



# HOW GOVERNOR NEHEMIAH RESPONDED TO “COVID-19?”

NEHEMIAH 1 - 3 | Practical Guide for churches to  
manufacture “Hope” in the midst of the pandemic

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**PHASE ONE**





1

## SCOPE

Discern the what or where is "**Jerusalem**" to your church (1:2), it could be the community or area within 5 or 10 miles radius of your church. It could also be the village, districts, or city where your church is located.

# 2

## TARGET

Discern who is the “**Jewish remnant**” (1:2) in the context of your church? The group of people who are facing great hardship due to (directly or indirectly) COVID-19, those who are weak and at high risk (defenceless), those who are vulnerable (fearful, lack of confidence and hope) (1:3).

# 3

## RESEARCH

Define the issues you are trying to solve through questioning (interviewing) (1:3) those who live in your “Jerusalem” and surrounding. Through observation, or interview, or simple research, identify the existing problems (what problem are we trying to solve?); what problem we are eager to solve with and for “Jerusalem” and the “Remnant”.

# 4

## PRAYING & FASTING

Deep in compassion. Fasting and prayer, not as a program or ritual, rather asking God to allow us to feel the pain of and identify with the people we are trying to help. For some days Nehemiah mourned, and fasted, as he was given the grace to stand on the shoes of the “remnant”. Mobilize the church to fast and pray and spread the compassion to all church members, children and adults.

# 5

## REPENTANCE

Discern the sins of your “Jerusalem”. The sins of the community or city or province God put in your heart, also the sins of your church and your own; anything which grieve the heart of God. Together with church leaders and the whole congregation humble ourselves, confess our sins, as individual, and as a church but also the sins of the city (our Jerusalem). Carry the burden of the sins of the city and wholeheartedly ask God for forgiveness (1:5-11).

# 6

## INITIAL ASSET

In many cases God begins solving a problem by asking: "What is in your hand?". Nehemiah responded, "I am a cupbearer to the king." What is in your hand (and in the hand of the church), which you (church) will lay at the table to be used by God? As for Nehemiah, he laid down at the table his social position/status, his networks, his job security, his competencies, as a cupbearer to the king. What about you and your church?



**PHASE TWO**





7

## MEET THE KING

Share the vision and passion with the king (2:1-8). In the context of Nehemiah, the king was the ruler of the land and also the boss. In building your wall of "Jerusalem" and helping the "remnant" at and around your "Jerusalem", who do you need to meet in order to share this vision & passion? Through this meeting, Nehemiah received most what he needed to begin the project, the materials needed to build (timber) and the protection (army officers and cavalry), and the supports (permits) along the way (King's letter).

# 8

## **ANTICIPATION TO OPPOSITION (2:10)**

Opposition, criticism, hindrance, and attack both from the spiritual realm and physical realm will come. The church leadership team needs to continually equip and prepare the members to anticipate any challenges and attacks. To make sure that as church members serve the community, their spiritual and mental health are taken care of. One of the devil's most effective weapons in crippling the works of rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem is through igniting unity among the team and church leadership.

## **BUILD DIVINE PLAN (2:12)**

Build a team, it is a team-game (not a one man show). Create a team before create the plan. Share experiences from the very beginning, to create ownership. Nehemiah brought the core team to look closely (investigate, 2:13,15) at the damage, the destructions and the shame, to challenge the team as well as to define the reality and connect it with the vision.

## BUYING IN (2:17-18)

Effective vision is one that has buy-in from key leaders. Following Nehemiah's steps, meet the local leaders (priests, rulers, nobles, officials), witness the goodness of God and the evidence of God's favors in this initiatives. In your context, the local leaders could be the head of the local hospital, or a district head, or a mayor, or religious leaders, local business leaders. The goal of these meetings is for these local leaders to have **OWNERSHIP** upon this initiative. The first success of this project was when Nehemiah heard the local leaders and people said: "**Let us start rebuilding.**"



# **TASK DIVISION & COLLABORATION (3:1-32)**

Divide the tasks according to passion, competency and capacity, the word "adjoining" and "next to" are written over and over again. A clear assigned jobs (responsibility) with a sense of connectedness and collaboration.

# 12

## THE NEW NORMAL

Nehemiah completed the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem in 52 days (6:15). However, the goal/purpose of Nehemiah's initiative was not only to rebuild the wall. The rebuilding of the wall was the means to restore and transform the people of Israel (restoration & transformation), so that the Kingdom of God and *Shalom* will be manifested in increasing measure.

I pray, this will also become the goal and initiative of your church, which is the restoration of the church and the transformation of the community in the surrounding of your church.

The ultimate step is very crucial, which is to prepare our church members to live in the new era (do not think that after the pandemic has gone, things will return to the old normal, be just like prior this COVID-19). We have to create the future and help all church members anticipating “the new normal” in our daily life, as a person, family, church, and nation.





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