



Operation World

when we pray, God works
july 2006

WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS

Well, the World Cup is over and now we all have to wait another 4 years. Maybe some of you don't care about that much, but I love the colour, the carnival atmosphere, the healthy patriotism, the (usually) sporting nature of the competition, and of course, I love football. I do confess to having a tv set up in the office during the World Cup, but it was behind me, so it functioned more like a radio. However, when a goal was scored or something exciting happened, I was able to shift over and take a peek at the happenings! It was a competition full of contradictions. The winning nation being neck deep in corruption trials back home, the greatest player of this generation ending his career with a violent (but perfectly executed) head butt on an opponent, highly entertaining opening rounds followed by increasingly dull defensive matches, and firm directives from the bureaucrats in officialdom yielding refereeing chaos! But enough about that and on to the serious business...

EUROPEAN TRAVELS

Back in April, I was able to attend 2 very interesting conferences. One was the international conference for WEC, which happens every 4 years. It was wonderful to meet so many leaders who I only knew by name, and to hear the exciting stories about how the Gospel is moving forward in so many parts of the world. It was also great to be able to fellowship with WEC leaders from all around the globe. Then I hopped over from Germany to beautiful Barcelona, where I attended the European Mission Researchers Group conference. Pretty self-explanatory title! Our small group was actually quite diverse and came from a number of countries, organizations and had many different areas of focus. The setting was wonderful, as was the fellowship, as was the opportunity to listen to how others in Europe are using research to mobilize the church and spread the Gospel. I foresee a lot of cooperation between this group and OW in the future.

TEAM IN TRANSITION

As the saying goes, all good things must come to an end! And so with saddened hearts we at OW must bid a fond farewell to Laura and Ermias Worku, how joined me from the Doulos and worked here at



Bulstrode for 18 months – Laura with OW and Ermi in IT. They have both been good friends and Laura has been a wonder worker in the office; without her organization and quiet competence I don't know where I'd be. It is a testament to her prowess that the people taking over many of her tasks have constantly remarked "Wow, this is so well organized!".

However with the departure of Laura and Ermi to Glasgow for work and studies we're blessed with a new

team member. Anjali Sethi, from Saskatoon, Canada will be with us for 1 year. Her background is in financial planning and administration. The first thing she did was get our accounts in order – praise the Lord for that! Now she's quickly fitting into the team and learning the ropes. One of her main tasks will be to chase down all those many delinquent missions and denominations who have thus far failed to return their statistics to us (pray for her!). We also have another team member coming in a month's time (although I suppose we shouldn't count our chickens till they're hatched!). Jen Yuh will be joining in August long term (YAY!) and her gifts with design and graphics will also be a big bonus to us. Pray with us for the right number of team members with the right gifts coming at the right time!

IT IS A BOOK, AFTER ALL...

..and since that is the case, it needs to actually be written! We might have a nice organized structure to handle the flow of information, but until that info makes its way into the 250+ countries and special ministries, we have nothing. What this means is that between now and the target completion date I must complete – yes, COMPLETE – an average of 2 countries per week! I honestly don't think that I can do it unless things really speed up. Thank God that the team is growing and learning. Now, we just need a LOT of cooperation from our many contacts and ways to minimize the writing time for each country. Some of you might find it interesting that the work on the statistics (particularly the denominations) is by far the hardest and most time consuming element of the work. The prayer points are relatively easy! So, we are very much coveting your prayers over the long term. We can praise God that the mighty nations of Moldova, American Samoa, Anguilla and St Pierre & Miquelon are done in their first draft form. Now, on to China, India, Indonesia and Nigeria!!!

MULLING IT OVER

Wayyyyy back in 1996 I helped an acquaintance reroof his cottage up on the Isle of Mull, which is off the west coast of Scotland. After 10 years, I finally took up the offer of a free week at the cabin in exchange for my hard labour on those wet and windy November days when we worked on the roof. It was definitely worth the wait! My sister Kara was able to join me and we enjoyed a glorious week of great sunny weather, marvellous hikes, diverse wildlife, relaxing drives, good food, lots of books, plenty of sleep, and of course the World Cup on tv! The West coast of Scotland and the Isles are remarkably beautiful places and I long to be able to return there again one day. Both photos are from Mull, and you can find more on this link [here](#).

SPEECH IMPEDIMENT

In the coming 2 months or so, I will be speaking several times, generally about the global status of mission and the church. A few of these occasions are quite high profile and so I need to prepare beyond just sharing from the top of my head (which usually works pretty well!). The trick is, getting the material together while continuing to write Operation World.

HARVEST OF DATA

As previously mentioned, we are blessed by having a long-distance team member or two assisting us with various elements of the work. Michael Jaffarian, an experienced missions researcher, has begun to assist us a

few days a month with chasing down missionary and church data from US based organizations. In a brief time, we are already beginning see the fruit of his labours. This is an encouraging development and we look forward to benefiting from Michael's expertise more in the future!

HOW TO PRAY FOR US

Looking ahead, I can see that it will be a long haul of heavy work in order to finish anywhere near on time. I suppose we have three main prayer requests to that end. And here they are...

- 1) The team: always seems to be in transition. Thank God for Anjali, for Jen's impending arrival and for Lisa, Daniel & Arnelle, who are well into the pipeline!
- 2) The information: as I've said so many times, I think pulling teeth is easier! Thankfully, we are starting to see more responses come in.
- 3) Me specifically. As the team leader and writer/editor, I have a lot of responsibilities I am not too experienced with and have to learn a lot of skills on the job, including something resembling pastoral care (those of you who know me well will know this is a big request!)

In Christ and for the Harvest,
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