

# Seven People by the Side of the Road

by George Verwer

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*George Verwer shares his personal testimony and emphasizes the importance of sharing the Gospel and building the kingdom everywhere, trusting in God's presence and power to overcome doubts and fears.*

**Duration:** 47:00

**Scripture:** Genesis 3:1-7, Isaiah 6:8, Matthew 22:37-39, Luke 10:25-37, John 3:16

**Topics:** "Grace"

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## Description

In this sermon, Mr. Moody addresses the issue of spiritual dryness and the need for constant refilling. He uses the analogy of leaking to explain how believers can lose their zeal and passion for God due to life's challenges and disappointments. He emphasizes the importance of seeking God for refills and praises Him for the free refills of His grace. Mr. Moody also introduces George Verwer, a man who has dedicated his life to sharing the gospel and encourages the audience to have their own vision for spreading the word of God.

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## Transcript

Thank you for all coming here today. George Verwer, that's who's going to be speaking to us today. He's a man that God got a hold of 50 years ago.

And he's gone all around the world. And he's done some incredible things. Not glory on him, but glory for God that he's reached all different kinds of people.

George likes to impart the Gospel to millions of people. He had a vision. He had a big vision.

Every one of us has a vision. Some are big, some are small, but it's all a vision of sharing the Word, sharing the transformation power of Jesus Christ. You know, we Alaskans all like boats.

I know Rocky's got a new boat. How many here have a boat? Let's put our hands up first. I even have one, the SS Minnow.

It's a little one. We all like to go out in our boats. Well, George likes boats only.

He likes ships. He's got two big ships. They go all around the world into different ports.

They've been in 140 countries, 1,100 ports, and over 35 million people have been on these ships. They have bookstores on there. They bring people in.

They have people that stay there. They go out and they share the Gospel. They get into areas that nobody wants to go to.

They go from Somalia, Croatia. They're in India. Any place you can pick on the map that you'd be like, Ooh, I don't want to go there.

That's where they go. George is an advocate to bring Christ to the world, to see the globalization of Jesus Christ. And this is a little card here.

This is from his helper, Mark, who's doing his first ministry at a church today. And Mark is in back carrying the bags. George is in front leaving Mark behind.

And on his card it says he's a gopher. He's George's gopher. And you know what? Some of us need to be gophers.

There's senders, people sending out people into the missions field, and there's the people that are sent. God may be calling you in your heart right now to be sent. You're like, Lord, I've got this burden for Mexico.

Or, Lord, I've got this burden down on Second Avenue. Whatever it is, some of you may have a mission's heart. But some of you may have a sender's heart.

And you want to equip those people that will go out, maybe not to do what you want to do, and God places you just like that. You become a gopher for God. It's an awesome position to be in.

But I want to bring George up here right now. He loves the Lord. God's transformed his life, and he'll share it with you.

Let me just thank you. Give him a hand. How many were at the banquet last night? Were some of you there? About 200 people stood at the end of that banquet to pray that prayer.

Thank you. From Isaiah chapter 6, Here am I, send me. My heart especially, however, wherever I go, goes out to people that haven't yet really believed on the Lord Jesus and put their lives in His hands.

There may be some people like that here this morning. You like the music. You're checking things out.

You're a seeker. It's okay. You've got questions.

You have doubts. I'm still sort of a doubting Thomas. I've got a horrendous negative streak that's caused me grief all my life.

Do any of you have a negative streak? You tend to see the dark side a little bit? It helps me. I can relate. This fear I'm going to end up the Darth Vader of the evangelical world.

I used to visit our ship. I'd go up to the captain. You know, in 20 minutes on the ship, I've had ten things to tell the captain that I felt he needed to sort out.

Not really the way to encourage people. But the message this morning, it's all about grace. God's grace to weak people.

Not just God's forgiveness, but God's grace to forgive people. At seven or eight, I was already developing hatred toward people. Fighting with my fists.

I'll never forget getting in a fight once with a girl. It was a rough deal. She won.

Trying to forget that. You know, God can change us. When we become believers, that's the beginning.

That's not the end. That doesn't mean you're sort of perfect after that. In fact, a lot of people after they accept the Lord, they get discouraged.

I don't get discouraged myself. I just process discouragement. Pretty well every day.

You look at Darfur. You look at Iraq. Look at the slums of Kenya where I've walked through this unbelievable filth and streets where a million people live.

You pray a lot of prayers, you don't always see a lot happen. I remember once I was in Pakistan. I was aware of this negative streak.

And I decided I'm going to get greater victory. Then I had this meeting. It was in the cathedral and one of the OM leaders came to me and said, do you think you'd be a little more careful what you say today because the bishop is in the meeting.

We're just getting the work of OM, Operation Mobilization, the name of the mission fellowship I'm with. We're just getting that work started. And of course, they know I tend to say sometimes some pretty extreme things.

So they said, you know, could you be a little careful? So I sort of agreed. Then another guy came to me, another OM leader. And he said, do you think you could dress properly for this meeting? It's in the cathedral.

The bishop's going to be there. This is before I had this global jacket. This thing covers everything.

But so I put a suit and a tie on. Here I was in the cathedral. It was hot.

A suit and a tie. Looked like an undertaker. And I was really trying to do my best.

And guess what happened? I'm driving. This is a true story. I'm driving home an important point, trying to do my best.

A pigeon flies over me. Dropped its load on the sleeve of my suit in front of the bishop. Negative thinkers, typical negative stuff.

This is what it's about here. But God was doing a new thing in me. Instead of getting down, I just said, well praise the Lord.

Let's thank the Lord the elephants don't fly around here. It was an enormous help to me. I don't think I've ever been quite as negative as that moment.

A lot of terrible things are happening in the world. But our God is doing great things. We don't understand God often, because we don't realize how God has put us responsible for the people of this world.

And so He doesn't just interfere. Why isn't God interfering in sorting out this Da'fur thing? It's a serious thing in the minds of some. Some people walk away from God and their Christian faith because their prayers don't get answered in terms of human suffering, which is so huge.

From the Holocaust to the killing fields, to Rwanda, to right now, Da'fur, 300,000. To be honest, I don't understand that. But I find lots of verses that help me in the book of Job, in the book of Romans.

And I discovered that great faith is not in the absence of doubt. And I am a doubting Thomas. But great faith is often in the midst of doubt.

What are the other options? Where are you going to put your money? You got a better horse than the Holy Ghost Jesus horse that I am betting on? Maybe you could send me an email, because I want to be open-minded. I was traveling to India on a ship, struggling with all my doubts, doubts about even passages in the Bible that I thought were so confusing. And I got these tapes by a man named Dr. Schaeffer, who was a brilliant intellectual, philosopher, sociologist, that wrestled with his faith and came to strong faith in Jesus, wrote about 18 books, helped thousands of agnostics come to Jesus.

That's pretty encouraging. Sort of another C.S. Lewis, another Chuck Colson. And I was listening to these tapes on the way to India before we had our own ships.

I was traveling on some old ship out of Marseilles down to Bombay. And this series of tapes was six problems of the man, me, who doesn't believe the Bible. So here I was thinking about some of my struggles, because I have certain difficult passages I don't understand.

And I listened to this series of tapes, and my faith was again just lifted up. Again and again, my intellectual struggles and doubts have been met through the Word of God, through other books. I didn't bring many with me, but I have a book called Show Me God, written specifically for atheists, for agnostics, for people that are not sure of their faith.

I'd be happy to send that to you as a gift. You can find me on my website, [georgeverward.com](http://georgeverward.com). Email me. You can find me on Facebook.

I read every single message, every single email. Personally, I pray over most of them, send books to a lot of them. What am I trying to say? God is real.

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. He is the Savior. And if you don't yet know Him, if you haven't yet put your faith in Him, I pray this morning will be your moment of decision, your moment of destiny.

You can meet someone from the church. They'd be happy to read a few Scriptures and pray with you, and get that assurance of your salvation. You say, well, how did that happen in your life? Let me tell you my story real brief.

Some of you may have to listen to it twice. I'm not from a Christian home. My grandfather was a drunk.

He was Irish, Scottish, and English blood mixed. Hey, that's toxic, folks. And he was a terrible man.

He was a drunk. My grandmother divorced him in the day when divorce was not popular. My other grandfather was an atheist.

He was Dutch. He came over from the Netherlands, the New York City area, where I was born with my dad. My dad was also just a young boy when he came over.

And again, I watched my grandfather's life. It was so pathetic. My grandmother had to almost lock him out when she was older from getting in her bedroom at night.

He was just one needy character. And I was on that same road already at 15, going into the world of pornography, learn how to lie and cheat. I had such a foul mouth.

At 12, I was going to produce a dictionary of curses and blasphemes. And somehow, a little old lady heard about me and put my name on her Holy Ghost hit list. You know, she didn't even talk to me about it.

She not only prayed that I become a Christian, a believer, she prayed that I would become a missionary. Can you imagine? This was really not my plan. It would be nice if she could talk to me about my life before she starts manipulating me through this prayer thing.

And then she sent me a Gospel of John. A little part of the New Testament. One of the most cutting-edge parts of the Bible that shows about salvation, about faith, that it's not by works.

It's not by going to church. It's not by doing good. It's not by being baptized three times over backwards.

It's by faith. And I read this Gospel of John. Sometimes I'd have that porno one hour.

I'd have the Gospel of John another hour. I'd be in a nightclub in New York one minute. I'd be home somehow reading the Word of God the next minute.

And it was a battle and it took time because my life became filled with business. I owned this little two or three little companies when I was like 16. I had 200 people selling fire extinguishers for me.

About 80% profit. This little gizmo. I remember lighting a fire once in a gas station and not able to put it out.

The guy had to get a proper fire extinguisher before his gas station burned down. That was a little embarrassing. So I aimed more at housewives lighting a little gas fire on their front porch, putting it out with this little extinguisher.

Sometimes they'd even buy a dozen. They were so scared their house would burn down. I remember some of the husbands getting a little upset.

Me having to go back and take the extinguishers back and return the money. But I started to make money. And I was, as Chris Rea, one of my favorite pop singers, I was on the highway to hell.

And this lady kept praying. And God was moving through other things. I want to extend the story.

But Billy Graham then, this evangelist, that was not my planet. Evangelist? Being saved? Whoa! Billy Graham came to New York City. Just one night.

Not even a crusade. A business guy gave me a seat. A guy that I couldn't stand.

I was always getting in fights. I had my own little gang. Very minor stuff compared to today.

I had knives and guns. In my gang, we had acorns. We'd throw acorns.

But we still hated people. This one guy I really hated, I went down to his house and baked black paint on the side of his lovely little white house. S-H-I-T-S.

My father found out through this girl who squealed. I thought she was a friend. Boy, he didn't appreciate my artwork.

I'll never forget going down there painting over my artwork with white paint. Well, the Bible says he commits sin and I may have been at very early stages of sin. But the Bible says he who commits sin becomes a slave to sin.

I was on that road. When Billy Graham, sort of a combination of Clint Eastwood, E.T. and Madonna, rolled into New York City with all guns blazing. I sat as far away as I could because I heard he was impotent.

I brought my binoculars. I brought this really beautiful girl. I thought maybe she could be helped by this.

I was so deceived and arrogant. And I watched Billy Graham and I heard the Gospel. I heard the Gospel that Jesus actually came.

Dr. Schaeffer says if you were at the cross and ran your finger down the cross, you'd get a splinter. This is reality. This is not some existential thing that took place and now we just have a mind trip.

This happened in time, space and history. The resurrection happened in time, space and history. And that night in my struggles and my doubts, I took this step and I believed on Jesus and He met me.

The man of Galilee met me in my pornography, in my lies, in my foul mouth, in my insecurities, in my anger. He met me and He saved me. And that's not the best part of the story, though that's big for me.

The miracle is this has been a reality every single day ever since. He's given me the most incredible fulfillment in serving Him in India and Spain and Nepal on these ships. Eventually He gave us ships.

One of them is a 12,000 ton liner that has room for 500 people. We hope you'll come even as our guests. The other ships were smaller, but they've been sailing the seven seas for 39 years, have given the Word of God to 100 million, 35 million up the gangway, but 100 million altogether because we go on land with vehicles, we go with mass campaigns, we go in literature distribution, film ministry, working with the churches, and so we've given the Word of God to 100 million.

Most of our forces are still traveling in old trucks that we buy and we have our own mechanics. And so we have 1,000 vehicles crisscrossing the world with the Word of God. 5,000 staff.

130,000 have worked with us through these 50 years and they've given the Word of God, we stopped counting 10 years ago, to 1 billion people. Amen. Because God answers prayer.

Because God is real. Because Jesus saves. And I know that God has brought me here to Fairbanks because He's looking.

He's got His eyes on some of you for great kingdom things. It may be right here. It may be behind the scenes.

But it may be in some of these other parts of the world as Jesus just before He ascended into heaven said, when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you should be My witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost part of the earth. Please don't immediately resist this. Immediately resisting it actually means probably you're one of those that's going to end up going there.

God has a sense of humor. It's better to say, hey Lord, I'm willing, I'm willing, I'm willing. You know, keep it secret.

You're not really willing. I'm willing, I'm willing, I'm willing. And then probably the Lord will say, oh well, you're such a good person.

You're such a big-hearted person. I'll leave you in Fairbanks. You can pray and supply the money.

God leads different people in different ways, but I don't believe we're called to just evangelize the world. We're called to build the kingdom everywhere. So your job in Fairbanks is important.

Your job in the world of arts, in the world of industry, in the world of politics, in the world of sports. I've been studying all this for 50 years. I have over 200 people that have mentored me from every walk of life.

And I believe with all my heart God has a program, a plan for every one of us. And it takes place not in the absence of dropping the ball, not in the absence of struggles and doubts, but often in the midst of those things as we again and again come back to the cross. D.L. Moody was often talking about the Holy Spirit.

Have you ever heard of D.L. Moody? I eventually left university and went to Moody Bible Institute, which is still going strong there in Chicago. Every student there is on a scholarship. I didn't want to spend much money on education since I was trying to give it all away to global missions.

And so I got this, like all the other students, a scholarship to Moody Bible Institute and met people there that were destined to really make a huge influence on me. The secular encyclopedia about D.L. Moody says, overweight American evangelist who depopulated hell by two million souls. Not bad, huh? What about you? Have you got your first one yet? My most exciting thing in my first year of my conversion in high school was to win some of my best friends to Jesus.

And then we started prayer meetings in the high school and more people. And this was a really bad news high school right outside of New York City. Sometimes 25% of the students were drunk on the weekend.

They were slaughtered on Route 17 getting cheap booze in New York State. God began to work. We found out later this lady had been praying for the high school for revival for 15 or 20 years.

It was like a Holy Ghost tornado blew through that high school. And I was just God's instrument. I didn't even know what I was doing.

I came back from Christmas break. At Christmas break, 600 people showed up in the high school auditorium. I shared my testimony.

I told them to repent. And 125 stood and believed on Jesus, including my own father who followed Christ until 94 years of age. That's what God can do.

We often hear characters like me go for a while. There have been quite a few. Zealous, focused, too much energy.

We're described in the psychology book choleric temperaments. The worst temperament. That's encouraging.

Even a Christian book said that. It warns women, whatever you do, don't marry a choleric. The three other temperaments are sanguins, phlegmatics, automatics.

No, that's something else. Sanguins, phlegmatics, melancholics. Watch out for them.

Then we become spirit-filled. Have you read the book Spirit-filled Temperament by Tim LaHaye? I hope that wasn't my earpiece. No, it's still there.

But by God's grace, God's grace, I discovered this reality. D.L. Moody spoke about the need to be filled again and again with the Holy Spirit. One day a little lady raised her hand, Mr. Moody, why do you keep going on, filled again and again? He looked at her and he said, Lady, because I leak.

Any of you this morning can relate to that? Somehow, ten days ago, you were really praising God and ready to shake the world for Jesus, and then in a few days, some of the buffets of life, some of the disappointments, maybe some health complexities, and somehow you feel it's disappeared. Praise God for free refills. Let me tell you, if you come to my city of London, you'll get no free refills.

You want another cup of coffee, huh? Four bucks. I don't drink this stuff. I switch to tea.

Save the bag. They'll usually give you free water. There's got to be some positive things in North America, right? Free refills.

And as God's child, though you may fail, though you may feel empty, though you may feel... Often I felt I was such a lustaholic. Here I was winning people to Jesus. I was preaching.

And the next minute, a pornographic magazine I found in the toilet made me a complete idiot. I thought, God, You can never use me. I'm a scumbag.

I'm a lustaholic. Who knows? I'm going to rape somebody and end up in prison. But God somehow forgave me and taught me how to be strong.

He taught me from this book. He taught me how to be accountable. So when I had this temptation, I shared it with my wife.

I shared it with other people. I remember once I was walking in the woods in London just trying to talk to God. It's not easy to tell you this, but I'm out of town at one, and so it's easier for me than if you live here.

I got the red-eye special to... Where does it go? Patato, Washington. Or Seattle. But I'm walking through the woods, and there is a pornographic magazine in the tree.

Do you have that in your... You've got a lot of trees here. None of them look big enough to hold a pornographic magazine. And how I would love to be able to give my victorious life testimony.

Wouldn't that be good? I saw that magazine and the power of God destroyed it. How many would prefer the truth? A magazine. Somebody put bullet holes in the magazine.

It sort of caught my attention. It wasn't the normal thing. I know you've got a bad idea about the woods in London now.

It's not the normal thing. And I walked up, and it just slayed me. That little magazine pulled me right back to the lust that I had engaged in so much, mainly in the mind.

Somehow as I walked out of that woods, I still remember the Scriptures and remember those verses about forgiveness. 1 John 2. First part of the verse, sin not. That's my goal every day.

Second part of the verse, if you sin... That's my only hope. If you sin, you have an advocate with a Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. I came out of that woods in repentance and brokenness, and I felt God's love.

I felt God's grace. Sometimes it's hard. Do any of you struggle without actually loving and accepting yourself? Am I the only one that has this difficulty? I was helped even not so long ago with an email from Tony Campalo, this wild Italian-American preacher that upsets more people than you could ever imagine, and has helped bring thousands to Jesus.

Just another picture of the wide range of people that God uses. And Tony Campalo sent this email about the thunderstorm. This family was in the thunderstorm and lightning and thunder.

Even the adults were nervous. Suddenly they remembered the little girl, seven-year-old, was up alone in her bedroom. They ran up the stairs.

They opened the door and there she was looking out the window with a big smile. He said, Are you okay? What's happened? She said, I'm fine. I think God is taking my picture.

Hallelujah. There's hope for me. There's hope for me.

I want to ask you a simple question because the Bible says, Love your neighbor as you love yourself. Did you get that? Second Commandment. Love your neighbor.

We're all trying to do that, right? I'm going to talk about that in a minute. As you love yourself. And many of the 130,000 people that came on Operation Mobilization, often in a youth training phase, the first year is training.

It's not just for people who want to be missionaries. It's for people that want to be built up in their character and learn how to pray and relate and accomplish things. And so they go on our training ship or they go to one of our other teams.

And many of them have had to have counseling and prayer. And there are people in this church that would be happy to counsel you and happy to pray with you if something is really besetting you in your walk with Jesus. We have seen hundreds of thousands set free from the enemy's devices.

And we've had the joy of seeing them stay free. Because we're not in a sprint. We're in a marathon race.

And I've had the joy of following personally in prayer thousands of people for 40 years. One of the advantages of being older, emailing them, phoning them. I've got their photographs.

And to see the transformational reality of Jesus over the long haul. God is real. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

If you've not surrendered to Him yet, I pray you may do that this morning. I'm not going to give a Billy Graham type of invitation. I'm not Billy Graham.

Though after 53 years of dreaming and hoping I could someday meet this man, I've lived in Europe 47 years. I've never been on a furlough. How am I going to meet Billy Graham? He's so famous.

There's always so many people around him. But just 10 days ago in the humor and the providence of God when Billy Graham's very ill, his nurse didn't want him to see people, the door opened for me to spend almost an hour with a servant of the Lord. And I tell you, it was a huge blessing in my life because he's 89.

He's run the race. Though he's not well, his mind is good. And we prayed for one another.

What an example! He's not perfect. He has been as he's kept a solid testimony. God wants you to have a solid testimony.

He can forgive you whatever you do. But the Bible says there's a principle of sowing and reaping. And so if you don't get yourself built up in Christ into biblical discipleship, if you don't learn how to draw on the power of the Holy Spirit, resist temptation, and be one of God's soldiers, you often blot your testimony and then you hinder what God is trying to do.

He'll still use you, but He will not be able to use you in the same way. It's better in your life if you can, and many of you are younger, get plan A for your life. Or at least plan B. Now the other side of the coin, for some of you, maybe you've had a lot of failures, a lot of wrong turns.

We were the first major mission agency in the world to recruit divorced people. We've even helped many divorced people in God's providence remarry again, which is really an anthem in the minds of certain kinds of Christians. But we've seen the Holy Spirit use in those people.

Some of my best friends are people who have been through that difficulty in life. Many of them before they were converted, of course, which is a whole different story than when it happens later on. But it's still not beyond forgiveness.

It's still not beyond the grace of God. So much legalism has hindered us from accomplishing God's purposes even in world missions. I pray this may be your moment of decision.

We're here to talk about missions. We've got our global jackets. You should see my underwear.

We've got these globes. There's so much more we would love to talk about. And I hope next year you'll get involved in Mission Fest, in the seminars, in the exhibits.

Wayne over here, we presented him with a global jacket last night. Try to get to know him because I believe this is one of the most important things that's ever happened in Fairbanks because I believe God wants Fairbanks to become an Antioch like in Acts 13. Antioch sending out those first missionaries, Paul and Barnabas.

It's an incredible chapter. We talked about that last night. And you can pick up a lot of these messages from [sermonindex.net](http://sermonindex.net). About 30,000 of my messages have been downloaded from that website or go into my own website.

But in closing, I want you to look quickly with me at one of the most exciting stories in the New Testament. In the Gospel of Luke, we have the story of the Good Samaritan. How many have ever heard of this guy? The Good Samaritan? Okay.

Intelligentsia. Luke 10. You have this passage where first of all, we get those two great commandments.

Let's pick it up at verse 25. Luke 10. 25.

By the way, how many of you have never read the Bible through once yet? You sort of believe it's God's Word, but you know, everything takes time. How many have never read it through once? This is the Bible. Raise your hand.

I've got a bargain for you. If you read it through this year, I will send you 10 great books or if you don't like to read, 10 great music CDs one year from now. So give it a shot.

Don't just start in Genesis and go through. Start in five different places. Just use some little markers.

And don't worry about so much the verses you don't understand. You get concerned about the ones you do understand. And be sure to read part in the Psalms and part in the New Testament at the same time.

And it was memorizing Scripture that helped me to clean up my life. And even in my dreams, I used to have these dreams and women coming after me in the dreams and naked and just terrible things going on in the dreams. And after I saturated myself with the Word of God, I remember one victorious day, this beautiful woman came in and I jumped up and jumped out the window.

I knew God was bringing greater victory in my dream life. So we got these two great commandments there in Luke chapter 10 starting at verse 25. One day, an expert in the religious law, Any lawyers here? Any lawyers? Isn't that strange? By the way, one of the most exciting things in my life, born again lawyers.

Godly man in Manchester became the chairman of our board. He's the lawyer that helped me buy the ship. I'll never forget.

He's in heaven now. He said, George, I have never bought a ship. I said, go for it.

So the lawyer came to test Jesus and asked Him this question, Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life? Jesus replied, What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it? The man answered, You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind. Love your neighbor as yourself. Write, Jesus told him.

Do this and you will live. The man wanted to justify his actions so he asked Jesus, And who is my neighbor? And then he told this story. A Jewish man was traveling on a trip from Jerusalem to Jericho.

He was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes. They beat him up.

Left him half dead by the side of the road. By chance, a priest came along. Religious leader, huh? A priest came along.

But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road. It's hard to believe. That's in the Bible.

What do these people do today who have religion and don't have reality? Who talk about Jesus and don't do acts of mercy as we're reading about here? How in the world can they justify that and ever read this passage? Then the temple assistant came along. Verse 32. The temple assistant walked over.

He at least looked at him. Looked at him lying there and passed by on the other side. This is explosive.

Just take this into your mind and realize what would happen in our churches in North America if people would become serious about this story from the Lord Jesus Himself. And then a despised Samaritan. There was no dealing between Jews and Samaritans.

They were enemies. And yet Jesus chose a Samaritan as His hero in this story. It's an anti-racist statement if there ever was in the Word of God.

A despised Samaritan came along and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine, managed them. He put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn where he took care of him.

The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins telling him, take care of this man. If his bills run up... This is another amazing statement. Boy, I've looked all over the world for this kind of person.

They are hard to find. If his bills run higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here. Practical, Biblical, Christian reality.

That's what the Good Samaritan is about. And that's what I want as a Christian more than almost anything else. I want to be real.

I want to live out the Biblical message. I don't want to be caught up arguing over trivia issues and all these different legalisms that almost destroyed the church completely 30 and 40 years ago. I want to know this kind of reality in my life.

Take care of this man. If his bills run higher than this, I'll pay them the next time I come. Now which of these would you say was the neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits, Jesus asked.

And the man replied, the one who showed mercy. It didn't take much to make that statement. Jesus said, yes, now go and do the same.

And that's what I want to ask you as you go from here. I want to ask you to be a Good Samaritan. You don't get saved by being a Good Samaritan.

But if you're saved, if you know Jesus, if His Holy Spirit is living in you, then you will want to be a Good Samaritan. You will want to come out of the self-life and live in the reality of the Christ life. You'll want to obey Jesus who said, if any person come after Me, let him deny himself, take up the cross and follow Me.

If I had not learned that principle as a teenager, I would have been wiped out before I was 21. At least in terms of founding and leading a movement of this dimension. And I want to urge you to make a decision to be a Good Samaritan.

We often look at the small picture, and this is a small picture story. And you may have a small picture Samaritan experience right here in the next few weeks or months. But I want us in closing also to somehow get the big picture.

And that's why I brought this globe. I want us to look out across the world at a lot of other people laying by the side of the road. A number of you, I've given out my business card.

I don't have so many left to print them up on my computer. I thought I had a lot before I started on this trip. And in the back of my business card you'll find what I call the seven people laying by the side of the road.

In this card I put the seven global concerns because I give this out to many non-Christians and they wouldn't know people laying by the side of the road, what's that about? Maybe I should change it. And I wanted in my final moments just to ask you to think about these people. We have some books about some of these people.

And we also have some of my own books. And we want everyone to take at least one book as a gift from us. The Bible says it's more blessed to give than receive.

Please give me the privilege of giving you at least one of those books. The ones you see in quantity on the side of the table. And we have one book for each person here.

And the other books on the front of the table they're just for any donation including a tremendous book called Operation World which is probably one of the greatest missionary books of all times. Prayer Requests on every single nation in the world. You will spend years going through that book.

And this is a chance to get one for any donation. Let me quickly share those people because God just through the story of the Good Samaritan, through other books, through enormous changes in my life because at one time I thought we can't really fit all we're doing. History of proclamation, literature evangelism, church planting, film evangelism, leadership training.

We were involved in so many things. I thought we can't add to this people's physical needs. Where will we get the money? How will we handle that? And ten years ago we started to change.

Many people believed George Verwer would never change. I was so stuck. And we were reaching so many people and seeing so many new churches planted.

But through prayer, through books, through the Word of God, I completely changed. I realized these can come together. And I want to urge any of you going into missions, thinking about it, praying about it, supporting it, to bring these things together.

The seven people laying by the side of the road include, first of all, children at risk. Millions and tens of millions of children. Street children.

Children sold into the sex trade industry that should make our blood boil just reading about it. Children who have become orphans through the global AIDS crisis. Children who were sold into armies.

Children who work in factories. Let's pray. Let's pray for groups like OM that are working among these people.

Let's try to find the finance that can enable these groups to do so much more, as often finance and lack of it is a hindrance when you're trying to minister spiritually and physically to people. Secondly, I see women laying by the side of the road. Women abused in their own homes.

Women often abused even sometimes by the church. Women's abuse sometimes in religions that are trying to look really nice. But anybody who's studying those religions carefully, as I have, you see the massive mistreatment and abuse of women.

Beyond anything, and we at times have failed in the Christian church, beyond anything generally that we would have known. I have a book called True Grit. It went out of print for a while, so it didn't make it here.

But if you want the very best book I've ever read, and I've been through over 1,000 books, or they've been through me, send me an email and ask for this book about women. And I will send you free of charge this book, True Grit, by Debbie Miroff, a personal friend of mine. At least 10 different areas where women are suffering big time.

Big time around the globe, including sometimes in our own nation. And then thirdly, the extreme poor. As we look out across this world, 20% live in extreme poverty.

Now I know we have Poverty in America. Endless books about poverty in America. And 30% can't afford health insurance.

You know, my own son in Idaho, I think is doing quite well. He also doesn't have health insurance. And I'm not saying that's not a problem.

But let me just say this, just to bring balance. The poverty I have seen makes most people that I met in my country in that category look wealthy. We're talking extreme degradation.

We're talking areas that are beyond the slum. People are fighting to live in the slums. The extreme poor can't get in the slum.

We need to at least imbibe this into our heart. We may feel I can't do much. I got too many problems in my own life.

I believe we need to be realistic about our own problems. My wife and I give a lot of our time to our family, to our grandkids. You know, no one taught us at Bible school how much it takes just to survive on the planet.

I thought we're just going to graduate from here and turn the world upside down. And sometimes the main problem was to turn myself upside down. But I believe the end of the day we can take this into our spiritual DNA.

We can begin to pray. Sometimes even when we're doing our work, and most of you are probably hard-working people, we can shoot a prayer out for the extreme poor and say, Lord, help us to bless the poor. And the church is on the move in these areas more than ever before.

And then the fourth person laying by the side of the road is the person that's suffering from HIV AIDS. And we have two books on this subject. Almost no one ever picks them up.

We are so ignorant about HIV AIDS. Many Americans have HIV and they're so proud they'll never get tested. Of course, when we finally discover we have HIV, one of my closest friends have HIV, we can get the expensive medication and often live 10 or 20 years.

But people in other countries, the global poor, can't get that medication. They're dying and there's 40 million involved and millions of them are in the church. The Bible says, He that sees his brother in need and opens not up his heart of compassion, how dwelleth the love of God in such a man.

And so I beg you to pick up one of these books on HIV. They're free of charge. And read about this subject.

And pray for us in our global AIDS prevention program. I'm giving a huge amount of my time to this right now. Some people are even concerned that I'm going extreme.

But I believe the Holy Spirit has put it on my heart. And then, fifthly, people laying by the side of the road that can't even get pure water. It's beautiful, isn't it? Alaska, one of your greatest resources is water.

Someday, people will realize that more. The drought, the global drought that's going on, I've seen it with my own eyes. It's beyond comprehension.

20% of the world does not have access to pure water. What you're talking here is hyper-luxury. It's life or death.

5 million probably last year. Maybe 10 million children all dead for just impure water. How can we go out and just give out tracts and preach and tell people how to be saved when we have these global crises? We must marry these things together.

We must do more. We must work harder. We must pray and reach out to this global crisis.

And then, the sixth person laying by the side of the road is the person that has never been born. I want you to please pick up a copy of Randy Alcorn's book, *Why Pro-Life*. There's probably some people here that have been through abortion.

This book is sensitive toward such people. I just listened to two DVDs, one British and one American. All women that have been through abortion.

I love such women. Most of them have experienced the forgiveness of grace after going through alcoholism, prison, mental breakdowns. They met Jesus, and Jesus is the answer to this global crisis.

Pick up this book and realize this has to be part of what we're doing in our global ministry. And then lastly, not another person, but Mr. Planet, to pray for wisdom about the planet. We are caretakers of God's creation.

There's a lot of extremism in regard to the environment, but we as Christians need to at least read up. We need to listen to different sides. And there's a lot of little things.

I'm doing a lot of little things in regard to this that are not controversial. And then as we grow, though we may all be different, I believe we'll honor God. We'll honor God because we're a little more concerned with this planet, and yet realizing God's great plan.

Beware of feeling guilty because of your carbon footprint. How many of you have been reading about the carbon footprint? You've got to reduce your carbon footprint. Let me tell you, in myself, I didn't want to fly to the United States or here from London and increase my carbon footprint.

But I've got another footprint that's bigger than the carbon footprint. It's the footprint of Jesus. And I've got my priorities that it is going to cost money.

It is going to cost fuel to keep our ships going because we have a higher calling to reach men and women with the Gospel and will not be intimidated by nonsense that gets promoted by television or anybody else because it's our philosophy built on His Word. Let's just pray together. Lord Jesus, You know our hearts.

You know all about us and love us still. And I pray that right now there may be some that would take that big step and believe in You just as I did 53 years ago. And that You would save them and You would teach them and they would grow to become strong in You and live a victorious, Spirit-filled life.

And Lord, for all of us that somehow we would be good Samaritans as believers. We'd be willing to reach out, combining social concern, social action with proclamation and other forms of evangelism. For we ask this in Jesus' glorious name.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

God bless you.

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