

Dear supporter,

I hope you're having a fantastic Christmas season as you receive this update on my work at 24-7 Prayer, full of the joy of Jesus arrival and his promise to return soon!

Thank you so much if you spent some time praying for our UK tour earlier this year. Of the ten locations we visited, I was involved in 4, and it was fantastic to be able to travel to Nottingham, Edinburgh, Gateshead and Bristol, to encourage and catalyse what God was already doing in those places. I have to admit being surprised at how much of a buzz it was to see what God is up to in our nation. He continually amazes me as people tell stories of the things He's doing in their lives, and the amazing connections He makes with both Christians and non-Christians alike, as they tentatively seek Him.

I think Gateshead was a personal favourite tour location. I truly felt like I was ministering Jesus to the people we met, as we talked, shared food and drink, and prayed together. Our friend Tom Jamieson recently got in touch to give us seven whole paragraphs of encouragement on how the effect of the tour is still being felt along the Tyne valley, including this: "Members of those churches, of my church, and of several other churches round here, are discovering a whole new vibrancy in their life in God which lots of other people are talking about." Praise God!

If that wasn't enough to keep me encouraged, our recent UK Network day provided a great top-up. As those of us involved in leading 24-7 in some way in the UK gathered to share stories and pray for each other, we took most of the morning to hear from our friends from the four UK Boiler Rooms - Rich and Katy from Colchester, Ian from Guildford, Vicki from Wandsworth and Sally from Stanford-le-Hope. As the guys and girls shared stories of how these communities continue their exploratory journeys with the core Boiler Room values of creativity, prayer, mission, justice, learning and hospitality, we saw more evidence of Jesus at work in our land. The simplicity of living in a community practicing availability and serving the needs of the surrounding area in

Corringham, organising a Christmas meal for the hungry and lonely in Colchester, prayer rooms in schools providing children with their first spiritual encounters... all providing evidence of the Holy Spirit on the move and the kingdom advancing.

Earlier in the year Shirley (my girlfriend, for those of you who don't know her!) ran the London marathon for 24-7. She did great, and raised quite a lot of cash for us too. Money has continued to be a pressure for us as a movement this year, and at one stage we had to make some quite drastic cuts in our operations. Thankfully though we received one reasonably large contribution that has enabled us to start planning ahead a little, and I'm currently involved in helping to put in place new fundraising and communication strategies to get us into a better place financially. We're at a challenging stage right now with all of this as a movement - wanting to still keep reliant on Jesus, but also putting in place structures to ensure we steward well what the Lord has given us.



*Shirley after finishing the London Marathon*

It seems we have a real battle on our hands as we try to improve how we support the movement financially. All sorts of health issues, challenges with communication and expectations etc. seem to have reared their heads as we try to resource the movement better. I'd really appreciate your prayers in this area, as I try to bring my

experience to bear during the ‘growth pains’ we find ourselves in the middle of. We need to be good at both being dependant on the Lord for direction in what we’re doing, and to be doing it with excellence - it’s a difficult balancing act! In the New Year we’ll have many projects kicking off, and we’re instituting new staff prayer gatherings to encourage and inform each other. There’s a strong need to listen to, and to seek to bless each other so that we keep our working relationships healthy.

Thankfully the past few months haven’t all been work, and Shirley and I got chance to go up to Norway for a couple of weeks. We journeyed far north of the Arctic Circle to Tromsø in search of the Northern Lights, and we weren’t disappointed; we had three spectacular nights observing the beautiful shimmering patterns in the sky. We journeyed back to Oslo before touring the mountains and fjords of central and eastern Norway, resulting in a truly wonderful time away.

That’s it for another newsletter. Thanks for your time catching up with where things are at with 24-7 and me! If you have a few minutes, please join me in thanking God for:

- The success of the UK tour, and the things that God is still breathing life into through it.
- The encouragement of our UK Network day. Several people have fed back that they felt it was the best one to date!
- A wonderful holiday in Norway.

Please could you also pray for:

- Wisdom on the way forward with our fundraising efforts. We need to cut through the problems we’ve had to date, and find the right way forward for 24-7. We definitely need Jesus to be leading the way right now! Please pray that we can move past frustrations and blockages into freedom and lightness of spirit.
- Good relationships between the staff of 24-7 as we deal with the stresses and strains of being a rapidly growing movement. I need

wisdom in how to help growth happen in a way that both honours people and challenges them appropriately.

- A relatively stress free audit process with our accounts - this is the time of the year that I need to prepare everything for the Charity Commission and Companies House.



*Almost missing the camera self-timer shot in Norway!*

I’ve been mindful of the effectiveness of the prayers of friends for me over the past few months in challenging times. Please be encouraged that the Lord hears your prayers and answers them! I thank you deeply for your support. Have a wonderful Christmas time, and a very happy New Year.

Love and God bless,

*Pete*