

# Bonner Querschnitte

## Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

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### BQ 746 – No. 03/2023

## “We promise to champion his legacy of radical discipleship for Jesus”

### The Secretary General of WEA about George Verwer, founder of Operation Mobilisation

(Bonn, 19.04.2023) The Secretary General of the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA), Bishop Dr. Thomas Schirmmayer, paid tribute to George Verwer who passed away on April 14, 2023, and promised to continue to champion his legacy of radically following Jesus:

I am glad that George Verwer left his legacy in his last appearance before a large global audience in 2019 not to a specific section of the spiritual family he belonged to, but to the World Evangelical Alliance’s General Assembly. I am thankful that my predecessor, Bishop Efraim Tendero, wisely chose George Verwer as the final plenary speaker of that General Assembly, not knowing that this would be the last such platform for George. I am thankful to George himself, who came despite being limited by his health already. And I am especially thankful for his message about his shirt with the world map on it; on world mission, the central topic of WEA since 1846; and on radical discipleship, the fulfillment of the topic of the GA surrounding the Decade of Discipleship.



George Verwer and Thomas Schirmmayer at the General Assembly of WEA in Indonesia November 12, 2019 © Thomas Schirmmayer

In my private meeting with George after his message (see photo), he was worn out but extremely happy that his lifelong investment in recruiting, encouraging, and always pushing people to do more for Jesus had brought forth so much fruit and was accep-

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A joint platform for the following Bonn organizations on the basis of the Evangelical Alliance:

Business Coalition of the World Evangelical Alliance (Bonn, Hamburg)  
[business.worlddea.org](http://business.worlddea.org)

Evangelical Missiology, Journal of missiotop – Evangelical Forum for Missions, Cultures and Religions (German Evangelical Alliance)  
[missiotop.org](http://missiotop.org)

Evangelical Review of Theology (New York, Bonn)  
[theology.worlddea.org/evangelical-review-of-theology](http://theology.worlddea.org/evangelical-review-of-theology)

Giving Hands – International Charity (Bonn)  
[gebende-haende.de](http://gebende-haende.de)

Global Theology Department of the World Evangelical Alliance  
[worlddea.org/what-we-do/global-theology/](http://worlddea.org/what-we-do/global-theology/)

International Institute for Islamic Studies (IIIS) (Bonn)  
[islam institute.net](http://islam institute.net)

International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF) of the World Evangelical Alliance (International Headquarter, EU-Office Brüssel)  
[iirf.global](http://iirf.global)

International Journal for Religious Freedom (IJRF) (Bonn/Toronto)  
[ijrf.org](http://ijrf.org)

Martin Bucer Seminary (Bonn, Zürich, Tirana, São Paulo, Helsinki, Istanbul, Delhi)  
[bucer.org](http://bucer.org)

Office of Intrafaith and Interfaith Relations of the World Evangelical Alliance

SOS World (Brussels)  
[sosworld.be/page-daccueil](http://sosworld.be/page-daccueil)

Theological Commission of the European Evangelical Alliance  
[europeanea.org](http://europeanea.org)

Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance  
[world-evangelicals.org/tc/](http://world-evangelicals.org/tc/)

Verlag für Kultur und Wissenschaft (VKW) (Culture and Science Publ.)  
[vkwonline.com](http://vkwonline.com)

WEA Global Issues Series (Bonn, Manila, New York)  
[global-issues-series.iirf.eu](http://global-issues-series.iirf.eu)

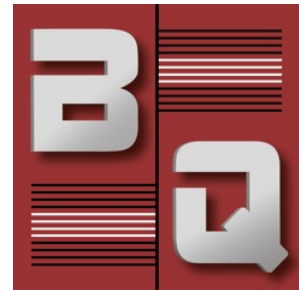
WEA Sustainability Center  
[wea-sc.org](http://wea-sc.org)

World Evangelical Alliance (WEA)

Yearbook on Religious Freedom of the Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance  
[iirf.global/jahrbuch/](http://iirf.global/jahrbuch/)

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ted by the global church. *We promise to champion his legacy of radical discipleship for Jesus.*

I first saw George Verwer as a small boy, when he visited my family. Already at that time, he seemed somehow chaotic in style, shocking others with what seemed to be strange ideas about short-term missionaries or buying large, old ships and turning them into global mission tools. God blessed his out-of-the-box thinking mightily! George—much like Billy Graham—spoke openly about his failures; he even wrote a book called ‘*Messiology*’. In his sermons, speeches, and books, he always gave examples of his fallibility. He was rightly convinced that this should be part of every sermon, every witness to the grace of God. He encouraged me, in my leadership position, not to listen to those who expect one always to do the right thing, never to fail, never to sin. Instead, he assured me that we can be leaders only by the grace of God, who uses us for his purposes despite our limitations and our constant need for forgiveness.

### Downloads and Links:

- **Photo:** George Verwer and Thomas Schirmmacher at the General Assembly of WEA in Indonesia November 12, 2019 © Thomas Schirmmacher
- The book ‘*Messiology*’ by George Verwer as a free download:  
<https://georgeverwer.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Messiology.pdf>

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Global Theology Department of the World Evangelical Alliance  
[worlddea.org/what-we-do/global-theology/](https://worlddea.org/what-we-do/global-theology/)

International Institute for Islamic Studies (IIS) (Bonn)  
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International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF) of the World Evangelical Alliance (International Headquarter, EU-Office Brüssel)  
[iirf.global](https://iirf.global)

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