

Elective Session By George Verwer

Verwer:

Good morning. Praise the Lord. It's amazing how quickly the time goes by, and it is very frustrating. I wouldn't be surviving as a Christian if I hadn't learned how to live with frustration. I hope that you're not intimidated by frustration. We are built to be able to handle a certain amount of it. But it's a frustration to meet so many of you briefly and not be able to spend an hour or two talking together. One of the great changes as you get older is that you accumulate very important relationships that get neglected over the years. One of my neglected relationships is actually a businessman who started supporting our work right here in Los Angeles 33 years ago. And we hardly ever see each other, though I did get him to India once. It almost killed him. He came happily back to California. But that man has stood in prayer for my wife and I and financial support all those 33 years. Long time. And he and I were able to get a little time together as he drove all the way up from San Diego, moved down that way now to just have lunch yesterday and just have just a little time together. I actually come back here in April, the other side of the border Mexicali, to minister together with a movement known as You Go, that Bill was and still is a part of.

And I appreciate your prayers for that. I understand there's going to be about 700 young people from all over the United States getting involved over in Mexico. And then on Easter Sunday, I'll be back ministering again in Spanish in a big church in Mexicali. One of the ways that I help relieve some of that frustration in not getting time with all the people I'd like to is if people are willing to correspond, and I would challenge you. Now, correspondence isn't always second best.

Sometimes it's the best. If your friend, the person you're linked with, is living on the other side of the world, then that letter is amazing. For \$0.28 or fifty cents, I know it's gone way up. Bugs me. They can deliver that letter to your door right on the other side of this planet. Many, many missionaries get very few letters. My message this morning is, I hope, going to be ultra-practical. And that's one of the things I hope you're going to come out of this conference with a burden to encourage missionaries through letters. They don't have to be long. They don't have to be necessarily well thought through, prayed through. You try one of those, you never get it done.

Just write something, say, Look, I'm thinking of you. That alone might blow them away because there's a lot of people out there who don't think anybody is thinking of them except the devil is trying to destroy them. So I hope that that will be one of the practical challenges. We are very human as human beings. We at times can be very fickle and sometimes we can give someone the impression, wow, you're really great. I'd love to get time with you, boy. But then within a few weeks, we don't even know the guy's name. It's all over. We're watching somebody else, or we're interested in somebody else. So I hope that I might be privileged to get a letter from some of you who maybe wanted to talk to me and it didn't happen. I have been talking to quite a few students because I give that priority when I come here. But it's all a fast lane operation and I hope that I will perhaps hear from some of you. Now, I don't think we've set our book table in the back here this morning because Russ is going all out over in the gymnasium.

But I hope some of you will go over and visit the book table. And I hope you'll go over there and pick up at least one Bill Drake tape. Bill, he's a humble brother, really doesn't like to push himself. And he's just adjusted so well working with his New Jersey loudmouth partner in battle.

It's really quite amazing to see him adapt. Pray for his wife, because Bill and I are similar in temperament, drive and passion, and it means that our wives sometimes suffer. Bill's wife's name is Terry. When is she going to have her next baby? April. Easter, baby. I almost said Easter bunny. Easter, baby. But I hope you'll go over and take a look at some of Bill's tapes because it's strong medicine. It's powerful stuff that God has put on his heart. Many of these songs he's written himself. I must confess that it takes strong music to really get to me. I mean, I like it all, though some of the old church music I find a little boring, but I try to repent and get my attitude sorted out. But Bill's music and his ministry really goes to my heart, and it's true of many other musicians as well. Pray for Christian musicians. They're under tremendous pressure. Everybody is telling them how to do it, what to do, and it's great to get blessed through Randy liked last night, that I hope you'll pray for him and others like him who have very significant ministry.

Some of the items on the literature table a ship called Lagos. I know the last thing you're planning to do is read a book about a ship. This is easy reading. This you take when you go down to the beach, if you're still into that kind of thing, you take this down to the beach while your boyfriend's surfing. And you can read this because it's a beach reading. It's easy reading. And it's about a ship. You might even, as you're reading it, hallucinate and see a ship come along and you can picture yourself joining it and sailing off to the ends of the earth. It's quite a great book written by Elaine Rotan, the wife of the character I told you about yesterday morning who supposedly was baptizing people in the showers.

This is the book we're featuring at this conference. Priority one how many already have a copy? Raise your hand. That's mildly depressing, but we're still pressing on. I think it's at a special

price. And I wrote the foreword. Please pick up that book published by the William Carry Library. There's a lot of other cassette tapes, including some that may help you get to the mission field. A lot of Tozer books. What happened to worship A.W. Tozer? The most exciting thing in my mind that ever happened at Biola was when they sent 60 people out of Europe or any of you in that group. They're probably scattered throughout the entire world. Now. Thank you for coming. I'm sure it was a challenge and a blessing and a stretch. I heard of some who got separated from their luggage. That's always a wonderful experience. But Love Europe is going strong and this summer we're hoping for four or five thousand to unite. There's not an official group being organized the same as that year from Biola, but I'm sure there'll be some people. It's not too late. We got a Love Europe team here on campus. You've seen them around doing their mime.

They have a seminar. Is that going on yet today or is that finished? What time is that today? Maybe I should go to that. Just finished only yesterday. Well, there's people around as individuals and you can get to talk to them. How many have read this? Grace Awakening? That book is equal to one year at any theological college or seminary in the nation. That one book, I can assure you. If you don't get what this man is talking about, whatever else you get, you ain't got much. Forgive the English. That was is \$15 because the secular company took over these people and they're out to make money. And that's America. And it confuses me. But I'm not going to miss the book just because some secular people bought out the publishing house and want to make a lot of money by keeping it in hardback. And if you can't afford this, if you legitimately want this book with a passion no dribble, but a passion, and you can't get it you write to me and I'll send you a gift copy from Great Britain where I have an addition at one fifth

this price that I'm not allowed to sell in the United States, but it's worth getting this, and you can pass it on.

Don't start at the beginning. First four chapters are relatively old hat boring, but they're good. I started in the middle and read both directions and found it to be both inspirational and confusing. But I'm really excited about this book and it will help bring in the balance some of the things that I even said last night. Now, this morning, I want to pick up from last evening and talk about how, on a practical level, we can make world evangelism a priority in our own lives. And it really is also a follow on from what Ron Blue shared this morning. And I'm so glad that he dealt with what he was speaking about then, because then I don't have to repeat that now. We want to move on, and I want to move on into basically practical biblical exhortation on what we can actually do to make this thing happen. I want you to turn with me to one of my kickoff passages of scripture, one of my favorite ones in James, chapter one. Again and again, God deals with me. From this chapter right after the book of Hebrews.

You'll find James, though I'm not finding it so well. Here it is. I read this a lot. As you can see, it sort of got a little bit overworked. Somebody wanted to rebind my Bible, but I'm not sure if I want to let it out of my sight for one of these rebinding types. James, chapter one, verse 19 is especially for me and other fellow motor mouths where, for my beloved brethren, I think it really includes sisters. Let every man be swift to hear. Are you a good listener? I've had to work on that very, very hard. Very, very hard. It'll especially help you in marriage. How many of you are thinking, I know you're a missionary. Missions is your big thing in world revolution. But in the midst of all this drive for missions, are there any of you that have given an occasional thought to

possibly getting married? Could you just slip up your hand? Just be honest. You've thought of this just an occasional moment. A lot of hands have gone up. Others look a little bit dumbfounded. It's wonderful to watch people's faces. Most of the teaching concerning how to be a missionary is valid on how to be a wife and how to be a husband.

That book, Calvary Road. And I mentioned last night how Roy Hession on Sunday went to be with the Lord. To me, that makes his books even more valuable. That chapter in that book on marriage, which my wife and I read the first or second week of our marriage, set the whole foundation for 32 years of marriage. And I just find so much of the biblical teaching that will help us work on a mission team will help us also in our marriage. And that's one of those principles right here. And I'm convinced. I hope this is not oversell, but I like to aim high. I believe if you will put into practice some of the things we talk about in the next half an hour, that it could be a major help in your life. I was reading in Ecclesiastes yesterday morning a very interesting passage about how a little fly in the ointment can ruin the ointment completely. Do you know that passage of scripture? Let me just refer to it. You don't have to turn to it. Ecclesiastes 10:1. Dead flies cause the ointment of the perfumer to send forth an evil odor so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honor.

If you can nail the little bits of folly you know, the one night fling. You drank just a little too much. You're just trying to be part of the gang, trying to be friendly. It was really just a contextualized approach to evangelism. But you took just a little one too many and then later that the sexual temptation came. In that moment of folly, you can cause an awful lot of damage. Now it's amazing. Sometimes God in his mercy seems to cover folly and sin very quickly. It's not a

matter that automatically God's going to clobber you on the head the next day. Life isn't that simple. The judgments and the workings of God are not that simple. The Bible speaks about the chastening hand of God. But in other cases and that's a mystery to me, that one act of folly destroys a person's life. A baby comes, an abortion, emotional damage. Other complexities. Life is 20 times more complex than I thought it was at Bible college. I touched on that yesterday morning. Seven things that didn't teach me at Bible college. You write to me, I'll send you the tape. But a word to the wise is sufficient. My old second grade teacher used to tell me she taught me something I'll never forget. She taught me to brush my tongue. Before I met this second grade teacher, Miss Mickins maybe she was 6th grade. Yes, it must have been 6th grade because it was geography.

I always just brushed my teeth. But she gave a lecture. That dear old woman. She had her glasses on a chain. You ever remember those types? And brush your tongue and it's good. And what does that have to do with verse 19? Where for, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak and slow to wrath. Anything you can do to develop greater self-control will be a help down life's road. Verse 20. For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. Took me a long time to learn that. Wherefore put away all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness and receive with meekness the engrafted word which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the Word and not hear as only deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hero of the Word and not a doer, he is like a man beholding his natural face in a mirror for he beholdeth himself and goeth his way and immediately forgeteth what manner of man he was. Wow. Isn't that so true?

And that can happen right here at this missions conference. We make this commitment. We're going to do this. We're going to do that. We're going to pray a little more, we're going to mobilize, we're going to get a globe of the world, we're going to go on a summer campaign, and then we leave. And soon we forget what we really looked at, what we really decided. And it calls that a form of deception. 25 whosoever looked into the perfect law of liberty continue within it he being not a forgetful here, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. With every inch within me now, I want to try to plead with you to be a doer when it comes to world missions, to be practical. I know that's not the total answer. Without a real walk with Jesus and all that that means what you hear about many, many times here at Biola and you've read books. Without that walk with Jesus, all these things are very difficult, if not impossible. But if you make the mistake of thinking you can't be a doer in the kingdom of God until you have it all together, you fall into one of the most fatal traps that the church has fallen into, because you are at the stage in your life where you can make changes.

One of the young men who came to me after the meeting yesterday for a time of sharing wanted to know how he could change his habits. He was on a good course. There he is over there. Don't want to embarrass you. And he's already in Christian work, and he's come here to get some spiritual food or challenge or whatever. And we talked about this whole thing of habits, and I was reminded of what Billy Graham said life is filled with habit, filled with habits. Life is basically habits, and you must develop this is a paraphrase. I can't remember exactly what he said. You must develop Godly habits. Now, here's a little thing. I'll just throw this out. I developed a Godly habit as a young teenager whenever I went to a mission conference like this to gather up this powerful literature, which many people never see, and to distribute copies to

other people, never hardly think of just what I can get for myself, but what I can get a hold of and give away to others. I'd appreciate prayer for one major project I'm trying to accomplish with Russ my helper before I get on an airplane tomorrow afternoon at 5:45 for 13 or 12 hours over to London. And that is, I got to get a whole bunch of envelopes addressed, which he's supposed to do, and put in that a key new tape that I've just done called Why Give Finance Support to OM?

I've never done a direct tape like that in my whole life because I've often been involved in raising money for others. And when we take a big offering in OM and Love Europe, we give it all away. This has caused some confusion, especially with two ships. People sometimes think this group is loaded. And in this thing of resourcing God's word communication is so important, people so easily misunderstand. People might misunderstand this shirt. What do you call these things? Sweatshirt. This was just given to me yesterday. It's beautiful. The problem is, look what countries on the front, right? Somebody might think that I think America is really the center because America is where my huge chest is. But the key 10:40 window is the back. That's where it is. And I thought that maybe I should wear the shirt backward this morning. But my wife did not encourage me along that line. It's funny, she's sort of fussy about those things.

Again and again. I have found out in churches you can't even give God's people free literature about missionary work. You can't even give it away. They won't take it. I have wanted to commit suicide at the end of some church meetings. Even when people have been stirred by my message and have even stood up and made a recommitment in the meeting they didn't catch what I tried to say about the literature. About becoming a mobilizer. About being a doer taking some of this literature and sending it or giving it to others so we can spread the word about this great vision.

For example. Of reaching the Muslim world with the gospel. Now, some do. One man in New Jersey picked up a leaflet before we had a ship about the ship ministry, the vision. I wrote a leaflet why we should have ocean going ships in world evangelism. Picked up a leaflet, just one, and he sent it to somebody in Australia who gave it to a chief engineer. We were crying out for six years, continued prayer for a chief engineer. These people make 50 to 100 grand a year. We were offering him the privilege of trusting God for their own financial support. A real attraction.

And because that guy took that leaflet in New Jersey and sent it to somebody in Australia who gave it to John Yard. He joined OM without knowing hardly what it was about and was the pioneer chief engineer. You can read him about him in that book, though today he's in the glory. His wife then became the main mobilizer of OM in Sydney, Australia. And Australia is now one of the fastest growing new sending fields in the whole of Operation Mobilization Worldwide. One piece of literature. Now, let me get back to my little outline here. We'll probably come back to that literature thing I was trying to use as an example and just see if we can get through this. And it's encouraging to see some of you write a few of these things down because I'm really praying that we're going to be doers. I know that with all your studies the amount of time you can give to this will be limited. I understand that, and I'm not wanting to push you beyond your limits. If you read my books like Revolution of Love, you know I'm very strong on teaching people how to live within the limits of their own humanity. You're never going to be an angel while you're here on this planet, and you're not going to be a spiritual superman. And a lot of the talk these days about faith and prayer that comes across TV is just a lot of hype.

Just a lot of hype. They're not living that way. Those people are not living that way. A lot of them, they're living just like the guy down the road. Their confidence is in the almighty dollar. And I am concerned that it is possible to even get into extremes when it comes to beautiful things like prayer and evangelism and the study of the Word. Almost anything beautiful in the word of God can become extreme and destructive. I have a message on that called destructive idealism in the life of a believer. And I've seen people in my own ministry, my own work, almost self-destruct, because they were unwilling to accept their own limitations. They can be mental limitations, emotional limitations, physical limitations. I almost broke my wife in two trying to push her beyond her own limitations. Pure, I don't want to say stupidity. It seemed to be just ignorance, super spirituality at times became a curse of my life. I read too many spiritual books. I was Imbibing Watchmenie and F.B. Meyer and Andrew Murray and all these guys without ever knowing how they actually lived, because I've always been a history student, even before I was saved. Then when I got into England and I got the history of these guys and discovered they had the same problems that I had, and often their marriages were very, very difficult, and often they had broken relationships and all kinds of difficulties, just like you and me.

It helped me just find a little bit of balance, because sometimes the biographies of Christian leaders of years ago don't tell the whole story, especially about sex. When did you have a really rip roaring message about sex back in your home church? Not here. A bit liberated in this university. Probably your home church thinks you're a bunch of wild liberals, but when did you have a really rip roaring straight punch it to the message about sex back in your church? How many of you have had that back in your church in the last two years? Raise your hand. Praise God. A number of you. I knew America was changing. We just got to keep hoping. Fact is that

most of you didn't raise your hand because people are not talking about sex. We think Josh McDowell's going to cover the nation. 500 verses in the Bible on the subject of sex, but we don't talk about it, and we even boast that we preach the whole counsel of God. Have you ever heard these preachers say.

We're preaching right from Genesis to Revelation? I always like to ask, what did you get? What did you do when you got to that verse? Be thou satisfied with the breasts of the wife of thine youth whoo have you heard an exposition of that one? I missed it somehow. I've been following these guys, but I missed it. How are we going to make world evangelism a priority? We have to become mega-practical. We have to marry the spiritual with the practical. We have to acknowledge the divine factor. God meeting us in powerful ways with the human factors which follow us right through life. If you can get the right combination on the divine and the human, nothing will stop you. You may have a lot of heartaches. I'm not promising you're going to be the most successful person in all the world because God's word teaches that faithfulness is more important than success. But I don't think the devil will stop you if you get that right biblical combination. The first thing I've listed here as one of the ways we can make this a priority is by using our time more carefully. Ephesians says redeem the time.

It says something similar to that in one of the other epistles. Redeem the time. Make the best use of your time. That doesn't mean there's no time for recreation. I actually went swimming this morning instead of running. I'm a runner and jogger. I hate it a lot of times, but I do it. And actually when I get running and jogging after a while especially since I usually listen to messages or music as I run, I semi-enjoy it. But it's certainly difficult at times because I always do it

generally in the morning, get out of bed and get out, especially when it's dark. But if I'm in this part of the world and they put me in a motel where it happens to have a swimming pool, I tell you, jogging, forget it. Sucking in the fumes of Southern California, I'm in the pool. And when I got in that pool this morning, I had a headache. And when I got out, the headache was gone. I just know we're all different. But I know the thing that usually brings headaches to my head is stress. Pressure, stress, worry. And that's often linked with lack of finance.

It's linked with lack of time. It's linked with goals that are too high, sometimes false ideas and the inability to really live in the reality of Hebrews four, one of my favorite chapters. Hebrews four? One of your favorite chapters? How many of Hebrews four as a favorite chapter? One of the old guys. No, not that old. Hebrews Four talks about the rest of faith. And I remember driving one of those OM trucks to the coast of England in the very first campaign and the thing was backfiring. We went over the thames on that bridge. I was scared. This was the first summer. No one had ever done this in Europe. I was uptight. I had a headache. I was obviously trying to carry this whole campaign on my own little shoulders, and especially this nightmare truck. The first truck we sent to the coast, the engine blew up completely. These are old trucks I bought in the scrapyard and tried to rebuild. There were no mechanics in OM. I was one of mechanics. I literally used gum to prepare one truck. But this thing was backfiring, and I thought, we're going to miss the ferry, and who knows what else is going to go wrong before the end of the summer?

And God brought me that word from Hebrews, the rest of faith. It doesn't always happen this way. It says, labor to enter into that rest. That's weird, isn't it? Talk about paradox. Labor to enter into a rest. But I just driving that truck. I said, Lord, this is your work, and if I don't get to the

ferry, so what? If this thing blows up, so what? I'm not going to let my head blow off because of this this Operation Mobilization. And it just lifted. The headache lifted, and I pulled off to the garage. The man fixed it. This was just a timing. And we did miss that ferry, but we went to Belgium instead and drove down to France. And that was really the beginning of what today is known as Operation Mobilization. To use our time without becoming neurotic, to use our time properly, is one of the great challenges on a practical level, we can face at this conference. More time for talking to people about world missions, more time for distributing literature. Why not even go house to house someday? Probably need a permit to do that around here. But it's a great experience.

I would never want to miss the privilege of going house to house in my own home city or town in New Jersey. And I found that one out of every four houses. Not only I could give literature, they purchased it. And that's where I got some of my early experience in the work I was destined to do the rest of my life. Maybe you can't go to something like Love Europe this summer. Maybe you're not ready to go to the Muslim world next year. But surely you must know some other people. Surely you've met some people on this planet that you could phone, you could talk to, you could send a tape to. What about even the tapes of this conference? I have one visionary in England. He gets a hold of some of my tapes. He just got a hold of another one. When I was sharing about the need for the church to be concerned about both the physical needs of people as well as the spiritual needs, I gave that in a big evangelical church in the south coast. He just heard this. He wrote me and said, I want to send you £150 sterling. \$300 so you can. Give that tape out free to everybody going at this meeting. And he referred to some future meeting I have that he knows about. How did Iran have that revolution? Yalatlullah, who had that revolution?

Through cassette tape. Use cassette tape. Listen to them. It's a fantastic way of redeeming the time.

Don't be rude, as I sometimes am. Even with my own wife going through the airport the other day, I was listening to a cassette. She was behind me trying to talk to me, and I was listening to this music. That's how not to do it. At least take one off, one ear for your wife or whatever else. You're not allowed to drive with them on both ears either. Number two in our prayer ministry, we can make world evangelism a priority in prayer ministry and spiritual warfare. Study Ephesians, chapter six, one of the great Mount Everest chapters in the Word of God. Memorize it and decide that you are going to be involved in spiritual warfare. It is very sad that some people, when they talk about spiritual warfare, are only talking about dealing with evil spirits. That is only one aspect of spiritual warfare. It's important, it's controversial, but it is only one aspect of spiritual warfare.

Spiritual warfare includes heavy intercessory artillery, praying for North Africa, praying for India, praying for individual nations and cities and people and missionaries and all. It may be hard, and it seems harder in this generation to take that time for intercessory prayer. That's where the action is. That's where the action is. And I would challenge you to have some spontaneous prayer groups that you're involved in right here at Biola. When our work exploded at Wheaton College, it was those spontaneous prayer groups that really turned people around. They had some in the basement early in the morning. They had some between classes. They weren't always very long, but people would come together. At Moody Bible Institute. We had it every day. Just

before lunch, we'd come together, 15 minutes shock attack for our brothers and sisters in the work we had established in Mexico during our summer vacation.

This is one of the ways that we can make world evangelism a top priority. Personal prayer, spiritual warfare, heavy artillery of intercessory prayer, and other ministries linked with prayer.

Number three, by better use of the resources that God has given us. I don't know if you're taking some offerings here at the Missions Conference for World Missions. Are they doing that?

Glenn? Is there a major project that Biola is working on right now? Is there? What is it for? What are we giving it for? It obviously hasn't been very well talked about or publicized. What is it for?

Dominican Republic. So you're raising some money as a student? Yeah, I saw them with collection baskets out there, but it's so amazing. In some campuses I go, they raise 20, 30, 40,000 for world missions. In other campuses, they have difficulty raising 2,000. I know a lot of students are in debt and I think you need a lot of balance in handling your financial affairs and to be aware of guilt and beware of the law. But I believe that if we really believed in world evangelism, we would be releasing more resources and there are practical things we do. When I was at college, I took an extra job waiting tables. That was a long time ago. It was before I went to Moody for \$0.25 an hour. I didn't need that money in that case. I did it wholly to give that \$0.25 an hour to World Missions.

Every believer, especially who believes God's word and world missions should be specifically given to world missions. Now, I'm a little extreme at this point because my mentor was Oswald J. Smith, the great missionary leader from Canada. I had one of the greatest missionary churches, and that church, even to this day, is giving over a million 5000 to World Missions. One church.

Canada, Canadian, not all wealthy people. And Oswald J. Smith taught this and just throw it out just to counterbalance some other things you may have heard. He said the few people who believe in evangelizing overseas and evangelizing the lost. The few people who believe people are actually lost and that winning them to Christ is the most important thing in the world. They should give almost all their money for that kind of work. He said there'll always be plenty of Carnal Christians that will put up the building. There will always be plenty of Carnal Christians and other Christians who don't have a mission's vision, who will take care of all these things at home, especially if you put their name on a plaque. Don't go back and get upset. Upset about me. This is Oswald J. Smith. Let them talk to him when they get to heaven, if they can even get near him.

But I will tell you, I believe if the church continues in this age of Lukewarmness and Laodiceanism, and even many great leaders believe that, then we need a lot of wisdom if we're going to keep the task of World Missions going forward. And I will tell you, I am mega, mega-careful where I give the little bit of money that God puts into my hands. Even things in OM, I sometimes won't give much to it. If I had unlimited money, fine. I just have this little bit. Sometimes when I have an honorarium, think I'll get one even here at Biola. That all goes into this little fund I call Special Projects. And then I carefully give this away to projects within OM. And there are just dozens and dozens of requests on my desk right now of people that need finance. And though I do sometimes put some money into small, modest building projects overseas, missionaries need to have places to live, they need offices. My preference is to try to get funds into Bibles and gospel literature, because. So few seem to be interested in that.

Give more prayer to how you're giving your money. How is it being used? Don't be conned. Like these two little ladies in Florida that had a million dollars. A real nice guy came along, he was so friendly and he won their hearts. These ladies used to give to OM and other missions and they turned their money over to him. Million dollars. He stole it all. He's a professional con man. He's got a little problem now because his body was just found in a slab of cement, dead. But it's interesting the money never showed up. Marry your spiritual vision with Down-To-Earth practical thinking and planning, especially concerning finance. Read books about finance and books preferably written by people who have some kind of missionary vision, because this is one of the ways we can really esteem the task that God has given us. Again, just like sex. There's so many verses in the Bible about money, but we don't always hear many messages about them. There are one or two on my literature table you may want to look at or even write to me about. Releasing resources through faith and prayer is one of the most exciting ministries we can get involved in, but it takes time. Number four, I believe we can make world missions a priority through putting in practice what Charles Swindall talks about in this book, *The Grace Awakening*. Because when we're visionaries, when we're radically committed to Jesus Christ and world missions, we're bound to be upset by a lot of things that are going on in our culture and in our churches, and therefore we're going to need a lot of grace and a lot of love and a lot of discernment if we're not going to be knocked out of the battle. Because this tendency sometimes is to speak first and think later.

I challenged all the leaders in OM from the very earliest days in our fellowship to get a hold of a book called *How to Win Friends and Influence People* by Dale Carnegie. There's many similarities in certain parts of this book to that book. *How to Win Friends and Influence People* is

a secular book, and some of it you will surely want to reject, and it will grieve your heart how some things are misused for financial gain. But that doesn't mean the basic principles are wrong, because a lot of the basic principles come right out of the sermon in the Mount. Young person, anything you can do to develop your own personality, to be a little more friendly, to develop your communication skills, even on the most basic level, like communicating to your roommate, to your mother, to your father, to your brother, to your sister. I will tell you, it would be worth me taking a session if that's the only thing you got out of it.

Don't give up on people. You cannot have the same in-depth relationship with everybody, but you can let people know that you do care for them. And it would be a wonderful result of this missions conference if some grandmothers of prayer and some uncles and some aunts and some brothers and sisters could get phone calls and letters from people sitting right here just to simply say, I care. A lot of the things I do in my life have nothing directly to do with Missiology. They have to do with being a person. I am a person. George Verwer is a person. You are a person. As a person, I have relationships. My father, 86. Very important. We're getting more time together than ever since my mother's death. I have a sister, a niece who's going to get married. I have nephews, three of them now in Operation Mobilization answer to prayer. And I think sometimes in all of our missiology, in all of all of our super spirituality, we neglect the realities of life connected with us being a person. Again we often can't do much but a letter, a phone call, taking somebody out for a meal, having someone over for a cup of coffee, remembering people's birthdays, remembering people's anniversaries, trying to get to the funeral of a loved one or a wedding of a friend, even though it may mean some hardship to me.

That's part of being God's ambassador here in this world. And you'll be amazed of how, when you take these steps in which you're often forgetting yourself, the Lord opens the door for you to speak a word for Christ, not always. Or to present something of your vision for world evangelism. Feeding the poor, helping the hungry. I discover some unconverted people are more interested in what I have to say about the African famine, which has been very much on my heart than even some Christians. How can that be? Even that hardline Christian who wants to mainly get involved only in evangelism in terms of winning souls to Christ, there are not so many of those. But even that brother at least, could show concern. I actually am not able to do much about this famine. I've tried to help. OM has taken some offerings. We're networking, we're speaking about it. The article I wrote about it's been published in magazines all over the world. But as far as the African famine, I feel that I've done very, very little.

But I feel at least I've allowed my heart to be broken for those people. I'm in the mainstream of what I believe God is doing in this world, and that includes Africa and the people without Christ and some of them without food in Africa. Somebody might say, why is Verwer angry? Why is Verwer angry at times? It's not firstly, because people are not going. I know that's complicated. I know it takes time. And the last thing I want to do is put a guilt trip on people for not going to the so called mission field because one of the great mission fields we know is right here. It's not even because people are not praying. I admit that winds me up. Prayerlessness in the church, to me is worse than cancer and AIDS combined. But somehow I want to be grace awakened. People haven't been taught how to pray. There haven't been the models or haven't been the examples. I need to be patient. But I'll tell you what really gets me angry and I think it would be true even if I was not a believer. When people don't even care. They don't give a d-a-m. Brothers and sisters,

let your heart be broken. You may not be able to do much. You may be battling for survival. I wish I could share with you my 26 points on how to survive. I'm a survivalist.

I'm not basically a victorious life-ist. Here I am superabundant overwhelming. The devil's been knocked out every time I wink. I tell you, some days it is a miracle of God if I just get through the day without doing something really stupid. It only takes one fly to ruin the ointment. It takes one act of folly. What if George Verwer just has one act of fornication with one woman in 1 hour? Do you think that's going to affect Operation Mobilization? Think that might get into the newspapers? You better believe it. So I'll tell you, I back way down on some of my goals some days, especially when I get uptight. My wife said to me yesterday, darling, you're uptight. What do you mean I'm uptight? What a lack of discernment on her part. And I'll tell you, if I were a Biola student, my goal on some days would be just to get through that day. Just to get through without punching my roommate, strangling a teacher or burning a building to the ground.

Oh, I know most of you don't have these deep, complex problems like me, but if you do, praise God. He is able. He's able to take anybody, whatever their struggles, whatever their burdens, whatever their emotional needs and weaknesses. He's able to take those people and use them for his glory. And I hope you'll not be intimidated by your struggles, your failures, your problems, your heartaches. You'll even see failure as often a backdoor to success. That's right. I failed in my first effort in the Soviet Union. A real Zonk. Bazook. But God turned it around to lead to the birth of OM. The story of my life. Too many people today too many people today have been intimidating and brought into discouragement and depression by their own failures. Rather than seeing them as stepping stones, as learning places, as springboards to become more mature and

more what God would have them be for world missions and for his glory until he returns. Let's pray together.

Our God and father. We just thank you for your word. We thank you for this exhortation in the book of James that tells us not to be hearers of the word only, but doers. And we thank you that there is so much to do because surely once we get into this, we're seldom going to be bored. Oh, Lord, we thank you even for the challenge of our own failures. Because as we develop a program to become more mature, we're going to discover that those failures were used as stepping stones and training places for greater reality and victory in our own lives. We thank you, Lord, for your grace. Grace for ordinary people. Grace when we fall flat on the face. Grace for those moments of anger. Grace even for those moments of lukewarmness and indifference. Lord, I know. And at the end of the day. Satan will try to attack me even on my strongest points. An attempt to bring lukewarmness and indifference and stagnation into my own wretched heart. But, oh, God, I stand on your promises. We stand together on Your promises this morning to be your men and to be your women. To go where you want us to go, whether it's across the street or across the world, and to be what you want us to be. For your glory till Jesus Christ returns. In his name we pray. Amen.

If you're three, if you're free at three, that's your chance to have a go at me. Any questions, any question you want to ask? Where is that meeting?