



# Operation World

when we pray, God works  
march 2007

## ***“SMOKING JOINTS” PART IV***

It's about the only situation where I would allow an effete German man wearing a gown to repeatedly slap me on the hand while I'm wearing little but a bathrobe! They were trying to find a vein to anesthetize me and for the 4<sup>th</sup> and hopefully last time, to operate on my knee. For those following this drawn-out saga, I had an operation to suture together my torn cartilage (2<sup>nd</sup> try) just before Christmas and then had my anterior cruciate ligament reconstructed in February.

It will be at least 8 more months before it is safe to play full contact sports again. But so far, so good; the surgeon and the physiotherapist are actually quite pleased and impressed with my recovery thus far. I attribute this to the many prayers that YOU have all been praying for me. Now, the onus is on me to exercise discipline in doing what I need to do to get the knee strong again. I am off crutches, and while still limping, am able to drive again. Warm gratitude and thanks to all who have been alongside me in this 18 month long process.

## ***BRAND NEW YEAR, SAME OLD CHALLENGES***

Due to my hobbled state I was not able to head into London and party with the masses for New Year's Eve. I actually had a wonderful time in the old tower on the WEC grounds (see photo) with just a fire in the fireplace, some good music playing, my Bible, my notebook, me and the Lord. It was an excellent opportunity to reflect on the past 12 months and look forward to and set priorities for the next 12. How quickly we stray, though. I have already consulted back as a part of the Lenten season to refocus on those priorities after only 2 months. Somewhat typically, my priorities were focused on restoring right relationships (with God and with people), living what I believe more consistently and having greater discipline and effectiveness in my personal life and in the office.

## ***OPERATION WORLD WEBSITE***

We have been thankful for the faithful friendship of our partners in the task Global Mapping International, especially regarding hosting the OW website. Their work has allowed us to get our material out there to the wider world in a way we never could have on our own. As the old OW gets older and as we draw (slowly!) closer to a NEW OW, we thought it would be a cool idea to also develop a new website which



The Keep – New Year's Eve Venue

would not replace the old one but focus on the current team and the current job of getting the new edition ready. So, if you want to check it out, just go to:

[www.operationworld.info](http://www.operationworld.info)

Many thanks to Jen Yuh and Dave Koenig for their work on this new site. It is still a work in progress, but I'm excited about the prospects! If any of you have any bright ideas about things we could include or incorporate, please send us your suggestions. As long as they're not like: "show us hilarious videos of Jason's painful skateboarding

accidents" or something. Because I don't skateboard and I wouldn't show videos of my wipeouts if I did.

## ***WRITING PROGRESS***

Hot knife through butter or molasses in January? Which describes better how we're moving in the writing process? Probably somewhere in between. In last couple of weeks I have managed to get first drafts done of Iceland, Kazakhstan, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Tunisia. But the reality is that we have to average more than 2 countries a week to even get the FIRST drafts done in time for our publication goal. And that's not counting the massive revision process, the regions and special ministries mentioned, the maps, graphs, layout and typesetting, etc. Yikes! I don't even want to think about it. But I do want you to PRAY about it! And related to the massive amount of work still left to do, I'd also ask you to pray about...

## ***TEAM BUILDING***

We are really gelling together as a team and realizing that our characters and gifts are actually quite different and complementary. Which makes us a good team! Praise God for Fiona, Jen and Anjali! There's a running joke that they're the OW equivalent of Charlie's Angels. Patrick Johnstone (who is never seen but whose influence is felt) is Charlie, and I'm stuck with the gormless Bosley role.

God also frequently brings people through here for a couple of weeks or a couple of months to help out in specific areas. Right now, Isaque, an Indonesian-Brazilian is helping us dig up information on ministry and mission going on in Portuguese-speaking African nations like Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Sao Tome & Principe. Very helpful since he's fluent in the official language of these nations! We are also still waiting on our three American

future team members. Daniel and Arnelle as well as Lisa are ready to come, but are waiting for their visas to be processed and their support to at least start coming in. PRAY with us for those issues.

### **MUSIC MINISTRY**

The truth is that my involvement with music and worship has really gone off the boil in the last year or so. I suppose a combination of too much OW work and a lack of fellow musicians at the moment are the main causes. But with the approach of the annual Open Day here at WEC, I will get the chance to be involved with worship music for that big event - which gets me excited! I'm grateful for the opportunity and look forward to the practicing and playing! It will be great to host Brother Andrew ("God's Smuggler") as our main speaker. I will also be speaking in a seminar on - surprise! - the status of global Christianity. Which leads me to the next point.

### **STATE OF THE GOSPEL, REVISITED**

I keep on getting feedback from the presentation I gave back in September in Malaysia at the Lausanne Younger Leaders Gathering. As I mentioned before, the audio and powerpoint files are online; there have been thousands of downloads. Now, it seems this is all going to the next level and spreading further. Which is a bit amusing because if you recall, at one point I wondered why I had ever agreed to do that session! The media people at the YLG have put together a video of the presentation. They will be making a DVD of it which will most likely also including presentations by such heavy hitters



the current team

as John Piper (one of my heroes!) and Paul Eshleman. What an honour for me and for Operation World! It is also available on the web for people to view. Check it out here at Harvest Media's site. Even if you don't want to see or hear me, it is worth watching just for the intro sequence - nothing short of incredible (and nothing to do with me!).

[www.harvestmediaministry.com/State\\_Gospel\\_Full.htm](http://www.harvestmediaministry.com/State_Gospel_Full.htm)

### **HOW TO PRAY**

Well, there's never a shortage of prayer needs! Here are a few to work on:

- 1) Praise God for the State of the Gospel presentation and how it is being used to inform and mobilize.
- 2) Thank him as well about my knee operation and pray that it would eventually get back to full strength and function.
- 3) Pray for the team - outgoing people, incoming people, people we haven't even heard of yet who may join in the future!
- 4) Pray - as always - for the finishing this project. OW is much bigger than me or the team and OW itself is only a small part of the big picture of how God is working in the world today.

In Christ and for the Harvest,  
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