

Gv1321 World Missions in 1993

by George Verwer

The sermon emphasizes the importance of a fresh vision for each generation, the power of prayer, and the need for every believer to be involved in spiritual warfare.

Duration: 49:06

Scripture: Isaiah 6:7-10

Topics: "World Missions"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the importance of leadership and motivating others in the context of spreading the word of God. He encourages the audience to take ownership and become mobilizers for the kingdom of God. The speaker shares personal anecdotes of individuals who were inspired by his teachings and made radical commitments to Jesus Christ. He also highlights the need for increased vision and a deepening relationship with God as the ultimate goal in life.

Transcript

If any movement is to go on and be a powerful force for God, the vision of the movement must be reborn in each generation. What we did in the 60s or 70s or the 80s will not count for much in the 90s. It will help.

We need a good foundation. And we had people go ahead of us, like Billy Graham, and others who helped us in our foundation. But we've got to plan ahead, think ahead, pray ahead.

And that's why we plod on with these youth leadership training programs and many other similar programs. Of course, the best program we can get for you to develop your leadership ability is to get you into one of our campaigns, Like Love Europe, where you're sort of forced into on-the-job training. A lot of it, of course, will be servanship.

Being a servant is the key to eventually being a leader. A leader is a servant. If you know Chua Wee Han's book, just had a letter from him a few moments ago before I came here.

But if you know his book, it has a terrific, terrific emphasis on being a servant leader. You might refer to it later on. Let's just pray again.

Lord, I need your help. I got 24 hours of material on my heart and an hour to share it. So we need operation condensation.

We just pray, Lord, I know I'm so unrealistic and I just need to give what you want for tonight and then cast everything else upon you. Lord, you've shown us it takes years. It takes years to train up Christian leaders.

But we got to start somewhere. And maybe for some people tonight is a start. Increase our vision, oh Lord.

Teach us what it is to appropriate that which is our inheritance in your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Deliver us from playing games with your word, saying one thing, practicing something else, singing one thing, practicing something else. Lord, we would know the reality of consistency in our walk with yourself.

We thank you that it's possible. We thank you there's a great army of witnesses have gone on ahead of us demonstrating the consistent life. And we're trusting you and looking to you as we have this time together.

In the name of Jesus Christ, amen. I want to look at a number of scriptures together. That's the authority, has been the authority for our fellowship.

I can assure you that we in Operation Mobilization do not think we're the greatest mission society of this generation and that we're not running around patting ourselves on the back for the great things that we've seen God do. Because we are very aware of our own needs. I'm sure that in the long run it would be very difficult for the best of us to probably live up to some of your expectations.

Especially if you've already developed a sort of storybook fantasy view of what the Christian life is all about, which a lot of people do. I don't know how it happens, but it happens. Billy Graham said life at its best is filled with sadness.

It's not all blessings, it's not all answers to prayer, it's not all name it, claim it, moving mountains for Jesus, flying around spiritually like some kind of spiritual concord. There are the heartbreaks, there are the disappointments, there are the setbacks. Before the meeting I was talking with a brother just about Afghanistan.

We have 33 years praying for Afghanistan. We have not seen significant breakthroughs. There have been cracks, there have been individuals saved.

Praise God for every one of them. But we have not in any way seen the fulfillment of this vision for Afghanistan, one of the countries that burned upon my heart the most. I want us to start off in our sharing this evening in the book of Isaiah.

I know I can get stuck there because it's such a great passage, chapter 6, but I'm going to try to just share that and move on to some other passages. I'm using the New International Translation. In the year that King Uzziah died, chapter 6, verse 1, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple.

Above him were seraphs, each with six wings. With two wings, they covered their faces. With two, they covered their feet.

With two, they were flying. And they were calling to one another, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty. The whole earth is full of his glory.

At the sound of their voices, the doorposts and thresholds shook. The temple was filled with smoke. Just imagine this experience.

Woe is me, I cried. I'm ruined. I'm a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.

Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it, he touched my mouth and said, See, this has touched your lips. Your guilt is taken away.

Your sin is atoned for. Amazing, way back here in the Old Testament. Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? And I said, Here am I, send me.

And he said, Go, and tell this people. Be ever hearing, but never understanding. Be ever seeing, but never perceiving.

Make the heart of this people calloused. Make their ears dull, and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.

And I said, For how long, O Lord? Many, many, many people have felt the call of God upon their lives studying this passage of Scripture. Many people. We don't believe it's an accident that we're here together tonight and this weekend.

Thousands of people are praying for this meeting, praying for me. I have at least 100,000 prayer partners. You want to understand the secret of OM and the secret of what God has done.

You only have to understand what God does through prayer. Prayer is where the action is. If you're not in a life of prayer, you're not in the action.

You're in deception. Doesn't mean God isn't using you. Doesn't mean you're not a Christian.

Just means you're not in the heart of the action. The heart of the action is in the prayer closet, in the prayer meeting. The heart of the action is when you fall at the foot of the cross, realize how little you can do in yourself, and begin to believe God for the impossible.

It's a scary thing to think of 100,000 people suddenly releasing their prayer power in the direction of the Quinta. Some of you more emotional types may start to fly before the meeting is over. God answers prayer.

When we look at this passage, we first of all are exhorted, we first of all catch the vision of God Himself. And in this first message of this conference, we want to emphasize God Himself. We want to urge you to get to know God.

I'm still on that road. It's still the greatest goal of my life. I feel so unspiritual and so far from God at times, but I take Him at His word, and I continue to hunger and thirst for greater reality and fellowship with God.

I read the writings of men like Tozer and Andrew Murray and a host of other people who seem to walk so powerfully with God. I realize I have a long way to go. Have you made God the number one goal in your life? It seems to me that so many other things are crowding for number one.

Money, career, friends, romance, husband, wife. It's considered the normal way to live, is to chase after all these things. Even though we have so many decades and centuries of history proving that these things do not satisfy the deep longings of the human heart.

I'm reading a book by a brilliant sociologist named Paul Johnson. I don't know if he's a Christian. But this man has just in his book totally exposed the degradation, even of much of the major philosophy that has guided Europe for many, many, many years.

By pointing out the lives, the ugly, terrible and sinful lives of people whose philosophy was taken in to our universities and many of our institutions 20, 30, 40, 50 and more years ago. The greatest priority for all of us here in this world should be to know God. Salvation is the beginning of really knowing God, though some people may seek God for many years before they come to know Christ.

We believe out among these unreached people's groups that are our priority target. There are people seeking God. And God is moving upon our hearts to go to some of these people to give them the gospel because there's a vacuum in their hearts because they're seeking God.

And what a wonderful thing it is when we meet some of them and they quickly respond to the message, knowing God. As Isaiah had his experience with God, he especially, immediately saw God's holiness. Verse 3. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty.

The whole earth is full of His glory. Have you got a glimpse yet of the holiness of God? I had a terrific problem with pornography as a young Christian. I thought I'd never make it.

It seemed so absurd. It was so embarrassing. One of the things that helped me get over that, though I struggled for it just like an alcoholic, had to be careful of it all my life.

One of the things that really made the difference is to come to grips with the holiness of God and how God hated evil thoughts and sin. And yet, at the same time, we'll talk about that in a few minutes, to capture the reality of the grace of God, forgiveness of God, the mercy of God. You'll probably hear me use the word balance.

I know it's not probably your favorite word. It's got a bit of a wimpish tone to it, balance. But whatever term you use, the fact is, if you are going to run God's race long term, and that's what this conference is about.

It's not soldiering for a summer. It's surrender for a lifetime. If you're going to run the race a long time, you have to find that balance.

So when we talk about the holiness of God, it's brought into balance as we realize the mercy of God, the grace of God, the love of God. Some people are very loose and sort of very free. They think they know something of the grace of God.

They may be even taking the grace of God in vain. That's spoken about in the New Testament. They need perhaps a greater challenge about the holiness of God.

But other people that I've met, because of their emotional background, because of sometimes a wrong relationship with their own father, that's affected their thinking. They don't need another message about the holiness of God. They need a message about the mercy of God and the grace of God, the patience of God.

There have been Christians that have actually committed suicide with the wrong view of the holiness of God. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty. The whole earth is full of His glory.

After he saw that and got that vision of the holiness of God, of course, the obvious next step was that he saw the sinfulness of himself. Woe to me, I cried. Woe is me, I cried.

I'm ruined, for I'm a man of unclean lips. I live among a people of unclean lips. And my eyes have seen the King.

Can you say that? My eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty. So he saw the holiness of God. He saw the wickedness of his own heart.

And then he experienced, we don't have time to go into detail, the cleansing, the renewing, an experience of God's mercy. And one of the seraphs, verse 6, flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongues from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, See, this has touched your lips, your guilt is taken away, your sin atoned for.

Because of that message, because of Jesus Christ, as far as I can remember, every single night for 38 years, I've gone to bed with a clear conscience and a clear heart. There were a couple of nights when it was really difficult. Many nights where it was really difficult.

But the Bible says the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin. The Bible teaches us in great passages like 1 John 2, verse 1, what to do with sin. Our first goal is to sin not.

And if we sin, we have an advocate with the Father Jesus Christ, the righteous. So we know how to handle sin. And if you are to be a leader in God's work, you must know how to handle sin.

To repent of it, to deal with it, to grow strong in your battle against it. And here's a good passage to start with. He experienced that cleansing.

It's interesting, it speaks about a live coal. It speaks to me about pain. With it, He touched my mouth.

Have you ever had a live coal in your mouth? I dare to say that would bring quite a response. It's amazing the illustrations in the Word of God about fire. Has anyone ever walked up to you and said, Hey, are you on fire for Jesus Christ? I'd like to do it tonight.

I've got to get each one of you in a corner. First thing I do is ask you if you're on fire for Jesus Christ. The next thing I do is ask you to start to touch any part of my jacket.

And whatever nation you touch, pray that you go there. But I don't think we should get into that. It says in the Book of Hebrews, Our God is a consuming fire.

We remember Elijah when he challenged false prophets and the fire of God came down. Our first burden in Operation Mobilization isn't to get you out in evangelism. Of course we are committed to that.

Our first burden is to see you experiencing the reality of God, the grace of God, the holiness of God. You can explain it in many different ways. The fullness of the Holy Spirit.

Speaking about the Holy Spirit, Billy Graham said, I don't care how you get it, just get it. You'll find that's a motto in OM. It's in OM people from different churches who are actually fighting over the Holy Spirit come together to work under the anointing and the filling of the Holy Spirit to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

And we were told 30 years ago it just would never work. You're never going to get such a mixed multitude to work together. It's all going to be over when I came here 30 years ago to Britain.

It's going to be all over in one or two years. Here we are in the midst of our 30th anniversary. I hope you'll get a copy of the booklet published right here at the Quinta.

Because God is faithful. Because God uses ordinary people. Because prayer works.

Because God is no respecter of persons. And because it is possible when people are experiencing the grace of God, the fullness of the Lord Jesus and His Holy Spirit, they can work together even though they be of different backgrounds, even though they may have different ways of expressing things. And whenever we express anything, there will be some of our own human straw.

Anything you get from me, there will be some verb or mud factor in it. Some of you probably feel my accent is a bit of a mud factor. 30 years in the country, I haven't even learned a language.

I should be ashamed. The Word of God in the book of Revelation says, Be ye hot or be ye cold. If you are lukewarm, I'll spew you out of my mouth.

How many of you have taken that as your favorite verse? Nobody. I've never met anybody who took that one as their favorite verse. Not many preachers will even preach on it.

It's the most scary verse in the Bible in some ways. Be ye hot. Can you say that you're on fire for Jesus Christ tonight? His love, His grace, fellowship, a knowledge of Him, His power? Be ye hot or be ye cold.

Be lukewarm. Just come back from America. In America, everybody thinks the big problem is abortion.

Everybody's going around on the abortion thing. I agree with a lot of it. I believe abortion is a terrible problem.

Other people believe the greatest problem is militant homosexuality. People with Clinton as president, some people are just preparing to jump off the cliff with an umbrella instead of a parachute. And the people are just going bananas in the wrong sense.

And there's so many negative things being stated. And in this country, there's plenty of it as well. I don't believe the great enemy is from without.

I don't believe the great enemy is militant homosexuality, the abortion clinics, crime, promiscuity. All those things are factors and serious things that Christians have to look at. I believe the enemy is within the church.

Lukewarmness, broken relationships, lack of love, lack of honesty, integrity, and reality, and all the things we read about through the whole of the New Testament. If the church came into revival and biblical faith under the lordship of Jesus Christ, it would impact every single area of society. I'm not saying we'd suddenly take over the government and everything would be rosy because that's not the way it is in this world.

But there would be huge changes on every level. There was a famous Methodist pastor years ago in New York, quite a very dignified man. It's amazing how Methodism started as a wildcat operation.

It's got some real similarities to it in some ways if you study history. And ended up as such a very, very well-organized, dignified church. And this guy was a very famous pastor in New York City.

And he met another wildcat, a movement that came out of the Anglicans and the Methodists many years ago named, you may have heard of him, General William Booth. If you want to read a wildcat book, read *The General Next to God*. What an amazing book.

Booth was a little hesitant about this man, Samuel Logan Bringle, this Methodist pastor. He wanted to join the Salvation Army. He finally accepted, put him through an intensive year of boot camp.

Shining shoes was the big thing they allowed you to do in the Salvation Army in those days in the first year. And other major ministries like cleaning toilets and sweeping floors. And if you've never had the privilege of doing some of those things for Jesus, you ought to get into it as soon as possible.

He proved himself as a man of the Spirit, later won tens of thousands of souls to Jesus Christ. He once in his book *Resurrection, Life and Power* gave this definition of spiritual fire that we're talking about. What is fire? It is love.

It's faith. It's hope. It's passion.

It's purpose and determination. It's utter devotion. It's divine discontent with formality.

Ceremonialism, lukewarmness, indifference, sham, noise, parade and spiritual death. It's singleness of mind, consecration unto death. It's God the Holy Ghost burning in and through a humble, holy, faithful man.

Twenty-nine, thirty years ago, two men sat in my meetings here in Britain. One was the son of a very wealthy businessman, Keith Beckwith. The other was a young business, up-and-coming business entrepreneur with the Phillips Corporation.

Caught the vision, left that job. They made a commitment of their lives radically to Jesus Christ, like we're talking about tonight. And within two or three years, they were in heaven.

It's not a game. It's not a game. L.E. Maxwell said, world missions is total war.

What we are going into is a spiritual equivalent of Sarajevo, a spiritual equivalent of southern Sudan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Kampuchea, a spiritual equivalent of what's been going on in Northern Ireland for decades. What's been going on in Angola, in Mozambique, parts of the world that we should all be concerned about. Spiritual warfare is real.

And it's not just for a few people who somehow decide to be missionaries or decide to be in some kind of special ministry. Spiritual warfare is for every believer. There's no option.

You're all in spiritual warfare. But you have to decide whether you're going to be knocked all over the place for the next five or ten years and be one more spiritual nothing, or whether you're going to become a soldier of Jesus Christ and be able to follow in the steps of men like Booth or Bringle or thousands of others, praise God, who even from this country alone have gone out to share the gospel of Jesus Christ across the world. What a challenge.

I think I can say with integrity and honesty in the midst of much struggle that this whole vision, this whole burden of the word of God burns upon my heart today as much as it did 30 years ago when I first landed in Dover. Because the word of God is true, because Jesus Christ lives in us. And though we are weak, though the old man perishes, the new man is renewed day by day.

Fire, tongues off the altar, live coal on the mouth, and then the purging, the cleansing, the renewal, and after that the calling and the response, here am I, send me. How many of you have already responded to a call or to guidance? I like the word guidance better because some people are looking for an emotional call. But how many of you? And if, O.M. people, just for a moment, some of you are with O.M., if you could keep your hands down.

But among our visitors and our young new trainees, how many of you have already responded to some kind of strong work of God in your heart toward world missions? Would you raise your hand? Just be honest. No hands go up. We'll understand it, but I'd like to know.

How many are more or less already moving in that direction, even though it may be in much weakness? Put your hand up high so I can see it. Okay, thank you. How many of the O.M.ers have already made such a commitment? Raise your hand.

Not everybody at O.M. is moving in that direction. Thank you. Because the truth is, at this present time, there seem to be more people moving toward the mission field, even though it isn't that many.

There seem to be more people moving toward the mission field than we have the prayer power and the finance power and the sending power. That's why I'm pushing this book all the time, serving as a sender to get them there. And we don't want to deceive you in our challenge to get involved in long-term missions or short-term, that it's going to be easy because it's not going to be.

Or that we, if you sign on the dotted line, we got some program, we just plug you into it and automatically, a couple years from now, you know, you're church planting in Turkey. No. In fact, if there's anything I'd like to say to young candidates in God's work, it's what Billy Graham said to me when I was a baby Christian in a message.

It's going to be rough, but it's going to be tough. And if you don't develop spiritual fight, spiritual stickability to handle those disappointments, to handle those setbacks, to handle those discouragements, you won't make it. And that doesn't mean God won't use you.

Praise God for plan B, right? Some of you are already in plan B. Praise God for plan C, plan D. Somebody came up to me and said they were well on. What should they do? I said, praise God for a big alphabet. The mercy of God, the grace of God.

Study that passage on your own. Pray about what God is attempting to do in your own life. I've often thought that if people who get exposed to OM, I think of all the people that we're speaking to all over the country with all the different things going on, just a small number, come to this conference.

Many things are going on in the church this weekend. It's just one little tiny thing. And among all the things going on, very few of them have anything to do with World Missions.

World Missions is not even in the top eight things on the checklist in the average church. I think we're now down, I think we've dropped down the last couple of years. We're just behind the parking lot, the new

parking lot, World Missions.

You may say that's unfair. I minister to our churches and I love the local churches for 30 years up and down this country. World Missions generally is just token commitment.

And that's why often God has to raise up people almost outside of the church, as in my case, saved in a Billy Graham meeting. Though I was, from the moment of my conversion, forced myself to get back involved with local fellowship and went to a local church in my community just before I went to Mexico. I had a little bit backward.

I was already going. But I went to the church and I said, I'm going to Mexico and I want you people to pray for me. And they were so merciful.

Many of them signed up on the spot to pray for me and some of them have prayed for me for 35. Acts 13 makes it very, very clear. And as I go around the country, I'll be in a nearby local church on Sunday, well not so near, over in Chester.

I try to again and again emphasize that the ownership of world evangelism must largely be in the hands of the local church. But for the church to have that ownership, it must be biblical, it must be renewed, and of course, it's got to have a world vision. It's got to have a world vision.

One of the ministries, maybe some of you should get involved in, is helping us mobilize the church. We can't send everybody to the front lines immediately. Maybe some people are going to come up to Bill Drake and go, hey man, what are you doing here in Britain? Why aren't you playing that music in outer Mongolia or Siberia? That's pretty cool.

But God has raised up Bill Drake to stir the church. He's in evangelism as well. On the continent and other places.

But God has raised up Bill, together with that evangelistic ministry, to stir the church, to call young people to radical surrender to Jesus Christ. And we hope some of you will catch a vision for the same thing. Turn with me now quickly to the New Testament.

To the book of Acts, Chapter 1. I wanted to look at Matthew 9, but we don't have time. But you probably know the passage. The harvest is plenteous, the workers are few.

Then what did Jesus say? Pray ye the Lord of the harvest, he'll send forth workers. It's brilliant. And we'd like you to go from here with a vision to pray for workers.

I had this thought. I don't know if it's 100% correct. It's just a thought from my heart.

That one of the only ways we're going to see the people we need to see this summer, because recruiting is not getting any easier. And we need these people in Love Europe not to fulfill our quota, but to reach men and women with the Gospel in Albania, in Eastern Europe, in France, all these countries that are upon our hearts, right here on this jacket, over my heart. And the only way I believe it will happen is what I call operation multiplication.

We've had this conference some years with over 1,000 people. So if they all came, that would be 1,000 recruits for Love Europe. That never happened.

But I tell you, a lot of people have made decisions in these Leaders Weekends. Here there may be 100 new people. And so my vision, my hope as I was thinking about this today was if each one of you would make a commitment to be a mobilizer for the Lord and to somehow spiritually recruit 10 other people.

If 100 people here would catch the vision to recruit 10. And it's not really that hard. I arrived here in February 1962.

I was nobody. I had opposition. O.M. was nothing.

And by June I had 90 people. I'm not asking you to recruit 90. Because all my life I've been listening to some of my Leaders.

I have his favorite record when I throw him a challenge. I'm not George Verwer. You know, it's like there's something new.

Well, boy, I haven't heard that before. Say that again. You're not George Verwer.

So I'm not asking you to recruit 90. And I wasn't alone. There were a little team of us.

We took meetings. O.M. has phenomenal credibility in Great Britain. We have so many open doors.

We have so many friends. We need a few new enemies. If you meet someone, send me their address.

Because enemies stir things up. And when they stir things up, other people get excited. And especially if they don't like the guy, then they join us.

Just fight him. That is not the best way to get recruits. And we did get a few in those early days.

Somewhat along that line. What a beautiful thing. A hundred people would go from here to put into practice what you learn here about leadership in terms of motivating others, challenging others.

You might give information or some degree of challenge to 50 or 60 people. That is not that many in the next few months. And maybe of that 50 or 60 you contacted, 10 would come.

I tell you, that's where it's at. When you start taking ownership, you start getting involved. You go up to a literature table not to look at what piece of literature you might like to read.

That's okay. But you go to a literature table and we've even got video cassettes now to help spread the vision. And you think, what tools are there on this table that can help me to be a mobilizer, a shaker and a mover for the kingdom of God in 1993? I get excited about this.

I mean, I get too excited to get some of my wife's nerves. She said to me some time ago, look, I want to really be honest with you. Looking at you makes me feel real tired.

So I'm on the road for about nine days and I'm giving her a little bit of a rest. Acts 1.8, the final words of Jesus Christ before he ascended into heaven. Let's look at it.

In the word of God. Very, very clear. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in Judea, and Samaria, and the ends of the earth.

Now take this. This is not me. Don't let me be a hindrance to what God wants to say.

This is the final instruction of Jesus before he went to heaven. And surely the church of Jesus Christ should take this with great seriousness. That's what we want you to do.

Now as we look out across the world, we notice that certain countries have really a lot of witness. Britain is one of those countries. That doesn't mean we don't need to work here more.

I just visited our work loop on the way up here in Hell's Zone. We had a last minute meeting there. I even gave an invitation.

Quite a few people raised their hand and asked the Lord to do a new thing in their lives. I love these spontaneous meetings. It saves on stamps, correspondence, and phone calls.

Just zip in. I want to try it in the palace someday when I really get bold. But as we look out across the world, as we study nation after nation, we realize that places like Canada, Britain, Australia, New Zealand, also Argentina, Kenya, Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong, I could add a number of other countries, have had a lot of the Gospel.

The Church is established. And if the Church would come alive more in those countries, they could complete the task in one sense. In the other sense, the task is always ongoing.

Now we want to work in those countries, but we want to get our priorities right. And we feel the priority should be places that have far, far less witness. Like France, Belgium, just across the channel.

And places that have even less than that. Because I've been involved in France for some 33 years. Other countries, as we go just a little further, the Church doesn't exist.

Can you grab that? So the next time somebody tries to pressure you to only consider England, and how dare you consider leaving England when there's so many needs here. We've got people sleeping in the street on the embankment. And we've got people without jobs.

And we're constantly hammered about these social needs in Britain. So that if you come in the middle of it, talking about world evangelism and other nations, you feel almost like some kind of a traitor. Only a tiny percentage of all British manpower and money, only a tiny, tiny percentage, is at present going into world missions.

And I believe we need some people that say this isn't right. This is disobedience to Acts 1A. This is not God's original intention that some people hear the Gospel again and again and again.

Now we're going to have Christian radio. Soon we're going to have more Christian television. I'm not saying it's wrong.

But if some are allowed to hear the Gospel again and again and again, they've got Bibles in every other shop around the nation, what can we say of those that have never had a Bible, never had a Gospel, never heard the name of Jesus Christ? And in some cases, a church not even existing. I pray, I ask of you, I know I can't move you through some kind of an emotional message. I am not trying to do that.

I'm a naturally emotional person. But I beg of you to search the Scriptures and see if these things be so. Read some of these great books like Priority One.

Examine the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ who in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John gave that great commission not once, not twice, but three and four times. Though in John it uses different wording. This is biblical.

Some great men are known, and I just received another book on this subject, for showing how right from the book of Genesis, our God is a missionary God. It's not some new thing that suddenly world missions is important. Our God is a missionary God.

We even see Abraham leaving everything, terrific wealth, family, friends, leaving everything and going, not even hardly knowing where he was going. That's a little bit like Operation Mobilization, but a little better organized now and with the age of the computer, there's a chance that you might actually get where you're planning to go. He shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, the uttermost part of the earth.

You'll find a book on the book table. It's very old to people who are into world missions called Operation World, and the new edition will be out this year. But it'll be six or seven months, and it's worth getting that old edition.

I'm sure they're selling it for a bargain. Don't pay anything more than three pounds for it. That's for sure.

Try to get it for a quid. Write to me. I'll send it to you free.

But even that old edition of Operation World contains some of the most important and significant material that we can pray through if we are serious about world missions. Over in the States, a lot of people are saying, Well, do we really need American missionaries anymore? Aren't they a bit expensive? Now we're beginning to hear that over here. Do we really need British missionaries? I mean, the colonial days, that's all over.

We don't want all these British people going across the world trying to proselytize people and spread colonialism, waving their little union jacks from place to place. First of all, that is not what missionaries do anymore. And secondly, I believe, in the light of 6,000 million people in this world, in the light of the tremendous heritage the British Church has, and what God has done in this nation, in the light of a clear mandate from Scripture, that the need for British missionaries is as great as it has ever been.

Let's stop talking about the days when C.T. Studd launched out with his little army from Cambridge. Let's do it again. And if half of them are Chinese, hallelujah, it doesn't matter.

And it does seem that the Chinese living in Britain are one of the groups that are the most on the move, making some of the Anglo-Saxons look like they're caught up in international nail-biting contests. May God stir us. May God shake us.

I know sometimes when we talk this way, people feel, well, this is a little bit emotional, and we English people, we are very shy and quiet and laid-back. Do not press us into something that, you know, is emotional. Have you watched them in the cricket match? Have you watched any football? Laid-back, quiet English people going about lovely life in the country.

They go completely wild. Some of it has produced some of the ugliest scenes in this nation, like the Hillsborough disaster. I believe, when an Englishman or a Welshman or an Irishman or a Scottish person is filled with the Holy Spirit, that they will become dynamic witnesses for Jesus Christ and great, powerful, godly missionaries.

And I hope you will be among their ranks. What are you going to do with your life? What are you going to do with your life? Do you really think what the world is feeding you is the answer? Get a nice job, get a career, and get that degree. What for? So you can get money and pay 30% of it into the income tax, so that you can feed your family, and so that you can have a house and a nice place to live, so you can be rested each day to go to the job in order to get the money to pay for these things, so you can be rested, of course, with a few diversions in the middle of it.

A vicious cycle, which, of course, for most people ends in hell. But for Christians who get up into that cycle, it's a sad state of affairs, because though they may be saved, the Bible says, but by fire. There's little fulfillment, little reality, little sense of purpose, and the grasp of God is not upon their heart.

It's not the way to live. Think I'm acting? This has burned on my heart since March 5th, 1955. What an amazing year, 1955.

Most of you weren't doing too much. And they wanted to produce a really good film, which we really need to show in some of the churches, Back to the Future. What year did they go back to? 1955.

Very important. Be ye filled with the Holy Spirit. It doesn't mean you're necessarily going to become loud like me.

It doesn't mean God is going to become insensitive to your temperament, your personality, your gifting. No, no. Not at all.

Some of the greatest missionaries I know are actually quite quiet, reserved, more phlegmatic people. God has a place for everybody. I hope and pray you'll understand that this is God's hour.

It really is God's hour. As the greatest harvest of people to Christ in the history of the world is taking place side by side with hundreds of millions who have never heard. All we have to have is operation crossover.

These who know the gospel, these who are converted, crossing over cross-culturally into those unreached people's groups with Bibles, with videos, with every kind of evangelism. And we can reach, I believe, even the entire world by the year 2000. And guess what? A few tens of millions of people across the world, Christians, are getting excited about just that.

So some of you that got some great plan, why not to go out in the woods and build a new kind of a tree hut? Why not postpone that plan until after the year 2000? Why not give, when you finish at university, what God's called you into right now, why not give at least, at least a few years to this great task full time? I'm not saying that's better than remaining here and fulfilling God's call. If He's leading you to work in that secular company down the road, then that to me is a ministry. And we never want to put people down who have that kind of calling upon their life because we need men in that kind of ministry for prayer, for impact in society, for winning people right there, for the local churches and all that means, and then also to see the resources going out.

It's interesting how one cult has 40,000 men on a two-year program. One cult. And they're all over Britain now.

Could not the British churches give those of us in short-term missions, I'm talking one or two years now, could they not give us 40,000? Could we not get 40,000 from all these great churches? Get 70,000 at spring harvest and that's only a tiny percentage of the believers in the nation. If renewal came, if we would

be obedient, if we would take God's word seriously, we could easily see 40,000 launched in one and two-year programs. Perhaps 100,000 on summer programs which is only a couple of weeks.

Would you pray about it? It's been proven by some groups that after two years overseas they can still go back and get good jobs, they still go back and complete more education, and especially in that one cult I was just referring to, many of them when they got back within ten years were multi-millionaires sending their money out to their false cult along the way. We need, in O.M. especially, different missions have different needs, but we need an army of single men and women. I know some of you are already married and there's place for you as well.

But in some of the things we are attempting to do and the kind of training we're attempting to give, our preference is young men and women who are single. We need 100 single people alone if we're going to keep the two ships going. Would you pray? You don't have to have some kind of special emotional clunk on the head when the missionary film is going backwards through your brain to make this decision.

You need to think, you need to read, you need to pray, you need to consult with the leaders of your church, you need to push some doors and see what God will do. He may close the doors. He may close the doors.

Because I'm convinced that it's people like you who come to conferences like this who are going to be the leaders in the church in the future. We've got 35 years now proven that's just what happens. You may not feel you're a leader but as you catch this vision, as you begin to move, others will follow.

A leader is a pace setter even though he may be a reluctant pace setter. I certainly am now. Maybe I wasn't in my earlier days.

And as you begin to move, as you capture this vision, as you take ownership of this biblical message, knowing God and making God known, others will follow. And you'll find yourself leading spontaneous prayer groups in your college or in your place of business and you'll find people will be knocking on your door to study the word or to get counsel or maybe just to pick up a world map or a book because they heard you were a missions mobilizer. It's exciting.

It's exciting. Pray about it. Push some doors.

Talk to some people. Write to some people. You can't always say this these days in a big meeting but in a little meeting like this, you can write to me.

I'll read every one of your letters personally and answer probably most of them personally. I do have some help in answering the letters. This is serious business.

Millions and hundreds of millions have yet to hear of Jesus and his gospel and you and I can do something about it. To me it's just so logical, so sensible that people like yourself make a commitment to world missions. We are making now in O.M. a major impact among businessmen.

We are seeing God release finance more than ever in the history of O.M. We've always been into that. We are seeing gifts almost every day on the phone. I get word of another phenomenal gift.

We also see the widow's mite. We now have a quarter of a million at least prayer partners across the world and we feel now is the time for new injection of manpower, womanpower. People like you will help

you see that finance come in.

It won't be easy. We're not saying that. But I believe we're beginning to see a shift in O.M. where our bigger problem won't firstly be where to find the money.

Our bigger problem will be where to find the people. Where to find the people. Like you.

Young. Ready to go into the training. To go God's way.

One hundred percent. Let us pray. Let's take a few moments for silent heart searching and prayer.

Oh Father, it's so hard to believe that there's so many places with no witness. So many places. So many people's groups with no church.

I heard of two more people's groups today in Iran. There's no scriptures. No church.

We thank you God for every organization, every fellowship, every church you've raised up with a missionary vision and a spirit of obedience to do your will and to go your way. We just praise you and we give you all the glory. We thank you that you're touching young lives like Bill Drake and many others and thrusting them into things they never dreamed of doing ten years ago.

We believe, oh God, that somehow by your grace the whole world can receive the gospel. Yea, if it be your will even by the year 2000 which comes upon us fast and furious. Help us to search our hearts these days.

Help us to acknowledge Lord Jesus, your lordship in our lives in every practical level from the area of romance to the area of food from the area of money to the area of study, our home and the future. And Lord, you have called us not to preach or present some kind of lopsided message but somehow as in the steps of the Apostle Paul to cry out the entire counsel of your word. And we know that's going to take time.

So Lord, help us to be patient. Help me to be patient as we learn line upon line and principle upon principle from your holy word. And Lord, as we go forward as we see the breakthroughs and as we see the harvest brought in and churches planted across the world and hundreds of thousands and millions brought to a knowledge of yourself, we will give you all the glory and with bated breath and expectation we look forward to that day when we worship you in all the mystery of eternity and all that means for we pray in the powerful glorious name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, our King, the Alpha and Omega, the Lord of Lords, Amen and Amen.

Thank you.

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