



# **GEORGE VERWER SHARES MEMORIES FROM THE PAST AND HOPE FOR THE FUTURE**

**Interview with George Verwer August 4, 2017**

**Interviewer: Barbara Hitching**

# George Verwer Shares Memories from the Past and Hope for the Future

**Interview with George Verwer**  
**August 4, 2017**

Interviewer: Barbara Hitching

Barbara Hitching: Thank you, for being willing to do this interview with me; I really appreciate it. Thank you very much.

George Verwer: Oh, thank you. It is good to see you, to hear what is on your heart, and how we can talk. I hope other people will be encouraged as they tune in.

BH: Yes, I hope so. I wanted to start from when I was a child. I remember when you arrived to meet our family for the first time, the folks were worried about the guy Drena had fallen in love with. It was kind of a tense time as you came. We kids fell in love with you because when you ate ice cream, you turned the spoon upside down before putting it into your mouth, and that so shocked Dad, he didn't know what to do.

What was that time like for you? Were you apprehensive - especially about meeting Dad?

GV: I think I was but unfortunately my memory of all these things is not what I dreamed it would be, just being honest with you. But because of what Christ has done in my heart, I have always had love in my heart for all of you and for your dad, who in after years we became close friends. One of the great miracles was him coming to Christ. It took a long time.

But I especially remember being on a golf cart with him in California, and I purposely put him next to Vernon Blythe, who is an on-fire business person, who it was easy for him to respect. I think that was one of the scenes. Also, I took up golf, I had never played golf, I partly took up golf because of him, and also my dad was a golfer so I had that legacy. Amazing! And years later after his conversion, maybe before his conversion, we played golf and I remember the change in his life through Christ, even on the golf course.

BH: That was one thing I wanted to ask you about, because Dad was not an easy man to please, especially if you were a Christian. The only Christian he respected was Doc Davis, a gentleman who wasn't afraid of him and who boldly shared his faith whenever they met.

It just astonished me that before Dad was saved, he grew to love you and respect you. I believe it was because you decided to learn to play golf so you could interact with him; I really respect that about you. But I am wondering if that was an easy decision to make, to meet him and learn; to meet him on the golf course?

GV: Well, I think the truth is I was in the fast lane, constantly meeting all kinds of people including quite a range of relatives, so I don't remember it being difficult but I am sure there are some things I perhaps forgot. I was stunned at times at his behavior before he came to Jesus.

Of course, I knew what he had done to my own wife, abusing her, mainly verbally, but I always had love. You know the Word of God teaches us to not only love our enemies, I didn't think of him as an enemy, but to bless them. So again, I am just so thankful. I think I had the privilege of sharing at his funeral, which was also special.

BH: Yes, you did. Of all the times you played golf with Dad, you shared one memory, but can you remember any others that stuck out, where you were with him and you had a good opportunity to share?

GV: He was pretty intensive on the golf course and when we went on that cruise, he sort of pressured us to go on a cruise, which we had never done, and the other brother who was with me, was very slow.

Henry knew Jesus by then, but this guy really got on Henry's nerves – so that's a memory. But before he came to Jesus, I remember him really losing his cool; he also did not like black people but that changed when Christ took over his life. I saw that evident on the golf courses as well.

The thing that always ministered to me was when I visited him in Florida, he was often there reading the Word of God. Of course, he was an imperfect person right to the end, like all of us. And you had to go the extra mile in his final years and endure some pretty erratic stuff.

He had a girlfriend, didn't he, toward the end? I remember meeting her.

BH: Her name was Helen.

GV: Yeah. Doc Davis – his wife – wasn't she Helen?

BH: Yes, that is right.

GV: A very special man; I got to know him.

BH: When you and Drena moved to Spain there were those who prophesied failure as Spain was a closed country. The Lord gave you the idea to open a bookstore called Victoria. One of the things you did was sell postage stamps to stamp collectors. But then, to make contacts, you placed Bible verses around the city and held a contest where participants had to find all the verses and bring them into the shop for a gift.

Do you remember the first person who came with the verses and the emotions you and Drena experienced? What was that like?

GV: I am sorry but I don't remember that, but I do remember generally what an impact that made. Keep in mind, we did have books as well in the shop. I owned a stamp business when I was a kid, so my stamp collection, some of which got stolen, that is a long story.

But I remember the impact it made on Madrid and the only way we could do those verses in the subways was they were all verses from the Catholic Bible. So even nuns and priests; I remember especially nuns and priests going through and getting the answers from the Bible verses. The paper we gave out on the street, it was illegal to give out anything like that on the street, but this was a commercial leaflet, it wasn't a religious leaflet, and so somehow we got away with it.

Amazing! But there were some Catholic evangelical books and we had those in the bookstore. And then you could go to that store and if you were an evangelical and we trusted you, we gave you information

about our other bookstore that was a secret place. It was a secret place down the road where people could go and could get evangelical books. Yes, exciting days.

BH: What do you think was the outcome of your time there in Spain? It was a huge act of faith to go there.

GV: Well, Jean Davey and Betty Snavelly soon joined us; that was the first team in our history. We were still learning; God was preparing us for much greater things but our faith was so increased. The main work we did there was send Gospels through the mail; hundreds of thousands received the Word of God and built into our thinking was, it was worth giving people the Word of God whether they respond or not. Of course, we want them to respond but I have this passion that everybody in the world would at least have an opportunity; then it is up to them.

And so the fact that we reached hundreds of thousands through the post (mail) was really very encouraging. Spanish believers would come and have folding, stuffing sessions. We would often post these at night from pillar boxes all over the city.

And then we started putting Bible posters all over the nation, even in swimming pools and on road signs. I was just looking at some the other day, so those early days in Spain, and the Spanish leaders who agreed to lead Operation Mobilisation the first year after God gave me the name. So it was all very historic, all very special.

BH: That is amazing. That was really the beginning, for out of Spain, you moved and things grew and grew, didn't they?

GV: Yes, it is all through failure because I was learning Russian in Spain. I was teaching English and learning Russian and doing advanced Spanish, with I think it was Ramses Institute. Of course, our first child, Ben was born within a few months of getting there. The next summer I launched into Russia, probably humanly speaking, very immature, very premature and got arrested by the Soviets for smuggling Bibles and literature within the first few days.

Our work before that was called Send the Light; our vision was very narrow: Communist countries, closed countries, and Muslim countries. Western Europe was not in our thinking but God had something else.

Through that failure, when I went for a day of prayer, God gave me the name Operation Mobilisation and the vision for French, and Germans, and Britons, who had all just been killing each other, not that long before, really. As you know, Drena's father was killed in that war, so I thought, can there not be a Revolution of Love? And this name Operation Mobilisation which had only been used in war, never used by the Church, now is a widespread word throughout the whole Body of Christ.

So God gave me that name during that day of prayer, Operation Mobilisation. I went back to Madrid, shared that with the Spaniards and a small group of Americans, mainly headed for Turkey, like Dale, who were already on their way, and then by the next summer, we had 200 people. By the next summer, we had 2,000, and since then, 200,000 have served with Operation Mobilisation, including you of course, and Galina.

BH: That is so amazing to hear that story. I'd like to take you back when you were in Russia in that jail; that must have been so frightening.

GV: Ah, we were just locked up in a hotel.

BH: But the Lord gave you opportunities to share the Gospel then. How did that impact your life, seeing these people who had no access to the Scripture wanting to take the Gospels you had brought into the country?

GV: I think when we were arrested, we were more focused on answering their questions. They took us into separate rooms to grill us because originally they thought I was a spy. There was nation wide publicity; American spy arrested in Rovno.

So we did have some opportunities to share; we got one guard to sing a song with us. All the literature, the printing press, it was all confiscated. They didn't find it all at once so when they found the second load because we had trouble lying, we just told them the truth. So we had to tell them we actually had a printing device in the car, so then they got very upset and drove the car off to another place and then went through the car more thoroughly. So I think we were caught up in the complexity of it all.

I think we were semi-courageous; I think we were fearful a bit but I think we prayed. It was just a great experience. God was laying a foundation and more than reaching a lot of people, God was helping transform the life of this loud mouthed New Jersey kid who needed a lot more transformation, a lot more wisdom.

Praise God. Failure can be the back door to success and that has been part of my message all over the world. I even recommend that book by Irwin Lutzer, even though I have not read it, but the cover spoke to my heart.

BH: I think one thing I admired about you was your fearlessness; that you would go into places like that. As a child, I really admired that about you, that you were so courageous.

GV: You know, God used my testimony to bless others and that was one of the main purposes of my life, I always wanted to encourage others. I even had that before I was a Christian. And I am very thankful, unlike many people, I had a very happy childhood and good parents who really were seekers living out their Christian values to the degree they knew. My father's dad being an atheist; my parents did way better than their parents. I think that's due to the Christian values before they came to Jesus.

So it is always an encouragement to hear that people are encouraged. Later on when they discover maybe that I do struggle with fear and struggle with a lot of other things, I hope they are not disappointed. Because people, when they are young, they do develop unrealistic expectations and that is even today why many people are crashing, because they have a totally unrealistic expectation about people, about life; that's where I think OM, many of us have grown in grace and maturity, of course, always trying to find the balance.

BH: Well, the world has been your field, but I think you have a special love for India. I can remember you telling stories of pushing banana carts and singing songs to get the people to come and buy little gospel leaflets. Why do you have such a love for India?

GV: Well, that is just a God thing. Initially, I wasn't interested in India; I thought there were plenty of missionaries there. I had heard of Bakht Singh with hundreds of churches; even when he came to Moody and actually it was great that he came to Moody. But the information caused me to think that country was not in our thinking.

It was only then in sending a group of Indians to give me a Macedonian call in France in the summer of '63. At the same time, I sent Dale Rhoton to Afghanistan, which was a priority country from day one in our thinking, partly due to Oswald J. Smith's preface in his book about that nation.

So because Dale was that far, I said you had better check out Pakistan and India. We know there are a lot of Muslims, because Muslims was the key thing in our thinking then, not India. And through Dale's trip, we realized how many Muslims there were in India.

And so immediately, in those days I could make decisions very quickly, I don't think I consulted with many people. The next year we sent people to India and Greg Livingstone was one of the first. He was so shocked by me telling him, he was one of the leaders who would do whatever I told him and so he said, "India, where is that?"

And I said, "You just go East and eventually you will get there." He can tell that story better than me. Pretty soon Greg was there lining up for these teams.

They traveled overland. We had a lot of problems. The teams all got stuck in Switzerland; they got mumps. I mean this was the most historic year in many ways and Peter Conlan has a book with a lot of photographs about some of this.

It was only when I visited the team, no plan to stay in India and traveled around India that God just broke me. How could it be so many people in such a huge country, so wide open? Completely wide open. I immediately told Drena in six months, even though she was pregnant with our third (Christa), "I think we must move to Bombay."

So that trip around India and a few other things, like a business man telling me about his trip to Calcutta, showing me his slides in Chicago, John Everdine. I still remember his name, he died very young. These things built up and then Bang! They exploded when I made that trip. I also saw the open door.

Part of the message about forsaking all and living on the very lowest amount of money was very upsetting to Europeans. In Spain I saw this would never work.

In India they just embraced it. In a sense, India was our cup of tea, with the radical message we had and the Indians were moved when they saw the way we lived with them, traveled with them, slept with them, ate their food, even though it didn't always work so well. India was God's place. It is OM's greatest legacy that we've left as some of us prepare for heaven, it is India.

It has become a full-scale church movement which is what mission books in the 60's told us we were supposed to do. Not supposed to be a mission's society; we were supposed to birth churches. So now there are 3,000 churches; unfortunately some of them didn't want us to do that, they wanted the old OM style and it is just exciting to see about 3,000 churches.

They embraced humanitarianism because we gave them the leadership; they made that decision. I was still not big into the humanitarian side but I respected Joseph and his leaders, other OM leaders. Eventually I swung that way as well, but that has proven to be a huge relevant ministry in India today. 110 schools, maybe more now, and all kinds of ministries to prevent sex trafficking, a ministry among AIDS people. It is quite amazing, yet more people coming to Jesus in the last ten years than in the previous 40. Hallelujah!

BH: That is amazing. So what are some of your really special burdens for the land of India? You have mentioned some very briefly, but what is your heart throb for India today?

GV: It has always been this way, right back from when I first came to know Christ and started speaking in the youth groups in my hometown – one year in Jesus – to see people living out the Christian life, not just talking. But to see--, some people call it revival. I would often speak about revival until I found so many people sort of misuse that term. So my greatest passion for India is revival and renewal. Within the Church is enormous potential; we are not even at 10% of the potential of the Indian church, and that now includes our own churches.

The second burden is this revolution of love could be more active because Indians tend to be very critical of one another; people in one organization tend to always criticize people in other organizations. I've listened to that all my years in India; it is true in other countries as well. But I long to see people have a grace awakening where they are just slower to speak unkind words, slower to spread gossip through social media. We have people spreading gossip and whole stories about our work because of the changes we made.

And of course, there were some failures along the way. It was especially difficult when the income greatly increased, ten, fifteen, twenty years ago, to just handle all that income properly. There was never any major embezzlement but there were some stupid mistakes made in different ways; some people are still talking about it 20 years later. So that is one of my passions, to see renewal, to see more love for one another; for greater unity and that often has to be in the midst of diversity. We are not going to all agree on all these different issues.

BH: One of the things I have known about you all these years is you love books. You have been a reader and you have always encouraged others to read. Who is the author who most impacted your life when you were a young man and how did his books make a difference to who you have become?

GV: Two people. Billy Graham, and Oswald J. Smith, and then maybe Clyde Narramore. Billy Graham, of course, the initial books I read and sermons in print after my conversion in his meeting March 3, 1955, they were huge.

And then Oswald J. Smith's book – Passion for Souls – the most influential book in connection with missions. Together with that, I started selling Christian books door to door and I saw people liked to buy books if they were about sex and Clyde Narramore had the first Christian book I ever saw on sex, Christian Youth & Dating.

Of course, I still was having a lot of struggles in my Christian life with girls. Not major immorality but I was always wanting to kiss them, and tried to figure out where that fit into the Christian life. So I led a girl to Christ, I will never forget it, in Washington DC, then kissed her for the next half an hour or so. Then another girl I was kissing, hoping she would come to Jesus. Police caught us in the car and then finally I decided, cold turkey.

So it was two years after that, with no more dating, no more kissing, that I met your sister. That is in the film of my life story. Anybody can watch that film and get the story of how I met Drena, broke my fast, moved in on the target. For me it was love at first sight; for her it was fright at first sight and it is a miracle that she ever agreed to marry me, that's for sure.

BH: What is the character quality you most appreciate about Drena?

GV: Oh, I think it is her patience, her commitment to missions and to the Lord. Even when there were things maybe she didn't understand or maybe didn't even feel totally happy about, her commitment to

missions and her loyalty to me, to trust me when it may have looked like I was about to do something stupid, like that Russian trip leaving her in Madrid with a fairly newborn baby.

I can't remember her ever holding me back, so that quality – I told her even the other day that actually we all have weaknesses and how her weaknesses have been a help to me in my ministry. She asked me what that was all about. So one of the weaknesses for me is she is shy and quite afraid to speak in public and she has made me agree not to push her. And that, partly linked with a very hurtful childhood experience--.

And yet God has used that because I think it would be quite complicated to have two preachers under the same roof. I was thinking if she got invitations off to speak now, because women are the in thing for speaking, and I am sitting home making tea, maybe I would find that a little complex. Even her weaknesses, and she is a wounded person, we all are to some degree, God has used to give me the perfect wife for what He wanted to do through me, in both of our imperfections, of course.

One of our greatest struggles has always been that we cannot meet people's expectations. When I preach, people come up to me who are ill or who have a major problem and they think if I lay hands on them and pray because I have been introduced as an anointed servant of the Lord, especially in certain kinds of churches, then they have this expectation. That is a great struggle.

Once in Indonesia, speaking in huge meetings, the ship was introduced as a miracle ship. These were all the kind of people who were big into healing, Pentecostal churches, so they of course, expected us to do miracles, and especially the leader. So when I came along, there were a thousand people in this meeting – tremendous expectations. So they brought to me a crippled man on a bicycle, this story has not been told much, I still have a photo of him. Every healer, every miracle worker in town had tried to raise him up off his bicycle, so they thought I'm God's man. I was so embarrassed and said, well, let's not stand here in the middle of everybody, let's go off quietly and pray. And unfortunately, he was not healed but I've never forgotten that man, and that was around 1971, the very beginning of the ships' histories.

Lots of lessons, lots of disappointments and heartbreaks along the way but God giving me grace. One of my favorite verses: "His grace is sufficient and His strength is made perfect in weakness." Yeah. I keep photos of these people and that's helped me.

BH: So has that verse helped you? Because there have been tragedies in OM. We've lost people we really love, think of Chris Begg and that horrible accident, think of Jonathan and what happened to him, and the time in the Philippines, and just so many things you had to deal with. How have you gotten through those times?

GV: One of the reasons is Billy Graham, years ago said, "Life at its best is full of sadness" and so I learned to embrace sadness and I do that almost daily now. And the death of Keith Beckwith and John Watts here in the U.K., the two men I turned the whole work over to mid 60's when I went to India, both killed in a brand new little car his father gave him, not an OM car – in Poland that was a big shock. One of the leaders who was with me at that time had a breakdown going through that. So that was a tough time. We had to hold to the promises of God, "to live is Christ, to die is gain".

I think the core thing that held us in OM and kept us on track is the conviction the Bible is the Word of God. In places like Moody Bible Institute where I studied, which wasn't all a blessing, but they were strong. The Bible is the Word of God. Billy Graham – the Bible is the Word of God. And I think the greatest grievance today is too many theologians are playing with Scripture and saying it needs to be reinterpreted and they especially don't like the idea of people being lost. I mean, if people are not lost who don't know Jesus, then what are global missions all about? Well they would say helping people physically, but we are holding to the Word of God.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh to the Father but by me." It doesn't mean we don't struggle with it at times. No matter how filled we are with the Spirit, we're incredibly human and doubt and struggle is part of the pilgrimage.

Many other books have helped me along the way, like Yancey's *Disappointment With God*. What an amazing book, because many of my prayers were not being answered. I couldn't play games and pretend, carried away with hype; a lot of hype at times in the Church and missions, especially with the television people, and I couldn't get into that. I tried not to condemn those people, that is why I wrote my book *Messiology* but I, myself have stuck to the strong, very high values that God gave me as a young Christian through these great books.

BH: What is the most important lesson you feel you have learned over the years as you have been out leading people, serving people, depending on the Lord in the midst of crisis?

GV: Yes, so many crisis. I think the bottom line is to bounce back when you fail. I read that verse, "Don't let the sun go down on your anger" and I had an anger problem that I fortunately got a handle on as a young Christian, but not perfection, and so I thought we shouldn't let the sun go down on any sins. We do sin, we need to deal with it immediately.

Books like *Calvary Road*, another major book in my life. Roy Hession when he died left it all in my hands, the Roy Hession Trust and it is going strong, that book, in 100 languages all over the world. So there are many lessons, but I think quick repentance, continuous revival, not going to bed at night with anything against anybody, including yourself, which is often hard. Characters like me get very hard on themselves and I got too hard on my wife at times, partly linked with being too hard on myself.

So again, learning God's love, that He loves me even when I fail. All my life I have had to be very careful with pornography, not the hard stuff, God's mercy I never got into that but just attracted to women with the wrong kind of clothing. I have to just be careful and the greatest miracle of my life is I have been totally faithful to Drena all of these years and to Jesus since my conversion. And that in spite some struggles and occasional failures with the eyes.

BH: *Calvary Road* is a really important book in my life with the message of the Cross and the message of forgiveness. You encouraged me to give some books away and for a year I did that. One thing I learned was prisoners long to have books and so I took books to the local prisons. Have you ever distributed your books in prisons in various countries?

GV: Some. And I visit prisons. I was just in a women's prison, some of them committed murder and I am deeply moved when I go to prisons, whether it is just to visit a friend or to minister, and that came into my life when I was still a student in Maryville College where I met Dale before I went to Moody. I read *Prison Is My Parish* and it just blew me away. He was a tough miner, tough guy, got converted and he ended up in prison ministry.

I've always, I don't like the word regret, but I wish OM had done more in prisons. As soon as we got to Mexico we went straight to a prison, and we have had that in a smaller way, but not a very big effort if we are really honest. So I celebrate God raising up Chuck Colson with his prison ministry; he is one of my heroes and he is with Jesus now, and others. I just visited the Dartmoor Prison and thank the Lord, my friend who was there has just been released. So thanks for mentioning it.

BH: Giving away books is something important to you...

GV: Yeah. 100,000 last year. Not OM. Just me in little special projects and our team here. Working through networks, including you.

BH: If you could give one bit of advice to the person who is struggling, who feels there is no hope, who may even be wondering if life is worth living – what would it be?

GV: I would tell them a story and I do that in churches because people remember stories. This is my favorite story. A family in a thunderstorm, even the adults were nervous; the lightening was fierce and then they realized their little 7 year old was alone up in the bedroom. So they ran up the stairs thinking she would be hiding under the bed but the little girl was looking out the window. There was another flash of lightning. They said, "Are you okay?"

She said, "I am fine. I think God is taking my picture."

That would be my message to people who are down, who feel rejected, and whatever horrible emotions we get into, that God loves them, even if they are wrestling with depression, which is so huge. Time Magazine featured depression last week. 300 million supposedly affected globally by some form of depression. And I say to those people, even though it is hard, God still loves them and to somehow try as much as they can to somehow respond to that love. Of course, they might need medical help as well, I don't hesitate to tell them that.

I've always had a quite significant number of friends who for life, this is in my book, life has not worked out. Some ended up in prison, others just broken, many broken marriages; I've always really gravitated more to people who it hasn't worked out than people who have it all together, though God, to accomplish the work I had to do, gave me some amazing people who to a high degree have it all together because you are not going to plant churches in Turkey, if, you know, if you're totally dysfunctional and not able to work.

So the combination of different types of people is, I think, is one of the marks of OM. People from Cambridge University working on the same team, traveling to India with some London guy who has hardly any education at all, working together. I think that is also one of the things that impacted Indians.

OM is known as a movement that gave a lot of people their first chance; their first chance in ministry. I have just been to the funeral of Steve and Sandy Simmons. Sandy<sup>1</sup> was the daughter of one of the first major mechanics I recruited out of California. Steve Simmons was a total London guy who loved Jesus and he said, "Maybe Bible school? Why? You would have to study. Who would want Bible school?" He ended up as a mechanic. He met this girl and the father was not happy because he was idealistic, perfectionistic; that is the way mechanics are. But they had, what? 40 or 50 years of a great marriage. They carried on the ministry the father started; he died very young from a car accident. They carried that ministry in the Netherlands, neither one of them Dutch, and 100-200 people came to that funeral because these people made an impact on the Netherlands. Well, these are the kind of people that a few years before OM came along, there would be no open door for such people to be in missions. We celebrate that; it's a work of the Lord and the Holy Spirit.

BH: If people want to get in touch with you – what is the best way for them to contact you.

GV: Well, you can Google my name and come up with all kinds of things but also [george.verwer@om.org](mailto:george.verwer@om.org). That comes to me direct; I read every email personally; sometimes 6-8 hours a

---

<sup>1</sup>Note: Sandy is in heaven; not Steve.

day and it's not that hard because I mix it with prayer and I believe God answers prayer and I just count it a privilege to still at my age be active, be in good health. So, George.Verwer@om.org. There is also a website, <https://georgeverwer.com/>

We give away books. We'd love to hear from people and send them some books. We are especially looking for people who will help distribute Randy Alcorn's book, Why Pro-Life? That is something that has only been in my life for the last 15 years; believe it is one of my great mistakes, that I didn't do much for the unborn, I could have done more, but the Lord is merciful. I believe God has changed me; though we may not win out politically. I don't think God's Kingdom is to first be political. Each baby that is born is precious and so if we can give people at least the option without condemning them, I believe more people will be alive.

This is a big movement in America. 90% of all pro-life is based in the U.S.A. and 10% in the rest of the world, so we are trying to shift that by distributing his book in many, many languages and sharing about this publicly, often even on television where it has never been mentioned. That is another part of the vision God has given us for these days; if anybody can help us out, we'd love to have contact. One lady just today asked for 250 copies of Why Pro-life. They get shipped out of a warehouse in Georgia and will be on the way in the next 24 hours.

BH: Do you have any specific prayer requests you would like to share?

GV: I'd ask people to pray that I would have wisdom about priorities. I am the kind of person that after I have my first cup of tea in the morning---. You know, I have so many different things on any one day I'd like to do, mostly on helping and investing in people, so I just need wisdom. I'm still just a feeble, earthen vessel; I can only do so much. I need to learn to live with my limitations. My passion is to be a better senior citizen, especially a better husband. My wife, as you know, has some physical challenges. In India, they'd say we are both running 80, we are 79 but in India they'd say we are running 80; just blows your mind to even think of it.

So there's some prayer requests. And for the release of funds. A lot of our work is held up because we don't have money and the average person is not generous. The average person is still caught up, to some degree, even Christians, in material things and buying things that often they don't even need. OM may have been extreme for a while in the other way but I think somehow there is balance – and that would lead to a lot more money.

Many Africans, we are working a lot in Africa now, who love Jesus and have no Bible in their own language. No Bible, which is normal. Hundreds and hundreds of thousands have no Bibles; African Bibles are expensive - \$7, \$8. English Bibles you can buy for \$1. If you live in a city, you can get a Bible, but if you are a poor African in a village? We now have a network with more than 15 distributors and just for that alone, I need to see some major financial breakthroughs. Thank you for asking.

BH: Well, thank you for your time; I really appreciate it. It's been a joy to talk with you.

GV: No, I'd be happy to talk with you even without doing any official interviews – we've really neglected you. We are stretched out all over the world, so maybe in God's timing we will get together personally. Its funerals unfortunately that bring us together.

BH: Yes, sadly.

GV: Yes, but if they are believers, they are wonderful events. I go to many funerals; I actually prefer them to weddings; weddings are quite too long. I have a wedding on Saturday but I told them not the

reception. I have to get to West Wales to preach the next morning, so I have a good excuse. It is actually the granddaughter of David Hicks [& Kathy] and Greg Malstead [& Mala]. Their granddaughter is getting married to a Brit; their parents work in India, Carlotta and Greg. Incredible story. Rachel is third generation. As soon as they are married they are going to study in Kentucky; that's the world we live in. Bless you!

BH: Give my love to Drena and thank you.

GV: Yes, and I'll tell her about our wonderful chat. Bye-bye.

BH: Bye.