

No Compromise 3

by George Verwer

George Verwer emphasizes the urgent need for mission work in Europe and encourages personal commitment to outreach efforts.

Duration: 59:00

Scripture: Matthew 6:33

Topics: "Compromise"

Description

The video mentioned in the sermon transcript depicts real people who are suffering from war, starvation, and torture. It highlights the incredible need for both material and spiritual help in various parts of the world. The speaker emphasizes the importance of being a visionary and having a ministry of mobilizing others for missions. Additionally, the sermon emphasizes the importance of sharing one's faith and multiplying the ministry and vision for the future.

Transcript

I wanted you to just get this little impact here on our last day together, that Europe is also a mission field. And I believe it's a great mission field for Kiwis, because many of you have European roots. How many of you, your grandfather, great-grandfather, great-great-great-grandfather, somebody came from Europe? That's about 90%.

So I think you ought to go back there and have a little, you know, roots experience. But you may not all want to flock back to Great Britain, where many of you have roots. Europe is now one, supposedly.

You may want to think about the more neglected countries. Great Britain has ten times more evangelism than Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece. You can't even describe these places.

They have 1% of the witness you have here in New Zealand. And you have a long way to go here, right? So what are we going to say about Greece, Italy, Cyprus, Turkey? We've already mentioned. That is one-tenth of 1%.

One-tenth of 1% of the witness you have here. As you move up, you have Albania, where God has really opened some amazing doors. Even our little youth teams in Albania have been able to plant churches.

And all of Eastern Europe is really opening up. But the work is small in most of those places. Sometimes you hear an occasional story about one church, where, you know, things are really happening, which is

great, but it gives a distortion.

Eastern Europe is in a desperate state. And the church in a number of countries is not growing. There's massive legalism in many of the churches, which is turning off the young people.

So young people are leaving churches in some parts of Eastern Europe. The country I was at just before I came here is the little land of Belgium, right here. You go through the tunnel, I travel around in a 30-year-old converted bus, loaded with books, and the whole team can sleep in the bus bunkhouse.

We went through the tunnel over to Belgium. French-speaking Belgium, again, would have maybe 1% of the amount of witness you have here. Another similar unreached place is Austria, though a tough place.

They speak German in Austria. Belgium has two languages, French and Flemish, which is almost the same as Dutch. Denmark is the most desperate country of Scandinavia.

The other countries of Scandinavia have fairly live churches. They're small, and we see workers come from those countries. But Denmark is one of the most hedonistic pagan nations in the world.

So there's a little bit of the challenge of Europe, which goes right over into the Ukraine. Part of Russia is in Europe. And you see this little bit? When I first got this old bus, I got here in Britain, drove through France, down through Spain.

It broke down quite a few times. And then we went on a ferry here. Then we went through all of North Africa, got to Tunisia, popped back to Sicily, went up through the boot of Italy, another ferry here, down through Greece, visited the YWAM ship in Greece.

It was a long time ago. Then we got on another ferry down to Cyprus, got over to Syria. Then, of course, we needed another map, but we ended up in Kuwait.

Thank you very much. Let's give them an applause. Whoa, whoa.

Talented young women. I do think I'll take this off now. How many of you, let's be honest, let's be honest.

How many of you have some financial problems? You can use a little prayer for your financial situation. You got a few bills? Raise your hand. That's about 75%.

So you can join my club. I'm broke. I arrived back in London with big debts, with people moaning, why am I away so much when we got these bills to pay? And I know this is one of the reasons some of you haven't gone and picked up some of our books because you're already in debt.

Some of you, of course, you don't read and you're going to repent of that. Make that commitment to read through the Bible once. George Booth has launched the inflation buster of the decade.

If you buy any book on our table, and that world-class Christian is only, I think it's only \$5. Let me just double-check it. My little specs here.

\$5. Paul Barth was a world-class Christian. If you buy that, any book on the table, they might be gone by the time you get there.

You can have this power pack free of charge. Only while they last. It's not enough for everybody.

Five books. Normally \$5. Free with any other book you may want to get.

Instead, challenge admissions. We mentioned, didn't we, Oswald J. Smith. Also, on top of that, we're giving you another free book, Going On With God.

It's just a very basic book that will follow up on what the Spirit of God has been doing here, mainly for younger Christians, but an excellent book by Homer Duncan, Going On With God. So all of that for \$5 or any other one of the books that you want to purchase. What are some of the other books we've been trying to emphasize? Also the tapes.

OJ has set up a special table of my tapes. If you buy one of those tapes, you can also have that Inflation Buster Packet free. Don't just stand there.

Pray something. Something could revolutionize your prayer life. Priority one, we've already mentioned.

There's my own book. Maybe you want to follow up on some of the things I've said. Revolution of Love, one side.

Hunger for Reality, that brought me 25,000 letters on the other side. Let's pray. Lord, I need your help.

My voice is a little bit weak this morning. Thank you for this tremendous sound system. Help me to make use of it by quieting down a bit.

I thank you, God, for what you did here in the last couple of days. Thank you for so many churches that are committed to your word here in MZ. Thank you, God, for different ways that you're working.

And I thank you, Lord, for the privilege of having been here, having learned so much from different people, from books, from jogging around the streets, going through the indigenous woods, seeing all kinds of weird things that I haven't seen in other parts of the world. Lord, I just thank you that you do answer prayer. Help us now to make intelligent decisions this morning as we look into your word together.

In Jesus' name, amen. Let's again remind ourselves of what the Lord said. The harvest is plenteous and the workers are few.

Matthew 9. It's repeated in Luke 10. Let's remember the prayer we looked at last night, the prayer of Isaiah. Hear my Lord, send me.

Let's remember that great commission, go into all the world and preach the gospel to every person. Let's remember those words of Jesus. As the Father sent me, so send I you.

We are God's sent people. We are God's sent people. This summer, you're going to be sent across the street, across the beaches, across some of the great towns of your amazing island nation.

Look at it. There it is, right there. I tell you, that will always now have a special place on my heart.

As I go around the globe with my globe, I'm going to tell people about New Zealand. You'll probably get massive increase of tourists as I go around promoting New Zealand and you could tell your tourist board to try to send me a little bit of a commission. And then we looked at Acts 1.8. The Holy Spirit has come upon you.

You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth. And of course, we've been talking about many, many different nations. I did mention India, but I certainly didn't say much about it.

In a sense, my favorite country where my wife and I lived for a number of years. And if I were in New Zealand, considering spending some time somewhere, say a year or two. We even have a program in India for people wanting to be involved six months.

India is the country I probably would choose. Because India uses English prolifically. Even Indians, when they have campaigns, often preach in English.

They're so used to interpretation. They're lightning fast. I've had two interpreters speaking next to me of two or three languages simultaneously.

And I speak fast, so the three of them together are faster than the average slow type of speaker that we have to listen to in some places. So India is an exciting country. 900 million people.

Now, the Indian church is on the move, so let's remember that. We have 700 workers, longer term and short term. Most of them are Indians.

We have internationals as well. But certain parts of India and certain people's groups in India are completely neglected. 900 million, if you throw in Pakistan and Bangladesh, two other key leading countries, and Nepal to the north, Sri Lanka to the south, you have over 1 billion people.

That's just India. There was a woman here last night who's actually going for a month in Bangladesh. Where are you? Are you here this morning? Yeah, stand up.

One month in Bangladesh. Let's pray for her right now. Just stand up.

What is your name? Louise. Lord, we just pray for Louise. She's going to one of the stretching, most interesting, challenging, mega-motivating, overpopulated, suffering nation in the entire universe.

And we pray that she'll not be intimidated, especially by my prayer, but that she'll be filled with the Holy Spirit, and you'll use her, and she'll be a blessing to the Bangladeshi people. In Jesus' name, amen. I was in that country when it was being born.

The troops were in the streets. The whole country was coming unglued. It was the middle of a war.

There wasn't much fighting right at that moment. We went down the road in a little motorcycle thing where you sit in the back of a motorcycle with a big box of gospel booklets in Bengali, just pitching them out privately. One of the amazing things about these countries is they go bananas over literature.

They go bananas over literature. They'll fight over it. Even a tract, much less a booklet or a book.

We talked about the 1040 window. And again, I want to emphasize, I talk about these nations because I believe these places are on the heart of our Lord Jesus. One of the dangers, as we talk about North Africa, we talk about some of these other countries in the 1040 window, Afghanistan, Turkey, one of the dangers is that we can scare people.

And I think maybe some of you, to be honest, you're frightened at the thought of living in one of these countries. And I hope you'll understand the Lord has not given us a spirit of fear. But of love, power, a sound mind.

I am also a somewhat fearful person. I am not Mr. Bold. And all of us struggle with different kinds of fears.

But I want to say this, mission work was a lot easier than I ever dreamed. In fact, I've enjoyed 40 years of it. I'm sort of the first kind of person.

I guess the way I am, I just enjoy things. Even when the Russians arrested me and put me in a lock-up, I mean, that was a great experience. We were singing songs, the Russians ended up singing songs with us.

I made a lot of mistakes in India. Due to my own stupidity, I also got arrested in India. Because in India, I wanted to make a quick buck, and so I was selling my possessions.

And boy, they were selling well, just like this jacket's for sale. But in India, you're not allowed, as a foreigner, to sell your possessions. Not only was I selling my possessions, I got everybody who came with OM India to sell their possessions.

I even had a verse, Except you forsake all, or you can't be my disciple. Then when I discovered they didn't have that many possessions, this is where I made a big mistake. I got everybody going to OM India to buy possessions.

I bought them for them, gave them to them. They brought them through customs. They declared them.

It was legal, as far as what we thought smuggling was. But when we started to sell those possessions, even though they were declared and legal, that was illegal. So my friend had a major customs raid, big raid.

They thought they had a big smuggling operation in Bombay. The police, the whole thing. My wife was there.

I was off preaching somewhere. My friend, who was my sort of number one man for handling money, he got arrested. He got thrown in jail.

I flew back to Bombay for my preaching ordeal and really didn't know quite what to do in this situation. Everything was confiscated. It was in the newspapers.

At that time, two of our best leaders were killed in Europe and I wanted to go to the funeral. And as I made plans to go to the funeral and told the police, the customs, they arrested me on the spot because they thought I was running away from the crime. Well, it was good in a sense because I really was the guilty party.

He was acting on my behalf. How many of you have ever been in a real good court case? You've been there sitting. You're guilty.

Maybe with your wife going at you for divorce. That's always interesting. I'm praying, Oh Lord, I never want the wife to go at me in a divorce court case.

Thank you, Jesus. Do you think that's over the top to pray that? Thank you. I knew you were sort of with me this morning.

Hello! It's early for some of you. I know you went to bed. That is the weirdest boxing arena I've ever seen in my life.

I should have known I'd have to come to New Zealand to see something as weird as that. And I don't know how many have died here, but that is certainly unusual. Anyway, in court we eventually had to plead guilty.

Meanwhile, my name was put on the black list and it has never been off. I've never been legally allowed in India for 29 years. Talk about a fiasco.

You know, maybe I am God smuggler, but it's not supposed to be that style according to what we read in the word of God. But all during my years living in India, I can honestly say I loved it. Now, the cockroaches were a bit, you know, a bit of a bother.

You know, when they came in big numbers and I saw my wife being carried out the door, I felt that was a little bit over the top. That, by the way, never happened. Cockroaches are basically a frighten of you.

Especially if you have bright eyes, they don't like light. So you just look at them and boom, they'll scatter. You can feel really powerful, you know, in the name of Jesus.

Cockroaches, you know, all rushing off into the dark. By the way, the latest horror film, it's probably not in New Zealand yet, it's about cockroaches. Have you read about this? I'm a bit of a film buff.

I wouldn't want to tell you how many films I've watched. But I tell you, this thing with cockroaches, you don't want, if you're just, you know, a little bit sensitive, if you're not sort of a gorilla, eat cockroaches for breakfast and stick them out, then you probably don't want to go to this new film. You might want to try the redo, you know, of Star Wars.

You might be able to handle that. That's also, I think that's already here. What are we on about here this morning? Well, if you don't know that we're here looking for recruits, you must really be short on the upper story.

I want to give you five reasons, five reasons, why I believe you should spend at least two years, if you possibly can. We know God can't stop you. We believe in providence.

We know some of you may be in heaven by next week. Trust you're all ready to go. I tell you, you listen to Ray Comfort, I guess listen to his tape and you make sure you're ready to go.

Guy's a, he's a hardball player. Whoo! How God in his wisdom could give a guy the last name of Comfort when he goes around with that kind of message is totally beyond me. It's totally beyond me.

Might as well call me George Jackass, but I want to give you five reasons why I think you should go at least for a couple of years. Now the same reasons are valid why you should send others. And some of you are catching that sending vision.

And you're starting to give money to world missions, even a small amount. You're starting to pray for workers to go. Some of you have had the discernment to pick up that book Operation World.

And if you can't get one because you can't afford it and you're legitimately interested because you're getting, you're getting this vision, you're into what we're talking about, you write to me. Many of you have my address. I will send you a copy as a gift.

But that book is a life changing book. Five reasons why you should go. If one year from now you write to me and send these five reasons on a piece of paper you get five books back.

So try to save your notes. Don't lose them. And one of the things, I wish I could talk to you about is what I call personal dynamic redeem the time organization.

We all need to learn to organize ourselves. And women, if you meet a guy and he's real cute, he's real nice, got a lot of zap, you want to marry him. If he's not organized, forget it.

Forget it. He will drive you right out of your mind. You eventually someday will reach in your drawer, pull out a revolver and probably blow his brains out.

Of course, you'd have to backslide pretty bad first. Young man, young woman, learn to organize. Have a system for addresses.

Have a system for filing papers. Have a system for not losing your keys. Have a system for waking up on time.

Have a system to make sure you get washed at least every other week. Have a system not to lock yourself out of the car. Have a system so you know how to make phone calls.

Get into email as quickly as possible. Learn to be tidy. These are basic things that people need to talk more about.

Because I tell you, the average evangelist, even the fish, even the spirit-filled ones, they're often slob. Well, that might be a little of exaggeration, you know. What's the first reason you should go? Because the need is so incredible.

Now, I'm not giving this in order of importance. We have only touched on the need. We've seen that film with those people.

Do you remember the people in that video? They're real people. Torturing themselves, starving to death, stuck in the midst of war. But the spiritual need are greater.

The spiritual needs are greater than the material needs. That's why sophisticated Europe is still a mission field. Some of you might want to consider coming to Great Britain.

Maybe you feel that Turkey would be a little tough for a first step. Maybe you feel you're a little bit of a softy, and you like that sort of English culture. Maybe your parents were born there.

It's easy to communicate. England to me, when I got there out of Spain, even as an American, it was a Sunday school picnic. England is a piece of cake.

They're even driving on the same side of the road that you drive on. It's a piece of cake. You will enjoy England.

The weather is better than people say. We get sunshine. We get all kinds of weather.

One of the things you might want to do in England is work among Muslims. You have a few Muslims here in New Zealand. You may want to do it here.

But there are 1.5 million Muslims in Great Britain, from every Muslim nation in the world, even Saudis. We reach Saudis in the streets of London. You may want to work among other immigrants.

God may lead you to be in behind the scene work. Mission is not all street evangelism. It's not all preaching and teaching.

How many of you know anything about word processing? Raise your hand. It just blows my mind. I love it.

How many of you are into e-mails? I'll tell you, this is this generation. This is why this generation is my favorite generation. I just love technology.

Using technology for the kingdom. I was one of the first persons on the planet that had a cellular phone. It's a fantastic thing.

You won't even want to see my cell phone bill from the last 11 days. If any of you would volunteer to pay it, we'll give you a lot of books. We need people who can work in our computer department and every mission is the same.

We need people who are word processors and can help in other areas of communication. All kinds of people are needed. In Christian ministry, it's often so hard to find secretaries or office people, organizers, helpers, like we talked about last night.

We can hear great stories of what's happening in different parts of the world. Korea, Argentina, South Africa, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, great stories. In a lot of those countries, a lot of things are happening.

But, in a lot of other countries, there is very, very little happening. We've talked about that. We don't have time to go into more detail.

The need is not the total picture, but it is an important picture. If you see, Oswald J. Smith used to describe ten people carrying a big, huge log. They're working out of the woods.

They're carrying this big log. Nine people are on one end of the log. One little skinny jerk like me is on the other end of the log.

Which end are you going to help? Julian, which guy are you going to help? He's going to help the other nine. No, he's going to help me on this end. And when we look at the world situation, only 2 or 3 percent of the whole missionary force is working among Muslims.

By the way, you have a number of outstanding trained colleges here. One of the leaders of one of those colleges was here last night. His name is Michael? Yeah, Brian Johnson.

He was here last night. He's taking one of my little tapes called Why Go to Bible College and is advertising it on what is that radio? Repta Radio? Rima, Rima, Rima Radio. Hey, I did a program with them 10 years ago.

I think they've got occasionally some good news. Anyway, I think they're going to advertise that tape free of charge to anyone who writes in from the whole of New Zealand. And when I went and spoke at that

college the other day, there were people there from all over the world.

You ought to go at least visit there. And I know there are other great colleges here. I've only spoke at three or four on this trip.

And for some of you, you might want to get some of that kind of formal training before you go for a couple of years. But we discover that many people benefit more from formal training if they get a little bit of field exercise and experience before going into academics. God needs different people in different ways.

God's going to need some of you to get into your father's or mother's business. Let me just be real blunt because I'm out of town tonight. If your father's a millionaire and he's offering you a chunk in a business, if you've got any brains at all, if you're, of course, going to be a mime artist for the rest of your life or your whole thing is teaching school and you can never do anything but teaching school, no business action in whatsoever, then this might be the exception.

But I'll tell you, if your dad offers you the opportunity to get into business and make money for the kingdom, I would grab it unless the Lord stopped me because it's a lot easier in my view to get New Zealanders to go than it is to get New Zealanders to give. And as I've been talking around here, some Christians have told me there are hardly any New Zealand Christians that have really big bucks. Whereas in other countries, Singapore, Malaysia, London, many places, there's lots of Christians with big money.

It doesn't mean I get much of it. And traditionally, mission work has been propelled forward by men and women who put their business on the altar and started pouring big money. Now, when you want to build churches here in New Zealand, then you seem to find the big bucks.

And you've got amazing buildings and your leaders have got really great cars and some of them are probably into prosperity, name it and claim it. I wish they'd claim a little bit for me, but it's usually mainly for themselves and that's great. But we're seeing a very tiny percentage of New Zealand money go out to the unreached.

What goes is usually to support basic, sometimes low support. So we need to be proactive about finance. This leads me to my second reason you should go.

Because though the financial challenge is a big one, there's lots of money in the hands of God's people. I wouldn't even want to tell you what our O.M. budget is today. It'd blow your circuits.

We started with nothing. In fact, when I first went to Mexico, the car, the vehicle we bought cost \$150. I mean it was junk and it broke down 200 miles down the road.

In answer to prayer we phoned these business people and people in the missions need to get business and professional people behind them and they put a new rebuilt engine and we got all the way to Mexico City. In fact that was 6,000, 7,000, 10,000 kilometers. Amazing.

We've seen God answer prayer for finance. Another way that I got money on that first trip, I was teaching Spanish. I was being paid a good fee to teach Spanish.

There was only one problem. I didn't speak Spanish. I had a very small knowledge of Spanish.

But I stayed one lesson ahead of my students. It was a bit of a con. One lesson ahead.

I was praying for money. I was driving home. This is a true story.

I was driving home. We still didn't have enough money. And a fox.

Do you have any foxes in New Zealand? Those little animals? Ah, you got to come to Britain and meet the foxes. Not the ones with skirts. I mean the ones with fur.

Anyway, in America at that time there were too many foxes so the police department didn't have enough money. They didn't have enough money. They didn't enough money.

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They didn't have enough money. They didn't enough money. They didn't have enough money.

They got a job as a truck driver. Temporarily, at least. People in word processing, they might be people people.

They want to be in counseling. They want to be in something where it's all people all day. Come on, you get in it a few years, you might change your tune.

But some of them have had to use their skills with a computer to hold down a job so that they could be part-time in other kinds of ministry. We need transferable concepts. We need transferable skills.

There's nothing wrong with working hard. There's nothing wrong with making money. There's nothing wrong with spending some of that money on yourself.

I spent some money on myself this morning. Probably a bit lavish. I could have had a free breakfast where I was staying.

Lovely breakfast, lovely home. No problem. But I wanted to get out for my early morning run, which is my exercise program.

To be quite honest, I get fed up after 40 years of running. Especially in the streets, I get a little fed up. So sometimes I put a little reward out.

My reward this morning was pancakes at McDonald's with extra butter and lots of syrup. One of my favorite breakfasts. I know some of you probably would vomit if you ate it.

But you know, I'm from the United States. And so I got the motivation to get out running with the hope, even though everything's closed. McDonald's are weird, they're different.

I went through the streets of Papakura, everything's closed, hardly any cars. You know, I thought the rapture took place. Here I am, alone.

McDonald's was open. Of course, they're unsaved, so they're all there left behind. I had a great breakfast.

Cost me \$2.25. There's nothing wrong with spending money on yourself. We get big hang-ups in the area of money. Then we start judging one another.

We get extreme prosperityism on one side. We get asceticism on the other side. I, as in many issues, try out for the middle road.

Moderation of what we see in the life of Jesus Christ, in the book of Acts, and people like the Apostle Paul. Let's learn how to live a balanced Christian life. Let's realize we're not called to just forsake all, unless we bring in the teaching of Philippians.

He will supply all. Isn't that wonderful? He will supply all. And let's realize one of the best words when it comes to finance is the word stewardship.

And as of this day, it would be wonderful if whatever money you have in the bank, whatever money you have, you say, Lord, I now sense you are the owner. I am the steward. I'm going to be as wise as possible how I use that money.

And if they gave 10% in the Old Testament, surely that would be a minimum standard for giving in the New Testament days. If you want to read great chapters about giving, why not try 2 Corinthians chapter 8, 2 Corinthians chapter 9, and I will tell you it will change your life. Surely one of the purposes that God has committed so much money into the hands of Christians.

Maybe there aren't many mega millionaires in New Zealand, but there's plenty of money in the hands of Christians. And one of the reasons is because we are responsible to evangelize the world. And that takes money.

I have several takes on the subject of resourcing God's work. Finance. The labor is worthy of its hire, and I'd be happy to send you some of these takes.

The third reason you should go is that not many people get as far as you have gotten. You know what I'm saying? Not that many people in New Zealand ever get into what you're into here with OJ. You are already really one of God's special Green Beret forces.

You've got this extra teaching. You've got this challenge. You're being exposed to books like Operation World and Priority One.

You're hearing people like myself and others who come your way. If you who are exposed to this challenge, if you don't go, who will? Somebody that's not even saved yet? Well, I hope so. Your older brother who's already in big business and never heard the challenge of World Mission.

He's got four kids. He's gonna suddenly turn around and go out to the mission field? I don't think so. If you don't go, people like you, in meetings like this, I don't have much hope.

Plus I know that many of you come from proactive churches. The whole OJ thing is tied in with local churches. It's beautiful.

It must be hard at times, but it's beautiful. So there is a chance that if you get the vision to go, and all that has to be prayed through with your local church, there is a chance they'll send you. Don't presume that they're gonna take care of all the finance.

That's a presumption. And even your initial contact with your church, you should say, look, I'm not sharing this with you because I'm expecting you to pay all the bill for me to go. I'm sharing this because I want to esteem the church.

Because I've been taught about Acts 13. And this is something I'm praying about. Don't just go and tell them you're going.

Your mother or father either. I don't want to be assassinated before I get out of the airport tonight. Tell them you're thinking about it.

Play it a little cool. That's one of the words I hear a lot about New Zealand. Cool.

It's one thing to talk cool. It's one thing to be cool. So with your parents, you need to be cool.

Just go a little bit slow, especially if they're non-Christians. Actually, non-Christians give a higher rating often of our two ships than Christians, when it's presented in the right way. It's character development.

It's exposure. There's supervision. There's accountability.

There are organizations with 100-year track records. Oh, and we only have 40 years. So how you present it to your church, how you present it to your parents, is very, very important.

And God will do amazing things. If you don't go, who will? Some people criticize me because I emphasize two years. I believe that's very much tied in with where our culture is today and the complexity of our culture.

It's also tied in that for career missions, for career long-term missions, we do need a special breeze. And I believe the best way to find those career people is when we can see them on the field for a year or two. There are plenty of exceptions to this, just like George Booth, converted somewhat later in life with his wife, comes on our ship as a sea captain.

There are plenty of exceptions. If you don't go, who will go? Not that many people ever get this far. Another reason you should go, and this is going to help you relax because some of you are looking a little uptight.

How many of you had a good breakfast? You had a good breakfast? Pancakes, bacon and steak. What did you have for breakfast? You didn't have any breakfast? I knew it, you're looking weak. Here's going to liberate your heart.

As you begin to move, as you begin to go by faith, the Lord can stop you. The Lord can stop you. He is somber.

He's not going to ask you to do something and not give you the grace to do it. That doesn't mean it will all come out perfect because that's not the way life is. God wants the best for you, more than you do, more than you do.

So relax. Learn to cast every care upon Him. Being a missionary is not some kind of overseas evangelical punishment for kids that have been bad at OJ or in Sunday school.

It's a gift from God. It's a calling from God. It involves guidance from God.

It's a natural response to a world. Keith Green said, if God hasn't called you to stay, then you ought to go. I don't even agree with that, but it sounded great.

A little more complex than that, a little more complex than that. But one of the reasons you should go is because as you begin to go, others will follow. Others will follow.

You will have the ministry of being a missions mobilizer, distributing books, distributing tapes. You will become a visionary. Last night, traveling back in the car, I was reading a magazine about all these new elite cyberspace multimillionaire visionaries.

I tell you, it is convicting to read about them. Many of them were people of vision. One of the richest and most successful.

For five or ten years, he just went against the crowd in the computer world. They mocked him. They said it will never work.

And now, he's one of the richest men in the whole planet. Bill Gates is another one, but I'm thinking of another guy who I hadn't heard much about before. And as I read about his vision, and I read about what a visionary is, I tell you, God ministered to me in a heavy way.

If I had come to New Zealand and all I got was what God gave me in the car last night, it might be worth it. Because I realize, I don't remind myself, I don't think of myself that much as being a visionary. Other people do.

Part of being a visionary, I wanted to run away from a long time. It's discouraging. It's heartbreaking.

You're often misunderstood by your own people. And if you desire humility and you desire brokenness and biblical balance, it is hard to find the balance when you're a visionary, kind of a character like I am. And this Add13 vision has been burning in my heart, but many of my OM leaders have not taken ownership of it.

I have other visions like Operation Support Breakthrough, and this dream plan I'm just launching about how to see 10 million extra bucks come in for the kingdom. And I find that people sort of smile at me, and they sort of hint that it's not going to happen, or you're going to have problems in this area, problems in that area. And at my age, it's a lot easier to be a visionary.

It's a lot easier just to sit back and say, let the other guys do it. You know, I've been in it for 42 years, almost nonstop since the day of my conversion. There's a heavy temptation for me now, because I love to be alone.

I love to hike. I love to swim. I love to play golf.

This afternoon, I'm going to play tennis. I'm as human being as anybody else. I love to make more love to my wife.

I love to play with my grandkids. I love to do all kinds of things. I love to go to concerts.

I love to watch rugby. I got so many things I like to do. Most of it I lay aside in order to somehow fulfill the vision that God has put on my heart.

But there's a temptation that comes on me, and I say, I'm fed up. Let some other guys do it. Let, you know, why should I, another 10 years, go around getting my nose bent? Look at this, it's already out of shape.

And reading about these unconverted visionaries, who say they're going to do it. They're going to do it. They go bankrupt.

They get back in business. They're going to do it. The new generation of millionaires makes the last generation of millionaires look like nerds in retirement.

These are exciting days. Unfortunately, most of these people don't know Jesus. And that's why you and I need to get wired.

These people are wired. We need to get wired to Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We need to dream dreams.

We need to be visionaries. And we need to stand against discouragement, intimidation, any kind of diabolical cocktail that somebody tries to get you to drink. And we need to be ready for the long haul.

It's not going to happen in the summer. It can begin in the summer. We have churches, today, they grow to a thousand in a few years, and within two more years, it's over.

All over America, we have empty churches that once had a heyday. One of the biggest churches in California. Huge pastor fell into adultery.

The place emptied. We are so naive about what it is to be an Ephesians 6 soldier of Jesus Christ. You've got to put that armor on every day.

You've got to put that helmet on. You've got to put your shoes with the gospel of peace, I'm sure. You've read Ephesians 6. It was one of the passages I was going to read this morning.

We need to have discernment to understand the importance of being a mission mobilizer, the importance of being a visionary, the importance of, yes, sharing your faith, which is what OJ is about, but after OJ, also multiplying your ministry, multiplying the vision, so that next year you might have twice as many people back here to get this tremendous teaching and tremendous exposure. That you have a very unique event, even here in New Zealand. The final reason you should go, because of the grace of God.

When I first came and spoke in Wellington, I offered everybody a copy of Grace Awakening free of charge. I got a big pile of letters. I prayed for all the feedback I've had from the other conferences.

When I came here, I saw a much, much bigger crowd. I said, now, Verwer, please be careful what you promise to these people. George both already has enough little papers and things that he has to send all these books out.

Don't go around offering free copies of Grace Awakening. But this is my last day. This is my last day.

You want to go out with a bang, don't you? You want to go out with a bang. You want to go out with a fizzle. George Verwer was here.

So here's my bang. You take out a piece of paper right now. This is called Operation Feedback.

And this is going to be first go to you. You're going to take charge of this, not George Booth. He's overworked.

This piece of paper is from my friend, Mr. Scott, and his friends. On this piece of paper, you can say, Dear George, you can use my name. Number one, you can put a prayer request.

Be honest. Is there something we can pray for you about? Are you having a little struggle in lust, the way I am? Are you frightened of what your parents are going to say? Do you have some other habit? You've been picking your nose in the dark again. Well, don't share that.

Keep that one private. There's a great psychologist in Switzerland. He said, Everybody should have a secret.

Don't be afraid to keep a few secrets. Don't feel guilty because you have a few secrets. My wife says to me, We haven't got any secrets.

Because I go talking about, you know. Forgive me, Lord. I haven't got into that message, which is a message, on how to maintain sexual reality in marriage.

That'll have to be when I come next time. But I do have these plain wrapper books that I send out, plain paper Christian books on sex, drawings, the whole works that I send all over the world, mainly only to people who get engaged. I never forget when my wife and I were reading one of these Christian books about sex just before we got married.

Her mother came up. I'll never forget this. You shouldn't be reading a book like that until after the wedding.

Really heavy. And the grandmother came up. The grandmother came up.

Well, I think it's wonderful that they're reading all about that right now. Isn't that amazing? Praise God for grandmothers. If you would like to know more about the message of grace, I want to give you free of charge.

I'm going to send a couple hundred to OJ. I want to give you a gift book called Grace Awakening. This book was selling for \$20 in America because it's such a bestseller by Charles Swindoll.

I got my own edition, \$1.37 a copy. That is a major answer to prayer. And I want to send 500 copies to you and you can give them to everybody who requested with this little piece of paper this morning.

The grace of God perhaps is the greatest motivation and factor when it comes to missions. Don't think what I'm saying here is a contradiction to some of the things Brother Comfort has said. I believe when you're witnessing to certain kinds of people, you need to hit them with a log just like a giant cricket bat straight to the head.

But we're now talking about you as a believer motivated into missions. Even there I've made it clear that motivation about people going to hell without Christ is completely acceptable. It is not standing against the motivation, let the love of Christ constrain you.

It's not either or. Many of these things that seem to be a contradiction are actually a paradox. If something I've said seems in contradiction to something Brother Comfort said, probably it's more of a paradox and more of a difference in ministry.

And unless we understand this in the body of Christ, we will just multiply and multiply our divisions because we're never going to be united on the fine-tuning and the semantic factor and how all this gets expressed. Grace is combined with mercy. Mercy and grace are linked with the attributes of God.

Why is J.I. Packer's book, *Knowing God*, one of the most popular books among God's people today? Because it's a book about the attributes of God. Why are the writings of A.W. Tozer some of the most widely read books among Christian leaders in the world today? Because Tozer was a man who knew God. Because Tozer was a man who walked in the power of God.

And because Tozer wrote a book, *Attributes of God*. We need to get to know God. That takes time.

We're all different and we need to understand, as Spurgeon once said, all of grace. All of grace. He forgives, he cleanses, he renews.

Another one of my favorite authors is Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones. The only book that I put on a higher level than *Great Awakening* by Charles Swindoll is Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones's brilliant book, *Spiritual Depression, Its Cause and Cure*. The prince of books, in my view.

A new edition is coming out. I'd be happy to send you 500 copies of it, if somehow I can find the money. It's not off the press yet.

I wrote a blurb or a forward for it, because I'm so excited. I had the privilege of meeting Dr. Lloyd-Jones. He came to the Shiptoulas in London and ministered.

And he spoke on the balance between sound doctrine and the work of the Holy Spirit. You get some churches, it's all the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit. You get other churches, the Word, the Word, the Word.

Got to have both. And this prince of preachers, considered the greatest theologian in Europe for 40 years, spoke about the Word and the Spirit. All of grace.

Even if you go on two years and it's a disaster and you have to come home sick, God can overrule that. Romans 8, 28. Even if you don't get on with your team members in the coming O.J., and you're going to have little frictions, and you're going to have to learn more about grace, more about forgiveness, more about being big-hearted, more about listening.

Some of us, especially my kind of person, we talk, talk, talk. We need to listen more. If I hadn't learned to be a listener, I would have been knocked out of the spiritual ballpark.

Pitch. Oh, brothers and sisters, it's all of grace. There's five reasons why I believe you should consider going, at least for a couple years.

And as we bring this to a close, if you're willing to seriously consider a couple years, I want you to write that on that piece of paper. You can just write, I am seriously considering serving Christ for one or two years out of the country. Maybe you want to stay and serve within the country.

That's not my particular emphasis now, only to bring in balance the emphasis you get 52 other Sundays a year. That's because one is better than the other. You can basically put whatever you want on that piece, a prayer request, a request for the book, Grace Awakening, or a statement about what God's done in your heart during these days.

Let us pray. Let us pray. Oh Lord, help us as we're in a moment of decision.

We've laughed at a few things, but inside we're crying a bit because so many people have never had the gospel. So many people's groups do not even have a church because we see so much lukewarmness and the playing of games all around us. We see so little finance going out to reach the unreached in the 1040 window.

We see so few people. So Lord, our hearts are broken this morning. We're asking you Lord to change the situation.

We thank you for many great missionary shakers and movers in this country already. Great sending churches, Antioch churches, great Bible training colleges, but Lord it is all small compared to what it could be. And so we ask for a revolution, a revolution of love.

We ask Lord that we may understand the balance between grace and the law, especially in our personal walk, that we may be delivered from false guilt, that we may be delivered from just constantly putting ourselves down, and that we would know what it is to roar, to soar on the wings of eagles. We thank you, O God, and we look to you for miracles here this morning. Let's all be praying.

Let's be searching our own hearts. You can take that paper and still pray with a pen in your hand. I often do that.

I'm just praying over my globe for some of these nations, Spain, Italy and Greece and Turkey and France and Belgium and Austria. My heart goes out to Morocco and Algeria and Libya and Egypt and Saudi Arabia and Iraq and Iran and Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan and the nations of Central Asia and Pakistan and Bangladesh and India and Nepal, for Sri Lanka and Burma, for Thailand, for China, for Vietnam, for Cambodia, for the Philippines, for Papua New Guinea, for the African nations, for the Latin American nations. I want to ask you, if you were to live on this one or two or three little islands here, quite big islands really, in the middle of the Pacific, would you spend two years in some other part of the world, a student, a tent maker, a learner missionary, with open air campaigners, with OM, with some other group, maybe even something special your church is putting together, would you do that? Would you at least begin to move in that direction? We can't guarantee that's going to happen.

That's not the way things are. There are many complexities. I think we've tried to be very realistic about what life's about, about the mysteries, about the paradoxes, about the heartbreaks, about the disappointments, about the unanswered prayer.

I don't think anybody can say we're throwing evangelical pie in the sky here this weekend, but in the light of this, and in the light of the grace of God, the power of God, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, God's ability to use ordinary people even like me, God's ability to use Downing Thomas' character still struggling with lust 42 years later, still a bit impatient 42 years later, God's willingness to use ordinary people in the midst of the battle, all these factors indicate he can use you. And so if you're willing to at least move in the direction of a two-year commitment somewhere in the world, would you, right now, would you just stand

up? I'm not going to have you come forward, but I'm going to ask you just to stand up. And I want to pray for you, a prayer of consecration all across this amazing auditorium, willing to take that step forward even if your leg is shaking.

Is your leg shaking? Join the club. Anybody else? God bless you. This is a Grace Awakened invitation.

We're giving you a book, Grace Awakening, if you want it. So we're not manipulating. This isn't legalism.

We've made it clear that people who remain at home are just as much in the Kingdom of God as someone who goes across the world. We even talked about some of you joining your father in his business. So it's a Grace Awakened approach, but I believe many of you at least need to start to move because you know what this kind of thing could do in your own life, in your own heart.

God bless you. Every one of you. Is there anybody else? Somebody that might be a little slower.

Get up. I understand that. God bless you.

He is Lord. He is Lord. Anybody else? Lord, I do pray for those that are standing before you.

I stand before you with my own struggles, my own weaknesses. Still don't really even like to get on these airplanes. But somehow it's all in your hands.

I don't like what I have to face when I get back there the next three days. And it's in your hands. I feel so weak, Lord.

For once I had so frightened. These two old ships. So many people.

So many hassles. Illnesses and disappointments and car crashes and kidnapping. But Lord, I believe you are bigger than all of it.

And you can lead us. And even when we make a mistake, you overrule that and failure becomes the backdoor to success. Lord, we praise you and we go forward as an anointed army.

Fill us afresh with your Holy Spirit. Many of us have experienced that in these days. Lord, do it again.

That we may have the boldness to face this challenge. That we may have the boldness and grace even to be able to share about it with our church, with other people and be ready for the cold water or the rejection. Lord, by your grace we're going to be great awakened people.

By your grace we are going to grow into maturity, into reality and be able to somehow walk this middle road of Holy Ghost moderation and stay away from the weird extremes on one side or the lukewarmness and promiscuity on the other side. We ask for this for all of us as we stand before you. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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