

Prayer Requests

by George Verwer

This sermon emphasizes the importance of prayer and the Spirit-filled life in responding to the needs of the world and living a life that honors God.

Duration: 1:24:45

Scripture: Acts 4:31, 2 Corinthians 11:21-23, 2 Corinthians 13:5, Ephesians 4:30, Ephesians 5:15-17

Topics: "Prayer"

Description

In this sermon, Billy Graham emphasizes the importance of being filled with the Spirit and living wisely according to Ephesians 4 and 5. He encourages believers to make the most of every opportunity and understand the Lord's will. Graham expresses his concern about the portrayal of truth in media and the need for genuine conversions rather than mere decisions for Christ. He also mentions the Olympic event in Atlanta and prays for wisdom and grace in witnessing for Jesus. Overall, Graham reflects on the privilege of speaking to large audiences and the impact of personal encounters with individuals.

Transcript

This is a prayer meeting at the end of July 96. I'm going to be sharing prayer requests, and then when I do that, I hope you'll turn your tape off and spend time in prayer. It says, we'll turn the tape off here and spend time in prayer.

That's the real purpose of this tape. Of course, if you're listening while you're driving, you can still pray, but I don't... I recommend you don't close your eyes. Okay, thank you.

Let's pray together. Father, we thank you for bringing us together again here tonight. Lord, our hearts ache over the suffering, especially in Africa, but also in other parts of the world.

Loved ones of people who have been blown to bits or murdered or crashed in airplane accidents are crying out tonight, and we want to cry out with them and for them. We want to reach out to suffering people. Sometimes we think we have problems, and then we look across the world and realize our problems really aren't that big.

We want this little prayer meeting tonight to really count for eternity, so help us to not somehow just be passengers listening to other people pray, but help us to be participants really going forward and believing you and trusting you for great breakthroughs. We know that prayer works, and we thank you for that

tonight. In Jesus' name, amen.

Amen. I'd like to just read a quotation about Sudan, as we have continued to pray for that country, and I hope, I really hope each one of us could just consider ourselves an ambassador for Sudan. I was just thinking today, in fact, I'm writing the International Update, and I mentioned that this is the 40th, 40th summer, never been a single summer for 40 summers that we've not had teams out in evangelism.

And now you've mentioned that it's 40 years that the war has been going on in Sudan, just like two different planets. And I don't understand, but I just believe that we should at least try to increase our concern for Sudan, our prayers, our letter writing, anything that we can do to help in that situation. The average person is still rather ignorant of what is going on there, and it's a very distant thing to them.

They can't, just the average person, the different countries of Africa, that gets confused in their minds. They get very, they feel often very overwhelmed as to what they can do. Now here's an example of something positive.

It's just interesting that this came in my post that I was going through on the way here from the house. Sudan, this is dated July 25th. United Churches Prevent Bloodbath in Rank, a place called Rank.

You've heard of that place? You ever been there? Look at that. There it is. We have just heard that united action by churches in Rank, an isolated area in northern most part of southern Sudan, about 12 hours by bus from Khartoum, prevented a massacre back in February 1996.

The Sudanese government is continuing its attempts to turn the country into an Islamic state. One of their strategies is to convert pupils between 6 and 12 years of old in school. The region's government representative asked the churches to open their doors for Islamic teaching.

When the churches refused, he threatened to use force, to which they replied, so use force. When the officials arrived with the army, he found members of all the local churches around the building. Because a military action would have caused bloodbath, he thought better of it and withdrew after arresting some of the leaders.

They were released one week later. The Rank churches celebrated this as a great victory in the face of permanent persecution in Sudan. The source name and address, of course, has been withheld.

So let's right now go to prayer for Sudan. I think it's just good to form little groups of 4 or 5. Those listening to the tape, you can pray however you want. But let's pray for Sudan.

Let's remember this war. Let's thank God for this victory, but realize that oftentimes it doesn't always work out like that, and people are killed again and again and again. Let's pray.

Well, we know that verse about angels in heaven rejoicing over one person that comes to Christ. So you can imagine what's been happening, what happened over Minneapolis a little over a month ago. Some of you may have heard about this, but I was talking to someone on the phone, actually son-in-law of Billy Graham, and he said he'd been to Minneapolis, and this is a person that's been in these kind of campaigns for years.

He's actually one of the advertising companies that does a lot of Billy Graham's work. And he said it's just absolutely amazing what was happening in Minneapolis, and it was beyond any crusade almost he had

ever imagined of a citywide campaign. In fact, one night so many stood up to believe in Christ.

That Billy Graham, here's a man with Parkinson's at 77 years of age, still just going so strong. But Billy Graham was so surprised by so many, tens of thousands standing up, he thought they misunderstood. So I told him to sit down, and gave him another shot about Christ, Savior, and Lord, and then gave the invitation again.

Still I think 11,000 or something professed faith, made some kind of a decision. I heard that on the phone, and then this came on email. United States, Minneapolis.

The Billy Graham crusade drew 350,000 people to the Metrodome on June 19th to 23rd. Please pray for the follow-up, which is currently ongoing. Over 33,000 came forward, about 40%, 40% of whom were new believers in Christ.

I was present at every meeting. Awesome is all I can say. God did a fantastic work Saturday evening.

Billy invited the youth to come forward to accept Christ. Over 10,000 were counseled that night. Many thousands were stuck on the floor in the aisles, concourses, as counselors couldn't reach them.

Billy asked the youngsters to sit again, which they did, and rise if they were truly dedicated to know Christ, is what I just referred to, and suffer persecution. Thought that would get a few, I guess, to stay seated. This man who writes this said, I counseled seven people outside in overflow, which had 10,000 people.

Sunday evening had 25,000 people outside that couldn't get in the Metrodome. We stand in awe. They are following up youth in local malls.

Needless to say, we are excited and anticipating more of what God will do. It does seem, and the last thing I'm interested in is exaggeration, but it does seem, as there has been an increase of prayer in the states, through many different movements, I think especially of the prayer summit movement in the northwest, very serious movement where leaders are gathering for days, just praying and getting right with the Lord. I think of the outbreaks on different university campuses more last year than this year.

I think of the report that came from another town in California where they showed this very, very blunt, straightforward drama about heaven and hell. Thousands and thousands, night after night, were coming to Christ. At the same time, we have a new book by Jim Engle called World Missions in North America, A Cloudy Future.

We have this very strong statement by another outstanding Christian, that surveys show that church growth, as far as statistics, church growth, statistics and church growth are two different things, because the church is always growing. Just to make up for the people going to heaven, there's a lot of people. But as far as statistics, church growth has leveled off in the United States.

But there's a lot of prayer, and it does seem to me something is happening in this huge country that has so many believers, and we know so many sleepy believers together with many committed believers. The whole Promise Keepers movement is just a phenomenon. 20, 30, 40,000 come seemingly wherever they have one.

Many of you know about the special leaders meeting in Atlanta. So I'd like us to have special prayer for the states. I'd like us to focus on the Olympics.

For some who hear this by tape, the Olympics will all be history. I've been running my own Olympics the past couple of weeks, so I haven't watched much about Atlanta. But whenever I see a little bit, even on an airplane TV, they just get a little summary.

It just makes me want to commit my life more to God's Olympics, Hebrews 12. We're running the race, looking on to Jesus. At the end of the day, so many people in Atlanta right now are disappointed.

There's only a few winners, mainly all losers. I can relate to that. There's only a few winners.

And of course, this bomb with two people dead has brought a cloud. It's interesting what the newspapers say about this. Of course, far more people got killed in automobile accidents in connection with getting there.

But two people killed by a bomb, that gets this massive publicity and brings a cloud. In fact, at the same time, probably a couple hundred more Tutsis and Hutus just slaughtered each other. It gets just a little tiny line in the newspapers.

It's sometimes a struggle to see that. But there's at least 100,000 people witnessing for Jesus. I'm mega understating here because that's not including local Christians.

But I've heard there's at least 100,000 have come parachuted in on Atlanta to witness for Jesus. One of my prayers is, Lord, don't let people get hardened and turned off if they get six different tracks and five New Testaments walking between their house and the Olympic event. That somehow these who are witnessing will be sensitive, also that the reports will not get exaggerated, and that somehow the Lord will be honored.

I was reading an article. One of the very leading men in the whole organization of the Olympics. Imagine what a task that is.

He's a very committed Christian. So there's a lot to pray for in Atlanta. There's a lot to give thanks for in Minneapolis.

And I'd like us to just really cry out to the Lord now for the states, if we could include in that prayer for the ports that the ship's coming to next year. San Diego, Los Angeles, Portland, Seattle, and also Canada. Two ports in Canada, one in Vancouver and another in a little tiny place where Susan's from.

What's that little place they're going to? Sounds like an Indian village. It was. It was.

Good. But again, we're having a real struggle in the lineup work. There's a shortage of finance.

Churches in the states don't easily grasp what's this about, a ship coming into their port. So let's pray for finance. They're trying to get local committees and local churches to carry the whole budget.

And each budget for each port is a lot of money. I'm not sure I would want to be in the shoes of these lineup people attempting what they are attempting. Things are beginning to move.

Let's pray for Bill Drake who will be having a lot of concerts in connection with this. I will be coming into Vancouver. I've been in most of the port cities in the last months but I'm coming into Vancouver just one day.

We've got all kinds of aspirations for that day, but that's on the 20th of August. But let's pray for all those ports and any lineup people, please pray for them by name. Remember Dave Hicks is still very much involved in this.

Lloyd Nicholas carries a big load of the responsibility. He was over there when I was there some weeks ago. And then just keep in mind that if things don't continue to function technically on the ship, it will never get there.

It's totally different than any other kind of lineup because as we saw in Belgium a few months ago, it gets very interesting when the ship cannot sail. And considering two years of preparation, it will especially have interesting vibrations in the United States. So let's pray for Ilan Alba who Mary shared with us today and we just welcome.

Mary Brinkley here. Is this the first? She popped in on this occasionally, but this is it. Oh, you were here when I wasn't here.

But we just welcome Mary back after many, many years of doing other strategic things. We won't put her on the spot too much right now, but she was mentioning today that Ilan and Joyce are really under a lot of pressure along us too with the engine room as both their children seem to be not well. The one case it's preventing them from getting good sleep at night.

I wouldn't want to be going down in the engine room on a ship with only a couple of hours sleep under my belt. So let's cry out to God for that as well. Again, let's pray in our small groups.

Feel free to change groups or you can wander outside if you want. I think it's raining a little bit. What a blessing to come up to the office this afternoon and just see all this scaffolding.

It's a sign that something's happening here, isn't it? Well, we hope even more is happening right here in this meeting tonight. The workmen have stopped. They've gone, but this is a time to pray.

So let's pray for the United States and those things that I've just mentioned. And with much thanksgiving, especially for those ones that came to the Lord. Help me somehow as I tend to share a few things that are on my heart that this may minister.

To all of us, we thank you for your word. Thank you for the phenomenal open doors you're giving us across the world to minister to others, to encourage others. Lord, we need grace to know how to respond.

We really believe that as a fellowship, you're bringing us into a whole new day of having a much, much, much larger influence on your body throughout the whole world. It's a little bit scary. So give us grace as we know Satan is going to try to derail the whole effort.

We really need your wisdom and grace. In Jesus' name, amen. In God's providence, I've had the privilege of speaking to more people in the last 12 days than in the previous three and a half months.

And yet, the things you remember are not generally the standing in front of large audiences but the individuals that come up to you. And often, some of the first people that get to you when you finish speaking. Because when you're speaking, you may appear to be somebody, but you're just the same as anybody else.

One mouth, one nose, two eyes. And the moment you finish speaking, there's a tremendous sense, often a weakness, even though there may have been a big response. And then people come with their personal needs.

One man was really after me there in Finland and needed \$10,000 on the spot. And somehow, I guess he thought, me being an American, that I would be able to help him. My friend, Osko Butnik, had already warned him that he probably wouldn't get too far, but we did have some prayer.

More than that, people come with all kinds of difficulties, whether it's Koreans in Wheaton, where I just was, or people in Finland, Singapore, wherever it may be. People are very, very similar. I believe the similarities.

We don't often hear any messages about similarities. Have you ever heard an orientation session how people are similar? They're always constantly being told how different we are. And I know in my marriage, one of my great mistakes is going around the world emphasizing at times how different my wife and I are.

I always get to laugh, and that loosens people up so that you can get the message through. But the fact is that my wife and I are more similar in many ways than we are different. But nobody wants to hear about that.

They might not believe it anyway. But people do carry enormous burdens. 20% of all the people in Finland don't have a job.

20% unemployment. Very different Finland than I went to 20-some years ago. Mexico, it's 25%.

Moldovia, I read in one of our articles, we have teams going into Moldova. Moldova is pronounced. 80% unemployment.

How does a country function with 80% of the people don't have a job? It must be unusual. I know as I go around, people think my great burden is to talk about world missions, but it really is just far more to talk about Jesus. And I'm reading a tremendous article that I had Graham pre-read for me, and he highly recommended it, so now I'm reading it, about revival.

And this article has given me a little more courage to try to openly call people to come back to the Lord or to seriously search their own heart and make sure they are repentant of any sin so that they are a clean vessel in God's work. I'd like to read a couple of scriptures, especially in Acts 4.31, because it's my prayer, maybe a bit idealistic, but it's my prayer as we press on in prayer tonight that every one of us in this room could know the fullness of God's Spirit as we pray tonight. And I really believe it's a great mistake that we give the idea that the Spirit-filled life is just for a very select few or just on certain occasions.

And the whole Spirit-filled life, I believe, is being derailed more than ever through this overemphasis on special experiences. Now, don't misunderstand that, because I'm in favor of God giving people special experiences if it's kept within balance. But it's a great mistake to think that the only Spirit-filled people are those that have these very special experiences that we can tell about, we can take pictures of, we can describe.

My experience in working with many people who overemphasize experience is that most of them, within a few years, are backslidden. Some of them, not even Christians. We must never let any experience, no matter how precious it is, and I've had some very precious experiences.

I got criticized for being pro-Toronto Blessing because in the leaders' meetings in Singapore, I mentioned, look, in the early days of O.M., we had people knocking on the floor, praying on the floor, what's the big deal? Well, you should see the letter I got from somebody about that. We're now promoting the Toronto Blessing, which isn't really too accurate. But I know this.

The blessing must never get priority over the blesser. And the blesser is God Himself and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. And how tragic it is that we have churches that one minute are just being tied away in tremendous enthusiasm, and the next minute, in total disaster and split.

I've just heard another one. I don't go around looking for these. I mean, I've been in England.

I've been in Finland. But this woman who sings as a backup singer with Noel Richards, she just came up to me backstage, and we started talking, and she said, do you remember coming to my church? And fortunately, I did. And she said, well, it's just all split.

And she shared how a good percentage of all the people just all left. They felt the pastor was this and that, and this poor guy. They had been holding stuff against him for years, and they finally got all together and marched out and left.

Now, I remember being there. We're good friends, actually, of Dave White's. It's Adrian's church.

And I remember being there and the enthusiasm and the worship and the praise. How can it be one minute we're praising God, the next minute we're cursing our brother or our sister? Do you think God ever knew we might get into that? Have you read James? Those exact words are actually taken from the book of James. And what does it say? These things should not be so.

It's a terrific justification of our sin. One of the things that makes me nervous about some of the emphasis on grace, even my own emphasis, which I'm trying to keep balanced, is that as we emphasize grace, we are not excusing sin. But we are pointing out God's solution to sin.

We can never take sin lightly. If sin and our sins are responsible for nailing the Lord Jesus Christ to the cross, how dare we ever take sin lightly. Acts 4.31 is the passage I want to read.

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. They were filled. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God boldly.

What is one of the clear signs of the fullness of the Holy Spirit? It's to speak out with boldness about the Lord. And I trust most of you are doing that. And if you aren't, then I would just encourage you on that day when you're attempting to speak out, when you're attempting to evangelize or share your faith, to right there have an Acts 4.31 experience.

Right on the spot. And ask the Lord to give you boldness to speak. Turn to Ephesians 4. Ephesians 4. Billy Graham quite often emphasized the need to be filled with the Spirit.

And he speaks often from Ephesians 4 and Ephesians 5, specifically more Ephesians 5. Verse 15. Be very careful then how you live, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity. Wow.

That's almost better than the old translations in redeeming the time. I don't think people know what that means, redeeming the time. Making the most of every opportunity.

Because the days are evil, therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. And I tell you, that is one of my cravings these days. I want to know what the Lord's will is for my ministry, for OM, for my life, for time.

Each capsule of time, each minute, each hour, we only get it once. My wife and I finally got to see the film Nixon. How many have seen the film? I'm a Nixon character.

I was at the Billy Graham meeting in 1957 when Richard Nixon was introduced as Vice President of the United States and led in prayer. And I thought, praise God, this guy's a Christian. And I voted for him when he ran sometime later.

And I've read a lot about him ever since. And this film, done by this guy Stone, who's an amazing film producer but is not famous for always exactly coming out with the truth, according to some people I've read, has done an awesome task in producing a two-hour film about Richard Nixon. I read the reviews before I saw the film and it indicated that it painted him a little worse than maybe he was.

But I think of how Billy Graham became such a very close friend of Dick Nixon. And there's a whole book written against Billy Graham called The Parable of Righteousness. 300 pages against Billy Graham.

When you get famous, you get this kind of blessing. Some of you get difficulty with one line written against you, right? Chuck Templeton, he used to be with Billy Graham in the 50s. I remember hearing Chuck Templeton speak.

Turned from Christianity and is a very, very popular man in the media in Canada. He did some of the chapters in this book against Billy Graham. One of the big criticisms against Billy Graham was that he became such an intimate friend and so caught up in the White House and caught up with Richard Nixon.

It's amazing, a film, even a two-hour film. They have to leave out 98%. They can only cover.

And, of course, they can just about tell you and say to you whatever they want to as media people. Though I'm sure a lot of that film represented the truth, though maybe not the whole picture. It just comes to my mind, what if someone had ever really reached that man, Nixon, with the gospel and seen his life changed? Brothers and sisters, you and I know it is not enough to get decisions for Christ.

You probably, most of you also know that I'm still extreme in not wanting to say that people who make decisions are converts. Because we know a major percentage of people who make decisions are not converts. They're not disciples.

They don't become real followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. Yet we continue to propagate that myth. Often a decision is the beginning of a search that leads to conversion.

Sometimes a decision is, at the same time, an actual conversion. Praise God, the more the better. Well, that was a rather depressing experience, watching that film.

But I think of how Billy Graham has somehow managed to just keep going. Imagine the disappointments that Billy Graham has had. His own daughter last year went through a divorce and was quickly remarried.

That doesn't always get in the newspapers. I sat with her former husband, I tell you. He's got a very, very important business and a very interesting man.

And I was sitting before a man that was just broken. Just broken. Let me just read the rest of this because otherwise it would go too long.

Do not get drunk on wine, verse 18, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Imagine comparing the filling of the Spirit with drinking a glass of wine.

A glass of wine in many countries is a very, very common thing. It's not saying here you can't drink wine, by the way. Sorry to disappoint some of you.

It says don't get drunk with wine. But it's just so interesting that this is being filled with the Spirit, which we think of as such as the ultimate spectacular experience. I know people have been trying to be filled with the Spirit, and they use other terminology, for years and years.

I've met people that have tried to have a particular gift of the Spirit for 5, 10, 15 years. Rolling, crying, screaming, holding their tongue out. All kinds of things.

Trying to get a particular gift of the Holy Spirit. And here in Ephesians 5, it's compared to having a glass of wine. Or being drunk with wine.

You can go out to London tonight and find a few thousand drunk with wine if you look around hard enough. The Spirit-filled life is for everyone. Belonging to a team in a family like this, for me, is tremendous reality.

Because when you're on the road preaching and blowing out of town 12 hours after you preach, there's an element of unreality. You're not living with those people. Praise God, thousands made commitments to missions.

Thousands came to Jesus. But what if I had to go live with these people that come forward in my meetings? I live with them for a year. Well, I don't have that privilege.

I've got this privilege. Come back here and you've got the same thing. We know each other.

We've seen one another's weaknesses. We get bored with each other at times. There are probably times we don't even want to particularly see a particular person.

How many of us can say as the Apostle Paul, write to someone on the team, I'm longing to see you? I didn't get any letters from Susan Priestley in Vienna. I'm longing to see you. Actually, I did get some fairly positive vibrations.

That was a poor illustration. But we're family and we become accustomed to being together and praying together and coming and going. And now we're just getting the dates for the ICT retreat.

Oh, big deal. We've had how many of these over the years? Some don't even want to come. They make that pretty clear.

And then the Christmas party. And as I was talking to Vera to get a date for the Christmas party, he said, well, we'd better contact the Square Dance. The Square Dance group.

She said, well, is that what people want? Brilliant question. I don't know. That's what I want.

How many want to have the Square Dance at the Christmas party? Raise your hand. Okay. Square Dance.

Anyway. Barn Dance. How many want to have a Barn Dance? Miscommunication.

Okay, carry. As long as there's ten of us. But what I'm trying to say by all this is that the bottom line, whether we're on this team or whether we're on the road, whether we're feeling good or not feeling good, whether we're bored or not bored, whether we're gung-ho for AD2000 and Acts 13 Breakthrough 2000 and Global Action, all these things that get presented here.

Sometimes with very little response, actually. The bottom line is that we're all still supposed to be filled with the Spirit every day. The last passage I wanted to read was from my Bible study this morning or yesterday morning.

2 Corinthians. I haven't read this much lately, so I never want to overdose people on this. It gets them depressed.

The final warning in 2 Corinthians 13. I was reading, again, some prosperity literature. It is amazing the propaganda that proper prosperity people are making.

I think of a particular magazine where, as far as I know, the editor of the magazine and the people behind that magazine are not that in favor of this heavy, heavy kind of extreme prosperity and yet full-page ads. Why, does it have money? OM, I don't think, has ever ran an ad once in that magazine. It's a specific Christian magazine.

I've been getting it for years. It's not my favorite, but it's a good magazine, relatively speaking. It has a full-page ad.

I just wonder what these people do with so many passages. Because I've been studying, and I know most of you have for years. With me, it's 40 years plus, and I see so much about suffering in the New Testament.

And this passage is just one of many, and it's about the apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 11. Did I say 13? I'm sorry, 11. It's not far away.

What anyone else dares to boast about, I am speaking as a fool. Imagine the person saying this. I also dare to boast about.

Are they Hebrew? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's descendants? So am I. Are they servants of Christ? I am out of my mind to talk like this. I am more. I've worked much harder.

I've been in prison more frequently. I've been flogged more severely. I've been exposed to death again and again.

Five times, I received from the Jews 40 lashes. Five times, 40 lashes. Minus one.

Three times, I was beaten with rods. Once, I was stoned. Three times, I was shipwrecked.

I spent a night and a day in the open sea. I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in dangers from my own countrymen, in dangers from Gentiles, in dangers

in the city, in dangers in the country, in dangers at sea, in the dangers from false brethren.

I've labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep. I have known hunger and thirst. I've often gone without food.

I've been cold. I've been naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.

And believe me, for Corinthians, it's obvious that the churches had plenty of problems. And when we think sometimes that we have a lot of problems and we're getting under the burden, we should turn to passages like this. And I think it really ministers.

Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. Who is weak? And I do not feel weak. Who is led in sin? I do not inwardly burn.

Heavy temptation, Paul must have faced. If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is to be praised forever, knows that I am not lying.

In Damascus, the governor under King Aretas had the city of the Damascus scenes guarded in order to arrest me. But I was lowered in a basket from a window. Can you imagine that? Have you ever had that experience? Maybe we can have that into our training program.

I was lowered in a basket from a window in the wall and slipped through his hands. We know there's a number of other passages just in Corinthians with a similar emphasis. And yet the same person who writes all this tells us in Ephesians that we are to be filled with the Spirit and to go on being filled with the Spirit.

I don't know if any of you are feeling down tonight. That's a favorite expression, isn't it, from numerous people. I don't know if any of you feel dry.

Many times I sometimes ask people how you're doing spiritually. They say so often I'm not really getting time in the Word like I would like to. I often feel like saying I always have to be careful because I can be so hurtful.

That's not the question I ask whether you're in the Word or not. Do you think you have to be in the Word of God every day to be spiritual? You don't. Because once you're a believer the Spirit of God is in you, the Word is in you.

You need to make sure the Word is coming out. Now I personally do get in the Word of God every day. Don't misunderstand me, and I believe that is an important part, but it's the means to the end.

The end is becoming Christlike. The end is walking in the Spirit. The end is a victorious life.

The end is the Spirit-filled life. The Word, prayer, certain kinds of prayer, because worship is an end in itself, isn't it? But certain kinds of prayer, defensive prayer is all the means to the end. So somehow if you're in the fast lane and you miss that time with God, you should just cry out to the Lord driving to work or wherever you're going.

Say, Lord, I wish I'd got that time with you this morning. Help me maybe get some time later on. But I acknowledge your life in me.

I acknowledge your life in me. I've missed my quiet time quite a few days in my life. Probably less, a small percentage, but enough to at least be able to testify as far as I know, days that I've missed my quiet time have been often better than days when I had the quiet time.

So there's something to throw a wrench in general public thinking. Even my friend Billy Graham once said and promoted some superstition that when he misses his quiet time, sort of things all start going wrong. Well, I believed that for many years.

I don't believe it anymore. I don't think Billy Graham does either. And believe me, I'm known for being either a little bit fanatic about people having their quiet time.

So don't misunderstand me. What I'm trying to say is with or without quiet time, with or without nice feelings, with or without a lovely, friendly, beautiful atmosphere, with or without all of our needs provided, we should be living victoriously in Jesus. And if we on OM, with all the food we have, all these conferences, all these books, all these films, all these seminars, some of us have been in Bible columns until the verses were popping out of our eyes and ears.

If we can't live somewhat victoriously, I would question whether the whole thing is really true. But of course, I don't question that. Therefore, I believe we can live victoriously.

We often laugh at Billy Jones. How old is Billy now? Is he 85? 84. We often laugh at Billy Jones.

And we need to understand this man's background. He was a boxer. I mean, he was saved from a very rough life.

And he came into it. And it's true. Billy's extreme and he and I have tangled.

As far as I can see, he was moving for a while into sinless perfection. And Billy, if you're listening to this tape, God bless you. I'll get another letter.

I've had many over the years. But isn't it amazing that as far as we can see, and we got Pauline to testify, Billy Jones has lived relatively joyfully, victoriously all these years. And especially maybe to people who don't particularly fancy Billy or he's not quite their style of person, then the message should be even stronger.

Because if Billy Jones, an ex-boxer, I won't say anything else, can live victoriously every day, then what about the rest of us? It's possible. It's possible. To live victoriously, joyfully, filled with the Spirit every day.

Doesn't mean there won't be downs. It doesn't mean you're not going to have all the emotion that can happen. My final thought is, how would you like to be sitting in the seat of that TWA flight? I just read a little more about that.

And it seems that the bomb blew up in such a way that a chunk of the front of the plane took off and for several seconds people in the economy section were looking straight out into the sky before that thing went down. How many of you are ready for a TWA experience? As I got that news and had to get on a jumbo jet out of Singapore, I said, Jesus, I'm ready. And if a guy like me, a coward, a scaredy cat of airplanes, if I can be ready, we all can be ready for TWA.

Anyway, the fact of the matter is an OM team was almost on that plane. Koreans were booked to go that day in that plane to Belgium via Paris and they decided for some fluke to go a day later. I wonder how OM

would have handled an entire team wiped out in a TWA flight.

I wonder what mood we'd be in tonight as I came back here. But I will tell you, if the Koreans, who actually want to be the biggest players in missions by the year 2000, if they're not ready for a lot of martyrs and a lot of deaths, they better not do it. Two dear missionary sisters last week were just killed in Eritrea.

And it's usually not some special glamorous way. It's usually automobile accidents. Two wives who's in the press.

Well, praise God we're not as those without hope. Let's pray. Lord, we believe from your word that the spirit-filled life is our privilege through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in us.

And we come from different churches and different terminology. Some speak of fulfilling, some speak of baptism, some speak of anointing, some speak of all three plus more on top. But Lord, we want this reality and we believe it is ours daily through all that you have done on the cross and through the gift of the Holy Spirit living in us.

Deliver us, Lord, from our excuses. Deliver us from extremism. Deliver us from anything that somehow is hindering us from really running the race, really rejoicing in the midst of the pain, rejoicing in the midst of the heartaches.

Maybe not always outwardly as that can be maybe offensive in certain situations. We certainly wouldn't just be sort of rejoicing at the memorial service of the two killed in a bombing in Atlanta a couple of days ago. But in our hearts, there can be by your grace the perpetual filling and flooding over of your Holy Spirit.

We thank you, God. There is a place for weeping. There is a place for sadness.

We are extremely sad about the situation among the Tutsis in the Hatu. We are extremely sad, Lord, for the loved ones of that horrendous TWA bomb attack. Our hearts grieve.

We feel the anger against terrorism and against extremism and injustice and unrighteousness. And yet at the same time, by your grace, we believe we can be spirit-filled people. And we know we'll all of our life be learning what that actually means in terms of the finer tuning and the complex things that come down life's road.

I have an affirmation service, but that's what we're going to do right now. We're just going to affirm Dick and Hilary Wyatt in the ministry at Mana House because a decision has been made that they're going to be staying on there for longer term. Some of you may realize before Dick and Hilary got into the picture very much, we had another couple we were interviewing, British man just about to leave the Air Force, but based in the States, married a woman from America and they have a daughter.

They have not been able to see a financial breakthrough. I talked to them again on the phone. They understand that we can't just keep that door open for them.

If they do come, it probably won't be until January and it won't be into that particular part of our ministry. So we were able to, in the last one or two days, give the news to Dick and Hilary that we accepted their willingness to stay on and press on there. So I'd like you to come up and we want to just pray and pray for the ministry at Mana House.

Dick and Hilary, please come up. Chaco, come on up. Chaco's been the one negotiating all this.

Let's just commit them to the Lord. Let's have someone else. Let's just really pray for them.

This is such a strategic ministry. Let us not think of Mana House as some little attachment to the team where we shunt tired o-amers to get some grub and a bed. This is a ministry.

And in our day and age, it's the hospitality ministry that often cuts more ice than the printed page. That's hard for Mr. Book Pusher to admit. But even in my original book on the subject of literature, one of the key chapters is about love and that if we're not reaching out in love to people, then we're not going to see the breakthroughs.

So sometimes they have a lot of people. There was 20 there last night, I believe. Not 30.

30. That must be the record. And other times, we hope they will have times when they're there a little bit on their own because it can be very, very intensive.

So, Chunko, you pray and then I'll pray. Praise the Lord. Father, we thank you.

We especially want to thank you for Dick and Hillary. Thank you, O Lord. I'd like to do something later on with Mary and even with Neil, her husband, who's one of the pastors here at the fellowship that meets in this building.

I would like us just to, again, publicly thank the Lord for calling Mary Brinkley back into our team. She was with us for many years. I could start sharing a lot of things, but there's not time.

It might be an embarrassment to her, but I would like Mary for you to come. And Drina, let's just commit Mary. She's going to be around for a couple of weeks, then going off and then coming back, something like that.

But today we had an hour and a half, two-hour session just speaking together about the future. And I'm excited about Mary's ministry in our midst. So please, Mary, come up.

And Drina and John Wilkins, please come up. Let's pray for Mary, even for these days. A lot of orientation.

OM has changed a little bit. How many years ago when you left? 88. So it's eight years ago.

And anyway, let's pray. Drina, you start, and then John, then I'll pray. Father, we do just thank you for hearing and for marrying me.

My name is Naeem Shahbaz, and I'm serving the Lord in Pakistan. I have about 100 church members. Praise the Lord.

The Lord is working very powerful in Pakistan, and I can say that there is a revival in Pakistan. When you will go in the places where the mostly Christian peoples are living, you will see that many young girls and boys, they have all the Bibles, and they are going here and there. Every person you will see with a Bible.

And I think this is a great privilege for me, especially I read a book, No Turning Back, in Pakistan. And today when I came here to see my brother, Brother Howard, he told me that there is a prayer meeting, and you can see there, so this is a great privilege for me. And I'm very glad that I have seen today a very great servant of God who has burdened not just for England, but for all the world.

And I'm very happy to see you, because you know I'm a pastor, and often I'm looking for a very local area, but I'm looking that you are thinking for all the world, and it will be a new way for me also to pray for other people, especially the people who are suffering, especially in Sudan. I have heard, and my heart was broken when I listened that Christian people are persecuted there. We are also sometimes persecuted in Pakistan, especially when we minister to the Muslim people.

But we know that while you are praying and many people are praying, one day Lord will do a mighty work in Pakistan. Because the things which are impossible for us, all the things are possible to God. And OM team is working there, and I know one of my friend is working with OM team.

Last year he offered me to come in Mali. There was a campaign, and he said to me that after that campaign we shall go to preach in the mountain areas where the very strict Muslims live. I said, no, I'm busy.

In fact I was busy, but I didn't know that that man, he will be beaten there. Otherwise I would have gone with him. When he came back, somebody told me that his face is very, very, his structure of face has changed.

I said, what happened to him? He said he was preaching the Gospel among the Muslims, and the Muslim people, they began to beat him. But thank God he came back and he was alive. We need your prayers for Pakistan.

This is my request, especially for Pakistan, for the conversion of Muslims, because, you know, Muslims, during my ministry I preached among the Muslims. Many Muslim people, they came to my church for prayers, for healing, and the people who are demon-possessed, and after that they confessed that Jesus Christ, we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. But they have a problem, they cannot confess before the public.

If they will confess, they will kill, anybody can kill him, anybody can. So this is my request, that you please pray for my country, that the Lord open the hearts of the political leaders, and the Lord may open the hearts of Mawlana's, Muslim Mawlana's, Muslim priests. When their hearts will be opened, then many, many thousands of people, I believe that thousands of people can come to Jesus, thousands of Muslims.

And please pray for my family and for my ministry here. Thank you very much. Tell us about your family.

You have a wife and children? Yes, I have just one wife. And for children I have two daughters and two sons. What are their names? Catherine, she is eight years old, and David is seven years old, Anthony is four years old, and Caroline, she is one and a half years old.

Thank you. Andrew and Mike, please come. Let us commit our brother again to the Lord and the ministry, and pray for him.

I am based on the west coast of Kazakhstan, with a small team of OMers, and we are young and we are inexperienced, and God is working in that place. And just sitting here just has emphasized to me just the privilege that I have had just to witness what God is doing there. And so the city that we are in is a city of about 150,000.

It is quite a young city, and it is populated about 50% Kazakh population and about 50% Russian population. There are three churches and one mosque in the city. The three churches are generally

targeted towards the Russian population, and the vast majority of believers in the city are Russian believers.

In terms of the Kazakh population, there is a small cell group which has been operating now for just under three years, and within that cell group there are about 15 Kazakh believers, and the rest of the Kazakh population would call themselves Muslims. But let me just say that from that small cell group, even in the last, say, four months, we have just seen incredible ways that God is working amongst that group of people. And the family that initiated that group was a young guy who at the age of 19 was converted by reading more than the carpenter when he was in prison.

And so he went home, and his mother, who was quite a devout Muslim, also became a believer. And then this family have become the core of this small cell group, and from that it's just reaching out from there. And I'll just give you a testimony of one lady that has just began attending the cell group, maybe, say, a month or so ago.

She came because she believed that her niece was getting involved in some cult group, and so she came saying that she didn't believe in God, that she was an atheist, and she just wanted to dispute everything that was being taught. And basically within the space of... She attended the Wednesday night. We have a Wednesday night study and then a Sunday church service and then a Wednesday again.

From one Wednesday to the next Wednesday she went from claiming to be atheist right through to a full conversion experience and just gifts of the Spirit and prophecies and just amazing testimony this woman has got. And so, yeah, God is really at work there. In the last summer we've seen the baptism of nine new Kazakh believers.

That's just in the last three months. Out of a group of 15, just in the last three months. So the main point, I think, is that we have two men in the group.

It's predominantly women, and so we really need some men leaders within that group. Amen. Thank you very much, Sue.

Let's pray in our small groups. I'd like to just say a word about Finland and have a little time of prayer for Finland. I've just come from there.

I was there for about four days at a youth conference sponsored by the Finnish Lutheran Mission, which is a group that really we've been linked with for almost the beginning of OM in Finland. A number of their leaders were involved in OM back in the mid-60s. So one of the encouragements going back to Finland was to meet people in fairly significant ministries who were greatly helped and challenged when they were on OM so many years ago.

They had a couple thousand at this conference. I think there were different people at different times, so I'm sure they had more, but usually you were talking to an audience of a couple thousand. And it was one of these kind of things, a big variety with a heavy emphasis on music.

It was really almost like a cornerstone music festival. Noel Richards was there leading worship. An amazing musician was there from Australia that I don't think we've seen the last of in OM, named Steve Grease.

He's just won a major award in the States. He's not known, never been in Britain ministering. He'd like to, but he's sort of a country rock singer.

He was a truck driver, and God dealt with him. All of his songs he's written himself. I've been listening to his songs again today.

Just some amazing songs. Just a very real kind of person. He made a great impact.

There were many others. Some of the meetings I spoke to weren't the main meeting. They were smaller meetings.

One was out on a boat. So I talked about the ship ministry. On this boat outside of Latvia, a big lake.

Finland has how many lakes? Somebody said 100,000. Count the little ones. Serpa says 60,000 at least.

Can you imagine that? One lake for every dozen people or something like that. There's a great sense of struggle among Finnish Christians right now because of a number of factors. So humanly speaking, missions is not on an uphill.

It's going down. The other very large Finnish mission society, sort of more official, older Finnish mission society, has had many missionaries returning and not going back. At the same time, it would be difficult to say that I spoke to a more responsive audience.

Finns don't easily jump out of their seats and start cheering. They're known to be serious people. Even when this rock singer was going really strong, most of them remained seated.

That is unusual. But there was quite a crowd that slowly came forward and joined as they do in these kind of concerts, including me. But whenever the invitation was given, two nights I wasn't speaking or giving the invitation, I was speaking before that, huge numbers came up, both to believe on the Lord and then to recommit their lives.

I had the main message on the Saturday night. On Sunday, I had 11 minutes at the last session. But the minister had to go off because his wife was ill with cancer, quite serious.

So last minute they came to me and said, Are you able to take more time? Do mice eat cheese? Then they hit me with a tougher one. They said, We'd like you to give the invitation, which is always a bigger challenge in my book than speaking, to pull that in, especially through interpretation. Often when I give an invitation, I just have people stand.

They say, We want you to call forward. I said, For what? Missions. I always have a struggle with that because I know some respond emotionally.

It can be a misfire, but I took it from the Lord, and I guess about 200 came forward to commit themselves. We put a strong emphasis on being His witness. We received support in Finland.

I think the thing that really hit me after that is everywhere on the stage, and the man who organized all this after they came forward, he came to me and says, What do we do now? I said, What do we do now? There was nothing really organized. There were no counselors. So we spoke to them a little bit, and then Little Richard led us into closing chorus, and the conference was over.

I'd like you to really pray that somehow this project that's not been going very well called Operation Support Breakthrough, some of you are the few that have even heard about it, that somehow that could get off the ground more. It is often that a number of key books are published that are connected with this project in various languages, and they are going out, but it's so small compared to the need. In my dream, I have a definition.

I have a dream that Steve Chong would be if you were there when he spoke at the ship thing. It's a matter of definitions, but I have a dream. You can probably say you have a vision.

That whenever we have meetings like this, everybody can get a packet of materials. Is that asking too much? When young people lay their life on the altar, willing to be a missionary, we can give them a packet of maybe one or two cassettes and a book. What do you do next? That's why we call it Support Breakthrough.

We may change the name on that. There's specifically books that will show them God's place in God's teaching about money and how to raise money. Because if they don't learn that, they're not going into missions in most cases.

I remember in South Africa, I could give you case after case where we have a big response. They're not given any literature now. If they have the initiative to go to the book table, there are books available.

We had our books available there in Finland. Let's pray for Finland, but let's focus especially on these young people. A couple of hundred have made decisions in connection with recommitment and maybe salvation.

A couple of hundred who responded to the missions challenge. Let's pray for the churches of Finland. A church growth movement has been born through Dawn and is led by a very interesting ex-OMer who I had lunch with because on Sunday morning I went to a little OM reunion.

It was like a black-and-white movie. There was Frank and Anneli Deeds, and there's Oskala Tuopi and his wife, and some other old-timers. We had a nice time together.

Then this brother, Kari Torma, is that how you pronounce his name? More or less. He was one of the first Finns to get involved with us. He is now the leader of the Dawn movement.

They want to plant 4,000 new churches and quite a few Finns. Churches are behind that. Some are not behind it.

They're opposed to it. Finland is dominated by the Lutheran Church, and a high percentage of them are more conservative and more evangelical. It doesn't mean they're all alive, but it's not like many other parts of Europe.

So there's a lot of potential, and we're so grateful to God that we have at least one Finn on the team. Finland is providing quite a few wives. This has been a secondary ministry, pioneered by Anneli Deeds, who got Frank, or Frank got her, and John Brown is a Finnish wife, and Randy Jury and Tyrone is a Finnish wife.

Of course, whenever you go to a church meeting in Finland or even a youth congress like this, four out of five people are women. So we do need to pray for more Finnish men to get mobilized and to get into

missions. They have a lot of books in Finnish, but some of them don't get very wide circulation.

They have a great passion and interest in Afghanistan, and a number have been laboring in Afghanistan. And I think there are people that when we get them to the mission field, they often make really good missionaries. So let's pray for Finland.

I was with Asko Alajoki and his wife Maria. I'm in Asko Matika and his wife Maria. Don't get the Askos mixed up.

Next year, the same conference is in Helsinki, near where they live, nearby the airport. And it looks like they may have part of the responsibility for that conference in the future. We actually now only have about 40 Finns on a year or longer term program, according to Asko Alajoki, the OM director there.

So let's pray. Of course, there's people that are come for the summer. But let's pray that we may see some more launching out.

Let's go back to our groups, pray for the land of Finland, especially in the light of these prayer requests that I have shared. Amen. I'd like us just to spend a little time in prayer for Korea.

And Koreans, I just say that the time in Wheaton was quite overwhelming. I got in there from Singapore on Monday afternoon and had to speak at the plenary session of the Korean American group. Fortunately, that was in English only, right on that Monday night.

And Graham Jack arrived. Even as I was speaking, he just arrived and got the balloon blown up, which they just thought was terrific. But there are a couple hundred Korean Americans and for the first time, they had a separate parallel conference.

And this shows the change that is rapidly taking place among Koreans, is that we're now dealing with a generation that speak English. And they are very, very different from their moms and dads. So one prayer request is for Korean Americans.

They are slower in getting into missions than the Koreans have been. But they're now moving big time. And they have English.

And we know the struggle many Koreans have, two or three years to learn English. So the Korean American challenge, we told them that. And I think we're going to see a lot.

They were there for about, I wasn't there the whole time, but it's a more or less four or five day conference, a serious missions event. Over 2,000 were at the overall conference. And I can only say, the Koreans seem, of all the nations I go to, the Koreans seem the most serious about world missions.

Just amazing. This one meeting I had when I was the main speaker, they had three other missionary reports before me. Each one was a sermon.

They were half an hour to 45 minutes. I was sitting there on the platform. The meeting finished at midnight.

I preached somewhere around 10 or something. And I stayed there to the end. But nobody seemed, this was in the big Wheaton College auditorium, the same place I had several months ago spoke to all the Wheaton students.

But no one seemed to be that disturbed by the length of the meeting. And he then got up and exhorted them to please make sure they're there at 6.30 in the morning for their prayer time. I must confess, I didn't make that as jet lagged as it was.

So that was an exciting time. They had an amazing array of speakers. It was really a humbling opportunity to have a main plenary session with them.

A project, Operation World in Korea, took a long time. And I remember being last May in Korea and saying when I bought all these copies of Operation World, can we get 500 of these, I said to somebody, over to the States? And again and again we'd get these reports that they weren't there. They weren't there.

And praise God they arrived in time. In 10 minutes we sold 150 copies of Operation World in Korea. And these are all leaders, mainly all leaders and missionaries.

But isn't it an example of, in the area of literature and other areas, the importance somehow of planning ahead, of somehow seeing what's down the road there where we need to be getting literature, we need to be getting something published. Actually serving as senders is available in Korean. We did use that a little bit when we were there last May.

So pray for the Korean situation. 500,000 Koreans alone just in Southern California. The big delegations of Koreans at this conference came from really all over the place.

And the leader of this conference, we were together after that meeting, it was about midnight, and he heard what happened with all these Operation Worlds. He said I'd like 1,000 copies for next year. It seems to me they're having this, trying to have this every year.

It's quite amazing. Some of you know I leave for Friday for Korea. That is the Urbana meetings of Korea, student meetings.

And they're expecting about 4,000 students. And a lot of them want to get going. They want to get trained.

They want to get going. So I have two of the main evening plenary sessions. I'm the only foreigner that speaks in the evening.

They have a number of foreigners speaking in the morning. So I really would appreciate prayer, especially around next Thursday, Wednesday and Thursday. And then I have two, I'm purposely staying two Sundays because they have these big, huge churches, including Pastor Oak's church, where I have the opportunity of sharing.

So let's pray for those churches. And then I'm staying an extra three days now because the door is open to speak to 1,000 Christian businessmen on the Sunday commissions. Up to now, the business community in Korea is not into missions in any large way.

There are exceptions. They are into their churches. They're into their own businesses.

And yet, if we don't see a breakthrough with business people, a lot of this vision for Koreans to go, especially career people, is not going to happen because at the end of the day, the money, a lot of it comes into the churches, has to pay. The churches have huge staff. They have buildings.

They have a lot of expenses. Only a small amount of money is going into missions. Again, there are a few exceptions.

We've got to see business people catching the vision and for bigger giving. I don't know if you realize that not that many business people have a vision beyond their tithe. Most think many don't have that.

Most think, you know, a tithe, that's where it's at. But, you know, if you've got millions, what is a tithe? R.G. LeTourneau said the tithe, live on 10%. That's what he said.

And as many a man and woman around the world could easily live on 10% of the income, not you or me. So let's pray for this visit to Korea. Let's not think of this as just, as some of you know, my wife is not going with me, and I can tell you myself, I don't, surely don't want to go, but I am going.

From there, I go to the ship for a couple of days in southern Japan. I've never been to Japan in my life. Then a quick one-day thing in Anchorage, which seems to be really taking off in Alaska.

Then out of Vancouver for one day and back here to go to the Bangor Convention in Northern Ireland. And then I'll meet you in the General Council. So I have a more challenging couple of weeks.

Rather than pray in small groups, let's pray as one body for Korea. Especially remembering the Koreans that we have already on OM. Some of them don't find it so easy.

We've got to realize the key for Korea, I think like most places, is first equality. There's got to be equality. And yet we, as a movement committed to training, we need to be creative on how we can be better and more effective in training Koreans and empowering them, developing them for the kingdom.

It really is quite amazing to see the growth of the number of Koreans in OM. We've been privileged often on our team to have some Koreans, but we're not in that mode right now. We don't have any Koreans on the team, so you can pray about that as well.

Okay, I'd like to just briefly share about Singapore and pray for Singapore and for Joshua Project. Joshua Project really is the big focus of AD2000 right now. There are a lot of things going on in AD2000, different tracks and task forces, things networked into it.

But the burden of those who especially are committed to the unreached people was that of all the things AD2000 is involved in, that reaching the unreached people will be the priority. And that's what Joshua Project represents. Now you can go out to a meeting where Joshua Project's being presented and they'll give you a folder with all 2,000 people's groups listed in it.

Now, there's still controversy about numbers of people's groups. That's not my burden to get involved in that controversy. But being in Singapore about 12, 13 days ago really showed me that some people, they really do grab onto this Joshua Project.

It's something they understand. The idea, first of all, is to pray for these 2,000 unreached people, then to get them all sponsored by churches, adopted by churches, then to send, if you're able, research teams out there, and then to send church planting missionaries. And I'd like you to especially pray for the Methodist Church in Singapore.

Pretty well evangelical. The leader of missions in the Methodist Church was greatly impacted at Jekoia. You know, sometimes we, some of us, we've been to a lot of these conferences.

We don't even particularly want to go. And I've even heard people say, well, what's the use of these things? But I can tell you, there's a lot of people who don't have the daily, weekly, monthly exposures and missions that we have in OM. And when they go to this kind of conference, it completely changes their life.

And the impact of that, when they go back to their own country, you cannot measure. And when I saw what was happening in the Joshua Project in Singapore, and that opened the door for me. One of the biggest meetings I've had among Singaporean leaders was because I was pushed by Louise Bush as a Joshua Project speaker.

And they actually asked me to speak about Acts 13, Breakthrough 2000, which we attach to the Joshua Project. But it was a very encouraging meeting. But I was mainly there for the Wesley Methodist Church.

They have 4,000 going to their four services. And this man who is responsible for missions among the Methodists in Singapore, he has presented the challenge that every Methodist church adopted people's movement. So this weekend that I was there was their missions conference.

We had many different sessions. But in the main Sunday morning service, and you seldom see this now in the States, much less in England, the whole Sunday morning service was missions. I was the speaker.

And they adopted the Yi people. I'd never heard of them actually. The Yi people of China.

And apparently it's a significantly large mountain group, not only in China, but some of the surrounding countries. And there's not much work among them. So this church of 4,000 members adopted this group very seriously.

They had documents out, elders coming, signing, and special prayer. They're now getting ready to send workers. It was quite encouraging that one of the women from that church just back is working with O&M, with David Greenlee.

And she gave her testimony at one of the meetings. And I think she may stay with O&M in the future. She's from this huge church.

Many business people. But this one woman picked me up at the hotel. I'm staying in this hotel as a gift from another friend who happens to own the hotel.

And she was on the missions committee. And as she was driving me to the meeting, I just felt I'm going to talk to her about money. And I said, she was, obviously she had a well-paying job.

And I said, look, has the Lord given you the vision to really put some of this money into world missions? I don't always do that. Don't get the wrong idea. And she said, well, I'm working on that.

In other words, she's thinking about it. And after the meeting that night, she wrote me a check for 10,000 Singapore dollars. If you don't think that helped make my day, you obviously still don't understand me.

That's okay. Hang in there. So let's pray.

She said to me, very few business people have a vision for giving big money to world missions. They reinvested, reinvested, reinvested. And as some of you know, one of the passions of Mr. Wei is to get other people to get money.

And he is bold. When he gets the opportunity, he's bold as a lion. He's flying to be with me in the business meeting in Korea.

He's coming out to Seoul. Also, my friend Ernesto Wong from Vancouver is going to be with me. So pray that we may make an impact.

But let's pray. I had a great time with Rodney. Just back from Love Australia and Love Asia.

I've never known so many love events going on in history. There must be 20 different love events going on. Some of them quite small.

But this looks like that's the way it's going to be in the future. These little congresses and training sessions literally all over the whole globe. And then people launching out in evangelism.

So I had a great time with Kenneth, Bong, and Rodney. They would appreciate prayers. They just long to see more workers going out from Singapore.

I went up to Malaysia very briefly. Some of you know, a man up there recently gave a large gift to the ship. I had a very good time of fellowship with him, but we won't go into more detail.

But remember Daniel Ho, leader of the work in Malaysia. Well, I think we'll bring our meeting to the end now or we're getting near the end. So if you can stay around, have a cup of tea with us.

We have our little hospitality squad when they hear me hinting. They move into action to prepare some tea and coffee. And to those of you who have had these prayer requests, by cassette tape, the Lord bless you, and don't hesitate to keep sending us your prayer requests.

By the way, they had this prayer day in South Africa and 27,000 people came. Now they're hoping for many more people. It turned out to be the coldest day in Pretoria in years.

Completely a free day. Snow came in some places. And they still had 27,000.

I keep forgetting my goal is every permitting to have a book of the night and then give that book away free. But sometimes I forget. But as I walked in the room, I saw the book so well organized.

There's the book written by a brother with O.M. in South Africa who is one of the leaders in that day of prayer. O.M. is very involved in that. Change your world through prayer.

And that's the book of the night. You can have one free at the table right there under the Joshua Project poster. And since we like to do things in pairs, just like married couples, we have this other book.

What Happened to the Fire? How many of you have read this or read a good part of it? Good. This is an amazing book. This is a book calling for the rekindling of the blaze of the charismatic renewal written by a leading charismatic teacher.

And it really does have a lot of balancing skills. It's stories that to me just speak of integrity. I love integrity.

So I encourage you. I'm just so happy. We're trying to get more copies of this.

I'm so happy that they've arrived. Lee Grady's What Happened to the Fire? If you don't have one on your team, you can write to us. Change your world through prayer by Benny Mostert, South African.

Two free books for everybody here tonight, except our visitor, Zan, to take at least three. You can go to the other room and get those. Okay.

Let's pray in our final session for Singapore, Malaysia, workers, finance. Let's give thanks. Many, many, many in the Westland Methodist Church make commitments of their lives to missions through the conference that I've just come from there.

But again, the follow-up is a big, big challenge. Over 400 churches now in Singapore. And things are picking up at such a momentum.

There's a new church registering every week in Singapore. It's a phenomenal potential for the kingdom. Let's close in prayer.

Father, we thank you for this time together. We thank you that all over the world there are people who are committed to the ministry of prayer, who have come to discern what faith is all about. And when we think of the barren acts of Peter in prison and how the church was gathered together praying, we long for that reality in our own churches, in our own lives.

Father, we're committed somehow by your grace to spread this vision and to be somehow, each day, filled and controlled by your Holy Spirit. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Amen.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/21/SID21546.mp3>

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