

# Missionary's Place as a Servant

by George Verwer

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*George Verwer's sermon highlights the essential role of humility and servanthood in missionary work, following the example set by Jesus.*

**Duration:** 46:40

**Scripture:** Matthew 6:33, John 13:4-8

**Topics:** "Servanthood"

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## Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the importance of serving others, using the passage from John 13:4-5 as a strong example. The speaker highlights how Jesus humbly washed the disciples' feet, demonstrating the challenge of being a servant. The sermon also touches on the need for Christians to share their faults, sins, and failures with others, as this helps people relate and find healing. The speaker encourages believers to evangelize the world by actively getting involved and reaching out to those in need.

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## Transcript

I'd like you to turn now to John chapter 13, the Gospel of John chapter 13. It's good to have this time with you. There's so much to share, so much to pray about.

In the last couple of days, I've just had it more impressed upon my own heart, it's been building up actually over a couple of weeks, that the whole aspect of the missionary as the servant is just more important than I think we have been able to emphasize in OM up to now. This has always been an emphasis. Some conferences it comes through stronger than others, but I think it has to come through stronger to get through to our hearts and our minds.

And I think this passage is one of the strong passages that helps us receive from the Lord the challenge of being a servant. We all know about the Lord's table, but we don't always remember what happened starting at verse 4. He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments, and took a towel, and girded himself. And after that he poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, to wipe them with the towel with which he was girded.

Then cometh he to Simon Peter, and Peter said unto him, Lord dost thou wash my feet? Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter. Peter said unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. You know, sometimes it's harder to receive than it is to give.

It's harder to receive than it is to give. Because pride has an interesting way of intercepting the receiving of a gift. And in the age of the self-made man, we've had people leave O.M. because they just couldn't handle anymore living off people's gifts.

Even though the Bible says the laborer is worthy of his hire. It's hard for at least certain types of people, all of us perhaps to some degree, certainly at certain times, to just receive, you know, receive money from God's people. I've had quite a few people lately say to me, I want to go back and make money and send it to O.M. Of course, I've had a lot of people say that over the years.

I've never discouraged them completely, but it's more easily said than done. But it is often harder than receiving. Peter was going to have Jesus washing his feet.

So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was seated again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord, and ye say, Well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you.

Now you can take one of two paths, or both, as a result of that. You can institute literal foot washing, as the Grace Brethren do in the United States. They have literal foot washing.

I understand that they generally wash their feet very thoroughly before they go to that meeting. And the Grace Seminary, where George Miley studied, though he's not Grace Brethren by denomination, is a seminary of that denomination. It's a very great seminary.

It turns out a lot of great people. So that's not just some little freaky group that has a little kink about washing feet. For them, it's a sacrament.

Once in O.M., we almost got into foot washing. There's not much we haven't tried, by the way. I know that some of you feel now O.M.'s become very stodgy and conservative.

But I can assure you, almost anything you would challenge us to try, we've already tried it ten times. And sometimes with considerable degree of anguish. But anyway, when the mumps hit in 1963, when the teams were trying to launch out, we were in this terrible financial mess, and we were all trying to figure out where sin was in the camp.

The mumps hit, and the group with the mumps had to go into a separate part of the building in Switzerland. I wasn't there, thank the Lord. Were you with the mumps group, Roger, or the non-mumps group? I got on the turkey.

But I understand that my dear brother, who actually helped pioneer the work here in England back in 1962, Hosey Burke's big, heavy, huge, black brother, was in the mumps group. And he was in this group that were, what do you call them, quarantined by the Swiss health authorities. They were doing some heavy praying.

I think Ray Lynch was in there. And they were doing some pretty heavy praying, and they decided maybe there was a lack of humility, and this was holding up the finance, and getting the mumps, and whatever else was going. So they decided that to prove, or somehow to break the grip of the enemy, or the lack of humility, they would wash one another's feet.

And the rumor goes that Hosey was not willing for anybody to wash his feet. He felt it was extreme. But if you don't take that particular road, then you have to take the road that this is an example of serving, of humble service, and of doing the lowly task, the lowly task.

I have a feeling that without us realizing it in OM, there's an overemphasis on leadership. And I'm probably to blame. Most things go wrong, you can find me to blame somewhere.

And there seems to be a drive, and some of it is healthy, within OM, for people to be leaders, for people to have a position. And if you don't have a position, you probably won't even get a desk. And it's hard to work without a desk, much less you might not get a secretary, or a dictaphone.

I don't know what it is. I haven't studied it thorough enough. But there is, there's a lot more titles floating around OM than certainly we ever had in the early days.

And I'm not saying that these things are necessarily harmful. They can be neutral, they can be harmful, they can be helpful. But the key to the disciple, and the life of the disciple, is serving.

And especially as we go cross-culturally into difficult countries, they're not interested in our titles. And we have to go as servants. Now I think there's a possibility that Tom Brewster is going to be speaking in our September conference.

And if he speaks, I certainly hope he will speak along the lines of some of the things he has written about along this line. But I think in some of his writings, he has shown how much more effective it is, even when it comes to language learning, and working with nationals, and making an impact, even on the unconverted, that we go in a very dependent servant role. Learning the language, which esteems someone else higher.

They know what you want to know. Therefore you can esteem them. You can listen to them.

You can ask them to correct you. How many in your work here are asking your leader really, absolute honesty, to correct you? I'll tell you, in my role of leadership, the hardest thing I've ever found is correcting people. And I said, years ago, I said, Lord, I'm tired.

I'm not correcting anybody anymore. You take over that department. Now once in a while, I still do.

Send out exhortations, and of course the danger is when you ever try to correct anybody that you'll be wrong. And it's just not generally the favorite ministry of most people. I can remember in the history of OM1, even so long ago, people come along and have a very strong sort of teaching corrective role.

They usually make enemies fairly quickly. But that's complicated because someone has to be a leader. The church teaches that there is leadership.

The church teaches that we must be ready to correct and exhort people. And yet we're being challenged also to be servants. So I think the key is perhaps to ask what is the foundation? We're going to do a lot of things.

Perhaps also we have a lot of false ideas as to what a servant is. Is that a mouse that's just sort of walked on? That's not what Jesus is setting the example of because we see Jesus in his total life representing many, many different virtues, many, many characteristics. And some people need more grace to speak out and not to be walked on.

So there's a lot to learn and I don't have time to go into the details tonight. But I do believe that this is certainly one of the most challenging and exciting parts of the New Testament way of life. That we're servants and to do some dirty job, some mundane job.

It really bothers me when I pick up feedback. I haven't picked it up lately because I'm not plugged in. You think I'm plugged in to what's happening in Brownlee? Forget it.

I don't know what's going on. For all I know, some of you got married last week. I don't know what's going on.

You know, I pick up some things. But I had to purposely turn Brownlee off in order to do the job of serving the whole body worldwide and the ministry that God has put me into. So, you know, I'm not informed that much about everything here.

But I can tell you that it always bothers me if there are people in L.A. who feel they're being used. They feel they're being given the dirty jobs, the mundane jobs. I don't think any of you have done mundane jobs probably much longer than some of us who are in leadership.

And some of us, we would love to spend hours doing some of this mundane work. Today, I just spent a little bit of time digging up, cleaning up the front of my new office. There's a lot of timber and garbage there.

I finally got a skip. I was bawling in it in my hands, old bookie worms, and piling it in a skip. It's the best part of the day.

I mean, really. I almost... And, you know, don't think O.M. is using you. O.M. is giving you the mundane, boring job so that leaders can get on and do their thing.

What are the leaders in O.M. doing? You think they're saving up to buy a house in the mountains? Now, that part of things I do keep an eye on. I tell you, I have enormous confidence in the leaders and the co-workers in this work. I couldn't ask to work with a more pure-minded and honest, hard-working, loving group of people than I have, especially if we think in terms of what people really are and who God is and what life is really all about.

You know, there's nobody that's, you know, sort of making a stack on your hard labor. There was somebody who once criticized George Brewer because they went into the bookshop here and they saw this really nice, fancy bookshop and they found out the people in there were working for nothing. Now, we need to be careful when we communicate to people we're working for nothing because today, some of you, your expense money just to keep you going is more money than a lot of other people are getting even almost as a salary because we have a lot of facilities and our great goal here is not poverty.

Our first goal is not even simple lifestyle in case you aren't plugged in yet. Our first goal is world evangelism. That's going to cost.

That's going to cost and we're not uptight about what it costs to keep this army going and this army moving. But this person visited the bookshop and they saw all these books being sold, so they, the rumor got going, I don't think it went too far, that George Verwer was some, you know, big American somewhere had all these stooges running around working, making money, selling books and he was stashing it up. I probably shouldn't even tell that story because one of you is half asleep is probably thinking I'm giving my

testimony right now and it'll go into a prayer letter and you know, we'll have another cassette tape and memo to counter the rumor.

Endless rumors. But I think, you know, I think we need to just once again afresh realize we serve the Lord Christ. I don't have the exact reference but I know that's what it says.

I remember it from a preacher when I was a student at Moody. We serve the Lord Christ. And I pray that you'll take those words from Colossians if necessary each day as you're doing your work, some of your work is routine, some of it may be boring at times and you'll say Lord, I'm doing this as unto you.

I have to keep saying that. It helps me. It helps me.

I'm doing this as unto you. And to see the privilege of taking the towel and if you ever get the opportunity to go out of another country to see that you've got to go out as a servant. You know, this is why some of the very clever, gifted people we've sent to India India have not done well.

And some of the people that we would evaluate as not so clever, not so gifted, not so well-educated, not so witty and sharp and boom, boom, you know all that which we glorify in the Western world, they've done a great job. The Indians have loved it. Good listeners.

Good servants. India is a land in which that's very, very, very important. And I think it's something God wants to teach us not through this little talk but a renewed emphasis over the coming months.

And what are the ramifications of this? What changes can we make in OM? I may be wrong in this, but I see, for example, in Spain, we bring people off the doulats. When the doulats comes into a port, it's a pretty important thing, isn't it? It's in the newspapers and publicity. And I remember when I was on the ship, you know, you felt part of something and you felt accepted.

The people generally took you out and took you nice meals and the vice president of the country was there opening a book exhibit. I mean, never met so many important people as my few months, two years on the Lagos. And often the young people, even the newest recruit on the ship, and it's true in other parts of the world, they're asked to give their testimony and meetings and they're pretty important people.

Then they leave the doulats. Latin Americans, we drop them in Spain. You know the trouble we're having in Spain? One of them is that, of course, the Latin Americans are not always appreciated in Spain, just as the Americans are not always appreciated in Spain.

And one of the reasons we're not always appreciated Americans are Latin Americans, we get too many answers. We get too many answers. And we feel the Spaniards aren't fast enough.

Or we feel this. Or we feel that. Or we point out something where our country is better than their country.

And, of course, this doesn't go over too well. Now, let's forget about Spain. What about England? Because I'll tell you, some of us over here as internationals, we're making a mistake a week.

And it's sad. It's sad, really. And I would wish that the British people would be a little harder on us internationals.

And let us know where we're saying things. Yeah, among OM, you can get away with it. You may be able to get away with it.

You may not know whether you're getting away with it or not. But outside of OM, it's offensive to English people or Welsh people. And, by the way, it would be good if those of us who come from other countries could understand that Wales is not England, and that Welsh people are a nation.

They feel they are a nation, in a sense, and have a separate language and a separate country, and actually despise the British, generally speaking. And if you go north of the border, there's a border there, Scotland, you come to another nation called Scotland. Now they're all part of the United Kingdom.

The whole country is not called England. It's the United Kingdom, and it includes Northern Ireland, the most complex of all places. That's right.

And, you know, here we are, bombing up and down the high street, a great hodgepodge of internationals dressed like a bat-converted Beatle movement, and I just wonder sometimes how our testimony is. And I think all of us, from us in the United States, Other countries need to be willing for more correction. You know, how do you pronounce Worcester? You know, you read it? How do you pronounce it? And just be willing to be corrected, and just not argue with people, and esteem them, and we can learn off the smallest child in the street, we can probably learn something about culture.

I'm amazed at what I don't know about British culture. Maybe it's because I keep going in and out and get confused about what's British and what's Indian and what's Chinese and Russian and Polish, but I know one thing, this is where I want to have my roots, and I don't want just a superficial existence here, but want to be linked in and somehow encourage people and communicate with people and be a part of what God is doing here as a servant, as a servant. I was amazed at this Keswick speakers meeting when one of the top speakers spent at least five or ten minutes, he got up from his chair and served all the rest of us our tea, you know, a cup of tea.

He really spoke to me, I wouldn't dare give his name, one of the most well-known men in this country. You know, we were all eating your meal, you don't want to have to get up and break your meal and serve ten cups of tea, you want sugar, one or two, milk, you better just sit and eat. And this English outstanding churchman got up and just very politely, I don't even think in any way, entered his head he was being a great servant.

I think it was part of his lifestyle, part of his lifestyle. Learning to be a servant will not come through raising your hand in a verbal meeting and saying, Jesus, I recommit my life to you. It's going to take brokenness, it's going to take relearning habits, it's going to take a lot of things.

And we know when it comes to identifying and uniting with a culture that it's complicated because every nation has a number of cultures. What particular culture? The youth culture, the older culture, the conservative evangelical culture, Pentecostal culture, Brethren culture, you know, we're not saying it's easy. And it's first, of course, an attitude of the heart.

Well, let's just quickly shift gears. We want to go to prayer now and there's still another message coming, so relax. We want to go to prayer for the work of ICT.

I think the work of STL, personally, as one being involved in STL long before ICT ever existed, is easier to understand, at least it is for me. It's easier to understand, it's easier to measure. We get these tremendous sales reports at the board meeting.

I mean, it's very easy to see that STL is doing something. It's easier to understand. And when we get another check for twenty thousand quid to send to India, it's clear something is happening.

In turn, ICT is a relatively new thing and I think it's a little difficult to measure, except if you want to measure how much further we're getting into the red in trying to serve the rest of the body. Both ICT and STL teams are service teams and consist of a large number of people who aren't serving directly at the same time. But I thought if we could have a really good time of prayer for the ICT ministry and specific aspects of it, it would be really great and it would also help us to know a little better what we're doing.

And the area I want us to target in on in prayer is communication. One of the priority tasks of the ICT team is to serve through communications, through communications. We hear about a lot of letters going out.

We see typists banging away from morning to night. Don't any of you ever get a question, what's it all about? We hear little rumors about George Burr sitting on the train or in the bus or in the bathtub dictating letters and Vera slaving away typing letters and weaning the hours of the night. What is this all about? What are all these letters about? Who could anybody be possibly writing so many letters to? And I think if you thought then I would just give you a list of the people that we're corresponding with.

And you may want to write them down very quickly. And we want to pray for these people. New converts.

All the time there are new converts. Do they deserve a letter? What does it say about offending a babe in Christ? Better to have a weight around your neck thrown into the sea. And when new babes in Christ make decisions, at least they can get a form letter.

Yes, because of the lack of typist secretaries and general manpower, often we can only send a form letter to a new babe in Christ. You say a form letter? It's better than no letter. Because in a form letter you can often say, look, we wish this could be personal.

Most people understand if they saw 20 or 30 people come to Christ in the meeting that maybe they're not going to get a personal letter. We do write to some of them personally. So new converts, let's pray for the many people coming to Christ.

Many who come to Christ through the ministry of OM never get any single letter. Not one single letter, especially some of the fast moving programs. Now if the local follow-up committee picks up the ball, they can reverse that.

Then number two, letters to new recruits. Hans Strohm once testified he came on OM because when he wrote a letter he got a sane, sensible, and good answer from some leader. Every letter that comes in from a potential new recruit for world missions, firstly, not for OM.

Many of the people were involved in recruiting. I would say 75%, that would be a rough guess, 50-75% who are touched through the ministry of OM never come on OM because there's so many movements. It only takes a spark to get a fire going.

OM is a spark producing movement and all those sparks cannot possibly come back into OM for germinating or for being built up. So letters to recruits, whether they come on OM or not, letters to those making recommitments. Thousands of people have made recommitments to Christ just through the meetings we take in ICT, counting my meetings, Nigel's meetings, meetings some of you are taking.

And those people who make commitments need some kind of letter. And what happens is many of them write back and they need an answer. And it's a way of serving.

It seems at times that it seems at times ridiculous. It doesn't seem to be strategic, even in my own ministry when I think of all the things I'm supposed to be doing. It doesn't seem strategic.

One little letter, a little word of encouragement, a few pieces of free literature. But I think this kind of serving is important. Generally today people don't need you to serve them a cup of cold water.

They get all the water they want. They don't necessarily need food. They've got food in the age of socialism.

People have more than they know what to do with. But love, encouragement, thoughtfulness, you're not going to get this from the local man down the road giving out the dole. And this is one of the best ways we can serve one another, the ministry of encouragement.

Hebrews says that we should encourage one another to good works. Monthly backsliders. If 99 are going well and one is going off, where should our effort be? The one.

It's easy to say that, isn't it? That takes time. That takes phone calls. That takes tracing down addresses.

It takes chasing people around the world. There are a number of notoriously backslidden people out of OM. Now out of 36,000 not so many.

Our hearts are burdened for these people. We're praying for these people. We've got pictures of them but we often no longer have the address.

So that takes research, communication, correspondence, sometimes phone calls. But we wrap this as correspondence with backsliding people and it's wonderful to see someone coming back to the Lord. And often those letters and prayers of other OM friends have made the difference.

And then I've written here correspondence in connection with meetings. Oh my, what it is to line up meetings. Sometimes there are 20 letters involved in lining up one weekend.

Back and forth, back and forth, this thing, that thing. And it's all so mundane at times, so routine. Why can't we just have the meeting? Why do we have to line up the literature and the transport? Some of these groups want to know the exact train you're arriving on.

They want to know what text. They send you hymn books. They want you to pick the hymns.

You know, you're trying to, but it's all part of the work. I tell you, without the faithful people in your, behind your desk, it's just not going to go on. And then prayer requests.

People write us and they give us prayer requests. We want to pray over those prayer requests. We have to often answer them and send them a piece of literature related to that.

Then people write to us, just giving different categories, with special problems. I had another man last week pour out his heart, homosexual man. This is a huge thing to him.

The first time he's committed his problem of homosexuality to paper. Some other Christian leader recommended that he write to me about this. I guess my little tape on what the Bible says about sex is all

over the place.

It's a miracle I don't get more letters. And we've been able to send that man some very helpful material. Mark put that in the post last week I believe, where he had some of the material, and we sent it.

That man has already sent it back with a word of thanks. It's only four or five days later. Photocopied it all.

He said, unbelievably helpful. We have a gold mine of material here that people need. Don't think people have access to all this material that you and I have.

We've got books that cover almost every problem that you can imagine. That particular kind of letter, to answer it, I would not commit to tape. I would either type out personally or talk to him on the telephone.

I actually tried the phone tonight, it wasn't holding. People with all kinds of problems. The OM is a movement that has been free to share our fault and our sins and our failures.

And I tell you, people relate to this. People relate to this, because that's where people are. They're out there hurting.

There are more people hooked on pornography than you'll ever know. If I go on a meeting and talk about a totally different subject and mention one line about pornography, there will be people for counseling on that subject. Anywhere in the world.

Anywhere in the world. Personally, I'm not interested in counseling anybody on any sexual thing anymore. I've been doing it for 28 years.

People get the idea through this that I've got a problem. Think of my reputation. Think of the whole reputation of the movement.

But you know, I'd rather lose my reputation. I don't think we will because we've got God's protection and be able to help people with these problems. Just before I left on the trip to Spain, we had a little meeting.

What an encouraging meeting it was. Little mid-week prayer meeting. 50, 60 people were there and the man told me, they usually get 40.

So it wasn't just for our special night. What was the main thing? And I was just speaking about all these different countries around the world praying. We had a great time of prayer.

The young man came to me after absolutely hooked up to his teeth in pornography. He has tried every possible method to shake it. He just can't shake it.

And I heard a message by David Siemens on tape last week and I tell you it was the most honest message I've heard from an elderly Christian. He said if I were living in this day where so much pornography and so much free sex is just floating everywhere, he said I'm not so sure I would have made it. That was from an older preacher who lived in a different day when it wasn't just all jumping out the windows.

People still got in that trouble then but it was harder. It was harder. Today it's just a major thing.

So we're corresponding with people with all kinds of problems. Sometimes when people initially write us they put out feelers. They're not telling us the real problem.

And if they don't hear from us we'll never find out about the real problem. And then we're corresponding with prayer partners. These people are important.

That's why your prayer letter is important. Especially when you can put a little personal note on the bottom that you're praying for them. Do you pray for all your prayer partners? Well that should be just basic.

You don't have that many. I know some members have less prayer partners than we had when we launched out to Mexico, three of us in 1957. We didn't even know what prayer partners were.

We were just gathering names for people who seemed to be interested. We didn't have it all together back then. So you don't have many, which is sad, but at least you can pray for them all.

And then we have to correspond with them. And of course some can correspond with more people than others. We all have different ministries.

But there it is. That's the challenge. And then I put here were the share partners, the people who are sharing.

You know people give money to them and get nothing back. Nothing. Others at least get a printed letter and a receipt.

Soon the receipts will be put out by computers. That's always warms people's hearts. Computer, receipt, communicates about as much as a dead goldfish.

And I tell you, praise God, we've got people still turning out personal letters. And most leaders are turning out personal letters. But I tell you, that's not going to continue and it's not going to. It can't happen unless there are people who are called to the typewriter.

Now we're getting to the next message. I don't get a chance to talk to you that much so just relax. Three million people unemployed today.

Just had an interview this afternoon, spent an hour with another XLM, unemployed. But there are thousands of jobs. Thousands and thousands and thousands of jobs all over the country.

What's gone wrong? People get in a rut. People get in a rut. And you go to somebody, especially a big masculine probably, who believes that he's called to drive articulated lorries or whatever.

And you say, hey, what do you learn typing? This fellow just said it to me today. Well, I always thought that was a woman's job. I said, oh, I think actually the typing record for speed is held by a man.

It may have changed since I was studying. But he scratched his head. And, you know, I believe some of you are going to be on the dole within the next couple of years, really.

Going to be on the dole. It's a good experience. But if you learn to type, I don't think you're going to be on the dole.

And, you know, today if you study what's happening in the world, there's a shift in kinds of jobs. There's a shift in kinds of jobs. And if you can run a keyboard that starts at a basic typewriter keyboard and goes to computer keyboards and all kinds of other keyboards from the one that the airline counter has sitting there when you're checking in, it's all leaked.

If you can get those fingers of yours to run that little typewriter keyboard, you're not going to be unemployed unless something really weird happens. So I would challenge you, and I think we ought to challenge more people, to learn some of these skills that really are needed. And just think of Christian work.

Christian work is crippled with a lack of secretaries. This is really bugging me. Do you know that term? I think it's an American term.

It's crippled with the people with a lack of secretaries. We, you know, as leaders, we are the most privileged band almost I've ever seen in missionary work. I know many major mission leaders, a number who have no full-time really trained secretaries.

And I just think that this is an area where we need to pray and we need to do something. I don't want to take it too far, but it's serious. It really is serious.

O.M. is faced with a perpetual crisis of a lack of help in our offices. I face this with every country I go to. I don't know how many leaders right now are just crying out to God that somebody is going to drop out of the trees soon who can type and type right.

I mean, it's a skill. It's not a matter of just anybody coming along sitting down and typing. To type, you've got to know how to spell.

A lot of people, the moment you talk about typing, they drop out because they can't spell. Can't Christians learn how to spell? Is that so difficult? Now, some of us don't have to bother because we've somehow got through that channel, though I'm still trying to learn how to spell. And we are fortunate to have typists and have people helping us.

But oh my, the need in this area is enormous. So there are all kinds of letters, but without people with typewriter vision, missionary work is going to be held up. One of the things that we need to realize as we're praying for ICT, we're praying for the different offices because we want to do that as well, is that we are in a very complicated work where we have to recruit ten times as many as the average mission organization.

Ten times as many as the general organization. There it is. Because we've got short-term, long-term, mini-term, short terms a year, mini-terms a summer, it takes a lot of communication.

Plus on top of that we're in a literature ministry. Plus on top of that a film ministry. Plus all these other things that we're giving you this list of because we think it's important.

Share partners, prayer partners, next one I put is exoemers. Some exoemers for years haven't had a single prayer letter. Not a single bit of communication and it's because nobody sent them a letter.

We're trying to get this exoemers newsletter out. I tell you it's a long uphill pull. I mean to really get this letter out to 30,000 exoemers across the world.

We're working on it. We need your help. And then correspondence with other missions.

There's not a day we don't get communication from other missions. They want to hear back. They're asking us every question you can imagine.

How to do this? What's happening there? I think Roger Molstead's work must be one of the most misunderstood in OM. I think it's better understood now than it was three years ago. You cannot believe what he and Bill Bloom and his little department are trying to handle in terms of correspondence.

From Ghana, from countries we don't even work in. We don't even want to work in. And people want to know how to come out of OM.

And then we got to send them all the information even though we know in most cases they're never going to come because the possibility of them getting airfare out of a Congo to come to Belgium when their money isn't worth anything and none of the churches believe anybody should leave the Congo to go to Belgium anyway, is basically like a cow flying over a Bromley cell. And yet, what do we do with those letters? What do we do with those letters? We throw them away? They're people. We've got to answer them.

We've got to answer them. We've got to send them something. So there's that correspondence with other mission agencies.

There's correspondence with, I don't think there are many nations in the world, I can only think of maybe ten we're not corresponding with. Not just our office but total office communication. And then correspondence with the churches.

A major, major factor in OM's work is the relationship with the churches. Not only correspondence but telephone communication, telex communication, any kind of communication, duplicated communication, printed communication, it's all about. We can't write out a personal long hand letter to every church, what the financial policy is, we've got to get that thing printed, we've got to get it updated, we've got to get it corrected, we've got to get it in good proper English, then somebody's got to get it in an envelope, somebody's got to get it past the post desk with a stamp on it and out.

And even then you have to cry and pray that it will get there and not get dumped into the waste basket with junk post. And then there's correspondence with former leaders. I feel a great part of my ministry, one of the 100 things that's on my mind, is correspondence with men who are once leaders in this world.

I don't want them to think we've abandoned them because they're not leaders in OM now. Well, you know, goodbye, nice to know you. Do you like that philosophy? Goodbye, nice to know you.

No, we need to pray for them first of all, correspond with them. Correspondence is linked with many other things. Building unity, answering questions, general exhortation, encouragement, organization, finance, communication of the unsaved, unconverted relatives, thank you letters, communication with board members, communication with people who are on OM now.

What do I do when I get a letter from someone who's on OM now? I say, well, you're not a problem case, I only write to problem cases. And the feedback we get from people after they receive a letter, after they receive a free book, after they receive a free little leaflet, like what happened to the prayer meeting. I mean, it's staggering.

It's staggering. I share this with you this evening. I'm from my motivation, I already know all this.

I'm already too motivated. I have trouble going to sleep at night. But I share this with you that you may be motivated in what you are doing.



You've got to go back, you know, two trips, upstairs. Sometimes to my daughter. Sometimes she gets up early.

She serves the tea to me. And somehow, you know, we've got to be more motivated to be servants. And we've got to see that the work we're doing, it's not routine.

Sure, in one sense it may be. But it's a tremendous privilege. We're here to serve the body of Christ.

We're getting thank you letters every day. I can't read them all to you. I've already gone too long now.

We're getting thank you letters every day. Thank you for that book. Thank you for that letter.

Thank you for this. People are so thrilled. Why do you think a lot of the money comes into us? I would estimate tens of thousands of pounds come to us purely as an expression of thanks.

A lot of the money I receive. And it's tens of thousands. Expressions of thanks.

People are grateful. We've helped them. They've been saved through our ministry.

Their life's been turned upside down through that book, through that tract. They've been encouraged through that letter. There are people who were contemplating suicide and didn't do it.

Because they got the right tract and the right book at the right time. This is not a game. It's not a routine thing.

It's not just sort of a year of somehow getting broken and going through some kind of training program. This is one of the most privileged positions we could ever be in, all of us together. It's not George Burr doing strategic things and the rest of us, you know, we're sort of just humming along barely getting up in the morning and counting the days we can get out and get into something strategic.

No, this is exciting service for Christ. And there's all kinds of other ramifications. What you do on the weekends, what you do in your own churches.

I'm not excluding that. But don't think, what I do on the weekend, I go out and evangelize and I'm winning people to Christ and I'm relating to people. That's really spiritual.

But what I do at my desk, what I do here at the typewriter or the telex machine or handling the post or packing the books. Well, it's got to be done. Somebody has to do it.

No. And cleaning that floor and those washbasins which need it every week and those toilets and the paper that we all should be picking up whenever we see it in front of these buildings so they don't look like the dirtiest buildings on the whole street. It's all a way to serve.

And I'm excited about that. And if I can work it out, I'd be happy to take any one of your jobs at least for one or two years. I'm not sure I can work that out.

Let's pray. Let's just go right to prayer. I really believe this was God's word for us tonight and I want us to go right to prayer for all these people who we have to communicate with.

And God knows even after all this, if you're feeling miserable and dull and depressed or confused, just praise the Lord because He can meet your need. He can light a fire in the greatest refrigerator and your

heart cannot be excluded. So let's just thank Him and praise Him and pray with all of our hearts all of our hearts for all this communication and all the people involved in it.

We'll pray for one another, people who are receiving it, all the processes involved, the telex, the printing. Let's touch every area of this ministry. The lineup, the people going out taking meetings, the books, the book room, the mechanics to keep it all mobile.

Let's touch all the aspects. The hospitality, it's all interwoven. If I spoke on how it's all interwoven, we'd be in other hour.

We can't do that now. Lord, guide us as we pray. I really believe, Lord, that you want to revolutionize our attitude toward our work, toward one another, toward the world, toward being a servant, toward taking up the towel and washing other people's feet, spiritually, sometimes practically.

And Lord, may there be a baptism of Holy Ghost humility upon our hearts without losing our initiative, our drive, our passion, our convictions, but with it. In Jesus' name, amen. Let's one after another lead in prayer before we perhaps break into groups.

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