

## My Great Burden and Vision

George Verwer

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Most people know that I am involved in many aspects of God's work and also know how much I esteem all agencies and churches that are part of God's great global force. What I share below comes from my heart with a lot of thought from a life-time of ministry.

On my last trip to India as I interviewed many people and did some homework, I realized that despite all kinds of fantastic ministries, including mass evangelism, radio, TV, film shows, literature, etc., that still many hundreds of millions HAVE NEVER HEARD OR READ THE GOSPEL (including having seen a gospel film.) Also, many groups have moved into holistic ministry like the schools we have among the Dalits which involves a huge amount of time and money. Tremendous evangelism and church planting is done side-by-side and we thank the Lord for results.

The Dalits may soon be the most reached mega-group in India, but in fact with 250,000,000, what percentage of them do we reach with at least something of the Message, knowing that many do not read? We are told there is somewhere around 300 million 'Other Backward Castes' (OBC), maybe more, and I wonder how many have not yet had one chance to hear of or know the saving grace of Christ? This is from someone who believes that one chance to hear of Jesus is not enough.

There are over 150 million Muslims in India. Maybe if we are optimistic, a few million (that's a lot of people) have been to a gospel film show or have a New Testament or Gospel. What if it were even 20 million? That's 130 million to go! Do you get my point? I am not up-to-date on China, but with all the growth there no one would question that hundreds of millions have never heard.

I recently noticed huge steps forward to get the Bible or parts of it in every language. Some of these languages represent a very small number of people, good, I believe in it. It's great to read that many extra millions of dollars are now given or pledged to this. This makes it more difficult for me to understand how there are hundreds of millions (some would say a billion) all around us whose languages we have already translated (NTs, tracts, DVDs, booklets, CDs, etc.), and yet we still have not given anything to them. **IT DOES NOT MAKE SENSE TO ME.** Maybe some of you who get this can help me out.

The claim by one group or network that we will soon lead another billion to Jesus is, I believe, misleading

but with certain parts of the world having massive church growth, who knows. The truth is that that will only have a small effect on the hundreds of millions who are more resistant to the Gospel or live away from the areas where this response is taking place. For example, will Dalit converts in India reach Brahmins?

In closing, my plea is that we would pray more for the reaching of these unreached hundreds of millions with the message of salvation. Would you pray for the release of funds for this kind of ministry? Financial breakthroughs will enable us to give more evangelistic tools to thousands of workers who are asking for them. Money is not the main thing, but when it is the main thing, and in my ministry it often is, then let's somehow find it! It will not be one agency or church that makes this happen, but a massive grass-roots movement (already going on) in which people even in the midst of other ministry want to reach the millions around them. We need to make every effort to teach each believer in every new church that they should be reaching out to all the lost around them - this would be a gigantic step forward.

I am going to give more time to this and if any of you know anyone, anywhere that has a heartbeat for this kind of thing, I would love to talk with them personally. I am thankful you have read this far and would love to hear from you.

Yours for everyone on planet earth

George Verwer

PS When I first wrote this a few months ago it was just some thoughts that I wanted to share with some friends and co-workers. I didn't realize I would someday share these ideas with so many Christian leaders. It was/is in no way to put down other strategies or even to say this is the most important, I just felt this aspect of God's mandate for all of us needed to be highlighted. The fact that maybe 80% of the world's population has had some opportunity to read or hear the Gospel is a huge accomplishment and we have so much to thank God for. Going through the new edition of **Operation World** will help us do that. But the remaining 20% is a huge number of people, about the same number of people as 50% of the world when I first headed for Mexico and Spain back in 1957. I have a lot more research to do and would appreciate your prayers and feedback.

## The Hundred Million 'Club'

The Hundred Million 'Club' is groups or individuals that have given the Gospel to at least 100 million people, connected with my own passion and vision. If you know of any other organization or individual who should be mentioned, please let me know.

AWANA  
BENNY HINN  
BIBLICA  
BILLY GRAHAM  
BOOK OF HOPE  
CAMPUS CRUSADE  
CBN  
CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP  
DAYSPRING INTERNATIONAL - (DAYASAGAR)  
EVERY HOME FOR CHRIST  
FEBA RADIO  
GOD CHANNEL  
GOSPEL FOR ASIA  
GOSPEL RECORDING  
HCJB  
IFES  
IMB – Southern Baptist Mission  
JESUS PROJECT - The  
JOYCE MEYER  
LUIS PALAU  
OM SHIPS  
OM INDIA  
OM  
OMF  
ORAL ROBERTS  
REVIVAL FELLOWSHIP OF BELFAST  
REINHARD BONNKE  
SCRIPTURE GIFT MISSION  
SIM  
TBN  
TL OSBORN MINISTRIES  
TRINITARIAN BIBLE SOCIETY  
TWR  
UNITED BIBLE SOCIETY.  
WEC INTERNATIONAL  
WORLD MISSIONARY PRESS  
WORLD VISION  
WYCLIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS and the SEED COMPANY.  
YOUTH WITH A MISSION

Keep in mind that most of this work is in partnership with churches, networks and denominations of which there are over 30,000. It is all about teamwork, partnership and hopefully not caring who gets the credit.

George Verwer

[George.verwer@om.org](mailto:George.verwer@om.org)

UK Mobile – 07860 426426

US Cell – (201) 657 0130