

(Out of the Comfort Zone) Introduction

by George Verwer

This book is a call to reality in the Body of Christ, driving readers deeper into God's Word and prioritizing His will.

Scripture: Matthew 18:20, John 17:21, 2 Corinthians 4:7, 2 Corinthians 12:9, Ephesians 4:3

Topics: "Christian Leadership", "Gods Grace"

Description

George Verwer emphasizes the importance of seeking greater reality in the Body of Christ, especially for Christian leaders and servant leaders. He encourages young people to step up as leaders in God's kingdom-building program and hopes to inspire former OMers and prayer partners. Verwer acknowledges the messiness that can arise when God's people gather but highlights God's ability to work amidst chaos. He stresses the significance of understanding 'The Human Factor' and the implications of our sin, while also celebrating the grace and strength found in weakness.

Transcript

This book is written for Christian leaders and especially servant leaders who long for greater reality in the whole Body of Christ. It also is written for anyone who is hungry for God and wants to understand better what God is doing and wanting to do across the world.

I am hoping that young people, who would be willing to be leaders in God's great kingdom-building programme, will read it. And I hope it will be read by thousands of former OMers and prayer partners who have stood with us in the work over so many years. I believe it will give a greater vision of that which burns in my heart in these days.

I wrote a proverb years ago that I have often quoted in meetings. It always gets a laugh because people know it is true:

'Where two or three of the Lord's people are gathered together, sooner or later there will be a mess.'

We, however, have a great and sovereign God who specialises in working in the midst of a mess.

We see this all around us and also from Genesis to Revelation. The Word says, 'This treasure is in earthen vessels' and we must face the implications of that. I often refer to it as 'The Human Factor' and much of it is a result of our sin.

As I write this Introduction, my wife and I have just celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary and about 450 people came together here in the UK where we live, to give thanks to the Lord and to celebrate. I'm very aware that without my wife Drena, I would not be writing this book. Together we have been involved in the task outlined in this book for over four decades and we continue to grow in grace and knowledge of Him in the midst of weaknesses and struggles. We are still learning 'His grace is sufficient and His strength is made perfect in weakness'.

This book is a plea for reality, the kind of reality we see expressed in the life of Jesus and in the passages of His Word. It is my prayer that we will be driven deeper into God's Word with all of its mystery and paradox and that we will learn more about what is really God's priority.

It is often easier to over-emphasize the 'distinctives' that divide us rather than the biblical basis of the faith that unites us. As we get involved in missions, and remember missions is people, we will have our hearts broken many times. If we don't want to be hurt, we have a real problem because living on this planet as Billy Graham once said, 'Life at its best is full of sadness'. To be able to forgive those who have truly hurt us is one of the very basic principles of this great spiritual revolution.

George Verwer

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