

The days are flying by! It's hard to believe that I am almost nine months into my year as George Verwer's "gopher." Holland, England, Croatia, a dozen U.S. states, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Northern Ireland, Australia, Singapore, Pakistan... it's been a whirlwind!

In this update: some **highlights, blogs**, how I became a **British citizen**, a **free book**, something God's been **teaching** me, and the next/**last three months** of this year.

Since my November update, some **HIGHLIGHTS**:

- It was wonderful to be with my siblings Ted and Chrissie, and my brother John and his wife Maria, at the latter's home in Burbank, California for **Christmas**. Immediately afterwards, Chrissie and I went to **Urbana** in St. Louis, Missouri – a missions conference attended by 20,000+. Chrissie said it was one of the greatest weeks of her life.
- In January, George and I went to Uruguay, Argentina and Brazil in **South America**. It was my first time to be on this continent, and I left with a greater sense of the vast potential in the South American church for missions – particularly to the Muslim world.
- I have met about 500 people every month this year. One of the ones who stood out was Christopher Yuan. Christopher was just about to graduate from dental school when he got expelled for drug abuse, went to prison, and discovered that one consequence of the homosexual lifestyle he had been living had left him HIV+. But God is in the redemption business. Chris got saved in prison and today he is on fire for the Lord. Check out his website at [www.chrisopheryuan.com](http://www.chrisopheryuan.com)



*With George in the backyard of his London home*

#### NEWS:

- There is a special person in my life named **Lydia Brown**. Lydia and I were classmates in Grade 1-4. 15 years later—late last September—we reconnected... and clicked. ☺ See a picture and "meet Lydia" on my blog [www.nigelbarham.com](http://www.nigelbarham.com)
- As this prayer letter is going out, **George and I are coming to Toronto!** If you read this in time, **join us** for an all-ages rally at Leaside Bible Chapel at 7pm on April 21, 2007. I want to see as many of you as I can!



## BROKENNESS

One thing God has been teaching me this year is brokenness. Because I am a "gopher," he has had a lot of opportunity to do so!

We are often taught to stick up for ourselves and defend our rights. While there is a time to do this, I believe we can learn from our Lord's example. When it was time for him to die, he decided to be rights-less. The Bible says that he became a "worm." (Psalm 22:6) In fact, he died in shame.

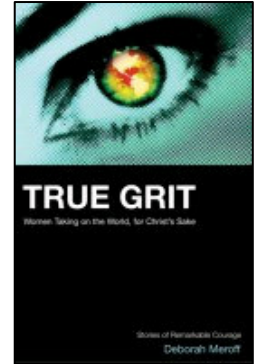
Was it fair? Of course not.

I think all of us at times are mistreated, ignored, and taken advantage of by others—even other Christians. Is it fair? No, but I think that's usually the wrong question. A better question is, What is the most God-glorifying way for me to respond? If we ask *this* question, we may decide to replace a flare-up of pride with an opportunity to love someone undeservedly.

That's what the gospel's all about.

## FREE BOOK:

- George Verwer believes the message of the book "True Grit" is so needed that he is giving the book away to anyone who will take it. Email [george@verwer.om.org](mailto:george@verwer.om.org) with your mailing address for your free copy.



## NIGELBARHAM.COM BLOGS OF NOTE: (Click the link or search the blog)

- \$100 from a stranger - <http://nigelbarham.blogspot.com/2006/11/100-from-stranger.html>
- How I became a British citizen - <http://nigelbarham.blogspot.com/2007/01/my-visa-situation-every-prayer-request.html>
- Video & pictures from missions-minded Hawaii - <http://nigelbarham.blogspot.com/2007/02/video-pictures-from-missions-minded.html>
- Pictures of my flat in London - <http://nigelbarham.blogspot.com/2007/02/pictures-of-my-flat-in-london.html>



**MY #1 TRIP OF THE YEAR: PAKISTAN.** I just got back from a dynamic, outlook-changing, whirlwind trip to Pakistan. Those of you who have known my family for some time may recall our four years in this Muslim land – from about 1988 to 1991. Well, this trip was my first time back since we left 16 years ago. To give you an idea of what it was like, I got off the plane in Lahore at 8:00 am and was told that I'd be preaching (for the first of six times) at noon! Read about the bonded brick kiln and child labourers of Pakistan I saw, how eight were saved in a place where the church barely exists, and a thrilling end-of-trip reunion – all at [www.nigelbarham.com](http://www.nigelbarham.com).

I am having a tremendous year! Thank you for your part in it.

Pressing on together,

Nigel

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A 360° photo of West Wickham, my neighborhood in London

