

Prayer Meeting

by Gary Witherall

Gary Witherall's sermon emphasizes the transformative power of prayer and the importance of community in deepening one's faith journey.

Duration: 57:53

Scripture: Romans 8:26, 2 Corinthians 10:4, 1 Thessalonians 1:5, 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Topics: "Prayer Meeting"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker begins by sharing his experience of feeling challenged by his audience to say something interesting. He then mentions his preaching journal and a sticker for the Logos Hope Power Up, suggesting that prayer should be offered for it. The speaker offers a prayer of gratitude and emphasizes the importance of salvation and the presence of the Holy Spirit. He discusses the four elements of Paul's Gospel: the Word of God, the power of God, the Spirit of God, and deep conviction. The speaker encourages the next generation to boldly share the message of the Gospel, but cautions against simply memorizing Bible verses and approaching Muslims without understanding their perspective. He shares an anecdote about a doctor from Northern Ireland who was challenged by a mosque leader. The speaker concludes by expressing his belief in the power of storytelling and the need for effective communication in sharing the Gospel. He also mentions the organization OM and its potential for great works.

Transcript

Can I just say, at the beginning of a prayer meeting, there's not many things that we can take with us into heaven. But the Lord says that he keeps the prayers of the saints in bowls as a sweet savour. So isn't that something to consider? There are great bowls in glory.

Okay, there may be a few of you that don't know Gary, but Gary was on the way back as a very young lad. This comes from down in the country here, the other side of Gatwick Airport. And he went off, of all things, as an Englishman, to Moody Bible Institute.

And there he met this amazing woman who gave her life at that little clinic in Lebanon. What year was that now? 2002. 2002, so it's going to be ten years next year.

And now, in recent years, the Lord has given Gary another wife and already two children, right? Three. Oh, what happened? As we're older, we get left behind. So Gary is the leader of Transform 2011.

He helped birth the Transform movement, which I don't think was very easy. This period of O.M.'s history, there's so many big things going on. The heavy regionalization of Europe took place also many years ago.

So he'll be carrying a big load at the conference in Rome coming up in July. Both Daniel and I will be there, looking forward to that. So I've asked Gary to share something from his heart, from the Word, from his experience.

Some of you have read his book. We're trying to republish his book, Total Abandonment. We've hit a hiccup because, without checking with Gary, the publisher took a picture.

Photographers are quite dangerous. He took a picture, and the symbol on the wall of the picture is very offensive to Muslims. And the man I'm dealing with, to get this reprint, is the first he's ever heard of it.

I just sent you the e-mail from him, trying to get this sorted out in order to do a new low-price edition. So I hope if you haven't been motivated to read Gary's book, there are copies around. Total Abandonment.

And then your new book, is that published yet, or in the head? It's half-written. OK, so welcome Gary, over to you. Thank you, thank you.

Well, good evening everybody. Sorry I missed your prayer walk, and I would have loved to do that. We're accustomed to people being late here.

You know, I was driving along thinking, there's a few good reasons why you'd be late for George. But my motives are very good, and I'm a little bit Arab now. This is a lovely opportunity just to share with you a few of my thoughts.

And I don't know many of you very well, so I know one or two. But the Lord has put messages on my heart recently, and I'll share a few nuggets of where I'm at in my journey. Maybe a little bit of my story, just a touch on it.

And then in a while, I have some prayer stuff to transform, and we'll touch on that. Does that sound good? And just don't feel, if I'm waffling on, just tell me to shut up, and that'll be fine. Now I was thinking, what excuse can I give for being late? And then I realised, before OM, which when I was 20 I joined OM, I'm now 45.

And in two weeks' time, I joined OM for my summer campaign in Belgium. I went to this campground in Belgium. Some of you may have gone to it.

And it was like miles away from the main campus, you know, like where we were camping, you know. And George walked in, and I knew who he was. I'd never seen him before, but I'd listened to these tapes that somebody sent me from OM.

And he walked in with too many books in his hands. And the funny thing is, George, is that you were then my age now. Isn't that interesting? And I was thinking to myself, you know, when I joined OM, I was going to the Royal Navy, like my dad.

And I was going to Officer's College. I mean, that's where I'm going, you know. Missionaries are, don't be offended, but there's a specific kind of lady with a machete and a pith helmet, you know.

I thought it was a Bible. Chops down the jungle. I mean, I knew what a missionary was, you know.

And actually I visited the Logos in Shoreham in 1983. And it was a rainy day, and I walked up the gangway, and I said, this is what I'm going to do. And I went back to talk to one of the elders of my church, and I said, I want to join these ships.

And he said, you won't be able to make it. The cabins are too small. It's too difficult.

This is the elder of the church telling me that I can't make it, you know. He since got a divorce and gave up his walk with the Lord. So another elder in my church, when I left the ships, I was going to go to Bible College, and I applied.

And he said, oh, no, you're not going to go to Bible school for a whole year. And I was like, no, I'm going for four years. And that ended another relationship.

And then in 19, what year is it, 1995, the whole Toronto blessing thing hit this area. And I went back to my church, which when I left for OM was 450 people in Crowley, crazy, exciting, great students. Actually, some of the students of when we were together are still on the mission field in Afghanistan, some with YWAM.

But in any case, this Toronto blessing thing was it. And look, I'm not going to say it was bad because it's let God be God and I'll just let him judge too. And it was confusing.

You know, there was a couple of people. Anyway, I made a statement to the church and I said, I'm leaving and I cannot be part of this. And the church was 60 people, 80 people.

From 400 it went to 60. More than 400. It wasn't just 400 people.

I mean, it was like on Sunday every week people come to Christ. And it went from that to that. But now, by the way, Crowley Community Church is doing really well.

And they have taken over a big centre or a school in town. So they're doing well. And I think they also acknowledge some of the mistakes of the mid-90s where I think it just went haywire.

Anyway, that's kind of where I come from. I come from, my parents grew up in, sorry, I grew up in Plymouth with my parents. My dad was in the Navy there.

And then my dad was going to actually, he was going to apply to DTS with YWAM when we were just kids. But then he actually was offered to work with a church as some kind of associate pastor. We moved to Crowley and with a really exciting Church of England church.

It didn't work out. My dad ended up working in engineering. And actually, I was just driving past a street.

I mean, these are like the streets I grew up as a kid. And I was 17 years old and I hit a car with my motorbike at over 60 miles an hour. And I should have been dead.

The police even, they came to the hospital and they said, three points in that accident, you should have been killed. And I knew that God had kept me alive for a purpose. If I hadn't have had that accident, there is no way I would be here.

Unless, of course, God did something else. But I mean, as I see, as I understand. So my journey, you know, I wasn't a very good Christian when I was 17, 18.

I understood, I believed in God deeply in my spirit. But, you know, I'd rather go to the pub, go out to a movie, go and have fun with my friends. Now, you know, we're going to come here and pray and think.

And I thought this as well. You know, George, thank you. Thank you to OM leadership for investing in me.

I mean, you know, here I am. I'm a struggler. I am a struggler.

But I'm probably the closest thing to what would be defined as a thoroughbred Omer. You know what I mean? I mean, I've really gone through it. I've had Mike Hack on my case.

I've had Alan Adams on my case. I've had Mike Stature, all of, you know, like influencing me, challenging me, rebuking me. You know, I can just list through a whole line of men.

And then Frank Brooks, who recently passed. I mean, Frank and I walked through the streets of London to the homeless. And really his generous love, lavish, lavish love, you know, for those people on the street.

And so, yeah, you know, I think of my time in India with Jimmy Christie. And, I mean, there's all kinds of people. I remember Mike Stature a long, long, long time ago.

He said, long for me, maybe not for you guys. He said this. He said, if you want to see God work, stick around.

Amazing. It just stuck with me, kind of stuck in my spirit, you know. Just stick around.

If you want to see God work, just don't, you know, be in the fight. Be in a race. Don't give up.

I tell you, even now, some people say, oh, how in the world do you keep going? You know, like your wife was killed and da, da, da, da. I'm like, you have no idea. I'm as fresh in it today as I was when I was 20, you know.

I'm a bit bruised and beaten and scarred. And I'm probably ready to draw the sword a little quicker, you know, for a battle. Let me share a few thoughts.

Hopefully, you know, I have a really great friend of mine, a pastor in Georgia, Atlanta, and he says he always gets up in his church and he can hear the energy of his audience going, George, I dare you to say something interesting. So I'm going to say something. That way you go, good.

This wasn't a waste of time. Here, by the way, this is my little preaching journal. But I just stuck in it a sticker for the Logos Hope Power Up.

And we should, I don't know if you guys have prayed for that. I'm sure that's right on your. Heavenly Father, thank you for this evening.

Thank you, Lord, for this beautiful view outside this window. Lord, this beautiful day. And Lord, today is the day of salvation.

Frey Lynch is life first. And Lord, today we breathe in your spirit. Lord, today we breathe in your life.

And Lord, we eat at your table. Lord, we drink with you. Lord, we break bread with you.

We long for your words to penetrate our spirit. Lord, we want to hear your voice. Lord, also, we've been set apart to cry out a lament to the nations.

Lord, pray tonight will be a significant moment for us to again focus. This is not a waste of time. This is not redundant.

But Lord, today is the day of salvation. So we thank you, Father. Amen.

Amen. You know, a few years ago I was in the desert in Jordan near a place called Azraq. I don't know if any of you have been to that part.

And I was sitting there with a Bedouin man and his kids were running outside. And the wind was coming. And it was really, you know, when you have the open desert, the wind can really pick up.

And it's quite amazing, actually. Really flip the tent and you've really got a feeling of the energy of the wind. In any case, we were sitting there and he stood up to his tent.

Actually, the way he was sitting, he was looking at his sheep. There were about 200 sheep. And eventually stood to his sheep for 10 minutes.

And then he started yelling out, Yemani, Yemani, Yemani. And he had a goat that acted like a dog. And he got the goat to move the sheep into the pen.

I don't know how he did it. But I watched this happen. He didn't leave his tent.

That's incredible, right? But I noticed he called this animal by its name and it obeyed him. And Yemani means Yamin, my right hand, which is the same word for Benjamin. Ben Yamin, the son of my right hand.

And then I was saying to him, do you name all your animals? And he said, I've named all my sheep. Can you imagine? I mean, there's hundreds of them out there. And I walked outside anyway.

And as soon as I walked towards the sheep, they run away. But then he walked and he started talking to them and they all came to him. It was really special.

I actually got it on video. And for some reason, and I cannot quite understand it, but I'm just gripped with this little phrase of David saying, the Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want.

The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want. The Lord is my shepherd.

I have no need. I have no need. I don't need Tesco's or Walmart's.

I don't need a new Audi. I have no need. And in regards to what I've been writing about, in my spirit, I feel like this, is that we, as the people of the book, the people of the way, have been given authentic satisfaction, that within our DNA, within our spirit, within our true character, you know, the character that lays down and puts his head on a pillow at night, and you may have moments of tears or pain or laughter.

But in there, you have a shepherd that supplies all your needs. David is singing a song. He is saying, he is my mighty fortress.

He is my rock of ages. He is my hiding place. He is, when all around me fall, I stand.

That is David's song, his message, right? And I remember I was a choir boy in the Church of England when I was in Plymouth. And a big old church. My grandparents are now buried there.

And my grandfather, who I loved, he was my idol. He was a steam train driver right through World War II. And, you know, that was a tough job.

Imagine you leave your wife, you are going to get on a steam train that might at any given day be shot to pieces by jet fighters, you know, fighters coming through the air. Because they were targets. And he never went to war because they said you have to stay on the trains.

My other grandfather fought in Sudan. But in any case, I remember a story. He stopped on the plate of his train.

He was doing the Wolverhampton run to London and down to Plymouth during World War II. And he stopped watching Coventry burn. It must have been horrible, huh? I mean the generation that really all of us, that generation that has passed, the suffering.

My grandmother, my dad's mom, she passed away also a number of years ago, a prayer warrior. She prayed for our family. And, you know, all my parents' children, and I have three siblings, were all in ministry.

Isn't that great? It's amazing. We all have families that are all walking with the Lord. And they're all doing ministry.

And very, very committed. Anyway, this whole idea, the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. And I think that it's better to define David, not by his theology, but by his story.

If you would say, David, what is your story? And his story would be, perhaps, the Lord's my shepherd. He knows about sheep. He was with sheep his whole life.

And, of course, John 10 elaborates on this passage. But I just love this idea of the fact that we, the bearers of the cross, the bearers of Christ, can actually go into a world that's a consumer-driven culture, with the euro, the pound, the dollar, with the yen, and all these different currencies, and say, I have no need. I have Christ.

I have the mighty fortress. I'm satisfied. If I live today, if I die today, I'm satisfied in who I am.

I've been held at gunpoint. And I found myself, surprisingly, at ease with it. I wasn't terrified by it.

But I was a guy cursing and threatening me, pushing the gun in my bag. And I didn't have a kind of meltdown, renouncing everything. But actually, I found myself going, it's okay.

It's okay. Have you ever been on an air flight? Maybe, George, you have. I've flown quite a few times.

And I fly, and I think, if I was to die today, I'm okay with this Lord. Have you ever said that? I don't know. Maybe it's just me.

But in any case... I've also prayed that it would be later on. You know, I mean, I certainly think this. Okay, 2 Corinthians 3.3. It has carved its way into my soul.

And I have to say this. It sounds so elaborate when I use these words. It's really a good description.

It's eaten its way into my walk. I mean, I can't let it go. And actually, it's become the main verse of Transform.

2 Corinthians 3.3. I mean, it's here somewhere in the Bible. I went four years of Bible college, and I still don't know what Corinthians is. Here it is.

I know it's here. I'm just... Okay, 2 Corinthians 3.3. And actually, the whole passage, I mean, there's lots of thoughts. But just stick to this one verse.

You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts. There's a comparison here of the Old Covenant and the New Covenant, the stone being this message from God written on stone, given to the Jews, and now this New Covenant. But it's not written on stone anymore, but it's written on human hearts.

And it doesn't come now as law, but it comes as a message, because it says here, you show you are a letter from Christ, a message. You are the message. That is amazing.

If you read this, this is biblical theology, not systematic theology, which I'm probably more skilled at systematic theology, but biblical theology is teaching this, is that we are message bearers. It's quite something. In other words, number one, we aren't not nothing.

We aren't just - Luther was into this, right? We are a worm. But actually, we are Christ's workmanship. We are the bride of Christ.

And I think that the things Jesus said, the things you saw me do, you will do greater than these. Of course, if you're a dispensationalist, just ignore that. But I believe that we need to expect God to do more stuff through us.

It wasn't long ago I was going face-to-face with a Hezbollah commander in a village in southern Lebanon. It sounds very impressive. Just let me go with it.

And in any case, he was telling me how he had been kidnapped by the Israelis and he had been tortured in Israel, and he had been put in a metal box and left to suffer for days, and all this stuff, and he was angry. And he's a commander of Hezbollah in this little village, and I was distributing food. And so I pulled out my testimony, and I said, I've suffered also with you.

But I said, through Christ Jesus, your prophet, I found forgiveness and I found hope. And you need that same hope. Do you believe that? Now, I don't recommend doing that to the average person, but I did that to that person.

And he turned around and he says, yes, I believe I need that. It's really powerful. You know, sensing the message coming out is far, far more ruthless than a raging fire, right? Sometimes I think about what is the concept? There's fire out of control.

Not even the Holy Spirit fire, but this whole idea of just violent. The gospel is violent. It disturbs people out of their irrelevant lifestyles.

George is an example. Your life could have been totally irrelevant, right? And all of us had not the gospel somehow destroyed our plan, and we went with this. Okay, so this idea of a message is written on our

hearts.

And look at David saying, yes, the message on my heart is that the Lord is my shepherd and I don't need anything. I don't want. And then I was reading the other day John 17, and this all ties in.

So bear with me. I love actually this whole idea. It's the night before his rest.

He's meeting with the disciples. He's explaining to them. And they say, please can you dumb it down for us so we can understand some of the stuff you're going on about.

And he dumbs it down. And they go, oh. And then he says, oh, so now you believe.

Jesus is saying to his disciples, oh, now you believe. After three years of living with them. Some of us are really hard on God.

We expect them to fully understand everything in a few weeks or whatever it is. But these guys are living with Jesus for years. And in any case, John 17.

But I love this verse in John 17, 20. And in John 17, he goes into this prayer, praying for his disciples, prays for himself first, then disciples. And then verse 20, my prayer is not for them alone.

Actually, as we move into prayer tonight, we can use this verse. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message. He doesn't say, I pray for those who believe through my message which I have given them.

Doesn't say that, does he? According to this, the idea of this is David stands up and he says, the Lord is my mighty fortress. You must believe in him. The compelling message of David is his testimony.

Pull before a gripper. And I love this idea of that. We have been created for great works in Christ Jesus.

Great works. Our lives have been shaped and molded by the Master Potter for great works. And I actually really believe this, is that the message is what's penetrating.

And I think even, you know, I'm an ex-Genexer. Maybe in England it's not such a big deal, but in America, you know, there's wise and others. And boomers, bombers, and all these people.

But Genexers are considered to be the ones that play PlayStation too much and they are not into anything, you know. I think actually my generation lost the art of telling a story. You know, they lost the art.

I think, like, you go to the Mediterranean, don't even bother trying to explain theology. Everything is a story. Everything.

Everything is a story. Meet an Italian, and it's a story about any given subject, you know. And it's the big fish story, you know.

There's no small story in Italy. I don't know if you noticed that. And that's kind of one of the frustrating things to deal with.

In any case, look, here's the deal. We are messages. A message is being written on our hearts, inked on our spirits.

And I think that as we look to the way forward, I certainly believe my greatest influence is to challenge people that their true identity is that they are created in the image of Christ. They are redeemed. They are now royalty, and they have a message written on their lives.

You, each one of you, has a message. I mean, I keep using George here. Sorry, forgive me for that.

But George stands up and he talks about this old lady who always prayed for him. That's your story. That's his story.

It will never not be his story. And he tells it every time. Paul, several times, tells his story.

I was out there trying to kill the Christians, and God got me. And the idea of our own personal revelation, our meeting with God, has to be nurtured and developed. And that's what Transform is.

It's really taking that next generation and saying, you've got to know that you have a message. And learning the Gospel is not these Bible verses that you need to memorize and go tell them to Muslims because they're going to beat you up. I stood on the street in Sidon with a guy from Northern Ireland who was a doctor.

And he was talking to the sheikh of a mosque right next to where I was living. And the sheikh turned around to him and said, go back to your country, study your book, and then come back and let's talk about it. He could just clearly see that he had no concept.

Well, look, I think that's it. I think that's what I want to share tonight. And I think that as I look at the way forward in OM, there's so much.

It's a huge, huge organization. When I was at the ILM this year, I was just overwhelmed. Peter Maiden was talking to me a few months ago.

He says, should we announce or pray and challenge people that OM will be 10,000 by 2020 or 20,000 by 2020? What do you think, Gary? Could you imagine that OM in a matter of years would grow up to 20,000 people? My motivation isn't that we grow in numbers. My motivation is that in my lifetime, my cry, in my lifetime, I would see an unprecedented move of God in Southern Lebanon. I would see something extraordinary, the privilege of seeing people come to Christ.

And I am not interested in making people into good Western Christians. I am excited about leading them into the kingdom. I'm excited about them finding the Messiah.

And I believe that it is for every single Muslim, every single Hindu, every single Buddhist. And if it means that we grow to 20,000, praise the Lord. Let's do it.

Let's put on the gloves and go for it. But I think that at the end of the day, also the Lord uses Gideon's army sometimes. But that's another subject.

But I think these are exciting days. The whole Arab Spring is out there. Libya situation, Syria.

I was just today with a couple, Justin and Georgie. Justin is a doctor of psychology, teaches in University of Damascus. And I don't know if any of you have been to University of Damascus.

There's a library and there's no books in it. It's really amazing. It's just completely incredible.

And he's there teaching. He just actually left a couple of weeks ago because it was getting hot. And they are going to be in Norwich for the next year.

They're planning on a church planting team to go back in January 2013, maybe into another city in Syria. So there's lots of very exciting things. I talked to our guy in the Near East, Ian Pickett.

He's the area leader. And I said, what's really exciting? And he said, Gary, don't quote on this. Don't say this out to anybody.

But right now we're involved in 20 church plants in the Near East. It's just great, isn't it? When I was in Lebanon in 2001, 2002, I didn't hear of that. And now we have our imprint on, and he was saying there are various sizes.

I was with a pastor in Damascus in November. And he had six or seven little house churches that he runs to. But he gets picked up by the police and put in prison one to three months quite regularly.

And he comes out and he goes back. And these house churches meet in different locations and make it hard for the police to track them. And so are we going to see a move of God? I say absolutely.

I am absolutely 100% optimistic. And when my wife was gunned down, I mean, this is a very traumatic experience I went through. I mean, boy, there was no preparation for it.

Although I was ready to die for my faith, so was she. We were ready to lay our lives down for this. But when the end of it, post my marriage with Bonnie, I always said, the devil got rid of the wrong one.

Because Bonnie, she was so caring with the individual. I'm out for the mobilizing hundreds. And it's just in my spirit that we would see a new group stirred.

And I'm excited about Transform. And we had 450 last year. We have about 250 this year.

And to see, of course, there are many other projects. But to see these people in the Mediterranean, in these tough countries, Spain, Italy, Turkey. Syria is not on this year now.

We had last year we had Libya. This year is not Libya. Here's my final verse, closing prayer.

1 Thessalonians 1.5 For when we came to you with the gospel, we did not just come with words, but also power, the Holy Spirit, and deep conviction. And I think that for my life, and whenever I'm mentoring or around anybody else, I always share this verse. It's that there are four elements to Paul's gospel.

The word of God, but not only the word. The power of God, but not only the power. The Spirit of God, not only the Spirit of God, but also deep conviction.

Deep conviction. Where angels fear to tread. And I am ready to pick a fight in those places.

And I hope we don't just write books, do the talking, and be known. The reputation of being alive. But I want to find men and women who are ready.

Who's going to go to Benghazi now? These are new days. To church plant in Benghazi. Who's going to do it? I want to find those people and get on with it.

Heavenly Father, we just thank you for your word. That you are our shepherd. Lord, that you are our hiding place.

You are our mighty fortress. You are our refuge, our strength. Lord, when we are weak, we can come to you.

When we are sorrowful, you pick us up. Lord, when we have tears of brokenness and agony, as I have experienced in my own life. Lord, the restorer, you are the mighty restorer.

You are the healer. You are the one that holds us. Thank you, Lord, that we bring more than a song.

Lord, we thank you, Lord, that we bring more than just being a coin club, stamp club, book club. Lord, that tonight we come into the presence of the living God. And we bring with us a cry and a lament for the nations, Lord.

And we thank you for the privilege that tonight we're not sitting watching TV and watching some irrelevant program on television tonight. But Lord, we are engaging with you. And Lord, as we exercise these muscles, the spiritual muscles.

Help us, Father, just long for your presence. Lord, would you just pour on us the necessary nurturing, the food and the sustenance, Lord, that we could be strengthened by who you are in our lives. Lord, Father, I just pray that you would encourage each one of us to realize, yes, we, Lord, bear a message.

And Lord, as you pray for your disciples, and at night, in John 17, that many would believe through their message. Lord, we pray that many would still believe through our message. Amen.

Let's just turn to someone near us and just especially respond to this in prayer. Let's pray for the countries also that Gary's mentioned. Let's pray for Gary's leadership there in Rome.

And before and after, let's really pray for those who are coming. Speakers, tremendous worship, a lot of travel involved, a lot of money involved. I think there's a little bit of a battle with the clock here now.

So I'd like us to go right to prayer. I have prayer maps. I'll give everybody prayer maps.

That's helpful. Maybe instead of just praying, we could just form groups. Can we get up groups of five or six? And then we'll stay in those groups the rest of the night.

Well, we just have an hour, less than an hour, to try to cover really some other very urgent things that we've been asked to pray for. The first is connected with Lagos Hope. Let's give thanks for the successful time in Cochin.

There was a lot of complexity there, permissions, just so many challenges in the engine room. And let's pray for Pat Tracey who will continue to be captain right through to August. I'm getting very regular communication from him.

Let's thank the Lord for this hundred thousand. But our great passion isn't the number of people going on the ship. It's to see Christians encouraged and moved greater into action for the king.

And it's to see non-believers coming to Jesus. Let's also just continue to pray for Sri Lanka. We have two more ports coming in Sri Lanka that have never had any ship.

Maybe the one port has, but the other port is brand new. And it's up closer to where the Tamils are, where the war was. I think it's just so strategic that the ship is having so much time.

Way back, the original vision of the ship, one of the ten points that was running around my head was due to Ray Lynch, was islands. Of course, we live here in the British Isles. Let's never forget these are islands.

I've been to many of them. But praise God for this extra time in Sri Lanka. This country's suffered so much.

But they're just coming to the end of their sabbatical week. So let's pray. And in your small groups, anybody's name you can remember.

Please feel led to pray so others can hear that person's name that's on the ship. And especially if you know anybody in the engine room. But the word is out that people are really tired.

That engineers especially are pushed right to breaking point. Some have just left because it's just too much. The pressure on this power-up project and things breaking down.

So this is an old ship that's been refurbished, but not the engine room. The engine room is original, 1973. So let's go to prayer also for Peter Nichols, the leader of Easton Carlyle.

The team in Mosbach. They've got a lot of good people. The team in Florence.

Hans van Baren is a very key man. He's not been well for months. He's over in Europe now on a break visiting relatives.

If you remember Hans, he's a big tall fellow. And let's especially pray for the new recruits. We're always recruiting new people for the ships.

There's always different events going on, whether it's Australia or Tyrone, to bring in the new recruits. And I think it's something we need to be reminded of, that as a movement without the ships we would be in very serious difficulty. Because our old way of doing things, even though we changed that, and I think we are cutting edge, it doesn't attract the people it used to attract.

It's the ship that's our big attraction. Not that we're dependent on that, but it's interesting that people who work on the ship bond more with the movement than the average person. Ship people are holding down almost every office around the world.

Not the whole team, but part of the team. And in quite a few countries where OM is only a few people holding down some office, you'll find they're usually people that caught the vision on the ship. The ships, of course, are feeding workers into almost every other OM field, including the Muslim countries.

So that's more than enough said. Let's pray for Lagos Hope. Pray for wisdom about the replacement of Dulas.

If we're really honest, we should pray for that dear man that bought the Dulas, because after one year he's getting nowhere. He's got one big pile of rusty headaches. He's got former OMers sort of living on the ship, just surviving.

I think Gary Bartow is still there. He hasn't got permission from the Singapore government to do what he wants. He doesn't have the money to do what he wants.

I got to meet this man personally. His name just... One minute I have it, the next minute I don't have it. Mr. Eric Saw, thank you.

Okay, let's pray for him. Money is coming in for the replacement ship. We're not, like, on a major campaign, but Peter Maiden and others thought we can't tell people, like, no, because that is still the dream, that it's still a long-term challenge.

I think people are thinking in terms of a little bit of a smaller ship. That's the wind I hear blowing around right now. And that's how we human beings do change.

Hallelujah. Ship ministry. Any aspect of it.

Amen. Thank you. Be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Can we just take a few moments to throw out some Scriptures that have been a help to you in praying. I find always prayer is a battle. And the Lord has been so merciful to me since I stepped out of that main leadership, which is going to be eight years soon, to give me more time to pray, but also to show me how to mix prayer with email, since email dominates my life, which in my life is all people and projects, is to be able to mix it with intercessory prayer.

And in my kind of situation, that means in any one day, you can easily pray for two, three hundred different people, 50, 30, 40 different nations. I'm not talking about long, long, long prayers. It's been a real encouragement, but I find a lot of resistance from the enemy accusing me that I'm not really believing.

I'm praying something I'm not really believing. It's going to happen. And other little tactics of the enemy.

But what are some Scriptures that have helped you in your prayer ministry? Beautiful, good memory. That's a quote. I don't know whether that was Tozer.

But as one of those great men, I don't think it was Tozer actually, that just helped me because my mind so easily just jumps off, especially if there's pretty girls around. How do you pray with girls? So I know a lot about that kind of worship. Some other verses or thought that helps you in your prayer ministry.

Gary Jessica is on the mission committee of Indiana Wesleyan University, where when they have chapel people actually show up. About 3,000. There's a name you could recommend as a speaker.

They've had the old guy, now they need the younger. I had how many days? Three days I didn't have. And double header because they can't all fit in at one time.

And that's because Jessica was there. Another verse, another thought that helps you in praying. Yeah, that's one of my mottos, pray without ceasing.

I hardly get through a day without being tempted to lose heart on at least some issue or some situation. So that's a great verse, great verse. We want to pray now for the situation in India.

I think word does get around our team. And India is going, OM India we're talking about, is going through a really very special time now. And I don't think we necessarily need the details to pray.

But Peter Maiden, of course, is very involved. They just finished the area leaders meeting in Carlisle. Peter felt it went quite well.

And there was a consensus about different things. But immediately after that meeting, one of the men who was there launched a very interesting epistle. Obviously, he was not really so happy about what was going on or said.

Just be interesting how that little epistle gets accepted. But we just need to pray for India, for the leaders. Apart from this present crisis, all kinds of other things feed into this.

People who have been discontent and upset with India for many years. They are trying to take advantage of this difficulty that's going on. So that makes it even more complex.

We're talking about a very large work with a couple thousand people. Three thousand different churches, a hundred schools. Joseph D'Souza is not so well right now.

He's got some kind of a back problem. He was not there in Carlisle. So let's lift him up.

I have not heard from him personally in many weeks. I think they're doing everything they can to honor me as committed to stay out of these things. But I am committed to pray.

We're all committed to pray. We all know the tactics of the enemy to try to bring disunity and confusion. In the midst of this, a close friend of mine who lined up both of my visits to India.

Sam Paul. I don't have the details, but overnight he's out. He's out of OM.

Now who's going to line up my tour again? To me, that's a minor thing. Part of me doesn't even want to go on another tour, but my grandson is now geared up. My daughter, our daughter, Krista, is really praying about joining me.

They had already agreed, including Joseph, that I could determine the schedule. I want to do the same cities that I originally went to when I first went to India. That changed the whole course of my life, because I was never planning to go and live there.

I sent Greg Livingstone. I sent Ron Penny. I sent a whole bunch of people.

That's my job. I'm a sender. Then I went there to visit them, and this nation, like a dinosaur, bit me.

I don't know. Did I phone you or email? No email. I wrote you a letter.

Honey, we're going to India. Get ready. Of course, Krista was ping-ponging around the womb at that time.

So let's pray for India, and let's pray for anybody you can think of by name. Make it a generic prayer, and let's uphold any area leader that you can think of by name and say that this will not bring a fracture at the top level of our movement somehow to work through this. I think there's a great general unity at that level now.

So let's pray for OM, India, and include in that the return of the Lagos Hope to Vizag in about a month's time. Remember, Biblica, that we work with more than OM as far as special projects. Biblica is a separate company, but unlike the way STL was in this country, completely separate, separate boards, Biblica is very merged into OM.

The profit from Biblica goes to OM. We are putting huge, huge money into Biblica and their work. So let's pray for Biblica.

Our key man there is K.C. Joseph, but the leader is K.J. Johnny. He's the leader. My old roommate.

Is that right? Good. Okay, prayer for India. Very important.

It would be worth gathering this meeting just for this session. Amen. I'd like just to take a few minutes to pray for our own ministry.

Of course, there are many aspects of different ministries represented in the room right now, but if we could pray specifically a little more for what we do in special projects. Let's give thanks that we've reached this \$300,000 matching fund. We're going beyond it now.

I may actually call a close friend who put money into it, but it doesn't really matter to him that much. Ask him to pull some of his money out so some of these people who are asking to go in, we can put them in. And so may I have the grace to make that phone call.

I did try to get those folks to extend, but they feel that \$300,000 is it, which you never even dream of complaining. So we give thanks for that. If we could now pray as so many letters pour in presenting different needs that we just have wisdom.

A lot of that money is already committed. We're always way ahead of the money because in publishing and books, it all takes time. So let's pray for wisdom.

I'd like you to pray really for Vera. She has her mom very much on her mind. She's come back from there.

And she just always, always faced with a mountain of work checks to be written, emails. I don't know if most people can imagine what it is to coordinate 330 some meetings as we did last year. Fortunately, this year I'll be less.

Every meeting, I say, is an average of 20 emails. Some meetings can go up to 30 emails by the time you're actually there, right down to what you want for lunch. And we really do have a lot of invitations.

I've been invited to speak to about seven Christian Union mission-focused events throughout the country. Something's going on. But I don't know.

We might be able to get to one of them. So if we could pray for that. Let's pray for Pam.

Without a chief finance officer, what we do is impossible because it's money. Money coming in, money going out. And we honor the smallest gifts.

Because I've just come back, I've opened the top of a file for my wife. And there's maybe 10 different checks. It's all work.

It all takes time. And then some people want gift aid. Some people don't mention gift aid.

There's so many different little ways that it all goes. So pray for Pam. And then pray also for the literature that we give out free.

Part of our ministry is to give out free literature. That's increasing. Very big conferences.

Some of them we just have to turn down because we can't handle it. But we have new editions of a lot of different books. I won't go over the titles.

Randy Alcorn is about to give us another 10,000. Why Pro-Life? I get so discouraged with some of these books, why people aren't more proactive and taking them and giving them out. But there are not really many people that are actually doing anything about pro-life.

It's mainly something you like talk about. Oh, we don't believe in that. But we can actually do something to educate this generation of young women.

What's involved in having an abortion? It's interesting that pro-choice, pro-abortion people are speaking out now and they're saying it's gone too far. So we've got Christians not saying anything and we've got liberal, pro-abortion people saying it's going too far. Again, we feel that we're not doing that much when we consider the size of it.

But is not every child important? If we only save through the distribution of, it's probably going to end up hundreds of thousands of books. What if we only save like a thousand children? Or what if we only save a few hundred? What if it had been your mom or dad that was wrestling with whether to abort? Do you think it would have been good if they read the book and decided maybe to give you up for adoption? So let's go back in our groups. This will be our final session.

We have our friends here with tea and coffee. I'm sorry, we're running a little overtime. Pray over it that it stays hot.

And there's a lot more I'd say, but we don't really have the time. I would like you to again pray for this time in Lausanne because according to Lindsay I'm going to meet some people that really could do something for some of these many, many different causes that we have. And we're still especially focusing on leadership development, leadership development materials, but not just English and the major languages.

We think in terms of between 50 and 100 languages and specializing of course in India. Okay, this is our final prayer session and as part of our time we'll have our tea and coffee break.

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