



Marketplace Moments

Bibliophoria

Drops from a Leaking Tap

George Verwer

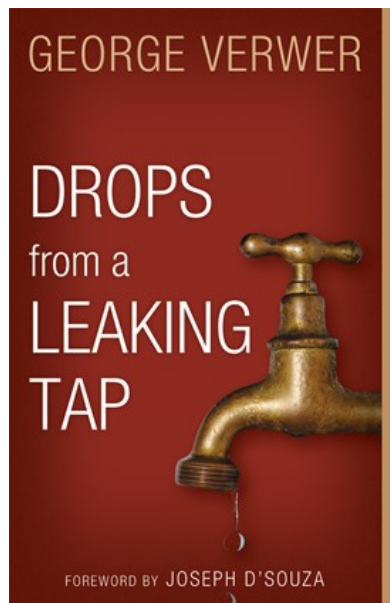
Some of you may soon board the MV Logos Hope first visit to Singapore when it will dock at Vivocity from 17th Dec till end of the month. George is the founder of Operation Mobilization, a Christian Missions Organization.

'Drops' is an understatement for this book. It is more like an 'Avalanche' as George shares of his life from this almost self biographical work. In his utterly frank, unassuming and humorous writing style, he laid bare his life. It takes tremendous courage to share what he has shared, to trace back the blessings, struggles and the handiwork of God in His life.

Here is a man who has known the call of God in His life and has given his life to that purpose. Here is a man who has made radical lifestyle choices to live out his calling. Here is a man who has inspired many to that radical lifestyle and calling. I won't give the book away but you need to read for yourself how 'crazy' he is.

But you may say as you read this book, I am not called into this so called 'full-time' ministry as a foreign missionary like George. I am 'just' an ordinary Christian in the marketplace. And that probably constitute 99% of us in the church. But here again lies the challenge for many of us who are 'regular' Christians. We have failed to realize that there is NOTHING 'regular' about being a Christian.

Perhaps we have forgotten what it



means to 'take up the Cross and follow Jesus'. We may not have even began to appreciate what it means to follow Jesus. The Cross has been too sanitized by our modern day culture and contemporary living. We may have forgotten that the Cross represents a different set of values and priorities as compared to the world. The Cross calls for radical living and personal sacrifice.

I do not believe that we as so-called missionaries are necessarily any more committed than the person who never moves out of his place. I believe that with all my heart. If God calls you to a carpenter shop, remember Jesus was a carpenter most of the years of the years of his life. As you work out your vocation and location, prayerfully seek God's will. (George Verwer).

Is it time to re-align our life to the message of the Cross?

Download FREE copy of the book at www.georgeverwer.com/books.php.

Inside this issue:

Bibliophoria	1
Of the Heart and Mind	2
Eyes in a Darkened Room	3
What's Up?	4

Highlights

- Drops from a Leaking Tap
- Adoption (Part 1)
- Adjustment Bureau

Of the Heart and Mind

Adoption (Part 1)

I've been thinking about my upcoming trip to China by reflecting on my first trip there. Nearly six years ago, I went to China. I visited both Shanghai and Beijing. It was while I was in Shanghai that my life was changed forever. We had finished our business for the day and I had told Helen, the rep from my supplier, I would really love to go to downtown Shanghai to take pictures of the architecture. She took me to the river walk in Shanghai, where I took hundreds of pictures of the Pearl Tower. While we were there, I noticed this little boy, he couldn't have been more than 4, and may have only been 3. He was dressed in khaki pants and a red sweater, and he seemed to be rather aimlessly wandering about, and no one was stopping him, or watching him except me. He wasn't crying, only sniffing slightly from the chill in the air. He didn't look distraught, he was actually rather stoic. I kept watching him waiting to see when his parents would materialize out of the crowd and gather him into their arms. After a half hour, I finally said to Helen, "where is that little boy's parents?" It seemed an

innocent enough question and yet the answer stunned me and shattered my heart. Helen replied in her slightly broken but consistently apologized for English "parents who can't afford their children, dress them up and bring them down here and leave them." If it wouldn't have caused an international incident, I would have picked him and brought him back to the States at that very moment. You see in the 30 minutes of watching my stoic little boy wandering about in his red sweater, I fell whole-heartedly in love with him. It was in that moment God cracked open my heart and gave me a desire to adopt a child.

In the six years since, I think of that boy often, and pray for him when he comes to mind. And even though, I haven't adopted yet. There has been safe families. Three years ago, I met a great friend in Jean, and she introduced me to safe families. I had this very closed view of how this could work for a single, professional woman, and she in God given wisdom opened my eyes to greater possibilities. Six months later, a three year old boy graced my home with his presence for four weeks. I remember the third day I had



him, I had carried him out to the Jeep and put him in his car seat and headed out to day care and off to work for me. A mile from the house, he spoke up in the back seat, "I want my shoes." I had forgotten to put his shoes on him before leaving the house. The only thought I had was "geeze, I'm unfit." I laugh about that now as I'm certain every parent has had similar experiences, but the perfectionist in me doesn't allow much room for such slip ups. Much like the little boy in China, this little boy broke my heart too. As I dropped him off at daycare the last time, he clung to me saying "but I want to live with you, why can't I live with you?" There aren't words to answer that, but I found something to say to him that day, and left for work in tears. - (Part 2 will be published in the next edition of Marketplace Moments from MCN E-newsletter)

Tammy Smith works for a US farming equipment company and fellow alum of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship at U. of Wisconsin, Madison.

Eyes in a Darkened Room

The Adjustment Bureau

David Norris (Matt Damon) has set his heart on winning a seat on the US Senate. However, pictures of his earlier days at a party dashed his ambition. In preparing for his concession speech, he met Elsie (Emily Blunt) in the men's loo. Through an inspiring conversation which ended with a kiss, he delivered a frank and honest speech which gave him a chance for the next election.

Through a series of events, David found that there were a group of 'caseworkers' from the Adjustment Bureau, who works to ensure that certain things happen to people in order to fulfill the 'plan' attributed to 'the Chairman'. If people unknowingly deviated from the plan, 'the Chairman' will send the caseworkers (in this case for David, Mitchell and Richardson) to make adjustments in subtle and conventional ways to bring them back 'on track'. If these adjustments is not enough, the Bureau will conduct an intervention.

However, David is set to pursue his relationship with Elsie and set off a series of the Bureau trying to keep them apart so as to fulfill both David's and Elsie's destiny to be President and a great Choreographer respectively and their love for each other.

In the movie, a lengthy discussion emerges about men's propensity to make a mess of their own history though given a free will and the need for the Adjustment Bureau to curb humankind from making blunders culminating to the dark ages or two world wars.

The movie also brings ultimately the God figure in the movie, which is the Chairman and the caseworkers as type of angels if you like. As we consider the portrayal in the movie of the operations of the Adjustment Bureau, what are some parallels we can draw from that and the 'operations' of God the Father and angels in the bible?

Is it possible to also imply



a force behind the force as seen in the movie? Is the Chairman's plan the ultimate plan or is there another planner behind?

What then is free will, if as in the Adjustment Bureau is not truly free? What about the interaction of our free will as human being and the work of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit as in the individual lives of Christian and the eschatology of our Christian faith in relation to God's plan for the end times?

As in most Hollywood movies, love triumphed. But what is this love that we are talking about? Is it just love between two persons? There was a scenario where David was asked to give Elsie up in order for her to shine as a Choreographer. What quality of love is portrayed in the movie and how would such love compare to the love described in the bible? For me, this is 2011 movie of the year for discussion. (Timothy Liu)



**Marketplace
Christian Network**

Teban Garden Post Office
PO Box 669
Singapore 916003



Phone: +65 6872 4732
Email:
info@marketplacechristian.net
Web-site:
▶ www.marketplacechristian.net

**Kingdom Building
at the Workplace**

Coming Events

For more information check our web-site.

14 Jan Called to do Good Work: A Vision
for Vocational Holiness
9am-12pm St Andrew's Cathedral
Speaker: Dr. Gordon Smith

