

Jonathan's Accident in Spain

by George Verwer

The sermon emphasizes the importance of trusting in God's grace and sovereignty in times of crisis, and the need for balance and objectivity in our emotions and reactions.

Duration: 1:22:15

Scripture: Joshua 1:9, Judges 7:2, Psalm 46:1, Matthew 6:33, Romans 8:28, Philippians 4:13, 2 Timothy 1:7

Topics: "Mission Field"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker begins by sharing an illustration of a mechanic who forgot to tighten a bolt on a plane, causing it to explode and kill seven people. The speaker then reflects on his own experience of finding joy and peace amidst suffering by relying on God's victory. He mentions reading reports of the work of the Holy Spirit around the world and acknowledges that God is far more capable than any of us in organizing and coordinating His plans. The speaker also mentions the desire of a team member to move on and expresses his own struggles and weaknesses, using a broken dog leash as an example. He concludes by emphasizing that God does all things well and there are no exceptions to His grace and goodness.

Transcript

Our Father, we thank you that you give grace, and when the burden grows greater, the grace grows equivalent, and even greater. And as we've visited with Jonathan, we've seen just what your grace can do, and the reality of your ministry in moments of crisis, when people, most people, would be in utter despair. You, because of the reality of your Holy Spirit, give hope, and grace, and expectation.

Lord, we believe that you want to speak to us individually, we believe you want to speak to us as a movement. I don't think we are, perhaps, as a movement, slow of heart to hear, but we sometimes seem to be a little slow to obey. We ask, Lord, that you'd help us to, in our own lives, know what you want us to do in these moments, in these days ahead.

We pray for Marguite, and she's visiting with Jonathan now, that you'd minister through her, for grace, to Daniel, to Morris, we thank you, Lord, for all the little pieces in this unusual puzzle of life that you have put together, and we know that there are things we can't understand here, but that we will understand all so wonderfully some day. Guide us, Lord, now, as we just consider something from your word, and as we think toward the future, we ask, in Jesus' name, Amen. Amen.

Well, I think this is a very special time in the history of OM, and this particular tape will probably be listened to by a high percentage of OMers all over the world, so it's good to have a few people who are actually here, that I can just share these thoughts that have come to my mind as a result of the accident in Spain, in which our brother, Pedro Arbolet, has been injured, broken arm and a broken leg. I'm saying some of these things because some people hearing this tape won't even know about this until the moment they hear this tape. He was driving a vehicle coming home from Portugal, and Jonathan and Trevor were in the back of that vehicle.

Trevor Allen, who has serious injuries to his ribs, splintered vertebrae, needs to lie in the same place. He's gone home now, near Barcelona, in Barcelona, has to stay in the same place for about six weeks, so we want to remember him, and write to him. I'm sure Jonathan will be getting a flood of letters, he's already getting many, but some of those other brothers are not as well known, and their injury is not as serious, but we know they will need our encouragement as well, down there in Spain, pray for their wives, Trevor's wife Manoli, Pedro's wife Antonia.

And then in the same accident, our brother Jonathan, as many of you know from the telexes, had a break in his, they call it a complete break in his spinal cord, between vertebrae six and seven, which means that doctors, including one of Spain's specialists, a man that we were in an amazing way able to get to visit Jonathan, all the way from Barcelona, he even with the permission of his patient, postponed surgery on this patient, in order to take that whole day and fly to Guadalajara, and give us a second opinion, a very important opinion on Jonathan's position, whether he could be moved, and a number of other things.

We praise the Lord for many, many answers to prayer in connection with everything that's happened in the last few days, to give Jonathan the best care, to get prayer mobilized, and to determine just what was the best course of action.

I've just come from visiting Jonathan, I tried to go immediately after the accident, very seldom in 25 years since I've had a passport have I ever been hindered, I can't ever remember being hindered going anywhere for losing my passport, once I was delayed and had to run around to get it, but I just could not find my passport, we've had major, major searches, we never did find it, and I think that was in the providence of God, because there were dozens and dozens and dozens of communications and phone calls that needed to be made, and in connection with all that was taking place, some of the initial communication, the facts weren't even straight, I mean you may have heard, initially thought it was a curved road, but it wasn't a curved road, of course with O.M. it's just a network of

people across the whole world, everybody immediately wants to know, it's just unbelievable, the complexity of communicating just to our own people, but the Lord worked it out, and on Monday morning first thing down to the embassy, new passport, tried again, I had my luggage checked in, just about going to the barrier, get on the plane, decided to phone my wife, found out the doctor had already seen him, wanted him moved immediately, I actually ended up going down into the bowels of Gatwick Airport, hunting for my suitcase, and I got it back, got my ticket back, I went back home and made the necessary phone calls to get this Swiss Air Rescue Service and the other things set up for Jonathan to be brought back, they thought he'd come back actually a day later than we were able to get him

back here, so we were thankful for that, and then I didn't feel I could come over to see him when he first landed here because I didn't think he'd be able to see anybody, I decided to take my meetings, anywhere I move I have to cancel meetings, except today, I had meetings in Cornwall last night, came through the

night from there by train, fly out tomorrow to Minneapolis, so I'm sorry I won't be here very long, I think we really do have a lot to thank God for, you know if Jonathan is thanking the Lord, I don't think anybody else around has any excuse for not engaging in thanksgiving and praise, even though we know, some of us know all too well what's involved, in some ways the Lord has prepared me for this, for the last couple of years I've been very much wrestling with a subject of

suffering more than any other subject in the scriptures, if you've heard any of my messages, you know how this occupies my mind, I just finished speaking on the doulou, giving a very, well a different message than I'd ever given before, about the basic suffering that often comes upon us as human beings, not necessarily suffering for the gospel's sake, but other kinds of suffering, went through a whole list of things, and the Lord led me some years ago to a quadriplegic person, who went to the same college I studied at, it was the sister of Prita, the leader of our work in Thailand, he was only a volunteer leader, he's with the Lord now, died of cancer, and I visited his sister, total quadriplegic, quadriplegic means no movement of four, it is the four limbs, Jonathan is a paraplegic,

means he has no movement of his legs, and there this woman was, back of Prita's house in Thailand, on one of these strange kind of beds, everything totally paralyzed from here, right from here, nothing, then all of us of course have in some way has been prepared by the film Johnny, Jonathan has seen that film, I haven't seen the film, I read parts of the book, read part of the second book, and ministered together with her in Chicago, heard her testimony, and then lately in England, we've been greatly exposed to a man named Max Sinclair, his book has just come off the press, and Valgary, the chairman of our board, had just finished reading the book the morning that I phoned him, to tell him about Jonathan, Max Sinclair had a similar kind of accident, he was really in bad shape, never

thought he'd ever walk again, and through prayer, and through the best medical care in the world, in Stoke Mumble Hospital, the hospital in England that specializes in paraplegic people, this man is walking, it's been years, couple years, they found out that his spinal cord was not totally severed, but was just extremely pinched, of course Christians lead mainly through prayer, all the medical people, they you know sometimes have different explanations, I talked to the man who was responsible for Max Sinclair, we were in consultation with specialists in about four or five countries, in order that we might understand and make the best possible decision in regard to Jonathan, now we know the Lord could choose to raise Jonathan up, there are not too many cases in history of people with his

same situation, if the diagnosis is correct, that have ever been raised up, but we know that God could raise him up, I don't think Jonathan has any doubt that God could do that, but he may have some doubt as to what God chooses to do in this particular situation, now this is where you know, of course, you could get into some controversy, one sister that was with Peter Maiden and I, when this first happened, she just couldn't believe it, she just couldn't believe that we weren't just all immediately claiming instant total healing, and it was somewhat a rebuke to us that we had prayed for total healing, I think most of us pray that at least some time or other, and then we can walk around with a guilt complex the rest of our life, that in our heart we didn't quite believe it, or weren't even

quite sure what it was to believe, and the more you read on the subject, if you read widely as I've read on the subject of healing for 27 years, and sometimes the more complex it gets, but we're still praying, maybe the Lord wants it to be an inch by inch battle, as we like to battle in prayer for his fingers, we saw him exercising his arms today, it's quite amazing, when we first told the specialists in England about his arms, they were very encouraged by that, that he would have so much movement in his arms, sometimes the

world is a rebuke to us, and I think I was rebuked this afternoon, as this Pakistani Air Force pilot came reeling in, and I think he had even been in a plane crash and never been hurt, but in a car crash he was declared, I think almost quadriplegic, I don't know, he

said he only had the eyeballs, everything was paralyzed, but his eyeballs, he came reeling in to meet Jonathan, bright chirpy character making all kinds of jokes, from Lahore, and just shared a little bit about life in that hospital, I'm sure Jonathan's gonna have quite a ministry in that hospital, once he gets a little more mobile, you have to mainly talk to Jonathan through mirrors, otherwise you're looking down on him, so you sit and relax, and I gave him a brand new stereo, and left him with a half an hour of Mantavani, looked like he was really going into orbit, and the Holy Testament on tapes, and the Psalms, and a few other Psalms and hymns and music, so he might get some encouragement out of that, I'm sure he will, so we want to be praying, and I, you're gonna have the privilege

of visiting him, has to be very slow at present, and I really didn't even stay there very long, I was in there, and this lady came in to do all kinds of things to him, so I went out, and we came back and gave Jonathan some ice cream, that was Casey's idea, and then somebody else came in and gave him his exercises, we, I met Margie briefly, and she was feeding him, isn't it amazing that this hospital, one of the best hospitals for this kind of accident case, is a walking distance from Margie's, from their house, I mean, this is amazing, some people have to move their entire family in order to get the right treatment, because it's very important that your family be with you, or around you, during this treatment, doctors even say it's important that the person, John is not taken away from,

now the main thing that Jonathan asked, are his heart, tongue, and his brain, and all three of those are in absolute top condition, and maybe he's going to be forced to delegate more, under his new ministry, or new operational base, he's always been, though he's had a time, had a little difficulty delegating some things, he'd like to run around, and we just don't know what the Lord has, the Lord is going to maybe surprise us, maybe surprise some people there in the hospital, but we want to pray, and we want to maintain our own spiritual life in the midst of this crisis, because there's no way that we're going to continue in this task of evangelizing the world, with 1,600 people, some people that want a lot more, I actually am trying to keep the numbers down, with hundreds of vehicles and

two ships, you know, there's no way that we're going to go forward without having further crises, you know, just before this crisis, my close friend Roger Foster got a phone call that his son, 15 years of age, was in a hospital with cancer, he canceled all of his meetings, spring harvest, and flew back to London, and mobilized tremendous prayer, and they gave him this chemotherapy treatment, they thought all his hair would fall out, and all kinds of things would happen, and that hasn't happened, and they have just taken a further check, and there's no sign of this cancer in his lung, whether they totally have it yet, you know, I can't say, it's hard to keep up with all that's happened, but we know that as we go forward in this tremendous work, there are going to be the crises, he's going

to be suffering, Jonathan was sharing with me today, he is, you know, he's not always an optimist, but he seems to be quite an optimist right now, optimistic, and he's just sharing how he hasn't had, you know, really too much pain, what he meant by that, you know, I don't know, but he doesn't seem to be in a lot of pain right now, he's had a hard night, didn't sleep much last night, we can pray about that, standard of treatment we will be getting there, they turned him right upside down on this bed, this Pakistani pilot said that was, he didn't go for that, he was a pilot, they're used to going upside down, so I don't know how Jonathan will handle the treatment, but it certainly is something, regardless of any human factors involved

in the accident, that obviously God has allowed, I think

some of us are a little slow to say we believe God caused it, I heard a wonderful message by Dr.

David Seamans, the teacher and preacher at Asbury, at the church at Asbury, where a lot of the students go, once giving a beautiful explanation about the permissive will of God, I'm afraid I can't explain it as well as he did, but God does allow things, we are his children, we are his children, he does protect us, but he allows things, it's amazing how one of the main books being read in the last couple of years is *Destined for the Throne*, and *Don't Waste Your Sorrow*, maybe it's time to re-read that, another major book that we've been pushing all over the world, we brought out the whole edition, is *Affliction*, and the Lord knows how we have felt very strongly that we needed to communicate balanced truth on this subject, another book we've been pushing a lot is *Where is God When it Hurts*, and books that bring a balanced teaching about suffering, some of you know the Malcolm Muggeridge quotation, about the dignity of suffering, that one really blew me away when I first read it, and you know the tremendous argument that as evangelical Christians we have against euthanasia, what about all these old people, some have lived for weeks and weeks in pain, in continual pain, they don't die, sometimes people even start praying they'll die and they don't die, Marilyn Sears' father has been in and out of the intensive care so much she hasn't been able to return to the world, I don't know how much pain he's having in that, certainly the emotional pain alone is very very great, and maybe in God's sovereign purposes he is going to help O.M. through this experience to grow up a little more, to become a little more mature, a little less naive, you can preach about balance until your eyeballs fall out, but God has to allow things into people's lives to bring them into balance, it was crises in my home with my children, with my wife, with myself, that taught me more about balance than any of the books I'd read on the subject, and of course I'm still learning.

But let's look at a scripture that the Lord used in my own heart during this time, I think there's a place for sorrow, I don't think we all are going to run around with ha ha, this has happened, there's a place for sorrow, I've had seven days of tears bottled up, I think I left them all on the floor by Jonathan's bed, I hope he knows how to swim, but we're all human beings and if I get through this tape without a few tears that will be great, that's probably why the Lord left me in London, if I'm a little bit away from something I can objectively attack it, but when I get near, there's something in me that just starts to come apart, and I think most of us are going to have our great struggle over this when Jonathan's wheeling down the driveway in some electronic wheelchair, especially those of you that may be hoping than praying, as all of us would in one sense, that he would be able to walk, I think you need to understand if treatment goes at a normal pace, he'll be many months before he'll be ready even for a wheelchair, in some cases he may be ready earlier than that, but this is a very serious thing, and I think you realize that years ago this happened to people, I mean he has broken his neck, I mean years ago if you talk about a man breaking his neck, that was it, you didn't expect to see him around anymore, but somehow today medical care, things are different.

Well let's look at this scripture in 2 Samuel chapter 12, now any comparison we may have with a modern situation, a contemporary situation like Jonathan, and something from the word of God, the situation may not be identical, and this situation is not identical, what I'm going to read here, but there's something I believe we can learn from this passage, even though the situation is not identical, Nathan has just rebuked David, and David is now praying for the child, verse 15, after Nathan had gone home, the Lord struck the child, the Lord struck the child, that Uriah's wife had borne to David, and he was ill, now David pleaded with God for the child, he fasted, he went into his house, and he spent nights lying on the ground, the elders of his household stood beside him, to keep it up from the ground, but he refused, he would not eat

any food with him, on the seventh day the child died, after all that prayer, fasting, the child died, David's servants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they thought while the child was still living we spoke to David, and he would not listen to us, how can we tell him the child is dead, he may do something desperate, David noticed that his servants were whispering among themselves, and he realized that the child was dead, is the child dead, he asked, yes, they replied, he is dead, then David got up from the ground, after he washed, he put on lotions, changed his clothes, went into the house of the Lord, and worshipped, let's read that again, then David got up, after he heard the child was dead, from the ground, after he had washed, and put on lotions, and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the Lord, and worshipped, then he went to his own house, and at his request, they served him food, and he ate, his servants asked him, why are you acting in this way, while the child was alive you fasted and wept, but now that the child is dead, you get up and eat, he answered, while the child was still alive I fasted and wept, I thought, who knows, the Lord may be gracious to me, and let the child live, but now that he is dead, why should I fast, can I bring him back again, I will go to him, and he will not return to me.

It's very easy when something like this happens, for subtle forms of regret to come in, it can come in especially to the people that might have been in the accident, and I think always the one who is driving the car, regardless of what the circumstances of the accident are, that person always has a little bit of an extra battle, and I know that in different trials that I faced in life, regret has stuck its ugly head up in a very, very ferocious way, and I just was again reading a book the other day, a book about leadership or something along that line, it just pointed out the absolute drain that regret is, even on our emotions, and just as David seemingly in this situation was not bitter with God, and was not filled with malice or regret or some other emotion, so I think in this accident

and in this situation, the Lord doesn't want us to get involved in some form of regret trip, if only we had done that or if only we had done this, that doesn't mean we can't learn on a practical level from some of these experiences, and that is something separate that has to be dealt with down the line, but I believe that it's such a beautiful picture for us to gain something from at this moment, God wants us to worship, God wants us to lift our hearts in thanksgiving for all of his mercy, 23,000 people have been on Operation Mobilization in 25 years, and in those early days I will tell you it wasn't as safe as it was today, with the many improvements we've been able to make, and a lot of other things that we do, in 1962 I was the only truck driver apart from one other Australian man in

the whole work, and I wasn't a truck driver I can assure you, I just happened to have a little more experience than the rest, there was no mechanic at all in 1962, and we distributed 25 million pieces of literature covering, I can't even tell you how many miles, figured out all over Italy, all over Austria, Germany, Holland, people driving vehicles, I remember Dale Roton for years was telling me he didn't believe in glasses, he was reading books sight without glasses, squinting trying to figure out what it was saying, and I don't remember if he was wearing his glasses by then or not, but he had one of those very, very big lorries, big furniture lorry, and he was driving all over Eastern France, we could have so easily at any stage of this work, I remember crossing the Alps absolutely

petrified, 25 people in the back of this old lorry, at any stage down through these years, we could have wiped out whole truckloads of people, when I was in Nepal recently, the very road we were traveling on, a bus just right over the edge, they were all wiped out, God has been very, very gracious to us, and yet somehow in God's purposes, He's allowed even the one who always teaches, gives the exhortations on driving safety, and all that kind of warning, to be in this kind of terrible accident, and I think that we need to, as we've been praying, many have prayed the Lord would raise him right up out of the bed in Madrid, it

hasn't happened, I think we need to specialize now in worship, and thanksgiving, and praise, waiting upon God, I think there's some subtle ways the enemy can try to

use this, you know in any work like OM, the enemy isn't sitting still, far more subtle things the enemy can work than say, getting us into a car crash, that isn't his major method, it certainly seems to be an unusual thing, the number of missionaries killed in car crashes, it's phenomenal, it's hard to believe that, sometimes there's something sinister going on, I don't know, I don't know, one of the best up and coming young preachers in America, a young man named Han, somehow got the inspiration, eight months ago to learn how to fly a small plane, something we never got along with in OM, he took it up, and he never came down, he's dead, and his wife's first husband was killed also in a small plane, five missionary leaders were all killed in Alaska just recently, in a small plane, this

morning in Brown they played, or showed a super 8 teaching tape, that I made about two years ago, I don't know if it's ever been shown here, but I open up by giving the illustration of that Whitcliffe mechanic, who for a moment turned away, when he was tightening a bolt on the small plane, he turned away to do something, he forgot to tighten the bolt, and he saw the plane explode in midair, killing seven people, and he knew for one reason only, they were all killed, he'd forgotten to tighten, and he got after agony, and despair, and suffering of mind, God gave him victory, and he wrote that article, otherwise I couldn't have read it, to use it in my message, we know God tests us, when we read his work, he tests us to the very core of our being, preparation for things that perhaps, we'll

never understand, I think one of the dangers, when something like this happens, is that we can all get into little mini, and sometimes maxi guilt trips, and we can all feel, we can all feel that, the problems we have now are meaningless, you know the big thing in Brownlee, was Jerry Davies knee, we're all praying for Jerry Davies knee, and really it's quite serious, a lot of pain, the operation hasn't gone very well, he's on crutches, when we get this, Jerry Davies knee, what's Jerry Davies knee, and more than that, I mean, I find that some of the things I'm doing, I just feel ridiculous, my crisis, the other day, just before I went up to speak, I think it was the night of prayer, my crisis was wrestling with a broken dog leash, my son Daniel, in a moment of inspiration, this dog didn't

cost my daughter anything, it's her dog, I told her I wouldn't spend a penny, you know, I'm a loving cat, there I am with this dog, so she's got this dog, and it's won its way to my heart, and everybody's heart, my son Daniel goes out, and spends 11 pounds, on an automatic springback dog leash, and I tell you, it was the grace of God, that kept my mouth shut, when he walked into the house with that thing, but I've learned with my son, and lo and behold, my wife and I took it that night, to show it to a friend, and the dog bit through it, and I didn't know how to explain this to Daniel, he's sometimes sensitive, about some of my weak points, and so Benji and I tied a knot, and I took the dog out, and the dog chased another dog, and as he went, boom, the knot just disintegrated, and I was

trying to fix this dog leash, I was thinking about Jonathan, and I'm trying to fix this dog leash, and I thought this is, you know, this world, we're living in an absurd world, you know, here I am resting, I was actually, I think I actually started to pray for help, on the dog leash, because you know, 11 pounds, in my, you know, I don't know where you live, but in my family, you know, 11 pounds, a lot of, it's a lot of bread, which my son paid for, he's got more money now, he works at McDonald's, when he's not at university, anyway, when the leash broke, the thing popped back, inside this container, so the only way to get it, was to open the container, so I carefully opened the container, and a spring popped out, then another spring popped out, and I will tell you, this was some, I'm not

technically minded, anyway, I managed to fix it, and I was really praising the Lord about that, you know, and I was just thinking that night, isn't it, isn't it wonderful, that our God is so great, that he can minister grace, in a massive crisis, as Jonathan's situation is, for us it is a massive crisis, it's a big thing, and he can still have enough grace, left over, to take care of whatever little hassle, you may be having here, even in Solenton, and you don't have to feel guilty about it, you don't have to feel guilty about it, you don't have to feel, well I'm selfish, I can't come to God, and talk about my problems, when Jonathan's got that problem, or when someone else has got some big problem, no, God doesn't operate that way, if you've got some problem, no matter how big, no matter

how small, you can bring it to the Lord, now, if you magnify it, if you get preoccupied with it, if you over emphasize it, yeah, that's wrong, casting every care upon him, he cares for you, but to take it to the Lord, to cry a little over it, or to share it with someone, you may feel, for the next some weeks, with this crisis in Solenton, you know, you can't share any of your problems here, now, I mean, the leader's liable to say, how can you share this problem, when we've got this bigger problem, and OM, for a couple of weeks, worldwide, could become, the most uptight, missionary work, in Europe, with everybody, preoccupied for this, thinking how big it is, thinking how is he going to face life, in this way, and therefore unwilling, to talk about our own situation, some of the things

that are hurting us, you may have two good legs, and be a paraplegic, spiritually, and I think, Jonathan would be the first to say, that would be our greater concern, in fact, it's amazing, the illustration God put on my heart, in England, was the same one, the Lord put on his heart, I think it's on the French tape, he wasn't sure which tape it was on, and I thought, what a far greater crisis, when some dear XOM, or, or maybe you know ever, that hasn't happened, much, suddenly their marriage, just disintegrates, or their life disintegrates, I think it's a greater trial, on the physical level, when people's minds, disintegrate, that is, that is still a mystery, that sometimes just baffles me, some things have come, across my desk, lately, one was a suicide, of the son of a Christian

leader, the other was, something similar, and I just, you know, I just fall down, I, you know, it's wonderful, when we're totally overwhelmed, we can fall to the feet of Jesus, just as David did, and worship, there must have been a sense here, when David was just, overwhelmed, the whole emotion, of the past experience, the, the failure, the dead baby, he must have been overwhelmed, and he fell down, and he just worshipped, and I think this is God's, God's way, that when we feel so overwhelmed, so gripped by fear, some are gripped by fear, through this accident, I talked to someone, he said, I don't want to go in any cars, I don't want to go in any cars anymore, I'm at a stage in my life, where I never want to walk, in an airplane again, so all the accidents, I've read about, all the small

planes, especially, and, I think of that verse, God has not given us, this fear of fear, what are we going to do, go out there, and burn all of our vehicles, put it, you know, get down there, and this is it, this is where they all come from, we can really get guilty, around here, but somehow, God has called us, to world evangelism, somehow, we know, the greatest crisis, is a lost soul, going out into eternity, without God, that makes, even Jonathan's crisis, in one sense, look small, and I believe, one of the reasons, that Jonathan is rejoicing, the doctor warned him, he was going to go into, total despair, Jonathan said, well, it hasn't happened yet, he might have to battle, through some of that, that won't be abnormal, to go through times, of despair, and depression, I know quite a few

people, that had that, without getting into, that kind of situation, but I am convinced, that if there was ever a time, when we want to take, Ephesians 6 literally, and put on the shield of faith, it's now, we're plunging

very rapidly, toward a summer crusade, what should we do, call it off, think of the danger, all these cars, much younger drivers, many have never driven, in Europe in their life, they don't even know, what the signs mean, here's a sign, here's a sign that says, don't curb your dog, and they think it says, curb your car, they don't know, what they're doing, a lot of these people, driving around Europe, we've had, I don't know, several more accidents, in England, in the past couple of months, now I think, in England, we're going to, somehow make some changes, we're going

to put people, to driving school, British driving school, even if it costs us, a few pounds, because we're dealing, with a different side, of the road, and I think, we've learned some things, the hard way there, and then other parts, of the work, maybe the things, that we need to change, we need to do, but one thing, for sure, God doesn't want us, to be gripped by fear, God doesn't want us, sitting in cars, trembling, because you can't live, like that way, we had someone die, right in this building, or just down the road, in the shower, that was a tremendous blow, to all who lived here, that dear sister, and we cannot allow, fear to grip our hearts, we must stand, courageously, even though some of us, are maybe fearful types, some mornings, I don't want, to get out of bed, what in the

world, is going to happen, today, people have said to me, a number of times, hey, what do you think's next, turkey a man's eyes, in his sleep, the next month, a massive fire, and a quarter of a million, dollars worth of damage, the next month, a truck in Sudan, in fact, Jonathan administered, along those lines, in Portugal, he just told me today, saying what, you know, what were we going to expect, for April, and what about May, but you know, if you start living that way, you can end up, losing your mind, and that's worse, than losing your legs, and God, I believe, is wanting to say to us, now, as he said to Joshua, be thou courageous, this is a time, for us to be courageous, in what we're doing, life is filled with risks, think of the risks, the British Isles, are taking right now, as

they'd say, these submarines, and this entire fleet, down to an island, that hardly anyone, in Britain, even knew what it was, four weeks ago, now, we may spill the blood, of a thousand, or two thousand, British young men, on the beaches of an island, that has less than, two thousand citizens, as Russia begins to think, of backing Argentina, and as America, seems to be more committed, to Britain, who knows, what's going to happen, in the world, in the next couple of weeks, or months, this is not a time, for fear, this is not a time, for retreat, this is not a time, for regret, this is a time, to recommit our hearts, to be God's people, courageous, in the midst of the battle, courageous, in the midst of suffering, refusing to turn back, even though, something in us, says, run man, run,

some of us, probably are natural cowards, but now, we've got the Holy Spirit, and he is saying, full steam ahead, we also have, one another, think of the difference, between Jonathan, with all of his friends, tens of thousands, are praying for him, letters are pouring in, from all over the world, he knows Christ, is a savior, he's on the way to heaven, he's got a wife, and three children, who love him, beyond words, and some unsaved man, who has nothing, and hardly any friends, and is in the same accident, as lying somewhere, in a paraplegic ward, with nothing, but maybe a nurse, that might even, pull him through, we've been saying, for the last two years, to OM teams, why don't we visit, hospitals more, why don't we visit, why don't we visit, the elderly more, why don't we visit, the

prisons more, I know you don't all, read the memos, well maybe the Lord, has something to say to us, in all of this, it's a time, in which we must keep, our perspective, and we know Jonathan, would want us to do that, it's a time for us, not just to think about Jonathan, but maybe to open our minds, and think about others, who are suffering, and maybe increase, our letter writing, a little bit, what about your aunt, who's

sick, hasn't heard from you, for months, what about your own parents, who may be in some suffering, because they just don't hear, from you very much, there are people all around us, who are suffering, and maybe Jonathan's suffering, will be an alarm bell, in our minds, to somehow be more concerned, for those, that are in special need, in times of suffering, for the

elderly, so neglected, so forgotten, many of them, for those in prison, for the refugees, maybe through this, some of you will change, the direction of your life, if you're really honest, your aim in life, is still incredibly trivial, maybe it's, just to go back, somehow to your own country, and get a nice job, and get a nice little bungalow, and a little car, and make payments, the rest of your life, and somehow, have a tombstone, at the end of the road, here lies John Doe Evangelical, a nice guy, he tithed, maybe it's a time, to think about, getting our lives, a little more on course, it would be better, to run all out for Christ, and die young, than to waste your life away, in the school of mediocrity, which is so prevalent, in our day, let's rethink, about where we're going, let's

rethink, about the future, so often it seems to me, that decisions, about our future, are made in some kind of, introspective, existential, cubicle, rather than considering, the whole world situation, rather than putting enough emphasis, on the need, and considering, other people's situations, we tend to be very subjective, and I think that gets us down, many a dead end street, not that God is not concerned, about your personal needs, and emotions, because we've already emphasized, that he is, keeping things in perspective, how many of us, in OM, a movement, known for its evangelistic zeal, really have a concern, for the lost, they go out into eternity, every day, the ambulance is rushed by us, the funerals drive, down my street, and I have to sometimes, just acknowledge, a lack of

compassion, in my own heart, for the lost, I find myself sometimes, these days, even forgetting, to take my gospel track, something that would have been, unheard of in my life, some years ago, maybe it's part, of my forgetfulness, I lost my Bible, again last night, I guess I'm getting old, but oh my, to keep this in perspective, I personally feel, that Jonathan, I want to bring this to a close, has been such a tremendous example, to the church, he's always kept a low profile, I noticed, quite a few prayer partners, I talked to the last days, they weren't quite sure, who this was, was this Dale, or who, had him mixed up, who was he, I didn't even know, he was the president, of the committee, for mission 83, somebody told me that, Ian Newberry, was walking through, my back garden, and I was

out shouting, for the door, and we had some fellowship, that is Ian Newberry and I, and told me that Jonathan, was the president, of mission 83, the committee, is that right, here's a man, that God has mightily used, and yet often, he's been behind the scenes, the last thing we do in OEM, is try to exalt people, it's just not our, this is not our way, but maybe, God through this, is going to exalt Jonathan, in terms of ministry, in terms of opportunity, I remember him, you know how Jonathan, expresses things, not exactly moaning, but he's not exactly, rejoicing, he was, we were talking about the invitations, I was getting to speak, and he said, I'm not getting so many invitations, to speak all over the place, like that, and he says, he said something along the line, they don't invite me

back, so much, well, he may get a real change, in course, because, I know what happened, to Jeff Bowen, in England, when he tried, to rush for a train, had both his legs cut off, by a railway train, and by the way, a lot of people, prayed for him, and he was from, that side of thinking, where they really, believe very strongly, in healing, but there wasn't anybody, in Britain, that put his legs back, but I will tell you, God gave him a ministry, he's got a really, unique wheelchair, and he is all over, the world, and people in Britain know, Jeff Bowen, and I believe that, though we're not, in any way, going to organize it, in a sense, the

word just gets around, I mean, it is a big thing, it is a serious thing, there are thousands, of Christians, that are praying, and maybe the Lord, has a

change in direction, for our brother, in some ways, we have no intentions, of putting anybody else, in the European Union, for quite a while, but Jonathan, has always been the kind, that would be willing, to step out, at any time, his heart is really, in Africa, and I just, somehow, believe that, God really, wants to speak, very, very strongly, to people, through the life, of his brother, we've seen, that so often, people don't listen, when there are, just messages, man, those of us, who are preachers, we're ready, to throw in the sponge, somehow, when a life, goes up on the altar, somehow, when there's suffering, there's a louder voice, like the voice, of Johnny, like the voice, of Fanny Crosby, like the voice, of many, many, many mighty men, and women, who went through, somehow, the

cauldrons, of suffering, and through that, became more Christ-like, more powerful, and more greatly, used for God, we don't know, we have our ways, God has his ways, one of the great struggles, in life, is to try, to get them together, well, these are some thoughts, and I hope that, somehow, each one of us, will take courage, stand against, the fiery darts, realize God, has enough grace, not only for Jonathan, but for any problem, any burden, any hurt, that you have, as big, or as small, as it may be, so don't hesitate, to take it to Jesus, Jonathan, didn't sleep well, last night, what about you?

Some of you, are not sleeping well, and you're carrying, your problems to bed, that doesn't bother me, in OM, it's quite normal, but when there, a person has that, and never shares it, never gets anybody, to pray with them, that bothers me, because we want, to be more concerned, for people, we are well aware, those of us, in leaders, leaders in OM, I'm one of them, almost have a permanent, guilt feeling, because we sense, that so often, we have failed, those who come on OM, that's why, I almost cried, that we cut, the numbers down, so we can try, to get more personal attention, but it's not as simple, as that, it's not as simple, as that, and I know, that sometimes, when you're in OM, you don't get all, that you want, you go away, disappointed, you know, if I saw it any better, and I've

just searched, everywhere in the world, I've read, I don't know, how many Christian magazines, I interview everybody, that comes across my path, that I have opportunity, to see, you know, where are we going wrong, where are we doing, something wrong, where do we need, to emphasize more, and I tell you, for 20 some years, looking around, I don't really see, that it's happening, much better, to any great degree, anywhere else, I've thought for a while, the answer is, all these house groups, people get in a house group, there's only 15 people, a couple of pastors, look at the ministry, they get, look at the care, they get, they're never going to get, that in OM, in the last couple of years, I'm picking up people, hurt, walked on, broken apart, by house groups, they got in situations, where

people cared so much, they even cared, when you didn't care, and last night, I had another one, a man so hurt, him and his wife, so bitter, by the house group movement, he's now become, an extreme arch-Calvinist, and is attacking, the house group movement, and the charismatic movement, at every turn, isn't it interesting, how people, somehow, with the disappointment, the idealism, always looking for, the perfect place, the perfect group, the ideal situation, seemingly, are blown about, by every wind of doctrine, and go from one extreme, to the other, and I know, sometimes, people leave OM, disappointed, hurt, because, of course, at times, we do fail, and of course, at times, sometimes, things get out of control, but most of them, when they get to the age, of 35 or 40, they look back, on

that experience, now, with a greater circle, of life around them, they generally realize, that at least, to a large degree, they were wrong, we may have also been wrong, how much better, it would be, if somehow, now, we could get, a more healthy, and more sane view, of life, the greatest damage, often being done, in a work, like OM, are not automobile accidents, it's sin, the sins of the tongue, the gossip, the lack of faith, and other failures, in that area, that believe me, even now, in OM, are doing, undue harm, but you know what, I believe God, can overrule that as well, and the last thing, I want to do, is get all uptight, because there's a little bit, of gossip going around, at times, in OM, I declare war, against gossip, with all my heart, but when it comes, I'm not surprised,

because I'm on planet earth, I'm working with humans, and I'm sure, the rest of you, are in the same situation, let's praise the Lord, let's take courage, let's keep things, in perspective, let's allow this experience, to make us more mature, less naive, let's get our priorities, sorted out, and let's go, full speed ahead, I don't mean, in a wild way, and I'm convinced, that in OM, in a number of areas, we've got to slow down, you say, that doesn't sound, like George Burroughs, sorry, but I think, discernment tells us, that in a number of areas, we have to slow down, we feel, with a great victory in India, that we have 100% unity, to cut down, from 450 people, to 300 people, if you think, that's going backward, then you try, a little book in here, and a little man in here, named Gideon,

and I believe, God is not impressed, with big numbers, God is not as impressed, with some of our, man-made statistics, and that, you know Em, as I've been saying, in the past couple of years, the Lord wants us to, to think, to pray, to consolidate, in some cases back up, cut down, and move forward, that's God's invasion army, there's a lot more, I'd love to say, but I think, that's enough, and if there's anybody, that wants to write to me, as a result of what you've heard, on this tape, realizing it's shared, from the heart of weakness, and inadequacy, I'd be happy to hear from you, I don't always get the replies back, one of the reasons, is sometimes I can't read, what people are writing, let's pray, Father we thank and praise you, that you are, a mighty, great, sovereign, living,

overruling God, and we worship you, and we praise you, for the answers to prayer, we've seen, in the midst of this crisis, we praise you for, the way that you lead us, through the dark moments, and the difficult moments, sometimes with tears in our eyes, you take us through, to that place of blessing, and you meet us there, and you know all about us, you know every one of us, right down to the hair on our head, they're all numbered and labeled, they're in that heavenly computer, and you love us, still, so much, may we just somehow, rejoice in your love, in these days, deliver us from any, subtle emotional tricks, we can get into, as we see Jonathan, or as maybe we don't see him, for some days, and then eventually as we, see him come down this driveway, whatever condition you choose to,

allow him to live in, we do thank you Lord, for all the people praying, around the world, and we thank you Lord, that you're going to use this, we hope not to bring, great attention to Jonathan, he wouldn't want that, some will probably come, but we pray that attention, will come to Europe, we pray that attention, will come to the Muslim world, that was so on his heart, and still is, and that you'd raise up labors, for those countries, like Senegal, and other Muslim lands, that burn on the heart of Jonathan, where he longed to be, and Lord, that you would cause people, to understand the need, in Portugal and Spain, where they were serving you, where they were in this accident, because they were, pouring their life, into that particular vision, and challenge, we pray for Trevor, and for

Pedro, and wives, we pray for others involved, like Daniel Gonzalez, who a little over a year ago, had his own wife, at such a young age, taken home, and was seen suffering, eyeball to eyeball, our hearts Lord,

go out to you, in praise, we would worship you, in Jesus name, Amen.

There now follows a short message, from Jonathan himself, whilst still in the hospital, in Spain, then follows a short message, by Margit, his wife.

So, here I am, this is Jonathan McCroskey speaking, from Guadalajara Spain, from the hospital, where I've been, since last Wednesday, after the accident, that I was in with, Trevor Allen, and Pedro Arbogast, when we were just, coming back from Portugal, on route to Barcelona, I think most of you, have heard the details, of the accident, Trevor suffered a little bit, of a concussion, he's been able to go home, but must stay lying down, for a while, Pedro, suffered a broken leg, and a hand, and, he's still in the hospital here, but I think we'll go back, this next week, actually I have suffered, very little gain, but, had a problem, of a broken back, which has, left me paralysed, from, kind of the bottom half, of my chest down, and a bit my hands, although as you can see, well as you can

hear, and Steve Hart, who's kindly come to visit, and helped me make this little recording, to give greetings to you, can see that, my mind is functioning, and my voice, though probably not quite as, bellowy as it used to be, is still, functioning too, and I have the use of my arms, so I really praise God for that, I do really want to tell all of you, how much, while you and I have been, have appreciated your, love and prayers, it's really fantastic how, how much the family of God, stands with, each other I think, I've probably cried more, just thinking of how, wonderful this family is, it was so great to have, Daniel Gonzalez come down, and he was such a comfort, to me and to Margie, as you know he lost his wife, last September, and then just to, there's a Christian nurse in the

hospital, that got us in touch with the two pastors, of the Evangelical Church here, and they have, really been so helpful too, with Margie giving her a place, and Antonio the wife of Panto to stay, and also Steve Hart and Mike Evans, and really just, we've heard that the believers in Spain, were praying, even the first night, and every news item we've gotten, it's, as Margie's heard from quite a few, by telephone, dear George Miller, who's tried everything to get here, but couldn't find his passport, but, he seemed to have, gotten in touch with, almost everybody in the world, just had a telegram from Greg Livingston, saying they were praying and fasting, and loving us, and so we really, it's marvelous to see, how many are concerned, in fact in some ways it, makes us sorrowful that so

many, have to experience sorrow on our behalf, I sometimes feel a bit like, Epaphroditus when he was sick, and he was a bit concerned, that everybody else would, be sorrowful on his behalf, so, I do pray your own hearts, will really be encouraged, I can say that most of the time, I've had real, peace, both Margie and I, real peace of God, in our hearts, in fact even last night, as I was thinking about what I could say to, all you dear ones at Sobbington, and I hope, this little message can be, perhaps it can be, duplicated and just sent to other teams, because I don't think I can dictate letters to everyone, at least not too quickly, but, I really can say that, whenever I've thought about any team, and I've thought about many, particularly those who've been injured in the past, can't help

thinking of Nan George, and the accident in Yugoslavia, and different ones, as I've thought about them, and about different teams, my heart really has gone out, and just, realized that, far better to be, right with God, and injured, than to have a, a spirit that's out of, out of joint, with the Lord, and I thought about married couples, I thought my how much better it is, to be disabled, or even dead than divorced, and I really pray for all our teams, and all the married couples, and all the young people, that each one of you would, would really walk on with God, I know in the past, I preached a lot about, perseverance, and I

probably have a new phase now, to learn a bit, especially in trying to, do a bit of therapy, and rehabilitation, I can say, I think the Lord really answered prayer,

the first night, as they were able to, get my back in position again, and that, I think was definitely an answer to prayer, at 2.30 in the morning, that Wednesday night, really thank you for those prayers, I really don't know how much progress, I'm making physically, we have to kind of wait and see, we are praying that, it might be possible to continue, the treatment in Belgium, so that would make it easier, to be near the family, and I trust to carry on, some ministry, when people come to see me, to kind of encourage them, and maybe help some, in my own assembly, and Bible study, and leading the assembly, but I do want to leave, this little message with you, you know the car that, we were using, which Case Roses kindly lent us, to give thanks, and I think most of you, know me well enough

that, I like to make little, expressions that go, with those letters, and as I thought last night, I thought about the A, and that surely must stand for all, and so often in scripture we read, God does all things well, all things work together for good, to those who love him, he's the God of all grace, he wants us to always give thanks, his grace is all sufficient, and though that car, won't be used again, I think that, that letter A, really needs to remind us of, the fact that God does, all things well, we don't always understand it, but he does all things well, and both Margie and I, and she's really been tremendous too, thank you for praying for her, and thank you for praying for the children, that God will do all things good, as they, fly back to Brussels today, and go back to school,

so that's what the A stands for, is all, and then I thought about the K, and I thought, that's knowledge, there's a lot of things I don't know, there's many things I don't understand, but God knows everything, he sees the beginning from the end, and like Daniel Gonzalez said to my wife, before he left to go back to Barcelona, he's taking the children to the airport, this morning I think, he asked her, do you have peace with God, and she said yes, and he says, realize that God knows it all, from beginning to end, we just see a little part of it, God knows all, and that's our confidence, and then what can I say about the X, I think the easiest way to say, no exception, no exception, God does all things well, his grace and goodness is always there, and is always the best, his plan is always

the best for us, his knowledge is supreme, and we rest confident in that, and there are no exceptions, and that's my little message of encouragement to you, thank you so much for all your prayers, and love, it really has been fantastic, thank you.

Hello everybody, this is Margit speaking, I had talked already once on this tape, but somehow it didn't record, when we tried it there was no sound, so here we go again, but I said how glad we are to be able to send a word, along with Steve, as he returns to Southampton tomorrow, it's been so good to have several of the brothers here, Mike Evans has come yesterday, and will probably stay on a few more days, also Daniel Gonzalez was here, and was a tremendous help, as many of you know, all of you know that he lost his wife Lily, only a few months ago through Leukemia, and I was especially touched by his encouragement, and his advice, and he felt very strongly that I should stay here, and let the children go back on their own, George and Steve and all the others felt the same, so I know

this is the right thing to do at this time, just a few minutes ago George was on the phone from England, and he had been in contact with many top specialists, in various parts of the world, and they agreed that it is good for Jonathan to come back to Belgium, apparently the centre there at Bruggemann is very competent, the question now is when, and this might be maybe in a week, or even before that, so please

pray that Jonathan's condition will stabilise, and we can then come back, there is a Swiss rescue service, private apparently, that has all the equipment for transport like this, and I could then come back on the same flight, but we realise the Lord is in control, and his timing is best, another thing that was where we were really conscious of the Lord's overruling, and working

things out, there is a little church here right in Guadalajara, which is rare for Spain, since there are so many cities and towns without any gospel witness, but the pastor here comes from Chile, but his mother was German, and the father Swiss, so he knows German very well, he translated and helped with driving us around to various places, to the police, and then looking at the car that was in the accident out on the road, and also they had us over for lunch the first day, and so it's really been so good to see how the Lord stepped in, through different people, and like Jonathan, we were so overwhelming, between laughing and crying sometimes, we are so touched of just being part of the family worldwide, also here in the hospital, the personnel has been very helpful, and I really like to

say in Spanish, we're learning a bit more Spanish, even Jonathan said he's picking up a bit more, and the nurses there in the intensive care ward have been very helpful, and the doctors, also at the telephone reception, really we've sensed that we're not just depending on men, but that God was in charge all over, even if we do not understand, also Daniel Gonzalez was telling me yesterday, or reminding me of the fact, down here our life is just a little bit, then up there he says, that is the real thing, and he asked me, Margie do you have peace, looking at me straight, and I said yes, do you believe God is good, God is mercy, that's how he put it, and I could honestly say yes, and he said for himself and his daughters, it seemed cruel in human eyes first, that Lily was taken, and yet he

says, on the other hand what blessing, and what deeper experience, and wider vision, broader understanding of God, and his plans, he said they wouldn't have missed it, and just talking with Mike Evans here, I hadn't known it as a little boy of nine, he was put in hospital for 19 months in a frame, because of tuberculosis in his hip bone, and afterwards another nine months in a cast, and Jonathan hadn't known about it either, he was so touched, and said so many of you have suffered more, than us, or than some of us, and yet God has a special plan, for each one of our lives, OK good bye.

As there is still some space left on the tape, here are some of the latest prayer requests, from George Verwer. I don't know how much information you have about Sri Lanka, but that visit was absolutely phenomenal, and I just heard the testimony, of one of the men converted to Christ, when I was in Sri Lanka, so it's good to get some personal encouragement, a communist Methodist, who you probably heard about before, gave his testimony on the ship, and I found out some things I didn't even know, and now how God is using this man. I made a tape also at Manchester, that same day I was there for the study program, on the ministry of Duloc, and if any of you, at times you have a few doubts, about the ship ministry, or the Duloc ministry, just listen to that tape, it's not one I made ten years ago, it's one I made just a few weeks ago, because I saw in Mexico again, just how God uses that ship, and the open doors it gave.

I was only there a few days, one of the days I was there, I was able to speak to over 200 pastors, and the Lord gave me, a very strong message, I was almost frightened to give it to these pastors, I thought I'm going to get in real trouble here, especially with my Spanish, but I gave it, and the response was overwhelming, it was accusing them, of not growing up as a church, and I gave my illustrations, how Mexicans pray for missionaries, Lord here I am, send some gringo to the farm field, they really took that well, I thought that was a dangerous line, and 104 of them signed up, and paid money for that cassette tape, which was in English and Spanish, I understand that tape is also going all over Mexico, in fact one

man stood up in the pastors conference, he said this message is needed in

every church in Mexico, we must spread it, and started preaching to everybody, to spread the vision and spread this message, you know the great problem in Mexico, is not just young people wanting to go, the greater problem is the church doesn't want to send them, there are Mexican young people, they want to go, not a lot, they want to go to the church, Muslim world, and this is a very radical message, but Dick Griffin feels that, his 25 years of labor in Mexico, is because of this, God wants to make the Mexican church, a missionary sending church, and it's got to be the church, it cannot be just a few renegade individuals, it's got to be the church, and pray for that, they've had some very good Easter crusades, in different parts of the world, one of them was in Mexico, it was exciting

and challenging, to be there again, so that's another item of prayer, and praise, you know when I get going about these things, so I could keep you here for a long time, a lot is happening, they've asked us to mobilize prayer, for the Argentina situation, I'm sure the British are especially praying, especially any of you in the reserves, but another major bank in Argentina, just folded, we have Argentinian young people on the ship, and none of us, we have Luis Perfetti down there, it does affect us, even though that is minor, compared to the total thing, but we can see the enemy, at work, in that situation, so let's pray, especially for that, and keep it in mind regularly, we'll try to keep you informed, if we have any news from the ship, I'd like to just also, continue to request prayer,

for Jerry Davies, he's got this very difficult knee, he's had a lot of pain, they weren't even able to do therapy, it was so swollen, he's operating from the house, with his telephone, and they have a number of real staff needs, in STL, John Dirksen, the head of the accounts department, gave me a note yesterday, and I could just tell, they really need somebody, they need also a computer, somebody to help on the computer, we do have a new sister, coming on our team in a week or two, as a secretary, I met her at one of the meetings, of earth invaders, she sort of was waiting for a letter from OM, just to tell her, come I'm a secretary, so we're encouraged by that, Vera my secretary, has been away, because of the death of her father, I talked to her on the phone, she's coming back, she'll

actually work with me in the states, for a couple of weeks before returning, and that will be a great answer to prayer, because Mayway has really had, almost double the work, Mayway's other sister, who works as a secretary, and I would ask you also, to especially pray for Neil Porter, who is on a three month, preaching tour at break, people like Jack Randall, we cannot give him a year off, we just cannot do it, so we give him three months, meanwhile Neil Porter is our team leader, Gary Dean heads out, for ministry in Pakistan, I was in Pakistan, I think you have heard that tape, part two of the North Africa tape, which ended up in Pakistan, I am very very excited about Pakistan, in fact the aim of my wife and I, is to go to Pakistan at the end of this year, or next year, and then one

month in Nepal, whether we can swing that, considering other factors, we are not sure, but we feel with now, over 500 people committed in the subcontinent, even when we bring the numbers down, we need to be out there, to just labor together a little more, with the brothers and the sisters there, I could go on, but I think that perhaps, is a good place to end, so don't complain, oh I didn't even hear that, there are all kinds of things I never hear about anymore, and today alone, I prayed for over 60 reports, that is really nice, for reading reports, and I had four semi drunk, incredibly noisy people, behind me, and with great joy, I put my earphones on, turned up the music, and prayed through reports, and I'm excited, because I can't keep up, not at all, it's good that the Holy Spirit has

far greater ability, in organization, coordination, follow up, greater initiative than any of us, and I can tell you, you may not think so, people are playing, people know that, you're in the battle here, and I know that Brother Ted Davey, in some ways, would like to move on, I think you all know that, I hope you know that, if you didn't, well I'm in trouble, but he would like to move on, but he did tell me on the phone, a couple of days ago, that maybe he should reconsider, another year, we have challenged one or two other people, the latest person we have challenged, is Des Harper, a dear brother, he's been one of the main leaders on Lagos, and he is praying about laying his Columbia Bible College year of study on the altar, if Zobington needs it, one or two others have been challenged,

people are not exactly jumping out of the trees, to be team leader at Zobington, but that's not because of Zobington, as some of you may sometimes think, it's because very few people feel that this is their job, this is their gift, and this is their ministry, to be a team leader of such a large complex team, that has a number of other leaders, they just don't feel they've got what it takes, it's not that this is such an unpleasant place, I will tell you my wife, a fair number of places she hasn't appreciated, she certainly always liked Zobington, we lived in one little room or so, down the end of the hall, and by the way, you'd all quit, except Steve, and maybe Edwin, and a few others, but we seem to have stuck a little bit in England, until our daughter finishes her schooling, is there

anything you'd like to ask, looking forward to being over here in the summer, with our coach, boy that is the greatest O.M. putty, that coach, if I get on my coach lecture, Edwin will have a heart attack, Ali went calling the other day, he was in some place where they had 20 coaches for Sam, he's narrowed it down to 6, he wanted me to come over right then, and look at all these coaches, I said look, but I had this Earth Invaders tour, and of course the whole tour through the Middle East and the coach, and I found it such an enormous help to have my office right there outside the place I was preaching, and making use of the time, also I'm the kind that gets emotionally involved in the driving and the navigating, now I go to the back of the coach, I close the door, the more they get lost

the more letters I do, and I tell you for me it's a big thing for me to stay in that back room and keep my nose out of the navigation, because they do get lost, and we had a great time, we had 13,000 people and the interest in recruits has increased in Britain, we're under a lot of pressure as you can imagine to see the right people come, not just people, but the right people, it really proved to be effective, we could carry the literature, I hate to carry it, little dinky quantities of literature, and we just packed, the whole men's dormitory where we converted into books, we squeezed people in there between the books, and we sold 3,000 pounds sterling on that one trip of books from the bus, so it's really like a bookmobile, we really were encouraged about that.

Well let me close in prayer, and I hope you will take those requests in your morning prayer time, I'd like to somehow be able to spend a little more time with the Lord's plan before I go back to the night, I go off to the States, my itinerary should be floating around here, and I would really ask prayer, Bethany Fellowship Church Sunday morning, St. Paul Bible College, first time ever, Monday, one of Mickey Walker's churches on Sunday night, Mickey's probably going to stay in the States another year, he really wanted to go out especially to Mickey Walker, base out in Taiwan, so it seems that he may stay in the States for a little longer period, and then I'm at a missions conference of the first federated church in Des Moines, Iowa, and I've heard that this is one of the most aggressive missionary minded churches that are just looking for mission groups to get behind, those groups are not going to go there, I'll be speaking twice every day for five days, a lot of it on television around one city, I appreciate prayer for that, my wife's going with me, and then a number of other churches and cities, Denver, Cedar Rapids following up on the conference we had

there a couple of years ago, and then on to Roger Molstad's church in Durango, Dallas, and I said hey I'm coming to your wedding, imagine I was in England and they sent these wedding invitations out, it's always just sort of a token, send one to George Burwell, and if your wedding's in New Mexico, you don't expect anybody to come except perhaps a few Indians, and I said I'm coming to your wedding, and the nostalgia of your own wedding comes, you sit there repenting for being such a lousy husband, sort of a rededication. Let's pray.

Father we thank you that we haven't just come to focus on this crisis, but that we can focus our hearts on the great challenge you have set before us. We think of Stephen launching out into this challenge in the streets, the next minute he's stoned to death, and that didn't stop the church one inch in that day. He could have prayed for deliverance, maybe some did, but he died, and many others died, much other blood was shed before that gospel went to the ends of the earth.

So Lord we pray for India, we pray for Pakistan and Bangladesh, we pray for Dulas and Lagos, we pray for other missions like our brothers and sisters with youth with a mission, their ship seems to now be slowly getting ready to go. Thank you Lord that we're all in this together, and we just rejoice together, what you're doing. Strengthen men like George Miley, Dale, Fritz, strengthen Frank Dietz, Alan Adams, strengthen Lord's sister Manjula Shaw, we're all out there in India with all those women, Linda, Lord you know every need, you know every situation, just as it was in the New Testament sometimes some get left out in the distribution.

We pray you help us to sort out our problems within OM, that everybody might get included in the distribution, the fellowship, the love, the reality that we believe is flowing by the power of your Holy Spirit. Thank you for this time together.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/19/SID19967.mp3>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/george-verwer/jonathans-accident-in-spain/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net