



Operation World

when we pray, God works
june 2005 Other newsletters

IN THE WARS

As some of you might have known, my normally fit physical self took a beating in the early months of this year. Over a 4 week period I split my forehead open (resulting in a nice scar), got laid out for 2 weeks from an infection (during which I lost 7 kg) and damaged ligaments and cartilage in my knee (for which I'm waiting for surgery). Not fun. I'm hoping that I can get into surgery quickly – with the UK public health system that would be remarkable in itself. I'm praying that they can fix the damage during the initial keyhole procedure and not require further, more extensive surgery. Sports and physical activity are important to me, so this is a serious issue. Will you please pray with me for this?

CITRUS, SUNSHINE and SEA

In April, I was able to take part in a conference for church and mission researchers which was held in Cyprus. The conference was excellent, with several excellent presentations. But the most valuable time was that spent outside the keynote sessions when I was able to network with a number of people. Some were old colleagues – we had specific OW-related issues to meet about, but others were new to the scene (or at least new to me). It was excellent to be able to get to know these folks; many of them are from a younger generation of researchers and specializing in areas where both they and Operation World will be able to help each other out. It was also great to sample the local cuisine, especially the orange



the many OWs over the years

juice at my friend (and fellow researcher) David Greenlee's house which came straight off the tree! Another highlight was a sprawling dinner with Michael and Dawna Jaffarian – sprawling applied to both the table required and ourselves after we were finished! Mike is an experienced researcher based in the USA who will be lending his expertise to Operation World part-time. The fact that it was sunny

and warm every day was more frustrating than pleasant since we spent most of our waking hours in conference rooms...

ACCESS DENIED

One of the big tests of this new edition of Operation World is handling changes in technology. Each of the last editions have seen a change in what kind of database and what software is being used. This time around we are moving, at least in part, to Microsoft Access for a number of reasons. The fact that we are working on this early in the process means that we're ideally going to avoid time pressure when glitches turn up. Still, there are a lot of technically demanding things we need to do with our data, and we have no onsite database expert. Maurice Manktelow has been a huge help in his spare time, but we will also need some Access-specific specialists for occasional consultation. This is a very strategic point for prayer, as the timing of getting the database structures set up properly affects all of our other work!



who says men can't multitask? holding the fort singlehandedly!

OW TEAM NEWS

The Operation World team is slowly coming together and this is a real month of transition in that area. Laura Bedford will be married by the time many of you read this! Jasmine Jaffarian arrives as a summer intern a few days after Laura gets back from her honeymoon. We've also got two long-term team members in the pipeline. Pray for them! One was all clear to arrive in late summer, but now needs some medical tests regarding a health issue. Another is coming over early next year, and is preparing accordingly in her job and her church. We have also had some replies to our requests for interested people to help out on smaller and specific tasks. Several have skills which will really be of great help to us. Nevertheless, we need to see a larger and stable team form which will see us through to the end of production.

WHERE WERE YOU?

On May 15, about 215 million Christians met together in over a hundred nations for one purpose – to pray. The Global Day of Prayer was born of Transformation Africa, but has transcended that continent to become the biggest prayer meeting in history. Stadiums, arenas, churches and public places all over the world witnessed Christians from all denominations meeting to pray for our world, for fellow believers, and for God's kingdom to come. This was just the first year – the GDoP will continue to occur Pentecost Sunday for the next 5 years, and I'm sure it will only get bigger. I really believe that such a demonstration of prayerfulness and the unity of God's people has huge potential in making a difference in the world.

INTERNATIONAL PRAYER PEOPLE

OW has no official link with the GDoP, but I am on the executive committee of the International

Prayer Council, a network of prayer ministries which, among other things, oversees the Global Day of Prayer. This role allows me to interact not just with mission and research people, the traditional realm/constituency of OW, but also with the prayer and intercession movements around the world. I'm just feeling my way into this new responsibility, but so far, I've learned a lot and met some wonderful people of prayer.

THE MONTHS AHEAD

I will be briefly in Canada at the end of June for a family gathering and a cousin's wedding. As soon as I return things hot up. There is a large youth mission conference in the UK which I'm speaking at (www.transmission.org.uk), and several other speaking events over the summer, including at my church here. I enjoy the public ministry of informing believers what's going on around the world, but it needs to be kept in balance with the many demands of looking after OW and the team. That's yet another point for prayer!

LAST OF ITS KIND

It is sometimes a bit frustrating waiting for a few months for big news to build up before a prayer letter. So what I'm planning to do in the future is publish a shorter, one page prayer letter every month. It will look and function the same, but give opportunity to include more current and time-specific prayer points, related to OW, to me personally and to the world in general.

<http://operationworld.blogspot.com>

...and please don't stop praying!

In Christ and for the Harvest,
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