



Operation World

when we pray, God works
april 2009

CH-CH-CHANGES

Irwin Edman said "Life is always at some turning point." This is likewise true for Operation World...it seems we are constantly at a turning point. In the last three months we have said hello to Julia, Molly, Nkosana, and John & Margaret. And goodbye to Julia as well (she was just here for 3 weeks). We haven't yet said hello to Kannan (hopefully in May/June), nor welcome back to Daniel & Arnelle. We are also continually receiving inquiries from people around the world who are interested in helping OW –such interest is very welcome, but not always able to be worked out in the end. While our team is continually in a state of change or impending change, the work continues to stare us in the face and deadlines creep ever closer....



THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

I'm not sure precisely what has precipitated this, but I have done some serious soul-searching lately (and I haven't always liked what I found). Some reasons?

- *An acquaintance who negotiated themselves a move to an investment bank as a V.P. with a six-figure salary a few weeks before the financial crisis broke – a jarring contrast to my own humble state of affairs.*
- *Two friends who are married, expecting their first child and 10 years younger than me.*
- *The constant "no" that I am forced to utter in response to the many and diverse invitations I receive, due to the priority of "finishing the book".*
- *The new buildings here at Bulstrode which will see many people move to new flats (no, not me), and which are generating a sense of excitement for the future development of Bulstrode as a center for mobilizing mission and prayer. Uncertainty as to whether OW will be a key part of it or not.*
- *The innocent excitement of a new Christian who is a recent friend of mine at each spiritual discovery; glorious truths that I now too often take for granted.*
- *The shifting currents of influence and energy in the world of mission and prayer pushing OW into an unknown future with many agendas at work and often competing.*

What does this all mean? A mid-life crisis? A spiritual rut? A change of life direction? The threat of burnout? I don't know, but it has been a time of many considerations and much God-thought. Which in turn reminded me of this quote: "To think deeply about the Holy Spirit is a bewildering, tearing exercise, for whatever He touches He turns inside out."

PILGRIMS' PROGRESS

100 metre sprinters accelerate to their top speed very quickly – most of the race is about retaining speed and not slowing down too much. If we are to complete OW in both a timely and a high-quality manner, we will need to continue to accelerate until the finish line. – it is a daunting prospect. Fortunately, I've been encouraged by the willing spirits and quick learning of the team. If it CAN be done, it WILL be done! Beyond the completion of the remaining countries (more than 60, including many tiny placed), we still have also to:

- *Elicit feedback on the drafts from our contacts*
- *Incorporate this and recent news into another draft*
- *Get final feedback and input*
- *Prepare the final copy*
- *Copy editing and proof reading*
- *Layout and typeset this copy for the book itself*
- *Write all the intro sections and appendices*
- *Develop the maps, charts, graphs*

As you can see, a formidable task list....and that's just for the English BOOK. Never mind the translations, DVD, website and all the other subsequent resources.

MISSION-NET

One event that I couldn't say no to was this exciting gathering that started today in Germany - a gathering of young mission-minded people from all across Europe. I'll be joining thousands of others in Oldenburg for what I anticipate will be a great time. I'll be leading some prayer sessions in the main gatherings, but just as importantly, networking with people from all across this great continent. Please pray with me that what I share would be insightful, challenging, accurate and would move people to get involved with meeting the needs of those who suffer or cry out for help around the world. I'm struggling with the powerfully debilitating "man-flu" at the moment, so greater health and energy would be very much appreciated on my part ☺.



In Christ and for the harvest,
Jason