birthday, and they're planning a celebration, so I'd love to join them as a part of their extended community. To go though, I'd almost certainly need to earn some extra cash by doing a bit of contract work that can be done at the same time as my 24-7 work. I've done a little of this kind of thing since I left Thames Water 3 years ago, but my contract pool is a little dry right now!

As you can see, it's been quite a full on few months. Please join me in thanking God for:

- The continued, amazing level of prayer being catalysed through 24-7 Prayer - there were 80 prayer rooms around the globe in March!
- Those who do support 24-7 financially. We would be completely sunk without the faithful few!
- The fact that even in our financially challenging situation, God is at work and calling us to keep our eyes fixed on Him.
- The blessing that Revelation Church has been to the movement over the past seven years.

Please could you also pray for:

- Protection. We desperately need Jesus to bring His healing in the lives of so many of our friends.
- Great effectiveness in fundraising, particularly for the outcome of 'Operation Stem the Flow'.
- A successful and (relatively!) stress free move of the International Office up to London.
- Energy and good rest for me as I try to coordinate much of what we are doing over the next few months.
- Wisdom about whether or not to go to Portland during the summer, and if it's right, to know where the money is coming from!

I pray that over the coming months God continues to reveal more of Himself to you and I, as we journey with Him.

Thanks so much for your support,

