



Operation World

when we pray, God works
may-june 2007

JUST THE BEGINNING

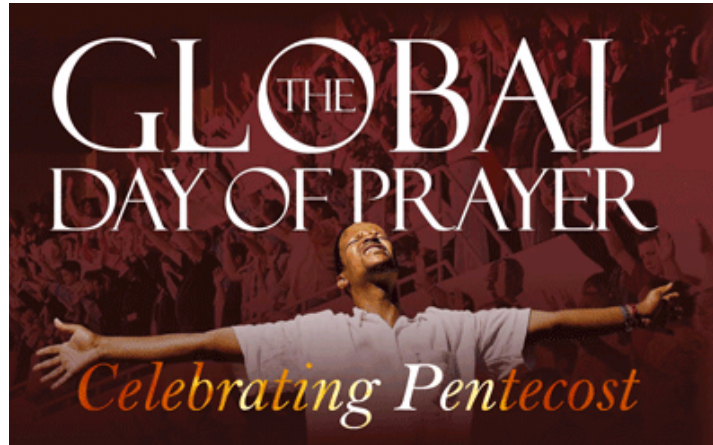
I don't know how you spent your Pentecost Sunday – maybe in church, maybe in bed or at the park. But there were hundreds of millions of people around the world, in every time zone, in *almost* every country, praying for their cities, their nations and for the world. I have had the privilege to know the people at the core of this incredible movement. It all began in Capetown, South Africa a few years ago with just one location – now there are thousands of locations and more participants than the population of almost any country in the world bar 2 or 3!
www.globaldayofprayer.com

EVERY TONGUE AND TRIBE

London's event was held at Upton Park the stadium of West Ham United football club. There were about 17,000 people there in my estimate, but that's quite good for the first year that London has done this on a large scale. Next year I expect that number to at least double. Being in what is probably the world's most culturally diverse city, it was remarkable to see people from such an incredible diversity of ethnic, national, cultural and denominational backgrounds singing, praying and celebrating the Lord together – a tear-inducing foretaste of heaven! If being part of a mere 17,000 people was that powerful, imagine what it will be like with the countless hosts of heaven one day!

ON A SMALLER SCALE – GOD'S SMUGGLER!

A couple of weeks before that event, WEC held our annual Open Day here at Bulstrode where a mere 2000 or so descended upon the estate to hear what was going on in the WEC world and beyond. We had the great privilege to have Brother Andrew of Open Doors as our main speaker. This guy has an incredible testimony of several decades of courageous ministry to the most difficult places – Communist Europe, China and now the Muslim world. His fearless but gentle way of sharing the Gospel has allowed him to share Jesus with high up leaders in the Taleban, in Hamas, in Hezbollah, and they prove surprisingly responsive. His latest book – *Light Force* – is a revelation and a highly recommended read! On a much lesser note, I again had the joy of being part of the music team on the day where I sang, strummed, drummed, beat and whistled my way through several instruments. I also gave a seminar on what was going on globally in the world of mission and church growth. And a good day was had by all! We trust that the event will see



many new missionaries called and sent out to bring the good news and do good works around the world.

THE KNEE

Yes, in know many of you are tired of hearing updates about my knee and its 4 operations, etc etc. But at the same time, I get asked several times a month "how's the knee?". Now, I don't know whether that is just polite small talk on your part or a genuine

question – I'll assume the latter. Anyway, I saw the surgeon again in early May. He twisted and pulled my leg around and informed me "It's like a rock!". Which, apparently, is good. I'm on schedule, and would probably be ahead of schedule if I were more disciplined in doing all my rehab exercises. What it means is that by the end of July, I'll be able to go jogging and play low-intensity sports – like golf, cricket and tennis. Which is good, because I have about 20-25 pounds I'm carrying now which didn't used to be there before I got injured. I offer a very sincere thank you to all who have prayed and sent encouraging messages. I have learned a lot of things through this all and I'm creeping inexorably back to full health!

DEVOLUTION

I don't mean what is politically happening in Scotland and Northern Ireland these days. And I sure don't mean that humans are growing gills, webbed feet and turning into single-celled organisms. What I mean is that the whole OW project is making significant backward progress these days. We lost Anjali and Jen recently – Anjali completed her 1 year term and is now back with her job in Saskatoon who graciously gave her a 1 year leave of absence. She will be helping with a few things, even while in Saskatchewan. Jen is getting married and therefore moving back to Philadelphia where her fiancé lives. Even though he "stole" her from us, he's a great guy, and we wish them both the best. Jen will be experimenting with remotely working on OW as full-time as possible. The trick will be to see which aspects of the work they are able to effectively do while geographically separated from the office and all the resources here. Even Fiona will be away from the office for an extended period of time, but her intention is also to continue working full-time with OW from where she will be. That means that I will be back on my own again for a while. Which hasn't been the case since January 2005. This is not the way to get this project done, but sometimes things are just beyond one's control. I can't deny that it isn't terribly frustrating and a temptation to be discouraged.

CALLING IN THE REINFORCEMENTS

Well, really, they are more replacements than reinforcements at this point. We have 3 people who had hoped to be here already. The goal is for them to arrive at the end of June or in July. So I ask that you would pray them in with me – for the visas to come through and for all their details to get worked out, including finance. Daniel and Arnelle Helbling and Lisa Wyckoff are their names. There are also a few people who are interested in shorter term service. Pray, as before, that the right people with the right gifts would come at the right time. In light of present circumstances, maybe we all need to pray a little more!

IN THE MEANTIME

Due to a lack of personnel, office operations have had to be pegged back to a bare minimum – survival mode. This means that countries are not getting written. This means that from one day to the next, the job is no closer to getting done. This means that the publication date gets pushed back further and further. This means that our publisher might get anxious (thank God they are so cooperative and helpful!) and that all the work I've already done in the area of writing gets older by the day without getting any closer to hitting the shelves. But again, this is an issue that's out of my hands. And we just have to trust that God is working in the midst of this situation and keep praying.

LAND OF THE SILVER BIRCH,

Home of the beaver, Where still the mighty moose wanders at will! If you don't know that song, maybe you're not even really Canadian! Anyway, I will have a hopefully wonderful time in Canada with my family in June. It will be great to have the whole family all together in one place - that place happens to be Quebec. I will also have the chance to briefly see some friends in Toronto and to visit my sister and brother-in-law's place in Halifax (just days before they

move out!). I also look forward to Slurpees, poutine and some good Montreal smoked meat and bagels!

BUDA? OR PEST?

I don't actually know which side of the Danube the conference is on, but I'll be in the capital of Hungary from 18-22 June for meetings connected to Lausanne. (www.lausanne.org) We will be looking at a number of issues, primarily focused on planning for the massive event that will be happening in October 2010 in South Africa. It's an honour to be part of this diverse group, and hopefully I'll be able to offer some insight and perspective to the many issues that will be discussed. Anyway, these meetings don't come cheap, and the hotel and flights also cost significant amounts! So I definitely want to make the most of the time there – learning, sharing and above all, building up connections with other Christians from around the world. Pray for this time as I will have to leave for Budapest the day after I fly home from Canada.

HOW TO PRAY

Here's the next batch of prayer requests:

- 1) Praise God for a knee that's healing well!
- 2) Pray for the new team members to arrive ASAP and to transition into the work quickly
- 3) Pray for Jen and Fiona as we figure out how they can effectively work from long distance
- 4) Pray for other new team members and contacts to emerge
- 5) Pray for a restful, fun and spiritual refreshing holiday for me in Canada
- 6) Pray for my time at the Lausanne conference in Budapest

In Christ and for the Harvest,
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