

George Verwer's 2009 Review

It is a privilege to submit a report especially for those who have shown an extra interest in our ministry and the ministry of Special Projects. Below are some of the highlights of the year.

I ended up taking more meetings in more nations than almost any other year in the decade. If we put it together with the India trip at the end of 2008, it would be without question one of the most outstanding years in our lives. Just add to this month (January) our 50th wedding anniversary, I become lost for words except, ***TO GOD BE ALL THE GLORY AND PRAISE FOR THE GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE.***

January - the funeral of dear John Burne, we greatly miss him. The presidential inauguration and meetings in Philadelphia at Antioch Church. And at end of the month, a visit with John Stott.

February – started with Founders Week at Moody; attended my final Moody Alumni Board meeting. Then Missionfest in Winnipeg, Canada. After Missionfest we flew to South America and had an outstanding time in Chile, Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay including the ILM (International Leaders Meetings).

March - fantastic meetings in Switzerland especially with former OMers to honour Paul and Gertrude Stilli. Biola Mission Conference in California. Visit and ministry on Logos Hope in the Netherlands. Had some great meetings in Paris as well as Sweden.

April - Logos Hope in Edinburgh. Had great ministry in Romania, Lebanon and Jordan. Many major projects were launched for that area of the world where I had not been for many years. Had a unique opportunity to speak to Palestinians.

May - Drena and I were based in Idaho but I was away much of the time. Spoke at Biola Commencement and was presented with a Doctor of Divinity Degree. Time with Ben and Caroline at Yosemite. Attended Expolit, a major Spanish event in Florida where I received another award combined with the launch of the Spanish edition of the OM history, **Spiritual Revolution** by Ian Randall. Attended a Logos Hope fundraising event in San Diego. Had a fantastic visit to the Seattle area where one family took a step of faith leading to the tremendous Matching Fund that we had the second half of the year.

June - the launch of Logos Hope was the highlight of the year. I was based on board and sailed with the ship most of June, while still taking about 30 meetings in many different places. On the 23rd we had a first-ever Special Projects Dinner on the ship with over 200 attending; many gave generously as a result. Our grandson, Jonathan who is on the ship was interviewed and it was a huge blessing to many especially our son Daniel who works in London and who we do not see much.

July - great meetings in Germany and Denmark. We attended the wedding of Emily, our granddaughter, and Jaeson in Nampa, Idaho. Holiday (vacation) after the wedding with Christa, Charlie and Jacob visiting the Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce and other parks.

August - two major conferences in Zambia, as OM South Africa merged with Pro Cristo. This visit led to the launch of one of our biggest projects ever - sending 4 containers of Bibles, NTs and outstanding books to Africa from the UK, India and the USA. The cost was about a quarter of a million dollars; retail value about one million dollars. Great church meetings in South Africa and exposure to our ministry there.

September - a lot of good meetings around the UK which we take throughout the year. Received a very special Life-Time Service Award from Mission Exchange (formerly EFMA) in St Louis. Time on the road visiting prayers partner & friends, meetings and also a couple of days in Idaho with our son Ben and his family.

October - visited and ministered at STL/ IBS in Colorado Springs (now called Biblica). Attended a Finishers Event in Fort Collins. Went to the wedding of Angie Dutchess (a relative on my mom's side of family) and Adam Hearn near Portland. Fantastic visits with friends and prayer partners which goes on all year and some of you who read this were among them.

November - fantastic meeting at an Oxford CU Mission; Carver College in Atlanta and a great prayer partners dinner at the US OM base. Time at the Biblica Warehouse in Waynesboro; I work in partnership with them almost every day on different projects. A visit to Memphis where a leading business person partners with Special Projects. Last OM year's helper Austin Hand has gone to Sweden and Drew Letzerich is well in the saddle.

December - a first ever visit to our work and ministry in Costa Rica, then flying to Guyana for a week on Logos Hope and sailing to Curacao, especially hanging out with our grandson, Jonathan. Hearing of all that the ship has done over the past months has been some of best news of the year. Then back in the UK taking the last of what turned out to be 336 meetings. We especially were rejoicing as funds were pouring in for the Matching Fund (thank you to all of you who participated) which brought to a close the best year that Special Projects has ever had. TO GOD BE THE GLORY !

Including the trip to India last year and all the meetings we have had this year, 2009 would be, without question, one of the most outstanding years our of lives!

To keep this in balance, let's remember that almost every day there is news that brings heartache and sorrow. At this time it is the earthquake in Haiti. The final verses of Romans 11 have been a huge help to us as we face so much global suffering. Please stand with us as we try to see great things in 2010. An email or letter saying that you actually read this or prayed over it would be greatly appreciated.

In His grace and grip

George and Drena Verwer

PS As Drena and I celebrate 50 years of marriage, I am reminded that without her battling away on the home front in West Wickham (London) most of the above would never happen!

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