



VISION MONTH 2017

**WE ARE
TRINITARIANS!**

28 DAYS OF PRAYER
Mon, Aug 28 - Sun, Sep 24

**CONSECRATE
YOURSELVES**

FOR TOMORROW

THE LORD WILL DO

**AMAZING
THINGS**

AMONG YOU
JOSHUA 3:5

WE PRAY PASSIONATELY!

Mon, Aug 28 – *Inquire of God's Burden*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 1:1-2*

In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, ² Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.

Even though Nehemiah was residing in a comfortable palace in Persia, hundreds of miles away from the ruined city of Jerusalem, his heart beats for the remnants of the Jewish Nation. In the cold winter months, he wasn't contented with the shelter, warmth and provision he had. He was bothered enough to question the state of the exile and was anxious to find answers.

In times of comfort, stability and prosperity, we easily become indifferent to God's vision and purpose.

Our passion for God gets eroded as we take the good times for granted. Let's not allow our own preoccupation or the comforts and promotions in life to douse our spiritual passion. Let us pray for an inquiring heart today – a heart that passionately inquires and beats for God's purpose. Let us ask for a passion that is an intense desire, and that we will nurture this passion to pray for the fulfillment of God's vision in this Decade of Expansion.

Reflection:

1. What is the condition of your heart today? Does it have passionate desire and inquire of God's vision and purpose?

2. How can you grow in your passion for God's agenda?

Pray for yourself and Trinitarians to have:

- A passionate desire for God's vision
- A passion to inquire and understand God's vision and purpose
- A passion to pray for the fulfillment of God's vision

Tue, Aug 29 – Carry God’s Burden

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 1:3-4*

³They said to me, ‘Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.’⁴When I heard these things, I sat down and wept.

The book of Nehemiah tells us Nehemiah was a courageous and strong leader. In the next few chapters, he deployed strategies to fend off opposition and he was unyielding in the face of intimidation, and even death threats. Nehemiah 6:11: “But I said, “Should a man like me run away? Or should someone like me go into the temple to save his life? I will not go!”

For a strong leader like Nehemiah to sit down and weep over a ruined wall, we can see he had a soft spot, a tender heart and sensitive spirit

towards God. His compassionate heart quickly developed a godly burden upon hearing the state of the city.

As believers, we must allow our hearts to be touched by the needs of others. We must be aware of the reality of the needs of others and to be personally concerned with their needs.¹This is our calling as God’s ambassadors and His royal priesthood, because God’s salvation plan for the world involves us working alongside with the Holy Spirit. We are carriers of the gospel message, His love and goodness to our world today.

Reflection:

1. How sensitive is your heart towards God and how compassionate are you towards others?

2. Do you believe God can help you grow in these areas?

¹ Charles Swindoll, *Hand me another brick*, 1988, 16-17.

Pray for yourself and Trinitarians to have:

- A heart tender towards God
- A heart willing to carry God's burden
- A heart that grows in compassion for others

Wed, Aug 30 – *Emotion to Conviction*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 1:4-5*

...For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

⁵ Then I said: 'LORD, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments.'

The day before we read that Nehemiah's heart was torn apart as he wept for the ruined city. He was gripped with compassion. He empathized greatly with the exiled people that had returned, and that now did not have city walls to protect them while they tried to rebuild their home in the ruins. His compassion and burden moved him into action. He brought the matter to the Lord, dedicating himself to mourning, praying and fasting.

Many times our hearts are moved and inspired by different things.

We can feel inspired by a sermon or feel especially burdened after watching a documentary. But how often do we bring these emotions to the Lord and allow Him to deepen our emotions into a conviction? God gave us emotions for a purpose. It's important we do not ignore them but consecrate them to the Lord and seek Him seriously on what to do when we feel burdened for a cause or inspired towards a purpose. We should consecrate ourselves to hear from Him and allow a strong conviction to develop in us.

Reflection:

1. When was the last time you felt moved or inspired by God? What emotions did you feel and what was the kingdom cause that moved you?

2. Ask God to give you a vision for your burden. Record it here.

Pray for yourself and Trinitarians to have:

- A revelation of God's vision and purpose in this Decade of Expansion
- A deeper conviction in our hearts to fulfill His vision for our lives

Thu, Aug 31 – *Passionate Persistent Prayer*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 1:6a*

⁶Let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel.

Nehemiah mentioned in his prayers that he had been praying before God day and night. Nehemiah didn't just make cursory prayers but he pressed in and persisted in his intercession. His devotion to prayer prepared himself spiritually for the task ahead. His persistence to prayer moved the hand of God to prepare King Artaxerxes, the governors and suppliers of raw materials to support his endeavor.

our stamina for spiritual intercession. In this way we allow passion to grow and conviction to be deepened in us. There is a great need for our generation to devote time and energy to travail in prayer. A believer is most powerful when he is on his knees. Let us learn to grow in this area of passionate persistent prayer and believe God will anoint us with a greater prayer language and stamina today!

When we experience lethargy in praying, we must press in and grow in

Reflection:

1. How can you set aside time to devote to prayer?

2. What small step can you take to pray with greater persistence?

Pray for yourself and Trinitarians to have:

- An understanding of the spiritual value of travelling in prayer
- A breakthrough in our stamina to pray persistently with passion
- A greater prayer language to utter the will and purpose of God

Fri, Sep 1 – *I am Part of the Problem*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 1:6b-7*

I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's family, have committed against you. ⁷We have acted very wickedly towards you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.

Nehemiah began his prayer by confessing their sins. Note that he used the words 'I' and 'we' to distinguish his own sins from the sins of the Israelites. He owned his part of the problem and acknowledged it before the Lord.² Nehemiah knew that both he and the nation needed to be aligned with God's purpose again before they could rebuild their city. They had to make right with God so He could bless them and use them.

Nothing would hinder their purpose and destiny. This is the same for us in pursuing God's vision for us as individuals and as a church. We must confess areas of disobedience and our lack of faith, and align our hearts to God's purpose. This is so we can move forward together and the blessings of God may flow through us to our family and church.

Reflection:

1. How ready am I to own the problems in my personal life?

2. Do I take myself to task with regard to fulfilling God's vision for the church?

² Charles Swindoll, *Hand me another brick*, 1988, 20.

Pray for yourself and Trinitarians to:

- Confess our sins, lack of faith and willful disobedience to God
- Align our hearts and will in obedience to God's purpose
- Confess and repent on behalf of the sins of the land that Trinity will expand into, both local and overseas
- Pray for God's mercy and grace over these lands

Sat, Sep 2 – *Do I Remember?*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 1:8-10*

⁸ “Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, ⁹ but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.’ ¹⁰ “They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand.”

Nehemiah remembered God’s instructions and promise. He had hidden them in his heart. He remembered that God would lead the exiled back and bless them with a safe dwelling if they returned in obedience. The exiled were allowed to return to Jerusalem in 538 BC,³ yet for about 100 years, the city wall was left in ruins, until Nehemiah led the rebuilding in 444 BC.⁴ The Israelites forgot about God’s promises to them and continued to live in the ruins for 100 years.

How many of us spend lots of time in our personal wilderness because we forgot about God’s promises for us, and failed to declare with authority God’s promises into our lives? We cave in to negativism and intimidation and are resigned to our circumstances. Personally or corporately, we cannot afford to lose sight of God’s promises. We must hold on to them and His vision for us in this Decade of Expansion, declare it with authority into fulfillment and boldly step into it.

Reflection:

1. Recall God’s wonderful promises for you. Record it here.

2. Ask God to reveal to you His wonderful promises for Trinity Christian Centre. Record it here.

Pray for yourself and Trinitarians to:

- Declare God’s wonderful promises over our own lives
- Declare God’s vision for local and overseas church planting to come to pass
- Hold on and remember the good promises of God

³Andrew Hill & John Walton, *A Survey of the Old Testament*, 3rd Ed, 2009, 336.

⁴Andrew Hill & John Walton, *A Survey of the Old Testament*, 3rd Ed, 2009, 333.

Sun, Sep 3 – *Audacity*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 1:11*

"Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favour in the presence of this man."

Nehemiah's prayer was audacious. He asked the Lord for success in getting favor from the king. In Chapter 2, before answering the king, he prayed to God again! Nehemiah 2:4-5: "The king said to me, 'What is it you want?' Then I prayed to the God of heaven, and I answered the king, 'If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.'"

When we pray passionately, our intense desire will cause us to pray audaciously. It is also required because God's vision is often much bigger than what we think is achievable. This is rightly so because it is the work of God and not the work of mere men. To partner with God in fulfilling His vision, we must pray audaciously to grow our faith and act audaciously.

Reflection:

1. Are you focusing on God's power or your own insufficiency?

2. Do you pray with audacity for yourself and for the church?

Pray for yourself and Trinitarians to:

- Have the audacity to ask the Lord boldly for the fulfilment of His vision
- Remain unintimidated by the scale and demands of the vision
- Pray, speak and act with passionate audacity

WE SERVE SELFLESSLY!

Mon, Sep 4 – *The Need for Selfless Servants*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 1:1-4, 11*

¹The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, ²Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. ³They said to me, “Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.” ⁴When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven...

¹¹“Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man.” I was cupbearer to the king.

When Nehemiah received news about the ruins of Jerusalem, and the sad plight of the Jews who had returned to Jerusalem, he was not the first to be aware of the state of affairs in Jerusalem. Since the news was carried by others, other Jews would also have been aware of what was happening in Jerusalem. While others did not take the initiative to respond to the needs of Jerusalem, Nehemiah did.

The restoration of Jerusalem was for the good of the Jewish community, and such a feat required one to place the needs of the community above himself.

According to the Concise Oxford English Dictionary, being selfless is to be concerned more with the needs and wishes of others than with one's own. There was a need for selfless servants to rise up to rebuild Jerusalem.

When his brother came back from Judah, Nehemiah immediately asked about the Jews living in Jerusalem, and the state of the city. He was concerned with the needs of the greater community, and immediately sought God in prayer for favor to help restore Jerusalem and its inhabitants.

Reflection:

1. What are the needs within your community and your church?

2. What can you do to meet those needs?

Pray:

- For God to raise selfless servants to meet the needs of your community and your church
- For God to give you a desire to be a selfless servant to meet the needs of your community and your church

Tue, Sep 5 – *The Motivation of a Selfless Servant*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 2:1-5*

¹ In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before, ² so the king asked me, “Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart.” I was very much afraid, ³ but I said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?” ⁴ The king said to me, “What is it you want?” Then I prayed to the God of heaven, ⁵ and I answered the king, “If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.”

A few months had passed after Nehemiah first heard about the state of Jerusalem and its inhabitants. Despite the length of time that had passed, Nehemiah was still gripped by the needs of the Jewish community in Jerusalem. Nehemiah was even more concerned about the needs of the community than his own, and he was still seeking to be a selfless servant to the community.

Due to man’s sin nature, people are usually inclined to be self-centered. They tend to place their own needs above the needs of others, and tend to be more motivated by their own needs, instead of the needs of others. The motivation of a selfless servant, as displayed by Nehemiah, is the direct opposite of this. The needs of the community motivate a selfless servant far greater than his own needs.

Reflection:

1. What motivates your choices and actions to meet the needs of your community and church? Why?

2. What would demotivate you from choosing to meet those needs? Why?

Pray for yourself and Trinitarians to:

- Put the needs of the community and the church above your own
- Be motivated by God's love and passion to meet those needs
- Guard from losing the motivation to be selfless in meeting those needs

Wed, Sep 6 – *The Sacrifice of a Selfless Servant*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 4:21-23*

²¹ So we continued the work with half the men holding spears, from the first light of dawn till the stars came out. ²² At that time I also said to the people, "Have every man and his helper stay inside Jerusalem at night, so they can serve us as guards by night and as workers by day." ²³ Neither I nor my brothers nor my men nor the guards with me took off our clothes; each had his weapon, even when he went for water.

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 6:10-13*

¹⁰ One day I went to the house of Shemaiah son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was shut in at his home. He said, "Let us meet in the house of God, inside the temple, and let us close the temple doors, because men are coming to kill you – by night they are coming to kill you." ¹¹ But I said, "Should a man like me run away? Or should someone like me go into the temple to save his life? I will not go!" ¹² I realized that God had not sent him, but that he had prophesied against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. ¹³ He had been hired to intimidate me so that I would commit a sin by doing this, and then they would give me a bad name to discredit me.

As the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem progressed rapidly, multiple threats were leveled by enemies upon Nehemiah and the Jews. As appointed governor of the land of Judah, Nehemiah could have insisted on staying away from the wall, and be protected from any harm or danger. In fact, as governor he had the right to do so. However, Nehemiah knew his men needed him to be with them as they too were risking their lives to rebuild the wall. Nehemiah placed their

needs above his own, choosing to work alongside them and stand guard with them. Nehemiah was willing to sacrifice his own safety, so that the needs of the community can be met, and the mission accomplished.

The attitude of a selfless servant is that of sacrifice. By sacrificing your own needs and rights, you are able to uphold the needs of the community above your own.

Reflection:

1. As you serve the needs of others in your community and your church, what are you willing to sacrifice?

2. Has it been a struggle to sacrifice? Why?

Pray for yourself and Trinitarians to:

- Surrender the areas you struggle with to God
- Rely on God’s strength and grace to enable you to sacrifice for the needs of the community and church
- Be assured of God’s provision as you step out in selfless sacrifice

Thu, Sep 7 – *The Pursuit of a Selfless Servant*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 5:14-19*

¹⁴Moreover, from the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, until his 32nd year – 12 years – neither I nor my brothers ate the food allotted to the governor. ¹⁵But the earlier governors—those preceding me—placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels of silver from them in addition to food and wine. Their assistants also lorded it over the people. But out of reverence for God I did not act like that. ¹⁶Instead, I devoted myself to the work on this wall. All my men were assembled there for the work; we did not acquire any land. ¹⁷Furthermore, a hundred and fifty Jews and officials ate at my table, as well as those who came to us from the surrounding nations. ¹⁸Each day one ox, six choice sheep and some poultry were prepared for me, and every ten days an abundant supply of wine of all kinds. In spite of all this, I never demanded the food allotted to the governor, because the demands were heavy on these people. ¹⁹Remember me with favor, my God, for all I have done for these people.

As the appointed governor over Judah, Nehemiah had the right to demand food that is usually allotted to the governor. In fact, as governor, he had to feed officials and visitors from other nations. Nonetheless, because Nehemiah knew that demanding food allotted to the governor from the people would put a heavy strain on them, Nehemiah chose not to do so.

Nehemiah pursued the well-being of his people above his own.

In addition, Nehemiah did everything in reverence for God. In everything, he pursued the favor of God, not the approval of man. As a selfless servant, Nehemiah pursued the pleasure of God in his life.

Reflection:

1. What are you pursuing as you serve the community and the church?
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2. Have there been moments where you sought the approval of man through your serving? Allow the Holy Spirit to search your heart with regards to what your heart pursues after and take time to pray and deal with each wrong desire, if any.
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Pray for yourself and Trinitarians:

- To pursue the well-being of others
- To have a desire after God and not the approval of man

Fri, Sep 8 – *The Perseverance of a Selfless Servant*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 5:14-16*

¹⁴ Moreover, from the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, until his thirty-second year – twelve years – neither I nor my brothers ate the food allotted to the governor. ¹⁵ But the earlier governors – those preceding me – placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels of silver from them in addition to food and wine. Their assistants also lorded it over the people. But out of reverence for God I did not act like that. ¹⁶ Instead, I devoted myself to the work on this wall. All my men were assembled there for the work; we did not acquire any land.

Nehemiah was governor of Judah for 12 years, not just for a few months. In all his years as governor, he devoted himself to the community, and did not acquire anything for himself. In this time, Nehemiah persevered in meeting the needs of the community, never once placing his needs above the community's needs. He served their needs selflessly on a continuous and consistent basis.

By his own strength, Nehemiah could not have persevered in placing the needs of others above his own for so long. It was Nehemiah's continued reverence for God and dependence on God that allowed him to persevere in placing the needs of others continually above his own, and to serve their needs selflessly.

Reflection:

1. What are some struggles you would have in persevering to place the needs of others above your own? Why?

2. How can you overcome these struggles and persevere in serving selflessly?

Pray for yourself and Trinitarians to:

- Submit to God our struggles in placing the needs of others above our own
- Reveal our motives and renew our hearts to serve selflessly
- Continually revere and depend on Him

Sat, Sep 9 – *The Influence of a Selfless Servant*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 5:1-13*

¹ Now the men and their wives raised a great outcry against their fellow Jews.

² Some were saying, “We and our sons and daughters are numerous; in order for us to eat and stay alive, we must get grain.” ³ Others were saying, “We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards and our homes to get grain during the famine.” ⁴ Still others were saying, “We have had to borrow money to pay the king’s tax on our fields and vineyards.” ⁵ Although we are of the same flesh and blood as our fellow Jews and though our children are as good as theirs, yet we have to subject our sons and daughters to slavery. Some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but we are powerless, because our fields and our vineyards belong to others.” ⁶ When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very angry. ⁷ I pondered them in my mind and then accused the nobles and officials. I told them, “You are charging your own people interest!” So I called together a large meeting to deal with them ⁸ and said: “As far as possible, we have bought back our fellow Jews who were sold to the Gentiles. Now you are selling your own people, only for them to be sold back to us!” They kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say.

⁹ So I continued, “What you are doing is not right. Shouldn’t you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies?” ¹⁰ I and my brothers and my men are also lending the people money and grain. But let us stop charging interest! ¹¹ Give back to them immediately their fields, vineyards, olive groves and houses, and also the interest you are charging them—one percent of the money, grain, new wine and olive oil.” ¹² “We will give it back,” they said. “And we will not demand anything more from them. We will do as you say.” Then I summoned the priests and made the nobles and officials take an oath to do what they had promised. ¹³ I also shook out the folds of my robe and said, “In this way may God shake out of their house and possessions anyone who does not keep this promise. So may such a person be shaken out and emptied!” At this the whole assembly said, “Amen,” and praised the LORD. And the people did as they had promised.

In lending to others, it is common to charge interest. In fact, it does not make business sense not to do so. However, Nehemiah chose not to charge interest in his lending to his Jewish community. He chose to place their interests above his own.

role model and chose to follow in his footsteps to place the needs of the community above their own. Placing the needs of others above one's own is not common. Serving selflessly is not common. However, doing so inspires and influences others to follow suit.

When others heard about Nehemiah's convictions, they looked to him as a

Reflection:

1. What areas do you think your selfless serving would inspire and/or influence others? Why?

2. What can you do to inspire and influence others to serve selflessly in your community and your church?

Pray for yourself and Trinitarians that:

- People will see God through our selfless serving
- People will be inspired and influenced to serve selflessly

Sun, Sep 10 – *The Impact of a Community of Selfless Servants*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 2:16-18*

¹⁶ *The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work.* ¹⁷ *Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.”* ¹⁸ *I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work.*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 4:21-23*

²¹ *So we continued the work with half the men holding spears, from the first light of dawn till the stars came out.* ²² *At that time I also said to the people, “Have every man and his helper stay inside Jerusalem at night, so they can serve us as guards by night and as workers by day.”* ²³ *Neither I nor my brothers nor my men nor the guards with me took off our clothes; each had his weapon, even when he went for water.*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 6:15-16*

¹⁵ *So the wall was completed on the 25th of Elul, in 52 days.* ¹⁶ *When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.*

Nehemiah displayed his confidence in God, choosing to place the needs of the community above his own. The rest of the Jewish community in Judah followed suit, serving the needs of the community above their own. The impact was astounding. The wall of Jerusalem was completed in 52 days, a feat that was unheard of in those days.

This achievement would not have been possible without God. As the entire community served selflessly, they displayed the reality of God.

God is calling the body of Christ to serve selflessly. This will have a great impact on the larger community, and help others see the reality of God in our lives.

Reflection:

1. What are some areas that the body of Christ can serve selflessly in the community?

2. How can you selflessly serve in those areas as part of the body of Christ?

Pray:

- For the glory and the reality of God to be manifested as we serve the community selflessly
- That others will be drawn to God as they witness the selfless service of His people

WE BUILD BOLDLY!

Mon, Sep 11 – *Building Boldly by Remembering God’s Vision*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 1:2-3, 10*

In the month of Kislev in the 20th year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, ²Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. ³They said to me, ‘Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.’

¹⁰ ‘They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand.’

Nehemiah heard about the state of the Jewish remnant – they were in great trouble and disgrace, with the wall of Jerusalem broken down and its gates burnt with fire. Nehemiah remembered these people were God’s servants, the people He redeemed by His great strength and mighty hand. And because of who they were to God,

these servants and people shouldn’t be living in great trouble and disgrace.

Out of that emotional turmoil, a vision was birthed in Nehemiah. He saw the city of Jerusalem rebuilt and the exiles returning to the city with hope and vibrancy.

Reflection:

1. What are some visions that God has given to you? Have you experienced the fulfillment of these visions?

2. Have you forgotten God’s vision for your life because of where you are now in life?

Pray for yourself and Trinitarians:

- To receive a new vision from God for your life
- For visions that have died to be revived
- For fresh faith to believe in God-given visions to come to pass
- To be impregnated with the vision of Trinity Christian Centre

Tue, Sep 12 – *Building Boldly through Divine Opportunity*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 2:4-5*

⁴ *The king said to me, “What is it you want?” Then I prayed to the God of heaven,*
⁵ *and I answered the king, “If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.”*

As a cup bearer, Nehemiah was always in close proximity with the king. But he also knew his standing before the king. The wrong response could result in banishment from the court or worse still, immediate death.

But yet when the opportunity arose, Nehemiah seized it to raise his request boldly and respectfully. That divine moment presented an opportunity for Nehemiah to build boldly.

Reflection:

1. How aware am I when divine opportunities present themselves for me to build the kingdom of God boldly?

2. What would be some fears, if any, that would cause me to hesitate or perhaps reject that opportunity? Why?

Pray for yourself and Trinitarians:

- To recognize and seize the divine opportunity of favor
- To overcome the fears that cause you to reject the divine opportunity of God
- To experience the divine favor of God in that moment of opportunity

Wed, Sep 13 – *Building Boldly with Wise Planning*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 2:7-9*

⁷I also said to him, "If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe conduct until I arrive in Judah?"⁸And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the royal park, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?" And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests. ⁹So I went to the governors of Trans-Euphrates and gave them the king's letters. The king had also sent army officers and cavalry with me.

Nehemiah knew that the rebuilding process would require a great amount of supplies. Furthermore, the journey back to Jerusalem would not be easy and he would need to clear the different authorities smoothly without any hassle or delay.

Nehemiah wisely made careful plans on what was required and how to make things work. He prayed to God to help him get past these potential obstacles, and ultimately experienced divine favor with the king.

Reflection:

1. In the building of your life, whether career or marriage or family, have you sought God for wisdom and help in the planning? Why?

2. How would wise planning help in the building of your life?

Pray:

- For yourself and Trinitarians to have God's wisdom and insight
- For Trinity's leadership to receive God's wisdom and insight as they lead the church towards God's vision for the church
- For God's favor with government authorities and working partners, suppliers and vendors

Thu, Sep 14 – *Building Boldly in Unity*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 2:17-18*

¹⁷ Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.” ¹⁸ I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work.

Nehemiah knew he could not carry out the rebuilding of the wall all by himself. He needed the people to unite and rebuild the wall together. So he shared with them his conviction and belief in the mission God had given to him, which helped bring them together in the vision and purpose so they would be fired up to build boldly the wall of Jerusalem together.

Reflection:

1. What is your response when the vision of Trinity is shared, particularly in regard to the Decade of Expansion?

2. What made you unite with the leadership of the church in that common vision and belief in the Decade of Expansion? Conversely, why wouldn't you want to be a builder of the vision of this church?

Pray for:

- Unity of Trinitarian in embracing the vision of the church
- Conviction to be stakeholders of the vision and not just bystanders
- Provision of talents, resources and finances for Trinity to build boldly

Fri, Sep 15 – *Building Boldly by Resisting Opposition*

Scriptural text: Nehemiah 2:19-20

¹⁹ But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. “What is this you are doing?” they asked. “Are you rebelling against the king?” ²⁰ I answered them by saying, “The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it.”

Scriptural text: Nehemiah 4:1-15

When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, ² and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, “What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?” ³ Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, “What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!” ⁴ Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. ⁵ Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of ^[b] the builders. ⁶ So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart. ⁷ But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem’s walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. ⁸ They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. ⁹ But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

¹⁰ Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, “The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.” ¹¹ Also our enemies said, “Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work.” ¹² Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, “Wherever you turn, they will attack us.” ¹³ Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows. ¹⁴ After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is

great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes. ¹⁵ When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work.

Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem tried to stop the rebuilding work because they did not want the Jews to gain strength and independence. They saw the Jews as a threat and sought to eliminate that threat.

Despite facing numerous threats from the opposition, Nehemiah trusted in God to give them success. Nehemiah

did not allow the fears, although real and discouraging, to prevent him or the people from continuing to build boldly. Nehemiah was bold in building because he looked to God and trusted God for deliverance and victory. They continued to work with all their heart, focusing on God as they rebuild the walls.

Reflection:

1. How do you respond when you face opposition in your life, particularly in the area of ministry? Do you fight or take flight? Why?

2. What do you think your role and God's role is when there is opposition in your life? How can you grow to trust God more and rely on His strength and believe for His deliverance and victory?

Pray for yourself and Trinitarians to:

- Build boldly despite the enemy's opposition in our life
- Listen to God and be guarded against what would stop us from building boldly:
 - Discouragement
 - Fear
 - Ridicule
- Trust God in His power and victory

Sat, Sep 16 – *Building Boldly through Strategic Deployment*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 4:16-23*

¹⁶ From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah ¹⁷ who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, ¹⁸ and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me. ¹⁹ Then I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. ²⁰ Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!” ²¹ So we continued the work with half the men holding spears, from the first light of dawn till the stars came out. ²² At that time I also said to the people, “Have every man and his helper stay inside Jerusalem at night, so they can serve us as guards by night and as workers by day.” ²³ Neither I nor my brothers nor my men nor the guards with me took off our clothes; each had his weapon, even when he went for water.

Nehemiah knew the complexity of the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem. Nehemiah recognized that he needed to strategically deploy the people so as to spread out the workload. On top of that, he needed to ensure that there were people guarding against the

attack of the opposition day and night. As such, Nehemiah continued to build boldly by strategically deploying people so that the security and safety of the people were not compromised. That allowed the people to be confident and continue building boldly.

Reflection:

1. What are some skills and talents you can use in the church in this Decade of Expansion?

2. Are there concerns that prevent you from availing yourself to be strategically deployed in this Decade of Expansion? Take some to pray regarding these concerns if there are any.

Pray for:

- Trinitarians to build boldly by availing themselves to be strategically deployed
- Trinitarians to recognize everyone has a strategic role to play as we build boldly in this Decade of Expansion
- Pastor Dominic and the Board to be strategic in their thinking and wisdom in their planning as they lead the church to build boldly

Sun, Sep 17 – *Building Boldly with Faith*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 2:17-18*

17 Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." 18 I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.

The Jews heard the vision of Nehemiah and they believed. They had faith in him and in God, for it was God who birthed that vision in Nehemiah. It was a mammoth task the people undertook in the rebuilding work and one that required faith. Even in the face of opposition, the Jews had to ensure their faith did not waver, but they held on to their belief that God would make all things possible so the walls would be rebuilt. And what started in faith resulted in a work of faith when the walls were completed in 52 days.

Reflection:

1. In this Decade of Expansion, as we build boldly toward the vision of the church, do you build with faith and say "with God it will be possible" or do you look at the building through facts and consider it impossible?

2. What would make you dare to build with faith and what are some possible hindrances that might affect your faith? Take some time to pray for yourself.

Pray for:

- Bold faith to build boldly
- Tenacity to carry out mammoth tasks and overcome obstacles in the way
- Pastor Dominic, the Board and the pastoral staff to build boldly with faith and lead the church to build with faith

WE GIVE GENEROUSLY!

Mon, Sep 18 – *A Conviction to be Generous in Giving*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 1:1-4*

¹The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, ²Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. ³ They said to me, “Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.” ⁴When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

The condition of the city of Jerusalem had a strong emotional impact on Nehemiah, moving him to fast and pray.⁵ The condition of Jerusalem did not necessitate any action from Nehemiah. He could have just felt the emotional turmoil over the condition of his land and left it as that. But the condition of his land resulted in a conviction in his heart to do something about it. It convicted Nehemiah to pray.

Verse 4 tells us that Nehemiah fasted and prayed for some days, which could in reality be over a period of several months. This account described for us the generous giving of Nehemiah. He gave generously of his time to fast and pray for his people and land, and also for an opportunity to speak to the king.⁶

Reflection:

1. How convicted are you to give generously of your time to pray for the vision God has given to Trinity Christian Centre, particularly in the Decade of Expansion?

⁵ L. Allen and T. Laniak, *New International Biblical Commentary: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther*, (Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 2003), 87-88.

⁶ H.G.M. Williamson, *Word Biblical Commentary: Ezra, Nehemiah*, (Waco: Word Books, 1985), 168.

2. What are some time robbers that prevent you from giving your time generously to pray? Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal them and pray against them.

Pray for yourself and Trinitarians:

- To be generous in giving of our time in prayer
- To have a strong conviction to pray for the fulfillment of Trinity's vision

Tue, Sep 19 – *A Commitment to be Generous in Giving*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 1:1-4*

¹The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, ²Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. ³They said to me, “Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.” ⁴When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

Nehemiah was convicted over the condition of Jerusalem and it moved him to give generously of his time to pray. Verse 4 tells us that Nehemiah fasted and prayed for some days, which could in reality be over a period of several months. By choosing to fast

and pray, Nehemiah gave generously through his full involvement in the fate of his fellow Jews. Such was his generous giving that he chose to fast to further strengthen the force of prayer in his times of intercession.⁷

Reflection:

1. What prevents you from being committed and giving generously of yourself by praying, serving, building and giving toward the fulfillment of Trinity’s vision?

2. How can you grow in your commitment to pray, serve, build and give?

Pray:

- Against apathy and distraction that prevents Trinitarians from being generous in their commitment
- For a strong commitment from all Trinitarians to give generously by being fully involved in fulfilling Trinity’s vision

⁷ Williamson, Word Biblical Commentary: Ezra, Nehemiah, (Waco: Word Books, 1985), 172.

Wed, Sep 20 – *A Courage to Give Generously*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 2:2-8*

² so the king asked me, “Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart.” I was very much afraid, ³ but I said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?” ⁴ The king said to me, “What is it you want?” Then I prayed to the God of heaven, ⁵ and I answered the king, “If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.” ⁶ Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, “How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?” It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time. ⁷ I also said to him, “If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe conduct until I arrive in Judah? ⁸ And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the royal park, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?” And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests.

Nehemiah was a cupbearer to the king. The cupbearer was an important position, filled with honor and dignity, and trusted by the king because the cupbearer ensured that no poisoned food would ever reach the king.⁸ Even though Nehemiah was convicted by the call and committed to the mission, he was afraid when the king asked for the reason for his sadness.

A wrong or misplaced reply could cost him his life and the failure of the mission before it has even begun. But despite his real fears, he was courageous by generously giving himself fully to the call and asked courageously from the king to let him go and to provide supplies and letters for the building project.

Reflection:

1. What are some possible fears that hold you back from giving generously of yourself? Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal those fears and pray against them.

⁸ David Noel Freedman, *The Anchor Bible Dictionary* Volume 4 K-N, (New York: Doubleday, 1992), 1069.

2. How can you grow in being courageous to give generously toward the vision?

Pray:

- That fears will not prevent the generous giving of Trinitarians toward fulfilling the vision of Trinity
- That Trinitarians will be courageous in giving generously to fulfill Trinity's vision

Thu, Sep 21 – *Step Courageously into Generous Giving*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 2:2-8*

² so the king asked me, “Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart.” I was very much afraid, ³ but I said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?” ⁴ The king said to me, “What is it you want?” Then I prayed to the God of heaven, ⁵ and I answered the king, “If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.” ⁶ Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, “How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?” It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time. ⁷ I also said to him, “If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe conduct until I arrive in Judah? ⁸ And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the royal park, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?” And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests.

Sometimes being in our comfort zone prevents us from generously giving ourselves toward the fulfillment of the vision. Despite being in a privileged position, one of influence and considerable power, Nehemiah chose to generously give up his comfort zone for the cause. He gave up his position of comfort and influence, and chose

to give himself to the call of rebuilding the walls. Nehemiah chose to give generously by personally going and accomplishing the mission. He also experienced the generous giving of God through the favor he found with the king and the provision of supplies and authority. Generous giving requires us to step out of our comfort zone!

Reflection:

1. What is one comfort zone that God is challenging you to step out of so you can step into generous giving?

2. What is at least one area of ministry you can be courageous in giving generously to in this Decade of Expansion?

Pray:

- That Trinitarians will get out of their comfort zone and step courageously into generous giving
- Against the fears of the unknown and inability that hold Trinitarians back from giving generously toward the vision
- For Trinity and Trinitarians to experience generous favor and provision of the Lord

Fri, Sep 22 – *Commit to Giving Generously*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 10:35-37*

³⁵ “We also assume responsibility for bringing to the house of the LORD each year the firstfruits of our crops and of every fruit tree. ³⁶ “As it is also written in the Law, we will bring the firstborn of our sons and of our cattle, of our herds and of our flocks to the house of our God, to the priests ministering there. ³⁷ “Moreover, we will bring to the storerooms of the house of our God, to the priests, the first of our ground meal, of our grain offerings, of the fruit of all our trees and of our new wine and olive oil. And we will bring a tithe of our crops to the Levites, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all the towns where we work.

The people reaffirmed their commitment and made it their responsibility to bring their firstfruits and their tithes to the Lord. They committed to giving generously as an expression of their obedience to the Law and as worship to the Lord.

Similarly, we need to be committed and responsible in returning our tithes and offerings to the Lord as a generous giving of worship and thanksgiving for all that the Lord has blessed us with. As we give generously, we acknowledge all that we have comes from the Lord.

Reflection:

1. What are some possible issues that would hinder you from being committed and responsible in giving generously of your tithe and offering?

2. How can you safeguard yourself and remain steadfast and faithful in your generous giving?

Pray for yourself and Trinitarians to:

- Remain committed and responsible in giving generously their tithes and offerings
- Give joyfully as an expression of their worship and thanksgiving to the Lord
- Experience God’s financial provision

Sat, Sep 23 – *Giving Generously as Stakeholders*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 7:70-72*

⁷⁰ *Some of the heads of the families contributed to the work. The governor gave to the treasury 1,000 darics of gold, 50 bowls and 530 garments for priests.* ⁷¹ *Some of the heads of the families gave to the treasury for the work 20,000 darics of gold and 2,200 minas of silver.* ⁷² *The total given by the rest of the people was 20,000 darics of gold, 2,000 minas of silver and 67 garments for priests.*

Donations were needed for the ongoing work on the temple. And Nehemiah 7:70-72 described for us the generous giving of the people toward the work. In total, the people gave 348.4 kg of gold, 2.3 metric tons of silver (equivalent to 2300 kg), and many other gifts. That is generous giving! Even if they were wealthy, it

still required great generosity to give such a huge amount. It was still a great cost that they were willing to bear. And in all probability it was because they believed in the cause they were giving to. They saw the need and the urgency to complete the work on the temple, and accordingly, gave generously.

Reflection:

1. As stakeholders of Trinity Christian Centre, how can you grow in giving generously toward the vision of the church?

2. King David said in 2 Samuel 24:24 that he would not sacrifice to the Lord his God burnt offerings that cost him nothing. The people in Nehemiah 7:70-72 gave generously toward the temple work. What are some hindrances that hold you back from giving financially toward the building of God's house? Take some to pray against the hindrances identified.

Pray for yourself and Trinitarians to:

- Capture the vision of the Decade of Expansion and choose to be stakeholders of the vision
- Give generously of their finances toward the building of God's house
- Experience the abundant provision of God to fulfill their faith promises

Sun, Sep 24 – *Expansion in Generous Giving*

Scriptural text: *Nehemiah 10:39*

The people of Israel, including the Levites, are to bring their contributions of grain, new wine and olive oil to the storerooms, where the articles for the sanctuary and for the ministering priests, the gatekeepers and the musicians are also kept. “We will not neglect the house of our God.”

The word ‘neglect’ means to abandon, forsake, leave behind. The people affirmed that they would not abandon or forsake the house of the Lord. They chose to be committed and generous in giving to the house of God. They were committed to the house of God.

Pray for Trinitarians to:

- Be committed stakeholders of Trinity Christian Centre
 - By praying passionately
 - By serving selflessly
 - By building boldly
 - By giving generously
- Give in faith toward the building of God’s house
- Be faithful in fulfilling their Vision Faith Promises

VISION RALLY
FRI, SEP 22, 8PM

TRINITY@PAYA LEBAR
*Language interpretation via
headsets available in Japanese,
Mandarin & Thai.*

VISION WEEKEND
SAT & SUN,
SEP 23 & 24

TRINITY@PAYA LEBAR^
TRINITY@BUKIT BATOK^
*Enjoy free ice cream at
Trinity@Paya Lebar*

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS



REV LES BOWLING

Les Bowling is the founder of Eagle Rock Ministries in Ohio and overseer of Eagle Rock Covenant Network. He is dedicated to equip disciples with Biblical truths and the power to proclaim them.



REV NAOMI DOWDY

Naomi Dowdy is the Resident Apostle of Trinity Christian Centre. A woman of wisdom and strong leadership, she inspires people to fulfill their God-given calling and destiny.

TRINITY
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