



# LEADERS CHOSEN TO BUILD

***Leaders the  
church needs  
today***

# *The existing condition*

*Nehemiah* was a slave, a butler at the palace of the king. He heard the news that Jerusalem was in a state of chaos, the city was destroyed and there were no altars wherein to worship the God of heaven. He conceived in his mind a dream: To rebuild Jerusalem. But how could he do it when the people were in ruins, were poor, had no motivation, and their self-esteem was cast to the ground? How could he, a slave, lead a project to rebuild?

*“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.’”*

*Nehemiah 1:3*

*“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.’”*

*Nehemiah 2:17*

**1**

*Leaders who, in  
love, show the  
people their true  
condition*

*“I also told them about  
the gracious hand of my  
God on me and what the  
king had said to me...”*

*Nehemiah 2:18*

**2**

***Leaders who  
remind the  
people how God  
has led them in  
the past***



*“...They replied, ‘Let us start rebuilding.’  
So they began this good work.”*

*Nehemiah 2:18*

**3**

***Leaders who  
inspire the people  
so that they make  
good decisions***

*“So we rebuilt the wall till  
all of it reached half its  
height, for the people  
worked with all their heart.”*

*Nehemiah 4:6*

**4**

***Leaders who  
infuse  
enthusiasm  
in the people  
to work***

*“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?’ 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.’”*

***Nehemiah 2:19-20***

*“When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, and... said, ‘What are those feeble Jews doing? ...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?’ Tobias 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!’”*

*Nehemiah 4:1-3*

*“..for the people  
worked with all their  
heart... we each  
returned to the wall,  
each to our own work.”*

*Nehemiah 4:6,15*



*“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. They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it.”*

*Nehemiah 4:7-8*

*“But we prayed to our God*  
*and posted a guard day and*  
*night to meet this threat.”*

*Nehemiah 4:9*

**5**

***Leaders who  
encourage  
the people  
to pray***

*“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.’”*

*Nehemiah 4:11*

*“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.”*

*Nehemiah 4:13*

*“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.’”*

*Nehemiah 4:14*



6

*Leaders who  
look out for  
the families  
of the church*

*“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.”*

*Nehemiah 4:15*



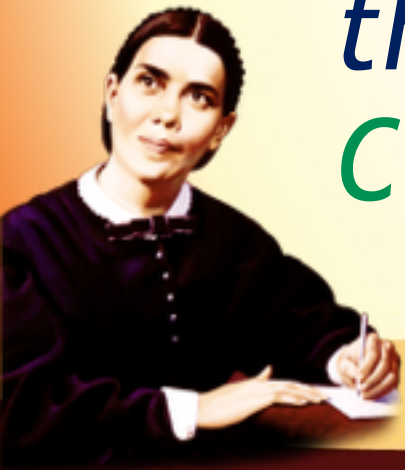
**7**

***Leaders who  
can define  
the work  
each is to do***

# *Point to ponder*

*“God expects personal service from every one to whom He has intrusted a knowledge of the truth for this time.”*

*ChS 9*



*“[Those] who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other.”*

*Nehemiah 4:17*



***Leaders who  
urge the  
people to  
never forget  
the Bible***

*“...and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me.”*

*Nehemiah 4:18*

9

*Leaders who  
value the  
talents of  
others*

***“Leaders are like the stars,  
in that some give off the  
light that they have and  
others shine with the light  
they receive.”***

***José Martí***

*“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.’”*

*Nehemiah 4:19*



**10**

***Leaders that  
fight for  
unity in the  
church***

*“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 5:16*

**11**

***Leaders who not only give orders, but who also give a good example***

*“When word came to Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall and not a gap was left in it—though up to that time I had not set the doors in the gates—*

*Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: 'Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono.' But they were scheming to harm me;*

*so I sent messengers to them  
with this reply: ‘I am carrying  
on a great project and cannot  
go down. Why should the  
work stop while I leave it and  
go down to you?’”*

*Nehemiah 6:1-3*

**12**

*Leaders who do not allow themselves to be sidetracked by the enemy*

*“Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer.”*

*Nehemiah 6:4*



*“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!’”*

*Nehemiah 6:11*

**13**

*Leaders who  
fulfill their  
duties without  
fear and with  
courage*

*“So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. 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 6:15-16*

**14**

***Leaders who  
work for the  
glory of God***

# ***Reflection***

***The Lord is willing to do great things through those who are not concerned about who receives the honor.***

# **CONCLUSION**

*“For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.”*

*Romans 11:36*

*Let us all return to  
the wall, each to  
their work.*

