



Operation World

when we pray, God works
february 2006

INSTANT RESPONSE

Although we are currently working well with four people in the team, the times, they are a' changin'. By late this year, I will once again be the only person left from the current team. There are of course, others on the way, but these transitions are a challenge. Still, we know that God answers prayer. I was chatting with one incoming worker, Jen Yuh, sharing that in the future we will really need a person with skills in the area of writing and editing. Literally 30 seconds after that conversation, I got an e-mail from someone who felt led to inquire about possibilities at Operation World. They have a Masters degree, of course, in English Literature, with experience in editing! Nothing is resolved as of yet, but I took it as a sign from God that we are not forgotten. Keep praying with us for the right people with the right gifts and personalities to come at the right time!

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Due to my surgery, I was under instructions to take it easy over the holiday period. So I was an obedient patient and did precisely that. It was a good time to read a lot of books, write a lot of e-mails and watch more movies than I usually would. I had the pleasure of spending Christmas and Boxing Day with the Blackmore family, who are friends in Birmingham. New Year's Eve was spent with a small group of friends with a nice roaring fire, some good music, a few snacks and drinks and some great conversation. Is it a sign of aging when you are content with welcoming the New Year in this way rather than with a huge party?

JOINT VENTURES

Well, it has been almost 2 months since the latest surgery on my knee, and the jury is still out. We will know much more by the end of this month when I go back to see the specialist surgeon for a followup appointment. In the last few days, the knee has felt good. Not better, but good! I'm still encouraged by all you who are persevering with me in your prayers. I will have news of some kind by early next month. It has been a real challenge to be both patient and full of faith, and I can relate well to the man whose son Jesus healed, who proclaimed: "I believe, help my unbelief!". Don't stop praying just yet!



OFF TO AFRICA

At the end of February, I am off to Kenya for a conference: Mobilizing African National Initiatives. There will be hundreds of African mission leaders from many countries; a goldmine of experience, knowledge and information about missions, churches and ministry in that continent. I will have to work hard to get to know many folk and build relationships that will enable us to learn a lot, not just

during the conference, but also afterward. The conference organizer strongly urged me to come, knowing OW well and realizing that this time would be really valuable. I haven't the time or wherewithal to go on any safaris or anything, but it will be nice just to be back in Africa, in the midst of all the joy, fervour and cultural and social richness it represents for me. I'm not worried, but in travelling to that part of the world, safety and health are always issues not to be taken lightly, so your prayers are coveted. I'm not too keen on picking up malaria or any other nice tropical treat.

HOW MANY TIMES???

The phase our project is in right now could be called "data gathering", "info harvesting" or something nice and positive as if we were skipping barefoot through a field where useful stats and info grew heavy on the boughs, just waiting to be plucked. But I think that "dragging that darned data kicking and screaming from uncooperative, forgetful or just clueless organizations" might at times be more appropriate! Of course, I realise that other ministries don't exist solely to feed us their information, but you'd expect at least a modicum of cooperation, or the briefest of acknowledgements that they at least received our letter/e-mail/phone call. So we need grace, patience and insight as to how to deal with the "hard to get" stuff; that's part of good research! We've got to start writing for real in a few more months, so the next several weeks really need some results. *I'll write more when I'm back from Kenya in a few more weeks! In the meantime, check out my blog for various thoughts and prayer points!*

In Christ and for the Harvest,
Jason Mandryk
e-mail : jason@operationworld.org
<http://operationworld.blogspot.com>