

Prayer Updates

HOME WITH THE LORD

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to the family and friends of **Leona Jensen**, who went home to be with the Lord on December 20th.

HOSPITALIZED & SURGERIES this past week...

Ed Reed – recovering from triple bypass and valve replacement

James Glancy – knee replacement

Michelle Ellis – testing

Nancy Grace – in a coma with multiple injuries

Phyllis Hudson – hospitalized, congestive heart failure and leukemia

Tom Hudson – hospitalized, waiting for liver transplant

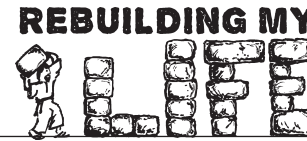
Winifred Gubser – testing

Winnie Garrat – recovering from heart attack

Hospice care: JD Jacobsen

We want to provide pastoral support...

Please call 465-3395 when someone is hospitalized, scheduled for surgery, becomes a shut-in, or in special need. Prayer support is available through our pastors and numerous prayer groups — call 689-9400. Please pick up a Prayer Update at the Information Desk or Welcome Center. **Subscribe to the Prayer Update at www.tlc.org/profiles.**



PART 1:

There Is Hope for Your Future!

January 5 & 6, 2008 • René Schlaepfer

How to Rebuild My Life

1. Refocus on _____

“When I heard these things, **I sat down and wept.** For some days I **mourned** and **fasted** and **prayed** before the God of heaven.” *Nehemiah 1:4*

MOURNING: Expressing your _____ to God.

FASTING: Focusing your _____ on God.

PRAYING: Asking for _____ from God.

2. Risk _____

“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 fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it.’” *Nehemiah 2:4-5*

3. Ready _____

“So I said to him, ‘If it pleases the king may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates so that they will provide me with safe conduct until I arrive in Judah. And might I have a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king’s forest, so that he will give me timber to take to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple for the city wall and for the residence that I will occupy?’” *Nehemiah 2:7*

4. Review _____

“I went to Jerusalem and after staying three days I set out during the night with a few men. I had not told anyone what God put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. . . . By night I went through the Valley Gate and the Jackal Wall and the Dung Gate. I examined the walls of Jerusalem which had been broken down and its gates which had been destroyed by fire. . . .” *Nehemiah 2:11-14*

- It cuts the problem to a manageable _____
- It renews a sense of personal _____
- It helps me see the immediate _____

5. Request _____

“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.’ I told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said to me. They said, ‘Let’s start rebuilding,’ and they began this good work.” *Nehemiah 2:17-18*

The term **“next to him”** is used 15 times in Nehemiah!

OUR THEME VERSE FOR THIS SERIES:

“**The God of heaven will give us success;** therefore we His servants will arise and build.” *Nehemiah 2:20*

SO... LET’S GO!!

Daily Meditations

Monday

Please read Nehemiah 1. What did you know about Nehemiah before this weekend's sermon?

What is one thing that you learned about Nehemiah last weekend?

As you read today's passage what stands out to you?

How do you see Nehemiah refocusing on God?

What is hindering your focus on God these days?

Thank God today for the story of Nehemiah. Thank Him for the opportunity to study the Bible. Pray about the distractions that are hindering your focus on God. Ask God to give you the desire to grow in your spiritual life and focus on Him. Pray about what God wants you to fast from on Wednesday and Thursday.

Tuesday

Please read Nehemiah 2:1-5. What risks did Nehemiah have to take in this passage?

What is something that stands out to you in this passage?

What is something that encourages you?

In what area of your life do you believe God wants you to risk a first step?

Thank God today for the encouragement you receive from the Bible. Talk to God about what prevents you from taking risks. Ask God to show you where He wants you to step out in faith and take a risk. Pray for the courage to follow where He leads. Pray about the fast you'll be starting tomorrow. Ask God to use that time for growth in your life.

Wednesday

Start out your devotion time in prayer. Ask God to give you strength today as you fast. Pray that God will use this time to help you focus on Him, rejoice in Him and hear from Him. Ask God for a soft heart and a willing spirit to follow as He leads.

Please read Nehemiah 2:6-9. What impresses you about Nehemiah in this passage?

Why is "getting ready" an important part of rebuilding any area of your life?

What area of your life needs rebuilding?

What have you learned so far in your study of Nehemiah to help you?

Thursday

Please read Nehemiah 2:10-14. As you continue your fast today, what have you learned so far?

Follow the steps that Nehemiah modeled in this passage:

What problem or need are you reviewing?

How can you cut the problem into a manageable size?

What personal responsibility do you have in this problem?

Thank God today for the opportunity to grow in your Christian walk through fasting. Ask God to give you the discipline to continue through today. Talk to God about the problem you are reviewing. Ask Him for wisdom to know how best to tackle the rebuilding in your life. Pray for God's strength, patience and faith as you face this problem.

Friday

Please read Nehemiah 2:15-20. How does Nehemiah ask for help in this passage?

What stands out to you most in this passage?

What role does asking for help have in your life in the area you need to rebuild?

What steps can you take to get help with your rebuilding?

Thank God today that you're not alone in life. Thank Him for His help and strength. Ask God to give you the humility and courage to ask for help. Pray that as you study the book of Nehemiah you'll apply what you learn. Ask God to use you as an encouragement in the lives of those you encounter today.

Saturday

Please be sure you've completed this week's devotions and know the memory verse for the week. Please pray for the services this weekend. Pray that you will come to church with a heart soft to God and ready to learn. Pray that our church will be effective in reaching the community and sharing the love and grace of God.



"The God of heaven will give us success; therefore we his servants will arise and build." *Nehemiah 2:20*