



# Operation World

when we pray, God works  
january 2010

## ***CATCHING UP***

Wow! Where did 2009 go? In fact, where did the last 5 years go? It's been about that long since we started the very first phases of the new edition of Operation World. In that time, we've had 29 different team members (just off the top of my head) from 10 different countries – 21 of whom have already moved on to other things. Does this say something about my capacities as a leader? I hope not; the fact is that most of these folks have come with a specifically limited time frame in mind. The fact that several have stayed beyond what was expected has been both a blessing and a confidence builder!



OW enjoying a Christmas dinner

## ***THE HOME STRETCH***

I'm not that into horse racing, but I always find it fascinating watching a finish, when some horses gather their strength and surge toward the finish line while others fade away into also-ran status. I hope we are going to be the former and not the latter. We are 5 months away from having to having this beast finished at last. I don't want even to put specific dates to paper for fear of not being able to make them (we've delayed release a couple of times already)! Even so, it was a reassuring thing to hear from our publisher that "Operation World is an important enough publication for us that we do not need to feel beholden to any specific date in the calendar." PRAY for the whole team - for staying power, focus and impossibly high productivity (without sacrificing quality) for the next several months!

## ***PERSONAL THOUGHTS***

In my last newsletter, I shared some of my deeper thoughts more openly than I would normally share. I actually received quite a lot of feedback from you. So those who wrote, thank you for your kind words of exhortation and encouragement. The truth is that the further along in this OW project and in indeed in this very messy project called my life that I get, the more deeply I end up thinking and the more profoundly I question things. Usually the questions are "how" and "why" questions, honing what I believe rather than overturning it

altogether. This includes everything from the nature of the Gospel, faith and how to work out my own in the real world, to ministry and what is the best way to go about doing God's work, to issues of relationships, singleness and marriage, to issues of money and finance, and even to who is going to win the Super Bowl and World Cup. ☺ I guess that being poised on the relative brink of finishing the hardest, most demanding thing I've ever done in my life makes me reflect on the past and think forward to the future. Things have not been easy, and I've discovered so many weaknesses and shortcomings in myself (and also how gracious God is with his very imperfect children!). But a verse that has been significant to many of us in the team is Philippians 3:13-14. "One thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

## ***THE TASK REMAINING***

We have just 10 countries left to write! The fact that they include China, India and the USA is no small factor. There are also the regional and global sections of the book to write. We also still have to revise, copy edit, proofread and typeset all 800 pages! Writing recent countries has been sobering (United Kingdom), exciting (India) and even a strong mix of both (South Africa).



## ***WINTER WONDERLAND***

I find it very unusual that amidst all this global warming talk, that England has had more snow in the last 12 months than in many many years. From MY point of view, as a Canadian, this is wonderful! However, British civilization appears to be at the point of complete collapse (it will bemuse archaeologists a few hundred years from now, no doubt!). In any case, while the old mansion is rather chilly, my quinzee that I built was rather warm and cozy inside. So much so that I slept there instead!

In Christ and for the harvest,  
Jason