



## SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Dear Praying Friends of the Trust,

I met George Verwer for the first time some 35 years ago, and this man of God made an instant impact on me, as he did with thousands of other people. In the subsequent years I have worked closely with George – one of the most godly, and mission focused men of our generation. His total focus on sharing the Gospel remained until his final day on Friday 14 April 2023.



Just a few days before George's home call I met with him in the lounge of his home. His final words to me were to be sure the ministry of Verwer/Hession titles continues to be increasingly available both by quantity, language and around the world.

As *'The Verwer/Hession Trust'* we as Trustees confirm our commitment to honour George by developing a renewed strategy and vision for this great ministry, subject of course to having the financial strength to do so.

One of George's last wishes which he shared with many of us, was his prayer that *'The Verwer/Hession Trust'* was to be one of his two Charities of choice, following the closure of Special Projects on 30 September 2023.

I am delighted to share with you that as Trustees we have invited George's dear wife Drena to become Patron of *'The Verwer/Hession Trust'* – Drena has kindly agreed to become Patron with immediate effect.

Some of you may not know that Christa Le Vine, George and Drena's daughter, became a Trustee over one year ago – so the Verwer family continues to be fully involved in our ministry.

For the OM UK *'Global'* magazine I shared my thoughts on George's lifetime of ministry, and these are shown below:

"This humble man of God was known throughout the world simply... as George. For more than six decades he worked tirelessly in his world-wide ministry to make Jesus known. He lived a personal life of sacrifice, humility, wholehearted dedication, and self-denial as he ceaselessly served Christ.

We thank God for this man, who has been such a living example of what it means to be a true servant of God, never feeling he was someone special, frequently expressing surprise that the Lord could use a 'ragamuffin' such as him.

Many of you will have been recipients of his amazing letter writing ministry, encouraging us all to 'Keep on .... keeping on'.

We acknowledge the immeasurable contribution of Drena, and family, who sacrificed so much to support George. We also recognise the invaluable contribution of Vera, his loyal and faithful PA for over 43 years.

*'The Verwer/Hession'* Trustees thank God for this mighty man who 'began well...ran well...and finished well'.

The linkup of George Verwer and Roy Hession Titles is most natural as some of the Hession books were, for many years, essential reading for all those joining Operation Mobilisation.

As we give thanks for the ministry of George Verwer, we prayerfully look forward to your support.

We have the responsibility for the expansion of the written words of both George and Roy Hession – and we commit to doing so!

Bless you as we serve together in His service.

David Ost

*Chair of 'The Verwer Hession Trust'*

Christa Le Vine (Trustee) writes, '10 days before my Dad, George Verwer, passed away he received an email from the office of the Archbishop of Canterbury, senior bishop of the Church of England. Archbishop Justin Welby selected Dad to receive the *Alphege Award for Evangelism and Witness*, inviting him to an awards ceremony to accept the honour. I read the email to Dad and we wrote back to confirm. At the time he said to me that he had always wanted to meet the Archbishop, but that now he would have to wait for that to happen in heaven.



Two months after Dad's passing, my son Jacob and I attended the 2023 award ceremony along with more than 30 other recipients of various awards. Lambeth Palace published an article about the day, describing the recipients as, "poets, educators, activists, clergy, peacemakers as well as many unsung people who have dedicated their working lives to the promotion of faith and in the service of God's witness.

First to be presented at the ceremony, I was pleased to accept the *Alphege Award for outstanding services to Christian ministry and evangelism* on George Verwer's behalf.



The award itself is a silver medal in the design of crossed ox bones, the instruments important to the story of St Alphege. During the event I was able to talk a little to Archbishop Welby about Dad, and gave him a gift of Dad's memorial book *Messiology*. Our family is thankful to the Archbishop for honouring our Dad'.

*Lambeth Awards 2023: Shining a light on outstanding effort and dedication | The Archbishop of Canterbury*

*'The Alphege Award for Evangelism and Witness was first awarded by Archbishop Justin Welby in March 2016. It is named after St Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1006 to 1012, who was known for his wise and holy counsel as well as his care for the poor and simple living. St Alphege was captured by Viking raiders in 1011 and killed the following year after refusing to allow himself to be ransomed.'*

If you wish to send a **Donation** to 'The Verwer/Hession Trust', our UK Bank details are:

**CAF Bank**, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ, UK  
Sort Code: **40-52-40**  
Account Number: **00002656**  
IBAN: **GB37CAFB40524000002656**  
Swift / BIC Code: **CAFBGB21XXX**

or to: [stewardship.org.uk/partners/20303918](https://stewardship.org.uk/partners/20303918)

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If you are in **North America**, you can also give to the Trust via our associated USA charity, *Great Commission Foundation (GCF)*.

Send a cheque to; *The Great Commission Foundation, 3230 Seagraves Mill Road, Hull, GA. 30646, USA*. Indicate on the cheque that it is for 'The Verwer/Hession Trust'.

Or instruct your bank to send a bank cheque as a monthly gift or a one time gift, to the GCF at the address above; Indicate on the cheque that it is for 'The Verwer/Hession Trust'.

Or give via PayPal: [www.rollinspilot.com/gcf](https://www.rollinspilot.com/gcf)  
When giving via this link, donors must identify in the memo section that the donation is for 'The Verwer/Hession Trust', so that GCF can identify your gifts correctly. Thank you.

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**PATRON:** DRENA VERWER

**TRUSTEES:**  
DAVID OST (CHAIR) • JOHN LEWIS • JOHN SATTERLY •  
CHRISTA LE VINE • DIRK ROTH • LIZZIE FRANCIS

**ADMINISTRATOR:** EDDIE OLLIFFE

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: **1031304** (England & Wales)