

# Lukewarm No More - Part 10

by George Verwer

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*The speaker emphasizes the importance of prayer and mobilization in mission work, highlighting the crisis in mission work and the need for specialist missionaries in India.*

**Duration:** 7:48

**Scripture:** Matthew 9:37, John 20:31

**Topics:** "Lukewarm"

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## Description

In this sermon, the speaker shares his personal testimony of how he came to faith in Jesus Christ during his high school years. He organized a meeting at his school where he shared about Jesus, and his own father was among the 125 students who responded to the invitation to believe in Jesus. This event led to the birth of a movement known as Operation Mobilization. The speaker also talks about the need for young people to get involved in missions, particularly on their ships, where various ministries are based. He emphasizes the importance of prayer and shares how prayer has been a significant part of his life since his conversion.

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## Transcript

I was saved in that meeting and went back to my high school and I started some prayer meetings. I started to distribute scriptures. By that time, I'd become president of the student council.

The principal was a little nervous about me. I intimidated him into letting me give out Gospels in the high school if the students would promise to read them. 1,000 students in my ungodly, drunken high school promised to read the Gospel of John.

And a mini revival hit that school because that lady had been praying for that school for 15 years. And as you're surrounded by high schools and other schools, I hope you'll realize they are mission fields just as much as Mongolia, Central Asia, and the ends of the earth are mission fields. And we need to be praying for our high schools because if we don't win them to Christ by the time they're 17 or 18, the opportunity to win them gets much, much smaller, maybe 15, 20%.

We organized a meeting, about 600 of my fellow students came. I got up there in fear and trembling. I didn't know how to preach.

I shared about Jesus. My father had slipped into the meeting. He wondered what was going on in his son.

When I gave the invitation, 125 students stood up to believe in Jesus. And among them, my own father. And a movement was born, which later on in Europe, when it exploded and developed very deep roots, became known as Operation Mobilization.

Tonight, I'll share a little more about OM. I've hardly talked about it this morning because I know you're already involved with so many mission societies and so many groups. And perhaps it can be confusing to bring information about one more.

But there is one thing that's a little bit different about OM. There are actually many things, but let me mention this, that Operation Mobilization has trained over 90,000 people and thousands of them, according to our strategy, in answer to prayer, thousands of them are working with other missions and churches around the world. So we're not trying to get people for a career or for life, but we have that side of our work.

But we want to get people for a year or two to train them in prayer, in reality, in relationship, spiritual warfare. We want to train them in evangelism. We want to work with them.

And OM is on the job training on our ships in any one of the other 70 or 80 countries that we're involved in. And I'd really ask, especially young people, please pick up some of the literature that we have available, and especially our little newspaper, because I don't have time to say much about this, but I believe it's important. And I really believe that some of you, about a year from now, you will be on one of our ships.

We need 150 single people. We need some married people as well. We have to keep the children's cabins mainly for the officers, the captain and chief engineer and all these people.

But we need 100 to 150 new single men and women that are willing to come to the ships, work in the engine room, work on the deck, work in the book exhibition. Ten different ministries are based on this ship. You can get an amazing book about it or a video about it.

And I believe at least one young person from this church is destined to be on one of these ships. I'll leave that. And go back to this text.

Help. The Macedonian call. Help us.

I represent thousands of missionaries. I represent many countries of the world this morning. And I come to you and I ask for help.

And just be real honest. Mission work is at a very crisis moment. There is a great shortage of finance.

Many Americans are not returning to the field. Many new Americans after two years' deputation are not able to raise the money. Meanwhile, some propaganda is saying, well, we don't really need American missionaries.

Some people have read books about that. Those books usually are focusing on one or two countries, like India. We don't really need so many foreign missionaries in India.

We can use a few, because Indian church has almost done nothing among the Muslims. There's 150 million Muslims. India is the land where my wife and I lived for a number of years, so forgive our little bit of a bias.

That land looks quite small, doesn't it, compared to Africa? Look at Africa. Look at South America. But India, that little country, has more people than all of South America and Africa put together.

900 million people. It's almost today a forgotten mission field, because in certain parts of India, here in the South, there are many Christians, thousands of Christian workers, thousands of churches, and when we hear that, we forget that there's 900 million. We forget that in the North, there's 150 million Muslims, some in the South as well.

How many churches do you think among 150 million? How many states in America do I have to put together to get 150 million? Texas, New York, California, Florida? 150 million, a lot of people, isn't it? Church does not yet exist among those 150 million, and the Indian church has not yet been able to mobilize many to work among Muslims. They tend to work in their own people's groups or a nearby people's group. That is changing, but so far, there's been no major breakthrough in terms of indigenous multiplying churches.

There are Bible study groups, a few. There are individual Muslim converts, praise God. Many have been given the gospel by radio, by literature.

We have reached 300, 400 million in India alone, but to reach Muslims, to see churches planted, takes a specialist kind of missionary. The Lord Jesus said, the harvest is plenteous, the workers are few, and representing India, I want to say, representing these 900 million, we need your help. First of all, we need prayer.

We need to mobilize prayer. Why are prayer meetings so poorly attended? Why are prayer meetings for world missions non-existent in some places? We need to mobilize God's people in prayer, intercessory prayer. It's hard.

Imagine my kind of character. Prayer is the natural thing that guys like me don't do. Hyper-pragmatic, let's get the job done.

Why is everybody sitting around? I find it hard even to sit through a one-hour meeting. Prayer is not my thing, but I testify that since my conversion, I've hardly missed many prayer meetings every single week, almost since my conversion. Of course, I had to start some of them myself, because other people weren't doing it, and now we have our nights of prayer that has spread all over the world.

And I believe with all my heart what the word says in Corinthians, the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty unto God through the pulling down of strongholds. And just as that lady who prayed for me set the example, I believe prayer is God's way. And it was when I was 17 or 18 years of age, I prayed to God, Lord, I was a little extreme.

I said, God, I only want one thing in life. I want to know how to pray. And I got involved in the most exciting, fulfilling career you could ever choose to be involved in, a missionary.

So in a bigger sense, we're all missionaries.

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