

Arise
and

Build

Heart

Home
own family

House of God

Hospital

**Health
facility**

**Healthcare
Christian
Fellowship**

Homes
in community

The God of heaven will give us success;
therefore we His servants will arise and build.

NEHEMIAH 2:20

ARISE and BUILD!

Christ's Call to Christians in the health fields

*Lessons learned
from God's Word
in the book of Nehemiah
on how to arise and build
the kingdom of God
through Christian healthcare workers
serving God in the health fields,
also through the ministry of the HCFI,
Healthcare Christian Fellowship International,
to God's glory!*

**Jesus Christ is
the Lord of healthcare!**

*He cares for sick people
and He wants them and their families
to be healed and made whole!*

*He wants us to be whole too,
and to work with Him
and through Him,
for His glory!*

Will you do that?!

Important Introduction

*- with special reference to
the ministry of HCF*

Dear Friends, there are many people where we work and stay who do not know the Lord Jesus. Many of them are sick and suffering, broken and in bondage, hurting and unhappy... He longs that they will be helped and healed and made whole. He longs that they may become His born-from-above sons and daughters, His dear children...

To do this, He has chosen to use people. He has chosen to use you and I. But, to use us, we need to be in a **right relationship** with Him and in a right relationship with one another. We need to be one with Him and ONE with one another!

So often, we are not one with Him and not one with one another. We are divided, distanced, scattered and even in conflict. That is why He prayed: "Holy Father, ...now protect them by the power of your name **so that they will be united** just as we are." (John 17: 11b); "Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world" (17, 18); "**I pray that they will all be one**, just as you and I are one" (21); "May they experience such **perfect unity** that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me" (23).

**"I pray that
they will all
be ONE..."**

We become one with each other when we become one with the Lord Jesus, in humble repentance, at the foot of the Cross.

A further way in which the Lord Jesus helps us to be ONE and to work as one (in Him) is through a Christian healthcare organization like the **Healthcare Christian Fellowship International** (HCFI). The HCFI, also called "**HCF**," is a **fellowship of Christians in healthcare**.

The HCF invites and includes ALL Christian healthcare workers from ALL the different sections and levels of healthcare, both professional and non-professional. The HCF also invites and includes Christian healthcare workers who are part of other Christian healthcare organizations that may usually focus more on a specific group (like CMF, EMFI, NCFI, EU, UESI, SCM, CMDA, ICMDA, etc.).

There is a God-given role and responsibility for each of these organizations, and we can all help one another to fulfil that, as the Lord may lead. Yet, in a very unique way, a healthy, fully functioning **LOCAL HCF FELLOWSHIP** provides a beautiful opportunity for ALL Christian healthcare workers in a particular health facility to regularly have fellowship together, pray together, study the Bible together, learn together, grow together, worship together, serve the Lord and their patients and their peers together, and glorify the Lord **TOGETHER!** We thank the Lord for this!

God's Goal

As healthcare workers (or carers or helpers), we may ask ourselves: "**In all of this, what is God's goal?!**"

The clear answer is: **GOD'S GOAL is that healthcare workers may come to KNOW Him, SHOW Him, and SHARE Him with their patients and their peers (and others)..., so that they too may come to know Him, show Him and share Him with others - for God's glory!** This is also the vision of the HCF.

Officially, the vision statement of the HCF is: "By the grace of

God and undergirded by its supporters the HCFI will become a **prayerful evangelical fellowship with trained people implementing Christ's Great Commission within the Healthcare Field.**" (Please see more at www.hcfglobal.org)



Healthcare
Christian
Fellowship
International

In one word, **the HCF vision is: JESUS!**

We believe it is GOD'S GOAL that there will be a local Christian fellowship at each health facility in the world!

GOD'S GOAL is that the **Great Commission** and the **Great Commandment** should both be obeyed from a loving heart, and from within the context of a personal, passionate relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

**God's Goal,
and the goal of HCF,
is that healthcare workers
may come to KNOW Him,
SHOW Him & SHARE Him
with their patients & peers
(and others), so that they too
may come to know Him
- for His glory!**

Through Christ's **Great Commission** we know He wants us to go and make disciples of Him (Matthew 28:19-20), and through His **Greatest Command**, we know He wants us to love Him with our all & to love our neighbour as

ourselves (Matthew 22:36-39). **When we LOVE Him, we OBEY Him! When we LOVE Him and others, we'll GO and make disciples...** What a wonderful privilege and honour and opportunity! Hallelujah!

A few of the **outstanding features of the HCF** are that:

- ❖ As was mentioned already, its aim is to reach out to **ALL** Christian healthcare workers of **ALL** the different sections and departments and disciplines.

- ❖ HCF seeks to include and reach and encourage and equip Christians healthcare workers who are **CLEANERS**, or **CLERKS**, or **CLINICIANS**, or **CARERS**, or **CHEFS**, or **CHIEFS**, or **CAR-GUARDS**, or **CARETAKERS**, or **CASHIERS**, or **COUNSELLORS**, or **CONTROLLERS**, or **CARPENTERS**, or **COFFEE-MAKERS**, or **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**, or **CHIEF MATRONS**, or **CLASS 4 WORKERS**, or **CHAPLAINS**, or from whatever **CADRE** a person may be in... It is NOT just for doctors, it is NOT just for nurses, it is NOT just for admin staff, it is NOT just for allied health professionals, it is NOT just for Class 4 workers, no, **it is for EVERY Christian healthcare worker!**
- ❖ Also, HCF is eager to reach out to **CHRISTIAN** healthcare workers and to **NOT-YET-CHRISTIAN** healthcare workers.
- ❖ HCF is a Christian, **evangelical**, inter-denominational, non-denominational, non-sectarian, Bible-based **organization** that is open for **anyone** (professional *and* non-professional) involved with caring for sick people... This may include carers at home and members of churches or members of the body of Christ (in general)...
- ❖ It is a **fellowship** of born-again believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, heartily welcoming any seekers of a right relationship with the Lord Jesus.
- ❖ It does not emphasize or promote non-essentials, but seeks to major in the majors of our faith in Jesus.
- ❖ It seeks to avoid non-essential doctrinal differences.
- ❖ It is decidedly and definitely **Bible-based**...
- ❖ It follows Jesus' model of **praying, teaching, preaching, healing, disciple-making, and serving**...

HCF is for:

**CLEANERS,
CLERKS,
CLINICIANS,
CARERS (nurses),
CHEFFS,
CASHIERS,
COUNSELLORS,
CHIEF MATRONS,
CLASS 4 WORKERS,
CHAPLAINS,
CONTROLLERS,
CHIEFS,
CAR-GUARDS,
CARETAKERS,
CARPENTERS,
COFFEE-MAKERS,
CEOs,
CADRE (any),
CHRISTIANS, and
CHRISTIANS-TO-BE...**



- ❖ It passionately promotes **whole person healthcare, whole person education, and whole person disciple-making.**
- ❖ It seeks to promote **Biblical Christian healthcare**, also called **Shalom Healthcare.**
- ❖ It is active in the field of medical ethics and healthcare trends.
- ❖ It acknowledges the truth that **the Lord Jesus is the Lord of health care**, and seeks to promote the practical application of that glorious truth!

You may also ask:

“The HCF - how did it all begin?!”

It was conceived in the heart of God and birthed in the year 1936 in South Africa, through brother Francis Grim (who was not a medical doctor), from where it spread to more than 100 countries of the world.

The focus of the HCF has always been, and still is, on the following: **PRAYER, EVANGELISM** and **DISCIPLESHIP.**

Join us, *in Jesus!*

YOU are invited to JOIN what God is doing through this organization, all over the world, and also in the country where you stay and work!!!

Whether you join this organization or not, is not the crucial thing, but **YOU MUST JOIN WITH WHAT GOD IS DOING** - to bring Christian healthcare workers together, to make us ONE, and to teach us to **“ARISE and BUILD”** together, for His glory!

He wants us to serve Him with a burning, personal, passionate love, until He returns on the clouds, or until we go to Heaven!!! He wants us to know Him, show Him and share Him, so that our patients and peers may come to know Him too! May He help us!!!

The rest of this workbook is to help us do just that, in a practical way. The lessons highlighted in this workbook, **“ARISE and BUILD,”** are lessons learned from the book of Nehemiah, in God’s Word. The lessons are based on what God did through Nehemiah and the people of God, as they arose and rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem, together - for God’s glory!

May we do the same in our “Jerusalem,” in our place of work and worship and walking (living)!

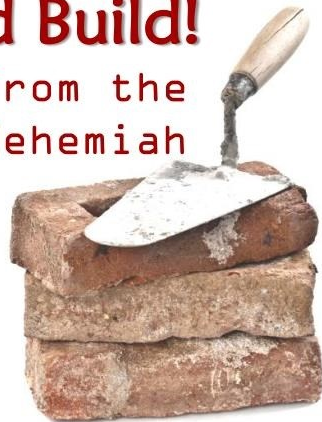
Your brother in Christ,
and fellow-builder in God’s kingdom,
in the health fields,
for Jesus’ sake!

The Compiler

January 2020

Arise and Build!

Lessons from the
Life of Nehemiah

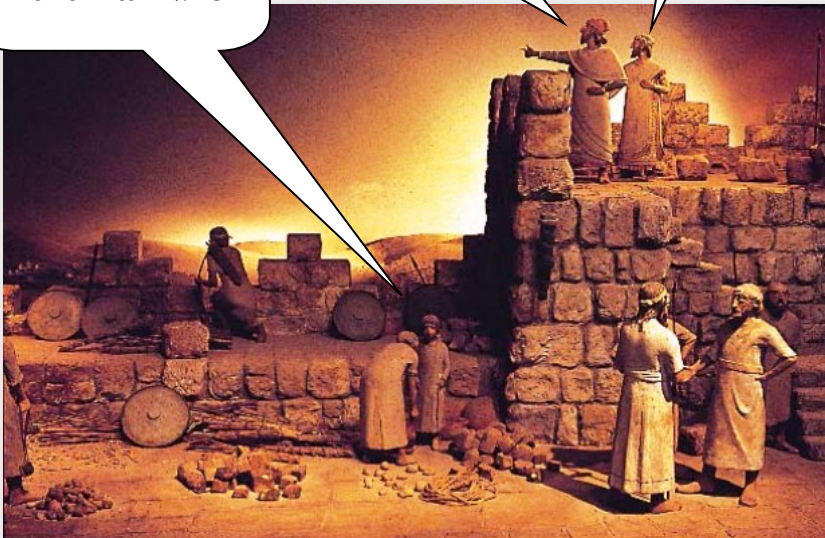


**"Let us arise
and build."**

Nehemiah 2:18

**Let's do it,
together!**

**The Lord will
help us...**



“ARISE + BUILD!”

Chapter	TOPIC	Page
	<i>Introduction</i>	6
1	Why?	15
2	Why not?	25
3	Where?	55
4	Who?	79
5	With who?	89
6	With who not?!	99
7	How?	113
8	What?	163
9	When?	227
10	Will you?!	233
11	Wow! - Revival!	237

Arise and

Build

Heart

Home
own family

House of God

Hospital

**Health
facility**

**Healthcare
Christian
Fellowship**

Homes
in community

The God of heaven will give us success;
therefore we His servants will arise and build.

NEHEMIAH 2:20

Why

arise & build?!

Let us ARISE and BUILD, because of the:

- ❖ **CONDITION of the place and the people**
- ❖ **CALL of God**
- ❖ **CRUCIAL TIME in which we live**
- ❖ **COMMAND of God**
- ❖ **CHRIST's glory!**

It is time!

God touched Nehemiah's ears and eyes and heart. As a result, he heard and saw that it was time to "arise & build" the walls of Jerusalem. In the same way, God touches our ears and eyes and hearts to see that **it is time for us to "arise and build" the kingdom of God in the health field where we work and in the health fields of our country!**

We do not want to wait for "better days" or for "better workers" or for "better methods," but we want to rise up and build with Jesus! We will not look to others to do it, and we will not look to ourselves as a reason not to do it. No, we will do it - for God's glory, and with His help!

Some may ask: **“WHY arise and build?”**

As Nehemiah did, we too can see the need to "arise and build," because of (1) the **CONDITION** of the place and the people where we work, (2) the **CALL** of God to do it, (3) the **CRUCIAL TIME** in which we live, (4) the **COMMAND** of God to do it, and (5) for **CHRIST's glory**... Let's briefly look at these 5 points, one by one:

1. The **CONDITION** of the place and of the people...

When Nehemiah asked about the condition of the PEOPLE of God and the PLACE of Jerusalem, he was told that:

- ◆ The **PEOPLE** were "in great trouble and disgrace" (1:3a), "in great evil" (YLT), "in shame" (ESV), "in bad shape" (MSG), though they were the people of God...
- ◆ The **PLACE**, the walls and gates, were "broken down, and... burned with fire" (1:3b). This meant they were exposed to their enemies, easy prey to their attacks, very vulnerable, defenceless, unprotected and weak. There was also a lot of rubble (4:10), among which they lived for years...

The walls are broken down and burned...



Those brothers who spoke to Nehemiah were true, loving, faithful, broken-hearted, praying brothers. They spoke the truth in love and in brokenness. They did not come to gossip or to criticize or to spread a bad report or to condemn, or to just “blow the whistle,” no, they came because they cared. They told the truth, because they were troubled and true children of God.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, when we **consider the condition of the PEOPLE** (of us, as healthcare workers, in the place where we work and worship and walk), and we **consider the condition of the PLACE** where we work (spiritually, socially, psychologically, physically, relationally, and as far as medical services are concerned), how would we describe it?

Please try to put your assessment and opinion in writing, prayerfully.

When we look at the **PEOPLE** who work at our hospital (or clinic or health centre or practice or college), and we look at the **PLACE** where we work, as health caregivers, it would be correct (the truth) to say that:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Nehemiah’s response was: “Then I said to them, **You see the bad situation we are in** - how Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates are burned with fire. **Come, let us build** up the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a disgrace.” (Nehemiah 2:17)

2. The CALL of God

The CALL of God can come softly and slowly, or suddenly and strongly. When we hear the CALL of God and comply, when we hear the CALL of God and say “Yes!” to Him, everything changes...

Though he was a child of God, Nehemiah was employed by a heathen king. He worked in the public service (in a government job). He was faithful in his job. He did a good job. BUT there was something MORE that God wanted him to do. God wanted him to “arise and build” the walls and gates of Jerusalem (“the place of peace and shalom”). While working in his job, he suddenly became aware of the CALL of God in his life...

Through the life of Nehemiah and the lessons from the book of

Nehemiah we also become aware of theof
to US!

When Nehemiah says: “We His servants will arise and build” (Nehemiah 2:20), it is as if **GOD IS CALLING US TOO**, to say that **“WE His servants will arise and build”...!!!**

We read in Matthew 21:28, **“Child, go, today be working in My vineyard”** (YLT). As children of God (sons and daughters) we are **CALLED by GOD** our Father to work in His vineyard, to build His kingdom, also where we work as health caregivers, TODAY.

God says to us: “I have **YOU** by name, you are Mine” (Isaiah 43:1). {My name is:}

Through Nehemiah, **God CALLS us: “Come, let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a disgrace”** (Nehemiah 2:17b); **“Come, let us build up the work of God in the healthcare places where we work! Come, let’s do it together!”**

3. The CRUCIAL TIME in which we live

The word **“CRUCIAL”** means *“critical, very important, decisive.”*

The time when Nehemiah saw the need and responded to the call of God to “arise and build,” was a **CRUCIAL TIME**, a critically important time. It was crucial, because, despite the fact that the time of the captivity and exile of the people of God was over, the work of re-building was still not done, the people and the place were still in disrepair, disgrace and in great need!

NOW, in our days, the time is even MORE CRUCIAL!!

Christ did everything on the Cross to save us from our ene-

mies, to bring us back from our captivity to sin, to self, to society and to spirits of evil - to rebuild and restore our lives, and to secure our safety and fruitfulness in Him.

Also, we are living in the LAST DAYS!!! **Christ's return is near**, the end of the world is near, more people are now living and dying than ever before. This is NOT the time for the people of God to be "in a bad shape," or for the work of God to be "in a bad shape" (Nehemiah1:3). This is a CRUCIAL TIME! It is a time for the children of God to "arise and build," also in our country!!!

God says in Ecclesiastes 3:3 that **there is "a time to build"**!

Don't you think it is NOW such a time to BUILD?! Please write down your thoughts:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

4. **THE COMMAND** of God

Christ's **CALL** is a loving **COMMAND** to those who love Him. As someone said: "His wish is our will...!"

Cyrus, the king of Persia, said "The Lord, ...has **charged me to build** Him a house at Jerusalem" (Ezra 1:2). Daniel spoke about "the going forth of **the commandment to restore and to build** Jerusalem" (Dan 9:25). It was a **COMMAND** of God!

Through Nehemiah, the Lord calls and commands us TODAY. He says: "**Come and let us build**"! (Nehemiah 2:17). Do you hear His command?! Will you respond and do what He says to us?!

5. CHRIST's glory!

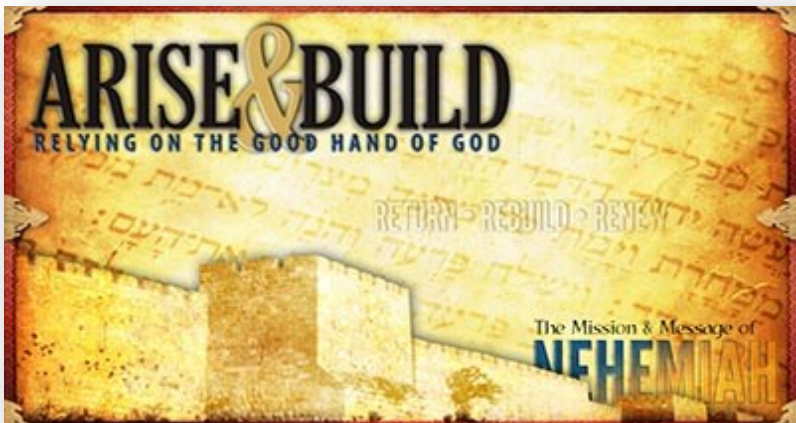
It was NOT to God's glory when the walls of Jerusalem were fallen down and in ruins. It was NOT to His glory when His people were in great evil and fear and disgrace and shame.

In the same way, it is NOT to Christ's glory when the work of God is not strong and healthy in our hospitals and homes and hearts. It is NOT to His glory when we are spiritually weak and not leading others to Christ...

It is the will of God that everything we are and do will be for CHRIST'S GLORY! We read this in 1 Corinthians 10:31. And in Isaiah 62:6-7 we read:

“I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem;
they will never be silent day or night.
**You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest,
and give the LORD no rest
until he completes his work
...till he establishes Jerusalem
and makes her the praise of the earth.”**

God needs WATCHMAN on the WALLS, and WORKERS!!!



Arise and

Build

Heart

Home
own family

House of God

Hospital

**Health
facility**

**Healthcare
Christian
Fellowship**

Homes
in community

The God of heaven will give us success;
therefore we His servants will arise and build.

NEHEMIAH 2:20

Why not

arise & build?!

It may be that we are hindered and that we do NOT “arise and build,” because we are:

Living for “self”

Lost love or **Lukewarm love** for the Lord

Lagging in zeal

Lazy

Limited time (busyness)

Lacking vision and know-how

Lack Leadership

Laid low (in faith and courage)

La petite - feeling inferior

Luxury-loving (not denying self)

Lusting after sin or the things of the world

Locked up (imprisoned or bound)

Legalistic

Lied to (and hindered) by others or the devil

Lifeless (spiritually dead & not born-from-above yet)

In the rest of this chapter we'll briefly look at some of the possible reasons **WHY** Christian healthcare workers are **NOT** arising and building God's work and kingdom in the health fields where they work... It is possible that they may be:

Living for "self"

When we live for ourselves, we cannot live for God and for others!!! To be self-centred is the root of all sins. Our lives should not be **ME-centred**, but **HE-centred**....!!!

I understand that to live for "SELF" means:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

When we choose to live a life of self-centredness, a life of self-gratification, a life of seeking to fulfil our own self-interests, a life of self-indulgence, self-pleasing, self-will, self-effort, self-consciousness, self-fulfilment, self-seeking, self-preservation, self-justification, self-glorification, then we will NOT "arise and build" God's work in the places where we work! This is very sad and sick...

**Is my life
ME-centred, or
HE-centred?!**

God says in Haggai 1:1-11 (NLT), "1 On August 29 of the second year of King Darius's reign, the Lord gave a message through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. 2 "This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: **The people are saying, 'The time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord.'**" 3 Then the Lord sent this message through the proph-

et Haggai: 4 **“Why are you living in luxurious houses while my house lies in ruins?”** 5 This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies says: Look at what’s happening to you! 6 You have planted much but harvest little. You eat but are not satisfied. You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm. Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes! 7 **“This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies says: Look at what’s happening to you!”** 8 **Now go up into the hills, bring down timber, and rebuild my house.** Then I will take pleasure in it and be honored, says the Lord. 9 You hoped for rich harvests, but they were poor. And when you brought your harvest home, I blew it away. Why? **Because my house lies in ruins,** says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, while **all of you are busy building your own fine houses.** 10 It’s because of YOU that the heavens withhold the dew and the earth produces no crops. 11 I have called for a drought on your fields and hills—a drought to wither the grain and grapes and olive trees and all your other crops, a drought to starve you and your livestock and to ruin everything you have worked so hard to get.”

Someone prayed this hypocritical prayer:

**“I’ll go where you want me to go, dear Lord,
I’ll say what you want me to say;
I’m busy just now with myself, dear Lord -
I’ll help you some other day.”**

Oh, may this **NOT** be our prayer! May we rather pray: ***Oh, Lord, we are so sorry! We repent of living for SELF and not living for YOU and for OTHERS!!!***

May we pray with Martha Nicholson:

“Lord of the years that are left to me,
I give them to Thy hand;
Take me and break me, and mould me
To the pattern Thou hast planned!

May we be able to truly say what we read in 2 Corinthians

5:14-15: “For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And He died for all, that **those who live should no longer live for themselves but FOR HIM** who died for them and was raised again.” We should **no longer live for ourselves...**, but we should live **FOR HIM** only, and always—for His glory and His kingdom sake!

“Those who live should no longer live for themselves, but FOR HIM...”!!!

This is the heartbeat of the Christian healthcare worker: **“For Him, for Him, for Him, for Him, for Him, for Him, for Him...!!!”** Is this so in our lives today?

Lost love *or* Lukewarm love

The Lord Jesus said: **“You have forsaken your first love”!!!** (Revelation 2:4, NIV), **“you do not love Me now as you did at first”** (GNB). He also said: “I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold” (Revelation 3:15, NLT), “So, because **you are lukewarm**, and neither hot nor cold, I am going to vomit you out of My mouth!” (Rev 3:16, HCSB).

I think that the signs of **lukewarm love** are:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

On the other hand, **where there is a burning-hot LOVE for Jesus**, there will also be a careful, obedient **LISTENING** to Him; a joyful, loving **LABOURING** with Him and for Him; and a **LONGING** for Him and that others may come to know and

Loving God

Love the Lord your God with all your
HEART, SOUL & MIND.

love Him too!!! There will also be a daily **LINGERING** in His presence, a **LOOKING** to Him, a confident **LEANING** on Him, **LAUGHING** in happiness with Him, a **LOYALTY** to Him, a constant **LOATHING** of sin, a loving **LINKING** with others who love Him (in oneness of heart and goal), and an all-out, practical **LIVING** for Him...!

In this way, God's name will be glorified, His will be done and His kingdom come in the health fields where we work and serve.

LOVE for Jesus shows itself in

LISTENING,
LABOURING,
LONGING,
LINGERING,
LOOKING,
LEANING,
LAUGHING (happy),
LOYALTY,
LINKING,
LOATHING of sin,
LIVING for Him!

But, **labour without love is empty** (1 Corinthians 13), and **love without labour is also empty!** This means that if we say we love Jesus, but we do not labour to make Him known, we are lying. And, if we say we are labouring for Him, but we do not love Him, personally and passionately, our labour is in vain and fruitless and empty!

The Lord says (in Jeremiah 2:2), "Go and shout this message to Jerusalem [and to the Christian healthcare workers in our country]. This is what the LORD

says: "**I remember how eager you were to please me as a young bride long ago, how you loved me and followed me even through the barren wilderness...**", but NOT any more!!! Now, you have forsaken Me (Jeremiah 2:13, 17, 19, 32), you have lost your eagerness, you have stopped following Me, you have gone back to Egypt (the world), you have gone back to idols, you have become unfaithful to Me (see Jeremiah chapter 2), your walls and gates are broken down...

Oh Lord, have mercy on us! Oh Lord, save us, heal our backslidings, cleanse our hearts and let us love You only again - fully, passionately, practically!

Lagging in zeal

We read in the Word of God: "**Never lag in zeal and in earnest endeavour; be aglow and burning with the SPIRIT, serving the Lord**" (Romans 12:11, Amp). When we LOVE the Lord Jesus, He starts a burning FIRE in our hearts - a fire of ZEAL and devotion and eagerness and enthusiasm, a fire of a powerful passion to know Him and to make Him known to others! This is the only way to truly serve the Lord Jesus - passionately, zealously, and filled with the Holy Spirit!



Thomas Walker (1859-1912), who served the Lord for many years, mainly in South India, and who was Amy Carmichael's mentor, wrote: "But, as we look around... we behold... our Christian congregations (and some of our hospital fellowships - *my addition*) **...lacking sadly, by their own confession, the true Fire of God, the Power of the Holy Ghost;** shall we not face the truth, 'The giant is not awakened?'" He was speaking of the "giant" which is the body of believers in India. He

further wrote that "**the great pre-requisite for fruitful service, over and beyond a true regeneration, (is) the Bap-**

tism of the Holy Ghost.” He asked: “Would not the operations of the Christian Church, in India and throughout the world, be infinitely more fruitful and effectual if we **called a halt, and faced honestly and earnestly the conditions for receiving our Ascended Saviour’s great Pentecostal gift?**” He also asked: “Are we ourselves working with the Fire of God, and not merely using the artificial fire, the strange fire, of our own fleshly energy?”!

“The great pre-requisite for fruitful service, over and beyond a true regeneration, (is) the Baptism of the Holy Ghost”!!!

When we are NOT filled with the Holy Spirit, we cannot do God’s work in God’s way in the places where we work!

The Lord Jesus commanded His disciples to wait for and to receive the promised gift and fullness of the Holy Spirit before starting their work! (Please see Acts 1:4,5,8 & 2:38,39)

In one of the stanzas in his poem “*India for Jesus*”, A.B. Simpson wrote:

“India for Jesus and Jesus for India!
Master, the work must be Thine;
Thine is the power, and Thine is the promise;
Send us the baptism divine.
And, as the Monsoons sweep over the mountains,
Watering each valley and plain,
So may the Spirit, in showers of blessing,
Come with abundance of rain.”

Oh Lord, please cleanse us and fill us with Your Holy Spirit, for Your Name’s sake, and for the sake of Your will and work to be done in our places of work! We ask this in Jesus’ precious Name. Amen.

Lazy and “Lahe-lahe”

Furthermore, **to be LAZY or LAX or SLACK or SLOW in doing the Lord’s work is very serious...!** If we are always easy-going, laidback, complacent, passive, self-satisfied, and working “slowly-slowly” (or as is said in Assam and in some parts of India: “lahe-lahe”), it is NOT pleasing to the Lord!

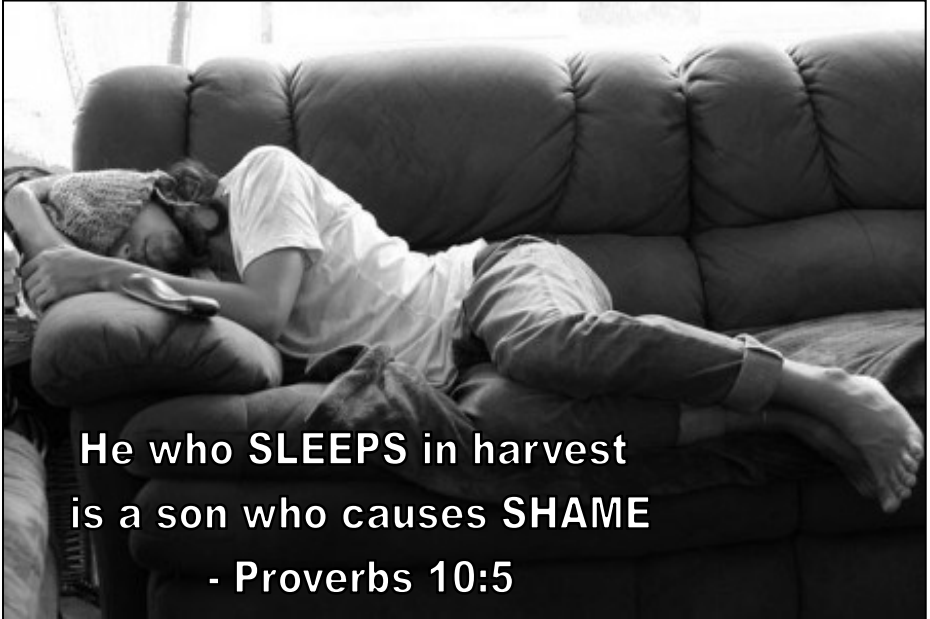
God says: **“Work hard and do not be lazy”!** (Romans 12:11; GNT); **“Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically”** (NLT). **“Whatever you do, work at it with all your HEART, as working for the Lord, not for men”** (Col 3:23).

In her very important and helpful little book, *“You will never be the same,”* Basilea Schlink said: “If we are intent upon leading the most comfortable life possible, we are acting contrary to Jesus’ command that we should lose our lives and deny ourselves... If we are lazy and slack, if our longing for comfort and convenience prevents us from doing our work for Jesus well” and prevents us from doing the work He wants us to do - to build His kingdom at our places of work - the Lord is NOT pleased.

Actually, God says in His Word: **“A CURSE on anyone who is lax in doing the LORD’s work!”** (Jeremiah 48:10; NET; NIV); “Cursed is he who does the work of the LORD with **slackness**” (ESV); “Cursed are those who **neglect doing** the LORD’s work” (GW); “Cursed be he who does the work of the Lord **negligently** [with **slackness, deceitfully**]” (Amp)... This is very serious!

**Never be lazy
or slack
or negligent
in doing God’s work
at work...!**

Sabina Wurmbrand, co-founder of *“The Voice of the Martyrs,”* said: **“Doing the work of God is dangerous. Not doing it is more dangerous”!** May we repent of all laziness and slackness and negligence in doing the Lord’s



**He who SLEEPS in harvest
is a son who causes SHAME
- Proverbs 10:5**



do not use our time according to God's priorities! We may actually use time very selfishly! We may even think or act as if it's "our" time, not "His" ...!

Busyness is a very deceptive danger. We need to "**beware the barrenness of a busy life...**"

We can be **BUSY, BUSY, BUSY, BUSY**, but our lives can be **BARREN!!!** If we are busy with what God gave us to do, it will not be barren, but if we are busy with what WE decided to do and with what people gave us to do, there is a real danger that we may neglect to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Basilea Schlink says: "**Busyness separates us from Jesus. It is a sin and has a negative effect upon my life of faith.**"

**Beware the
barrenness of
a busy life!**

God's Word teaches us that:

- ❖ Our time on earth is short and fleeting - 1 Co 7:29. Thomas Watson said: "*The time is short, and upon this small wire of time hangs the weight of eternity.*" This is very true.
- ❖ We are to redeem the time, to make the very best of the time - Ephesians 5:16
- ❖ We are to have daily time alone with Jesus (not as a law, but out of love) - Song of Songs 2:14
- ❖ We are to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness - Matthew 6:33
- ❖ My times are in God's hands, not in my own hands - Psalm 31:15
- ❖ We are to be guided by God in what to do when, and in how to best use the time He has given us for His purposes and for His glory, also in doing our work and in serving others.
- ❖ There is a time for everything, according to God's timing - Ecclesiastes 3:1

If we don't have time for God, we are too busy! If we don't have time for prayer, we are too busy! If we don't have time to be alone with Jesus, sit at His feet, eat His Word

and hear His voice, we are too busy! If we don't have time for fellowship with other believers in healthcare, we are too busy!

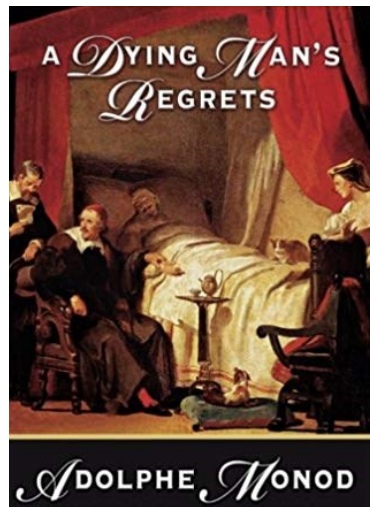
It is NOT that we have limited time, we all have the same amount of time, but what often happens is that we have **limited management of our time** (under God's good guidance)!!!

Also, **"limited time" for God and the things of God usually means that we have "limited love" for the Lord...!!!**

And, **...we have ALL the time we need to do the WILL of God!!!** We do *not* have time to do the things that are *not* the will of God for us...

On a positive note: Adolphe Monod (1802-1856) was a true man of God. On his deathbed, he said the following about **the use of time**:

- ❖ “We must be deeply impressed with the conviction that we are not our own — that **our time is not our own**, but, like all the rest we have — belongs to God, and it is consequently in God that we ought always to seek what we have to do in order to fill up the time He gives us, and take advantage of the opportunities that He offers us**our time belongs to God**, and that all we have to do is to employ it to His glory.
- ❖ **Let us always be ready diligently to seize the opportunities that God offers us**; they will not be lacking; and we shall find before us a life interwoven with good works prepared and ready, in which we shall only have to walk, and which will be so well and easily linked together — that our life will wholly be made up of good works and obedience; and consequently, as has just been said, of peace and



joy in the Holy Spirit. For this we must **have our eyes constantly opened and turned towards God, saying, Lord, here I am, what will you have me to do? And when we have done one thing, ask, Lord, what will you have me to do now? and so on, without a single interval not filled up with the obedience due to God.** God will in this way furnish us with the means of doing an incalculable amount of good....It is prodigious what can be accomplished in the life of a man in **simply following the path that the Lord opens before each of us.**

- ❖ We must regulate our actions with order and method, and not abandon to chance, the use of the time that God gives us. I said some days ago that we should not make plans for ourselves; but there is no contradiction in saying that **we ought to act with method, provided our method is undertaken in the Lord. To do what God gives us to do — there must be method and order.** It is desirable to have regular hours for rising in the morning and for our work; to be as exact as possible in the hours at which we take our meals, and in all our various occupations. Life then becomes much more simple and easy — it is like a well-adjusted framework, in which the Lord has only to act.
- ❖ ...And finally, ...let us **keep our bodies and minds** in such a disposition as will bring no hindrance to that good use of time, and of the gifts we have received, to be employed in a way agreeable to God. ...we must not neglect the body.”

May the Lord help us that our times may always be in HIS hands, so that we will not waste time, but redeem the time and have the time we need to DO the will of God in building His work in the workplace!

Lacking vision and know-how

Not seeing the need and not seeing the possibilities of what God can do and wants to do, can make us passive and hinder us from doing God’s work. **“Where there is no vision, the**

Lack Leadership or Leaderless

When leaders in God’s work are spiritually sick or self-centred or self-willed or sinning or proud or insensitive or over-sensitive or absent, it leads to many problems.

We read in Ezekiel 34: “Then this message came to me from the Lord: “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds, **the leaders** of Israel. Give them this message from the Sovereign Lord: What sorrow awaits you shepherds who feed yourselves instead of your flocks. Shouldn’t shepherds feed their sheep? You drink the milk, wear the wool, and butcher the best animals, but you let your flocks starve. **You have not taken care of the weak. You have not tended the sick or bound up the injured. You have not gone looking for those who have wandered away and are lost. Instead, you have ruled them with harshness and cruelty. So my sheep have been scattered without a shepherd, and they are easy prey for any wild animal. They have wandered through all the mountains and all the hills, across the face of the earth, yet no one has gone to search for them.** “Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: As surely as I live, says the Sovereign Lord, you abandoned my flock and left them to be attacked by every wild animal. And though you were my shepherds, you didn’t search for my sheep when they were lost. **You took care of yourselves and left the sheep to starve.** Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord. This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I now consider these



shepherds my enemies, and I will hold them responsible for what has happened to my flock. I will take away their right to feed the flock, and I will stop them from feeding themselves. I will rescue my flock from their mouths; the sheep will no longer be their prey.”

Where needed, may we who are leaders repent of the way we have treated the flock the Lord gave to us (Acts 20:28), may we repent of not leading like Nehemiah and re-building the broken down walls and the many broken down people in our hospitals and clinics and colleges and wards. May those of us who were given leadership talents by the Lord, but buried it and did not use it and did not develop it, prayerfully, also repent! When there is a lack of Christ-like leadership, we need to pray that the Lord will raise up such leaders, and we need to be willing to be part of the answer to that prayer, if that is God’s will. To always say: “Oh there are others who can do it better!”, is a sick form of humble pride and of unbelief... May the Lord cleanse us and save us from such feeble and sinful excuses!!!

If God calls YOU to be a leader, a servant-leader like Jesus, will you do it, will you arise and lead (with Jesus)?!

Low in faith *and* courage

Some people are **NOT** involved in re-building the broken down walls of Christian fellowship and Biblical health care, because of **unbelief** in their lives, and because of **doubt** and **dis-courage-ment**... They might have experienced failure or accusations (false or true), which led them to be **LAILOW** and not actively engaged and standing and fighting to BUILD God’s work!

We read in Exodus 6:9, “So Moses told the people of Israel what the LORD had said, but they refused to listen anymore. **They had become too discouraged,**” too desponded, too

broken in spirit...

The children of God failed to enter and inherit the promised land due to disobedience and **UNBELIEF**. Unbelief also hinders many Christians from rising up and building God's work at work! It is linked to **LACK OF COURAGE**, or cowardice. God's Word says, "But as for the cowards and unbelieving..., their part will be in the lake that blazes with fire and brimstone..." (Revelation 21:8). ***Oh, may the Lord cleanse us and set us free from cowardice and unbelief, and fill us with His Spirit of power and faith, for service and work!***

"La petite"

Some people have an attitude and spirit of what can be called "**LA PETITE**." "*La petite*" means "the little, small, timid one." It means they have **a sense of deep insecurity and inferiority... They feel and think that they are too small (physically or mentally or spiritually), too little, too insignificant, too inferior, too unworthy. As a result they are too timid to tackle certain tasks and too timid to "arise and build" with Nehemiah.**

They do not want to "rock the boat", they do not want to initiate action, they do not want to go ahead or take action to change what needs to be changed. **They do not want to stand up, stand out, speak up and start something new...** This is not God's plan for their lives. These thoughts and feelings are based on LIES of the devil. It is NOT based on the truth. **They are NOT insignificant, they are NOT inferior, they are NOT just "little people," but they wrongly believe so. This is sinful deception.**

God says in His Word: "**Since you are precious and honoured in my sight, and because I love you, I will give people in exchange for you, nations in exchange for your life**" (Isaiah 43:4).

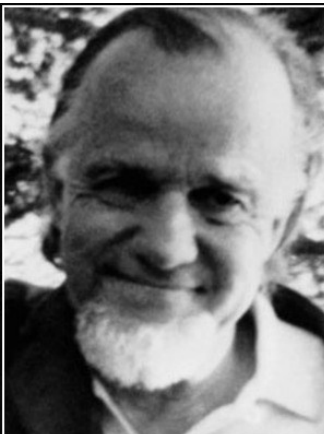
In “*No Little People*,” Francis Schaeffer says that “**with God there are no little people**”!!! This is a wonderful truth and to be fully believed and accepted as such, because it is based on the Word of God.

**With God
there are no
“little people”**

He says, many people say: “It is wonderful to be a Christian, but I am such a small person, so limited in talents - or energy or psychological strength or knowledge - that what I do is not really important.” “We must remember throughout our lives that **in God’s sight there are no little people and no little places. Only one thing is important: to be consecrated persons in God’s place for us, at each moment.**”

In “*Death in the City*” he says: “Man is lost, but great,” great, because (s)he was made in the image of God. “All men - lost or saved - are great in their significance. Having been made in the image of God, man is magnificent even in ruin.”

We should not think of ourselves as better than we are, nor as worse than we are. We read in Romans 12:3, “...I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.” This also means: **“Do NOT think you are less (or worse) than you really are”! It degrades God’s handiwork to degrade yourself in**



We must remember throughout our lives that in God's sight there are no little people and no little places. Only one thing is important: to be consecrated persons in God's place for us, at each moment.

— Francis Schaeffer —

AZ QUOTES

such a way... A sense of inferiority may be rooted in unbelief and deception, though sometimes it may even be a form of inverted pride!

Let us repent of low views of ourselves, let us repent of unbelief and of lack of courage. Let us repent of looking to ourselves, instead of looking away from ourselves and away from all that will distract, to Jesus! (Hebrews 12:2, Amplified)

Luxury-loving

There are some Christian healthcare workers who do NOT give themselves to serve the Lord and to BUILD the work of God at their workplaces, because **they love luxury, they love comfort, they love being at ease and relaxed and un-stressed and safe...**

God says: **“Woe to you who are complacent in Zion**, and to you who feel **secure** on Mount Samaria” (Amos 6:1, NIV), “What sorrow awaits you who lounge in **luxury** in Jerusalem...” (NLT), “Woe to those who are **at ease** in Zion” (ESV), “How terrible it will be for you that have such **an easy life** in Zion” (GNT), **“Woe to you who think you live on easy street in Zion**, who think Mount Samaria is **the good life**. You assume you’re at the top of the heap, voted the **number-one best place to live**. Well, wake up and look around. Get off your pedestal” (MSG).

**We cannot be
Cross-loving
and
luxury-loving!**

And, in Isaiah 32:9, “Rise up, you women who are **at ease**” (NASB), “who are so **complacent**” (NIV), “who **lie around in ease**” (NLT), “who are **carefree and careless!**” (CEV), “**ladies of leisure**” (ISV), “**pampered women**” (GW)... This can be said of some men too...

Is this hindering US to “arise and build”?! **We cannot be Cross-loving and Luxury-loving!** May the Lord Jesus help us to choose to deny ourselves, to take up our cross daily and to follow Him (Luke 9:23)...

Lusting after sin or the things of the world

God says in 1 John 2:15-16, “Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a **craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions.** These are not from the Father, but are from this world.”

Love can wait for God’s time and God’s will, but LUST says: “I must have it NOW!” - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (the lust for self).

When my heart lusts for sin, I cannot long for God’s kingdom to come! When my heart lusts for the things of the world, I cannot and will not long for God’s glory and God’s will and God’s work and God’s kingdom... Oh, this is mad and sad and sick!

When I selfishly and sinfully look for **POSITION**, for **POSSESSIONS**, for **PLEASURE**, for **POWER**, for **PRESTIGE**, for **PRAISE** of people, for **PROMINENCE**, for **PISAS** (or pennies or pounds), I will NOT truly “arise and build” God’s work and God’s kingdom!

When I am **sexually impure** in my thoughts or in my desires or in my emotions or in my eyes or in my conduct, I cannot work God’s work at work! When I watch any form of pornography or sexual immorality on TV or on the internet, I am like an unsterile

**LUST for Position,
Possessions,
Pleasure, Power,
Prestige, Praise,
Prominence or
Pounds (money)
will hinder me
from doing God’s
work at work!**

instrument in theatre - I cannot be used by God, and I cannot inherit the kingdom of God (Galatians 5:19-21)! To be in any impure sexual relationship (hetero-sexually or homosexually) is SIN, even if I feel I “love” the person! Lust is not love. Lust is never right. Lust is not from God. To live in lust is to live in SIN. The Lord Jesus gave His life on the Cross to set us free from lust...


Oh, may He convict us by His Holy Spirit and cleanse us from all our sins, completely, and may He help us to conquer all these temptations, so that we may be clean and consecrated to do the work that needs to be done!!!

Locked up

There are some people who know they are LOCKED UP, they are imprisoned (bound) by sin, or by spirits of evil, or by evil habits, or by sexual licentiousness (sexually immoral behaviour), or by society, or by people, or by others’ opinions, or by wrong thinking, or by religiosity, or by legalism, etc., and yet, despite all of that bondage, they somehow serve the Lord, externally, though with little or no fruit...

But, most people who are in this kind of situation are **NOT free to serve the Lord and to participate in building His work at the hospital and at their places of work**. Their consciences accuse them all the time. Satan accuses them too. Sometimes other people accuse them as well. As a result, they draw back and become silent and absent, and do not speak about the Lord Jesus. They might have lost hope of being saved from their sin, of being changed, of gaining victory again, of being used by God again... **BUT GOD** is able!

If YOU are like this, there is HOPE in Jesus! You need God’s gracious help. You need to see your serious situation and your sin and your guilt. You need to see that Jesus came to save YOU from your sins! He carried your sins to the Cross and died in your place. He paid the price for your forgiveness



HOPE IN JESUS CHRIST

Turn + Tell all + Trust in Jesus



JESUS PAID IT ALL

ISAIAH 53:5

and cleansing and saving. He died in your place. He conquered sin and Satan and sickness and death. He rose from the dead. He lives and reigns for ever! We read in Matthew 1:23, “You are to name him Jesus, for **He will save his people from their sins**”!!!

You need to **TURN** away from all your sins and turn to the Lord Jesus. You need to repent deeply, to confess your sins to God and to put your trust in Him alone - in what He did on the Cross for you, and in what He promised to do now, if you **TURN** to Him, **TELL** Him your sins and **TRUST** in Him, **TOTALLY surrendering** to Him, in obedience and love...

He promised in His Word that He will forgive you, cleanse you, set you free, change you, and make you His child.

Furthermore, He wants to fill you with His HOLY Spirit - so that you too may “arise and build” - for God’s glory!

Legalistic

We read in Galatians 3:1-5, “Oh, foolish Galatians! Who has cast an evil spell on you? For the meaning of Jesus Christ’s death was made as clear to you as if you had seen a picture of his death on the cross. Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses? Of course not! You received the Spirit because you believed the message you heard about Christ. How foolish can you be? **After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort?** Have you experienced so much for nothing? Surely it was not in vain, was it? I ask you again, does God give you the Holy Spirit and work miracles among you because you obey the law? Of course not! It is because you believe the message you heard about Christ.”

When we try to earn God’s approval or favour by doing what is right, by keeping the law, that is dead legalism. When we

seek to live a holy life through doing good and through keeping the law, that too is dead legalism.

We cannot be saved by keeping the law. We cannot be holy by keeping the law. We are saved by trusting in what Jesus did on the Cross (not in what we did or do). We are made holy by trusting in God to make us holy. We are made holy through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, by the Holy Spirit working in us...

No one can be saved or made holy or be fruitful by their own efforts of obedience. **No one can build the work of God through legalism, through following the law, through keeping the law, through human efforts of doing good and of obedience.**

What is born of the flesh (of human efforts) is flesh, but what is born of the Spirit is spirit... (John 3:6). **“The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life”!!!** (1 Corinthians 3:6b). **Only the Spirit of God gives life!!!!** The letter of the LAW does NOT bring the abundant LIFE in Jesus... Just following laws and demanding people to follow certain laws is NOT the Way of Life in Jesus. Measuring people by the external keeping of certain laws and rules and behaviour patterns is NOT the Way of Christ's Life!

People can “arise and build” a dead religion or a spiritually dead organization through teaching laws and rules and strict expectations and guidelines, but this is NOT true Christianity, this is NOT a loving relationship with Jesus, this is NOT God's way of building, this is NOT what the HCF is all about!!! What is needed is an encounter with Jesus; what is needed is the working of the Spirit of Christ, what is needed is the Life of Jesus in and through His children...

When we follow the letter of the LAW, it will not bring the LIFE of Jesus in the fellowship, but death!

We **LIVE** in and through the **LIFE** of Christ, and not by the external keeping of **LAW**. The **LIFE** of Christ in us (through His “Spirit of **LIFE**” — Romans 8:2) enables us to **LIVE** according to God’s **LAW** of holy **LOVE**.

If we seek to establish a fellowship at a hospital or a health facility, based on **LAW**, we will **NOT** succeed to rebuild the broken down walls! We’ll actually make things worse - in the name of “religion”!

To “arise and build” God’s kingdom, all **LICENSE** (sinful living) and pious **LEGALISM** needs to come to an end, and the **LIBERTY** of the true children of God, through the **LIFE** of the Lord Jesus, needs to come about, by the working of the life-giving Spirit of God!

Lied to (and hindered) by others

It happens many times that the people of God do not “arise and build” at the hospitals and health centres where they work, because there are people who **LIE** to them! **When we listen to LIES it makes us LAME**. For instance, **some of the LIES we may be told are:**

- ❖ ***“We already have a fellowship here!”*** (But is it alive and healthy and life-giving?! Is it a real fellowship?)
- ❖ ***“You need to first get the permission of the chaplains!”*** (But what about the permission of God, and what if the chaplains are not in a right relationship with God?!)
- ❖ ***“Many have tried in the past; it will not work!”*** (But with God all things are possible!)
- ❖ ***“You are too young, and there are others who know the Lord for years who need to take the lead!”*** (But maybe they are backslidden and have lost the fullness of the Holy Spirit, and maybe God wants to use YOU as a young person or as an inexperienced person!)
- ❖ ***“We do not need an HCF here!”*** (Why not? Why did God start the HCF if it was not that He wanted to use it?! Even

if there are other organizations that are active, like EU or EMFI or CMF or NCFI, there is usually a need for an organization and a fellowship that seeks to serve all healthcare workers and bring them together in fellowship and service, like HCF.)

- ❖ ***“You must be thinking you are more holy than others, that’s why you want to have these meetings!”*** (No! We want these meetings because the Lord said we must “arise and build!”)
- ❖ ***“If you start another group/fellowship, it will weaken the other fellowships and even the church fellowship!”*** (If God is in it, it will be a blessing to the others and we will grow together—for God’s glory! It may even lead to revival in the others and in the hospital and in neighbouring churches!)

**Do NOT listen
to LIES,
but rather listen
to the LORD!**

Oh Lord, help me not to listen to LIES, but to listen to YOU, and to “arise and build” Your work at work!

Lifeless (being spiritually dead & not born-from-above)

We are looking at WHY some healthcare workers do NOT “arise and build” the kingdom of God in their places of work.

The last reason we’ll look at is the most basic one: **If a person is spiritually DEAD and not born-again by the Spirit of God yet, he or she can NOT build God’s work!** He or she needs to have a personal encounter with God, be born from above, be raised from the dead (spiritually speaking), be made alive in Christ, be changed and transformed into a new creation, a new being - a child of God!

In *“Spiritual Life in the Indian Church,”* Thomas Walker wrote (in 1902) that “there may be zeal for Christianity, **without there being spiritual life...** There may be church-going, and lyric-singing, and street-preaching, and all the time **NO LIFE...**”

He further said there is a real danger and a major hindrance in our churches and organizations when “we have a vacancy to fill, and we appoint the best applicant available, perhaps, though the applicant in question may be **an utter stranger to the LIFE of Christ.**” This is NOT God’s will and NOT God’s way!!!!

He said: **“The DEAD cannot bring LIFE into our schools and congregations” and hospitals and health centres!!!!**

“It is my firm conviction that every converted worker is a centre of LIFE, in greater or less degree; and that, on the other hand, every unconverted agent is a hindrance and a bane.”

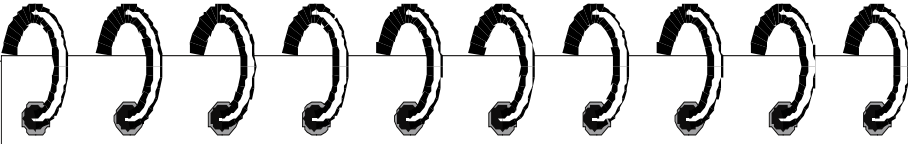
He said: **“Only spiritual men (and women) are able to do spiritual work”!**

“Great care should be exercised, moreover, not to admit new workers who cannot give clear evidence that they have passed from death unto life, and are living according to their profession.” This does not mean that people who are not born-again cannot come to our fellowship meetings; No! it means that **people who are not born again are NOT to lead in building the work of God, because they cannot!**

Where there is LIFE, there someone can “arise and build,” but where there is NO life, NO true building can take place...

So, we need to ask ourselves: **Do I have the LIFE OF CHRIST in me? Do I have the LIFE OF HEAVEN in me? Do I have the LIFE OF THE SPIRIT of God in me? Do I have the LIFE OF TRUE CHRISTIANITY in me?** “The LIFE OF GOD in the soul of man” - that is true Christianity. We read in 1 John 5:12, ***“Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life”!!!!***

May God give us LIFE TO LIVE, so that we may have LIFE TO “ARISE AND BUILD,” through HIS LIFE and Spirit!



Having gone through this section, now please **WRITE** in your own words (below), what YOU think are some of the reasons **WHY YOU did NOT “arise and build”** God’s kingdom at your place of work in the past, as you should have or could have done. What you write may include some of the reasons mentioned already, or it may be OTHER reasons not mentioned in this chapter... The reasons the Lord showed me are the following:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

“Dear Father-God, thank You for showing me these reasons. I pray that You will forgive me where I have sinned, and that You will cleanse me and change me please. I also pray that You will give me victory over all the areas of weakness in my life and that Your Life may be my life, more and more, through Your Holy Spirit. I ask this in Jesus’ precious Name. Amen.”

Arise and

Build

Heart

Home
own family

House of God

Hospital

**Health
facility**

**Healthcare
Christian
Fellowship**

Homes
in community

The God of heaven will give us success;
therefore we His servants will arise and build.

NEHEMIAH 2:20

Where

arise & build?!

Let us ARISE and BUILD in our...

HEART

HOME (own family)

HOUSE OF GOD (church or house fellowship)

HOSPITAL (ward/ healthcare centre/ clinic/
college/ health facility/ office/ laboratory/
practice/ place of work...)

HCF LOCAL FELLOWSHIP

HOMES of people in our community, and in
our neighbourhood...

The Lord Jesus longs for us to “arise and build” in our HEARTS, in our own HOMES, in the HOUSE OF GOD where we fellowship with other Christians, in the HOSPITAL (or health facility) where we work, in our local HCF fellowship, and in the HOMES of people in our neighbourhood and community!

HEART

God says to us, “**Give me your HEART!**” (Proverbs 23:26). He focusses on our HEART, our real “me”, our will, our centre of being, our hidden inner life. We tend to focus on our outside life and on our looks. Our inner life is more important than our outer life. God looks at our HEART. He says that whatever we think and say and do, comes from our HEART (Mark 7:21). ***It is only when He has our HEART, that things will really get better in our homes, in our hospitals and health facilities and colleges, and in our local HCF fellowships...***

**God says:
“Give Me
your
HEART!”**

Before we can start to build God’s kingdom in our hospitals and in our homes, it needs to start in our HEARTS, **it needs to start in MY heart!** God says His kingdom is within us (Luke 17:21).

I need to ask myself: “**How is my HEART?**”

My HEART may be hardened, or stony, or cold, or calloused, or weak, or fleshly, or impure, or defiled, or bound, or empty, or sick, or lonely, or wounded, or broken, or dead, or sinful and selfish, ...or it can be soft, tender, clean, responsive, strong, healed, holy, happy, hearty, healed, warm, spiritual, alive, loving, revived, filled, inhabited by the Holy Spirit, and on fire for Jesus!

We read in Jeremiah about the “**WALLS of my HEART**”, which may be broken down, just like the walls of Jerusalem were

burned and broken down... Jeremiah 4:19, “My anguish, my anguish! I writhe in pain! **Oh the walls of my heart!** My heart is beating wildly; I cannot keep silent, for I hear the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war” (ESV).

How are the “walls of my heart”? What is the condition of the “walls of my heart”?! To describe my HEART, as it is today, I’d say my HEART is:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

I also need to ask myself:

- ❖ **Have I given my heart to God?** (Proverbs 23:26)
- ❖ **Have I opened the door of my heart for Jesus to come in?** (Revelation 3:20)
- ❖ **Is there any hidden sin in my heart?** (Proverbs 28:13)
- ❖ **Has the blood of Jesus cleansed my heart from all sin?** (1 John 1:7; Psalm 51:10)
- ❖ **Is my heart humbled in relation to God and people?**
- ❖ **Do I hide God’s Word in my heart?** (Psalm 119:11)
- ❖ **Is my heart repentant and revived?** (Isaiah 57:15, NLT)
- ❖ **Do I love God with all my heart?** (Matthew 22:37)
- ❖ **Is my heart in God’s hands?** (Proverbs 21:1)
- ❖ **Is my heart on fire for Jesus?!** (Luke 12:49)

My PERSONAL RESPONSE to these truths and questions are as follows:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

There are different ways in which we can “arise and BUILD” God’s kingdom in our HEARTS. We read in God’s Word that (1) we need to **let ourselves be built up** by God and others (1 Peter 2:5), and (2) we need to **build ourselves up** (Jude 1:20), through the Spirit of God. More will be said later, but for now, we can say that **we can BUILD God’s kingdom in our HEARTS by doing the following:**

Make sure I am fully **GIVEN TO GOD**, I **LOVE THE LORD**, spend **TRYST TIME** alone with Jesus daily, **SOAK IN SCRIPTURE** daily, be **CLEANSED BY CHRIST**, have **CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST**, live in **DAILY DEPENDENCE** on Him, **PRAY PERSISTENTLY**, **FULLY FOLLOW** the Lord, are always **GUIDED BY GOD**, **MEDITATE MORE**, practice **JOURNAL JOTTING**, keep on **REPENTING AND RESTING** in Jesus, have **FAITHFUL FELLOWSHIP** with other believers, practice **WATCHFUL WAITING**, **WORSHIP AND WARFARE**, have **DAILY DISCIPLINE**, maintain **RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS**, do my **WORK AS WORSHIP**, practice **WISE WITNESSING**, **LIFELONG LEARNING**, **GRACIOUS GIVING**, focussing on **SERVING AND STEWARDSHIP**, and always being **FULLY FILLED** with the Holy Spirit, for **GOD’S GLORY!**

“Learn to commit your soul and the building of it to One who can keep it and build it as you never can!”

The Lord says we need to **keep on “BUILDING yourselves up”** (Jude 1:20). Through Nehemiah, we **hear the call and the command of the Lord to ARISE and to start to BUILD in our own HEARTS**... Please write down your personal response to this call and command of God to you:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

P.T. Forsyth (1848-1921) said: **“Learn to commit your soul and the building of it to One who can keep it and build it as you never can”!!!**

HOME

What happens in our **HEARTS** will show in our **HOMES!**

When our **HEARTS** are **healthy, holy, happy, humble** and in **harmony** with God and others, our **HOMES** can become like that too... It doesn't happen by itself, we need to **“arise and BUILD.”** We need to work at it, in dependence on God.

When our HEARTS are healthy, holy, happy, humble and in harmony with God and others, our HOMES can become like that too...

Alan Redpath says in *“Victorious Christian Service: Studies in the Book of Nehemiah,”*: **“That is where every real work of God must begin - at HOME...”** He also says “how sad it is, indeed, that **the place where the true quality of our Christian life is really tested, at HOME, is the place that it is so often sadly neglected.”**

To “arise and BUILD” my HOME, I believe the Lord wants ME to BE the following and DO the following:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

We read in Nehemiah 3:28 that “the priests made repairs, each in front of his OWN HOUSE...”!!! This shows that we start at our OWN house, our OWN home, and “in front of” it!!!

Heavenly Homes

It is God’s will that our HOME on earth to be a HEAVENLY HOME... He also wants a HOME in which He can live! We read in Isaiah 66:1, “Where is the house you will build for Me?” We would like our home to be a Heavenly Home, and for Him, in which He can live too..., isn’t it?!

Looking at Scripture, we see, as was said already, that the HOME in which He would want to live is **LOWLY**, full of **LIGHT** and **LIFE** and **LIBERTY** and **LAUGHTER** and **LOVE**...! Let’s look at this briefly:

LOWLY: Isaiah 57:15 - “For this is what the high and exalted One says - he who lives forever, whose name is holy: “I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and **lowly** in spirit, to revive the spirit of the **lowly** and to revive the heart of the contrite.”

LIGHT: Light is welcoming and life-giving and revealing and “open” and safe-guarding and exposing dirt and enabling one to see and show (reveal) the way... There is no darkness in light! There are no hidden secrets in light! In Exodus 10:21-23 we read that “all the Israelites had LIGHT in their dwellings,” they were shining in the dark world, they were different from the other homes (as light is different from darkness), and they were the opposite than the darkness around them. This is wonderful! In Revelation 21:23 we read that “the Lamb is the Light”! God tells us that “if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another ...and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (1 John 1:7). Also, ***when the fire of love for Jesus burns in our HEARTS, the fire of love for Jesus will burn brightly in our HOMES, giving the light of His love and life...!***

**God wants
our homes to be
HEAVENLY HOMES,
full of His
LIGHT,
LOVE,
LIBERTY,
LOWLINESS,
LAUGHTER,
and life-giving
LIFE!**

LIFE: In Numbers 23:8,9,21 we have a description of the homes of the people of God. In it we see that they “LIVE apart,” NOT like the nations, NOT one with the world. Even the heathen witchdoctor, Balaam, when he saw how they lived, said: “I want to die like these right-LIVING people” (Nu 23:10; MSG). In a Heavenly Home, in a Healed Home, in His Home (on earth) we find that LIFE rules, the LIFE of the Lord, not the letter, not the law (though there is law), not legalism, not rules (though there are rules), no, LIFE (His Life) rules in those homes! John 14:6 tells us that He is the Life! The LIFE in these homes is the LIFE of **LOWLINESS** and **LIGHT** and **LOVE** and **LAUGHTER** and true **LIBERTY** in Christ.

LAUGHTER: We mean a life of **JOY IN JESUS**, a life of **HAPPINESS IN HIM!!!** Yes, there will be tears (on earth), but the deep happiness that comes from a life in Jesus will be there too! AW Tozer said that “**the people of God ought to be the happiest peo-**

ple in all the wide world! People should be coming to us constantly and asking the source of our joy and delight.” We read in Joel 2:21, “**Be happy and full of joy**, because the Lord has done a wonderful thing...” (NCV). According to Charles Spurgeon, “**Those who are ‘beloved of the Lord’ must be the most happy and joyful people to be found anywhere upon the face of the earth.**” God made us to be holy and happy in Him, in a living, loving relationship with Him. In his book “*Happiness*,” Randy Alcorn says that there are **more than 2700 verse in the Bible** that speak about happiness and joy and laughter and gladness, etc.!!!

LOVE: With Jonathan Edwards we can say that “**Heaven is a world of LOVE.**” The Source of this Love is God the Father (1 John 3:1; John 3:16), the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. The subjects are all pure and holy (See Rev 21:27), who seek to show pure love all the time. All are on fire with a heavenly, holy, happy love for God and for others... In the homes in heaven there will be **NO** selfishness, pride, impatience, irritability, envy, criticism, rudeness, inconsiderateness, unkindness, lust, misunderstanding, rebellion, inconsistency, unfaithfulness, dullness, deadness, unwise speech, foolish fondness, sentimental sopiness, sinful passions, thinking evil of others, disobedience to parents, “me first”, touchiness, self-seeking, disunity, “not loved” feeling, etc...

Maybe the best description of a **heavenly HOME** is the well-known description of **LOVE**, as found in 1 Corinthians 13. In *The Message* translation we read:

*“So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I’m bankrupt without love. **Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have. Love doesn’t strut, Doesn’t have a swelled head, ...Doesn’t force itself on others, Isn’t always “me first,” Doesn’t fly off the handle, Doesn’t keep score of the sins of others, ...Doesn’t revel when others grovel, Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, ...Puts up with anything, Trusts God always, Always looks for the best, Never looks back, But keeps going to the end....Love never dies.**”* In the Good

News Bible we read: *“Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable,”* love *“thinketh no evil”* (KJV), and more... This is beautiful!

This is a perfect picture of the Lord Jesus and of our Home in Heaven, as well as of how a **HEAVENLY HOME ON EARTH** can and should be like, in and through the Lord Jesus. He taught us in Matthew 5:10 to pray that God’s will may be done “on earth **AS IT IS IN HEAVEN**”!!! May He help us!!!

We need REVIVAL IN THE HOME!

The life-giving lessons learned during the East-African revival were written up in the little book *“The Calvary Road,”* by Roy Hession. One of the chapters deals with **“Revival in the Home.”**

In it we read that “Thousands of years ago, in the most beautiful Garden the world has ever known, lived a man and a woman. Formed in the likeness of their Creator, they lived solely to reveal Him to His creation and to each other and thus to glorify Him every moment of the day. Humbly they accepted the position of a creature with the Creator - that of complete submission and yieldedness to His will. Because they always submitted their wills to His, **because they lived for Him and not for themselves, they were also completely submitted to each other. Thus in that first home in that beautiful garden, there was absolute harmony, peace, love and oneness not only with God, but with each other.**

Then one day, the harmony was shattered, for the serpent stole into that **God-centred home**, and with him, sin. **And now, because they had lost their peace and fellowship with God, they lost it with each other. No longer did they live for God - they each lived for themselves.** They were each their own gods now, and because they no longer lived for God, they no longer lived for each other. **Instead of peace, harmony, love and oneness - there was now discord and hate - in other words, SIN!**

REVIVAL BEGINS in the HOME

It was into the home that sin first came. It is in the home that we sin more than perhaps anywhere else, and it is to the home that revival first needs to come. Revival is desperately needed in the church - in the country - in the world, but **a revived church with un-revived homes would be sheer hypocrisy.** It is the hardest place, the most costly, but the most necessary place to begin.

Before we go on, let us remind ourselves again of **what REVIVAL really is.** *It simply means new life, in hearts where the spiritual life has ebbed - but not a new life of self-effort or self-initiated activity. It is not man's life, but God's life, the life of Jesus filling us and flowing through us.* That Life is manifested in fellowship and oneness with those with whom we live - **nothing between us and God, and nothing between us and others.** The home is the place before all others where this should be experienced.

How different is the experience of so many of us professing Christians in our homes - little irritations, frayed tempers, selfishness and resentments; and even where there is nothing very definitely wrong between us, just not that complete oneness and fellowship that ought to characterise Christians living together. All the things that come between us and others, come between us and God and spoil our fellowship with Him, so that our hearts are not overflowing with the Divine Life.”

**I need REVIVAL
in my HEART
and
in my HOME!**

This ends the section quoted from “*The Calvary Road.*” Please take time to read the whole book, as well as the one that comes after it: “*We would see Jesus.*” The pdfs of both are freely available online.

To me, the bottom-line is: **“I need revival in my heart and in my home...!”**

*As for me and
my House, we will
serve the Lord*
-Joshua 24:15

A few further **PRACTICAL POINTS** for helping our HOMES to become what God intended it to be, are the following:

- ❖ **Be in a right relationship with God**, be cleansed and filled with the Holy Spirit, continually.
- ❖ **Be filled with God's Life and Love and Light.**
- ❖ **Partners to Pray** together daily (spouses).
- ❖ **Law and Love:** let both go together (Deuteronomy 33:1-3)...
- ❖ Have **Family Fellowship** around God's Word, daily. Remembering that "a family that prays together, stays together!"
- ❖ Concentrate on **Careful, Caring Communication.**
- ❖ Practice **Planned Parenting** - be intentional, intelligent and inspired in parenting your children, and in supporting and blessing your spouse.
- ❖ **Bible** before **Breakfast**
- ❖ **Devotions** after **Dinner**
- ❖ **Bible** stories before **Bedtime** (and prayer)
- ❖ **Talk** with, **Teach** and **Train** our children (Deuteronomy 6)
- ❖ Foster **Faithful Fathering.**
- ❖ Use **Reliable Resources** to strengthen and build your home, e.g. - "*The Children for Christ*" (Andrew Murray), "*Letters to Parents*" (Charles Finney), "*Shepherding a Child's Heart*" (Tedd Tripp), "*A Heavenly Home*" (Zac Poonen), "*Gold Cord*" (Amy Carmichael), etc.



HOUSE OF GOD *(church fellowship)*

Our present question is: **WHERE** are we to “arise and build”?! The answer is: in my own HEART, in my own HOME, in my own place of church worship (HOUSE OF GOD), in my own HOSPITAL (place of work), and in the local HCF FELLOWSHIP where I work. We’ll now look more specifically at our personal “HOUSE OF GOD”...

Every Christian HOME is a HOUSE OF GOD. Every Christian HOME is a church of Jesus Christ. The early church used to meet in the HOMES of believers. As the days darken on earth, this may increasingly become the way of “doing church” again. When God says to us: “Arise and build,” He also means for us to **“arise and build” the HOUSE OF GOD** (the church fellowship of Christian believers) of which we form a part. This may be as part of a certain denominational Christian church, or as part of an independent Christian church, or as part of a Christian “House Church,” or maybe another expression of the Body of Christ.

We read in Psalm 122:1, **“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go into the HOUSE OF THE LORD’...”!!!**

Is this true in your life? Are you part of a local church, a local “house of God”?! Is there a need to “arise and build” any broken down walls pertaining to the “HOUSE OF GOD” where I fellowship as a believer, in the local Body of Christ?

We are encouraged by God’s Word to be part of a church, a fellowship of believers who give expression to the Body of Christ

in coming together, growing together, worshipping together, serving the Lord together, and being a witness in this world, together, as a “church.” We read:

- ❖ Hebrews 10:24-25, “Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And **let us not neglect our meeting together**, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” (NLT)
- ❖ Acts 2:42, “All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to **fellowship**, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.” (NLT). J.I. Packer said: “**As we value the health of our souls and of the Christian church, then, we must learn to prize fellowship.**”
- ❖ Luke 4:16, “He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, **as was his custom**. He stood up to read...” (NIV)
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 14:26,31 - “Well, my brothers and sisters, let's summarize. When you **meet together**, one will sing, another will teach, another will tell some special revelation God has given, one will speak in tongues, and another will interpret what is said. But everything that is done must strengthen all of you... In this way, all who prophesy will have a turn to speak, one after the other, **so that everyone will learn and be encouraged.**” (NLT)
- ❖ Proverbs 18:1, “**Whoever isolates himself** pursues selfish ends; he resists all sound advice.” (ISV)
- ❖ We read in Nehemiah 13:11, “**Why is the HOUSE OF GOD neglected?**”!!!!?? This is a very important question!!!

I believe WE can “arise and BUILD” the HOUSE OF GOD (the local church fellowship) by:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

church activities, that they neglect their professional responsibilities and their spiritual responsibilities to build the kingdom of God at work (in the HOSPITAL). They may also neglect their own HEARTS and their own HOMES!! This too is sad and bad!

We need to learn to prioritize, without neglecting any of our responsibilities...

For instance, we need to know: (1) Is work before family or family before work?! (2) Is work or family or church before God, or is God first?! (3) Is work before spouse or spouse before work?!

Personally, I realize the Lord wants ME to do the following regarding the building of His kingdom in and through the local **HOUSE OF GOD**, the local church:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....



.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Another very important matter to keep in mind is that if a **local HCF FELLOWSHIP** has been formed at your HOSPITAL or health facility, and is functioning actively, it **should NOT become another small “church”!** **The HCF is NOT a church!!!** The HCF is a *fellowship* of Christian who work in healthcare,

The local HCF fellowship is NOT a small church, and it should NOT look and function like a local church...!

from different churches and denominations. HCF is interdenominational and non-denominational! If you run the local HCF fellowship like your own church, with the same sequence of worship and sermon and testimonies and collection of money and operating of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and an altar call and the preacher praying for those who attend, then it is NOT an HCF, but a kind of a local church. **A local HCF fellowship is**

DIFFERENT and should function differently from a local church gathering...! The local HCF fellowship is NOT a small church, and it should NOT look and function like a local church...!

HOSPITAL *(or other healthcare facility)*

God doesn't only want us to “*arise and build*” His kingdom in our **HEARTS**, in our **HOMES**, and in **HIS HOUSE**, but also in the **HOSPITAL** (or health facility) where we work and spend most of our days!

When our HEARTS are “all for Jesus,” our HOMES are heavenly, the HOUSE OF GOD (where we fellowship as part of Christ's Church) is alive and flourishing, then, to build His kingdom in

the HOSPITAL where we work, would be a natural outflow and a spiritual necessity... Actually, when God is our all-consuming passion, wherever we are and in whatever we do, we want to BUILD His kingdom and glorify His Name!

We will NOT work to make money, or to make a name and get fame, but we'll work to serve our King Jesus, to be a blessing to others in need, and to glorify God!

When I look at what I wrote on pages 18 + 19 about the spiritual CONDITION of the hospital (or the place where I work), I think that **to BUILD God's kingdom in the HOSPITAL (or the place) where I work, we can:**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

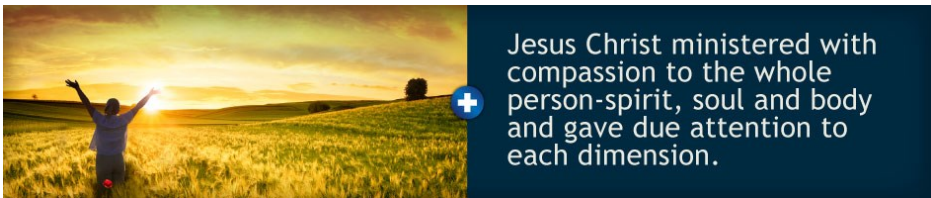
.....

.....

.....

.....

We can build the kingdom of God in our hospitals and healthcare facilities through **Christ-like Character**, Christ-like **Clinical Competence**, Christ-like **Careful Communication**, Christ-like **Compassionate Caring**, Christ-like **Confidence and Courage**, Christ-like **Comprehensive (Wholistic) Caring**. To this we can add: **Loving Leadership, Spiritual Shepherd-**



ing, Modelling and Mentoring, Accurate Administration, Fair Financing, Pious Policies, Strict Standards, Integrated Integrity, Godly Guidelines, Training of Teams, Right Relationships, seeing and using **Every Encounter** with Christ in mind, **Practical Prayer** permeating all we do, **Christ-centred Clinical Care** and teaching, **Bible-Based, Christ-centred, Spirit-Sensitive whole-person education, healthcare and research, Power-full Preaching...**

This aspect of building God's kingdom is very, very important, and this is also where the ministry of the **Healthcare Christian Fellowship International (HCFI or "HCF")** can be of much help. More will be said about this in the sections on "HOW" and "WHAT" to "arise and build" (from pages 113 and 163).

HCF local fellowship

We believe the Lord wants us to "arise and build" in our **HEARTS**, our **HOMES**, our **HOUSES OF GOD** (churches), our **HOSPITALS** and health facilities, and in our **HCF LOCAL FELLOWSHIPS** at our health facilities...

We believe it'll please the Lord if there is a local HCF FELLOWSHIP in every health facility in our country and in the world!

Over the last 40 years of involvement in the HCF, I've seen it over and over that, if the **STRUCTURE** of the HCF is not in place in a good way, and the **SPIRIT of God** is not working in hot, holy love, the work will NOT grow and continue well...!!! If the "structure" and "Spirit" is lacking or deficient, the work will become man-centred, personality-centred, entertainment-oriented, program-driven, and people-pleasing. Then, when the spiritual "heroes" leave or are absent, it's back to ground zero! This is NOT God's plan and way of working!

To have a body without a skeleton inside will result in that body being like a backboneless jelly-fish, like a blob of

warm meat that cannot do proper work and exploits for God!!! Our Christian fellowships at our hospitals should NOT be like that!!!

**A HEALTHY LOCAL HCF FELLOWSHIP needs:
SPIRITUAL VISION,
STRUCTURE,
STRATEGIES, and
the SPIRIT OF GOD!**

I've seen many, many Christian health facilities (even mission hospitals) where **there are different Christian activities taking place, but without vision, without passion, without FIRE from Heaven, without the structure and strategies needed** for fruitful working and serving, through the Spirit of God. **It is like a FORM of godliness, but without the FIRE of God's Holy Spirit...**

Oh, that the Lord will help us to “arise and build” local HCF FELLOWSHIPS, along the lines of God's pattern (structure and strategy) “shown on the mountain,” for HCF.

A healthy, fully-functioning local HCF FELLOWSHIP needs SPIRITUAL VISION, STRUCTURE, STRATEGIES, and the SPIRIT OF GOD!


We believe that the establishing of a healthy, fully-functioning, fruitful **local HCF FELLOWSHIP** (both in its structure and strategy, in the Spirit) contributes much to the building of God's kingdom in a hospital and health facility. This is extremely important and will be discussed in more detail in the chapters on “WHAT” and “HOW”...

HOMES of people in the community

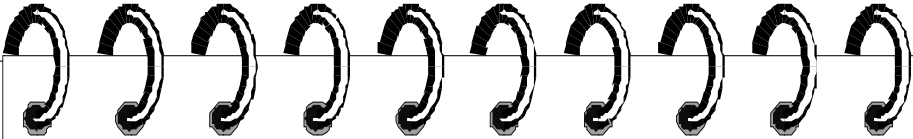
The Lord wants us to “arise and build,” not just in our **hearts**, our **homes**, our **houses of God** (churches), our **hospitals**, our **HCF local fellowships**, but also in the **HOMES in the community**... This can be done (1) as healthcare workers, through home care, home-visits, palliative care, frail care, the practice

of integral community health (ICH), community health evangelism (CHE), care groups, disciple-making groups, and community-oriented primary health care (COPC). It can and should also be done (2) as neighbours, reaching out to our neighbours! These aspects will not be discussed here, but it is also very important, as the Lord wants us to also reach OUT to our patients and peers and neighbours...

Generally, in HCFI, we speak of our 4 areas of responsibility, service and influence: (1) Family, (2) Church, (3) Work, and (4) Community. To these 4 areas we've added: (5) Our own hearts, and (6) the local HCF fellowship... That is why, in this workbook, we speak of the places WHERE we are to "arise and build" as our (1) **Hearts**, (2) **Homes**, (3) **Houses of God** (churches), (4) **Hospitals**, (5) **HCF local fellowships**, and (6) **Homes of people in the community!**



When my heart is on FIRE for Jesus, then my home, my house of worship (church), my hospital, my HCF local fellowship, and more of the homes in my community can be on FIRE with love for Jesus too!!!



Having gone through this section, now please **WRITE** in your own words (below), as a summary for yourself, what YOU think about the main areas of **WHERE** we are to “arise and build”:

HEART

.....
.....
.....

HOME

.....
.....
.....

HOUSE of God

.....
.....
.....

HOSPITAL

.....
.....
.....

HCF local fellowship

.....
.....
.....

HOMES of people in community

.....
.....
.....

Dear Father-God, please help me to “arise and build” in these areas and places as You would want ME to do, with Your help and for Your glory. I ask this in Jesus’ precious Name. Amen.

*Arise
and*

Build

Lovers

Leaders

Laymen

Levites

Ladies too

**Lord
Jesus!**

Labourers

Laid low

The God of heaven will give us success;
before we His servants will arise and build.

N E H E M I A H 2 : 2 0

Who

arise & build?!

LOVERS of God!

LEADERS

LAYMEN

LEVITES

LADIES too!

LAI D LOW (broken and needy)

LABOURERS in God's kingdom

LORD Jesus!!!

EVERY ONE of us
who hears God's call
and sees the need
should "arise and build"
together!!!

As we read the book of Nehemiah, we see that those who arose and rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem were **LOVERS OF GOD, LEADERS, LAYMEN, LEVITES, LADIES TOO**, those who were **LAI D LOW**, as well as other **LABOURERS IN GOD'S KINGDOM**, all together, ...and with the **LORD** Himself...!

LOVERS of God

Those who love and fear the Lord are happy and hearty (eager) to "arise and build"! It happened in the days of Nehemiah and it still happens in our days too! When we **LOVE** the Lord, we want to **DO** His will, we want to see His Name lifted up and glorified, and we want to see that His kingdom will come! **When we LOVE the Lord, we will work with Him... LOVE for the Lord puts feet to our faith, a spring in our step, a sparkle in our eyes, and action to our affections!**

We learn to **LOVE** the Lord not by mere singing, not by mere speaking, not by what is called "worshipping," but by **DOING** His will!!! The Lord Jesus said: "**If you love me, you will obey** my commandments" (John 14:15, GNT). **True lovers are doers!!!** David Wilkerson said: "**Love is not only something you feel, it is something you do...**" In Song of Songs we see that **LOVE LONGS for the Lord and LOVE LABOURS with the Lord!!!**

**LOVE
LABOURS
with the
LORD!**

LEADERS

There were leaders, rulers (3:14,16,19) or administrators, and "nobles" (4:14,19) who arose and built!!! Nehemiah himself,

who was a leader of God's people, was not lazy or uninvolved! He did not seek to live in luxury or in comfort, while others worked hard. No! He worked hard and he didn't even change his clothes for many days (4:23)! We sometimes have a wrong picture: that leaders lead by pointing the way, not by walking ahead and showing the way with their lives... Here we see that the leaders worked as hard and as practical as anyone else, to re-build the broken walls - **they led by example!!!!**

LAYMEN

You don't have to be a "leader" to get involved in God's work; the "countrymen" (3:18), the laymen, also got involved!!! When God touches us and we are in a right relationship with God, **we'll say, whether we are leaders or laymen, "This is God's work! This is my work! This is our work! This is teamwork!", and we'll get going and get involved and work!!!**

This is very important! Please do not miss this point! Whatever our position in life or at work, the Lord is calling US to "arise and build"!!! *It's important to realise that when God grants us a **POSITION** (whatever position it may be) it is because in His **PROVIDENCE** He wants to use me for His **PURPOSE!** Hallelujah!* Whatever your role and responsibility at the hospital or at work or at church, God wants YOU to be involved!!! Will you say: "Yes, Lord!!!"?

LEVITES and priests

We read in Nehemiah that the Levites and the priests also got involved in building the walls (See chapter 3:17, 22, 28)!!! This is wonderful! We know that, usually, we think of the work of the Levites and the priests as "**spiritual**" work... They were involved with leading the worship, with making the sacrifices, with burning the incense, with saying prayers, with teaching and preaching! But, here we see that they got involved in "dirtying their hands," in practical, hard, manual labour!!!

They saw that **physical work and spiritual work are the same in God's eyes**, provided it is done in His will and for His Name and kingdom's sake!

We need more spiritual leaders who will see the practicality of spirituality, and the physicality of true spirituality!!!

Then they will stop just saying prayers and start working while praying, and praying while working, ...just like the workers were having the trowel in the one hand and the sword in the other hand!!! See Neh 4:17-18.

All work should be "spiritual" work, because it is done "from Him and through Him and to Him" (Romans 11:36). To work in the **kitchen** is "spiritual," if done in that way; the work in the **lab** is "spiritual" if done in that way; the work in the **office** is "spiritual" if done in that way; the work in the **ward** is "spiritual" if done in that way; ...for **all work** that is done in that way is spiritual!

We need more spiritual leaders who will see the practicality of spirituality, and the physicality of true spirituality!!!

LADIES too!

It's beautiful to see in Nehemiah that the ladies worked on the wall too! Shallum, a ruler, worked and repaired the wall "with the help of his daughters" (3:12)... William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, said: "**My best men are women!**" By this he meant that of the best "soldiers" in this army of God were, to his experience, **women!**

NO woman should look down upon herself and belittle herself or think of herself as inferior, because to think like that would be to think a LIE!!! God has made BOTH man and woman in His image and to have a relationship with Him and to reflect Him. Women should see their calling in God and "arise and build," and NOT allow the devil to use them to arise and break down...

There are MANY women in the Bible who were used mightily by the Lord, like Deborah, Ruth, Hannah, Esther, Lydia, Priscilla, Phoebe, as well as Shiphrah and Puah (2 midwives), and many more... **May many more such women “arise and build” with Jesus, also in the health fields of the world!!!**

Will YOU be one of them who will “arise and build”?!

LAID LOW (broken and needy)

The remnant of the people of God who were in and around Jerusalem in those days were **discouraged** and **weak** and **needy**; they were “**in bad shape**” (MSG), “in great trouble and disgrace” (1:3a), “in great evil” (YLT), “in shame” (ESV), though they were the people of God... Despite being “**LAI**D LOW”, despite their desperate state, maybe even because of it, **they did not stay down, they got up and got going (to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem)!!!**

Even if YOU feel low and broken and weak and defeated and vulnerable and a failure, do not stay “low,” do not stay down!!! Hear the Word of the Lord: “Come, let us rebuild” (Nehemiah 2:17), “Let us ARISE and build” (Nehemiah 2:18; NASB); let us GET UP and work!

David Wilkerson said: “**The most important move you ever make, as a believer, is the move you make right after you fall.** Satan whispers, “You are rotten to the core, sensuous, childish, immature. You will never be holy; you will never be anything in God. So quit! Give up. It’s useless to try. Go back! God is too high and holy; it’s too complicated and difficult; you’ll never figure it out. It’s all over!” Lies—all lies! So you sinned after you confessed and believed? So you thought you had freedom and lost it? So you think people will call you a phony? So you sinned with your eyes wide open—knowing better—with the Holy Spirit screaming in your ears? So you never thought you could do such a vile thing again? So what? Is there godly sorrow in you now? Are you determined to get up

and move on? Are you humbled, shamed, and repentant? Your fall is not fatal. Once again, confess and accept God's forgiveness and regain your momentum! You are still His child. You are not a slave to sin. His loving kindness is greater than all your sins. Look up, rejoice, and take heart!"

**Don't GIVE UP!
GET UP!
GET CLEAN!
GO ON with Jesus!**

So, if you were "laid low" because of sin, DON'T GIVE UP! GET UP! Come to Jesus again! Tell Him you are sorry and Trust Him to cleanse you and to set you free and change you! Then, **GO ON**, "arise and build" again, with Jesus!!!

The Word of the Lord is clear and gracious and enabling. He says: "**COME! ARISE! BUILD!**" He says: "Let US" do it! This means He will do it **with us** and He will help us to do it!!! This is wonderful! Thank You, Lord!

What is YOUR response to this word?! Please write it down:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

We read in Micah 7:8, "**Do not gloat over me, my enemy! Do not rejoice over me! Though I have fallen, I will rise...**"!!! (NIV, NASB). By God's grace and through His undeserved favour and help, I will "arise and build" with Him and for Him, also at the hospital where I work!

LABOURERS in God's kingdom

We read in Nehemiah that there were **many different kinds of LABOURERS** who helped to rebuild the walls! There were goldsmiths (3:8, 31, 32), temple servants (3:26), "labourers" (4:10), helpers (4:22), guards (4:22,23), a doctor (3:8), merchants (3:32), and ordinary residents... and many others who were not mentioned by name!

This is to encourage US, that, irrespective of the kind of work I do, irrespective of the kind of labourer I am, God is calling ME to "arise and build"!!! Whether I am a **CLERK** or a **CLINICIAN** or a **CLEANER** or a **CHEFF** or a **CASHIER** or a **CARETAKER** or a **CARER** (nurse) or a **CHAPLAIN** or a **CONTROLLER** or a **COUNSELLOR** or a **CARPENTER** or a **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER** or a **COFFEE-MAKER** or a **CHIEF MATRON** or a **CLASS 4 WORKER** or whatever **CADRE** I may be in, God is calling me and giving me the opportunity to "arise and build" His kingdom at the place where I work! This is wonderful and beyond comprehension. What a privilege!!!

Whether we are

**CLEANERS,
CLERKS,
CLINICIANS,
CARERS (nurses),
CHEFFS,
CASHIERS,
COUNSELLORS,
CHIEF MATRONS,
CLASS 4 WORKERS,
CHAPLAINS,
CEOs,
CONTROLLERS,
CAR-GUARDS,
CARETAKERS,
CARPENTERS,
COFFEE-MAKERS,
or of any CADRE,
God is calling us
to build with Him!**

We read in 1 Corinthians 3:9, "For we are **labourers together with God...**" (KJV); "For we are **God's co-workers...**" (HCSB); "For we are **co-workers in God's service...**" (NIV).

May the Lord help us!!!



Healthcare
Christian
Fellowship
International



LORD Jesus Himself!!!

Our question in this section is: WHO are to arise and build the walls?! WHO are to arise and build the work of God, the kingdom of God?! The answer is: all the **Lovers of God**, the **Leaders**, the **Laymen**, the **Levites**, the **Ladies too**, even those who were **Laid low**, and all the other **Labourers** in God's kingdom, all together, ...but most important of all - the **Lord Jesus Himself...!**

We read in Psalm 68:1, "**May God arise**, may his enemies be scattered; may his foes flee before him..." (NIV); "**Rise up, O God...**" (NLT); "**God springs into action!**" (NET); "**God will arise...**" (GW). In Psalm 44:26 we read: "**Rise up, be our help...**", and in Psalm 132:8, "**Arise, O LORD**, to Your resting place..." This is wonderful.

To "**ARISE**" means "to be stirred up, to be awake and to prepare for action." THIS is what we long to see the LORD do in our midst and in our hospitals! We long to see that the LORD will be stirred into action, to work mightily and powerfully and divinely and supernaturally, as HE alone can do!!! This will mean **REVIVAL!!!!** This is when God bares His arm and shows His might and marvels, and when HE comes down!!!

We read in Isaiah 64:1-2, "**Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down**, that the mountains might quake at your presence - as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil - to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence!"

And, in Isaiah 58:12 we read: "**Your people** will rebuild the ancient ruins...; **You** will be called Repairer of Broken Walls" This means that **(1) WE (His people) are to rebuild**, and **(2) HE will rebuild and repair!!!** This is wonderful!

So, our prayer is that the LORD may "arise and build" His work, ...and that WE will "arise and build" WITH HIM!!!

*Arise
and*

**Children
of God**

LOVE

**Colleagues
in Christ**

SERVICE

**Church
members**

**Christian
fellowships**

**Christ
himself**

The God of heaven will give us success;
therefore we His servants will arise and build.

NEHEMIAH 2:20

With who

arise & build?!

We'll arise and build with:

CHILDREN of God (fellow Christians)

COLLEAGUES in Christ

CHURCH members and leaders

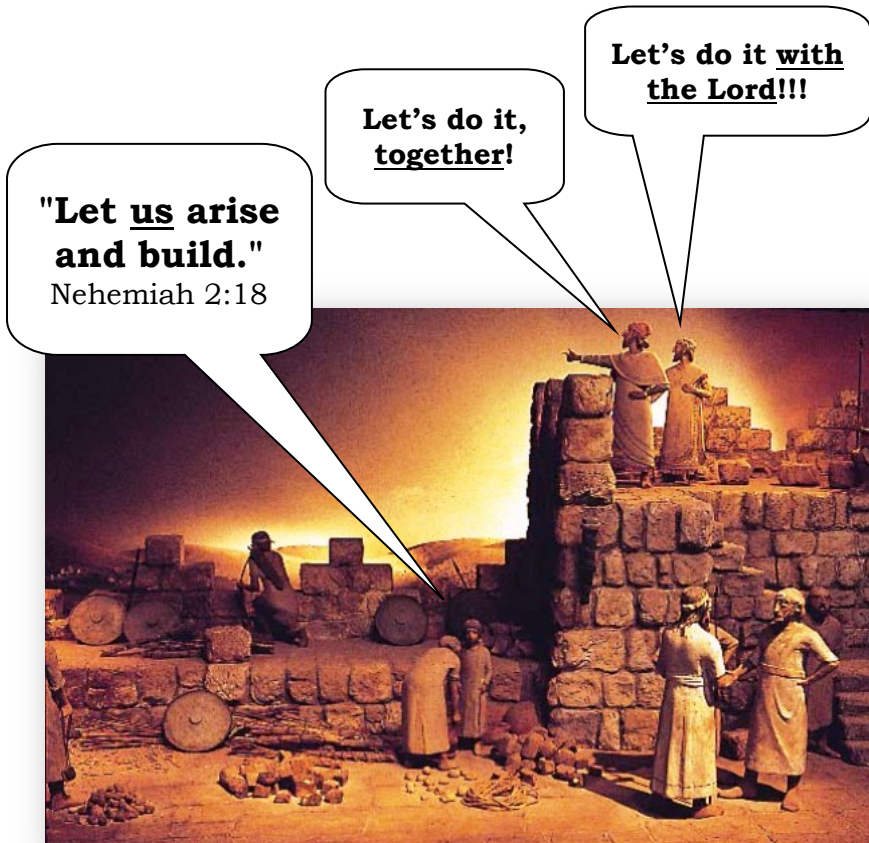
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIPS' members

*of HCFI, EMFI, NCFI, ICMDA, EU, CMF,
SCM, SCA, UESI, etc.*

CHRIST Jesus Himself...!!!

AFTER Nehemiah came to understand the need of the people and of the place, and AFTER he prayed about it, talked to the king about it, made preparations, and examined the situation himself (personally, prayerfully and wisely), ONLY THEN did he say to the people: **“COME, let US REBUILD the wall... and we will no longer be in disgrace”!!!** (Nehemiah 2:17).

Oh, these are wonderful words! Do you hear them spoken to you today by the Lord?! Once we said: “Yes, Lord!,” the next question is: **“Who is included in the ‘US’?!”** In other words, **“WITH WHO to arise and build?!”** and **“WITH WHO NOT to arise and build.** This was of crucial importance in Nehemiah’s life and work of rebuilding. In this chapter, we’ll look at **WITH WHO are we to “arise and build”...**



WITH WHO build?!

Nehemiah did NOT call just anyone to join in the rebuilding, no, he called those whom the Lord wanted in the work, those who were part of the people of God (heart and soul and spirit).

The apostle Paul also said we are NOT to run the Christian race with just anybody, no, he said: "...pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, **along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.**" (2 Timothy 2:22; NIV). God says here (through Paul) that we are to run and to build with those who are **PURE** and with those who are **PRAYERFUL!!!** May we do that, ***and*** may we ***be*** such people, through our Lord Jesus!

By God's grace and calling, we'll "arise and build" together with the **CHILDREN OF GOD** (fellow Christians), with fellow **COLLEAGUES IN CHRIST**, with **CHURCH MEMBERS AND LEADERS**, with members of **CHRISTIAN HEALTH FELLOWSHIPS** (like HCFI, EMFI, NCFI, ICMDA, EU, UESI, CMF, SCM, CMDA, etc.), and with the Lord Jesus **CHRIST HIMSELF...!!!**

CHILDREN of God (fellow CHRISTIANS)

We would love to "arise and build" together with ALL and ANY of the born-again **CHILDREN OF GOD, CHRISTIANS**, who serve Him in the hospital or health centre where we work, according to God's plan. They may be colleagues or patients or relatives or friends or employees or employers or visitors or near neighbours or associates or supporters or suppliers or well-wishers or prayer warriors or retired staff, etc. The main thing is: **they need to be true born-from-above CHILDREN OF GOD, lovers of Christ!!!**

**Only those who are
BORN again can
BUILD again!**

The truth is, **only those people who are BORN again can BUILD again...**

COLLEAGUES in Christ

We are to “arise and build” the work of God at our workplace, together with ANY and ALL of our **COLLEAGUES IN CHRIST!** Why not?! This is God’s plan!

As was said earlier, these **COLLEAGUES IN CHRIST** may be Christian Clerks or Clinicians or Cleaners or Cheffs or Cashiers or Caretakers or Carers (nurses and other carers) or Chaplains or Controllors or Counsellors or Carpenters or the Chief executive officer or Coffee-makers or the Chief matron or Class 4 workers or Christian patients, or in whatever Cadre in the hospital they may be in... All are to “arise and build” **together!**

Can you think of some **COLLEAGUES IN CHRIST** who need to “arise and build” with you?

CHURCH members

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Lord of the health fields of the world! He is the Healer of healers, the Physician of physicians, the Nurse of nurses, the Surgeon of surgeons, the Counsellor of counsellors, the Carer of carers, the Administrator of administrators, the Carpenter of carpenters, and so much more!!!

He is the Only One who can bring whole healing in a person’s body and mind and heart and spirit and life!!! He has entrusted His healing ministry to His Body on earth (the true church of the Lord Jesus Christ).

It is God’s plan that:

- ❖ many **Pauls** (pastors) and **Lukes** (physicians) will start to work together,
- ❖ many **Jochebeds** (mother of Moses) and **Shiphrahs** (midwife who feared God) will work together, and
- ❖ the **House of God** (the church) and the **Hospitals of God** will work together!!! Therefore, as healthcare workers, **we**

need to work closely with the born-again members of the Christian church.

God wants to heal people and make them whole physically, psychologically, spiritually and socially... That is why **we need to work together, as a team**, to provide help and healing on all those levels. **We can practice whole person health care only when we work as a whole team or body of Christ** - Christian healthcare workers and Christian church members!

We can practice whole person health care only when we work as a whole team or body of Christ

Dr Paul Brand, who served the Lord and patients in India for many years, said: “Even in an active practice of our profession, we need to know and have available to us (on call, as it were) **other people who can participate with us in this great work of witnessing to the love of God**. I believe we should know **people in our church and in our hospital** – nurses, mothers, people who have been bereaved, people who have suffered, people who know how to sympathize and comfort – so that in our busyness, when we cannot give as much time as we ought to give, we can call on someone else to help. It would be wise to have a list of other members of the body of Christ who could help us in this great work.”

Many Christian healthcare workers are part of a local church or fellowship where they worship God. Some people focus so much on their church activities that they tend to neglect to give expression to their Christian life and their walk with God **AT WORK...!!!** This is NOT God’s plan!!! God did not save us from sin and the world that we should hide in the church, NO, He saved us that we can become part of the church (His body on earth), to fellowship and grow there, SO THAT we can be equipped and supported **to GO OUT** and **to serve Him IN THE WORLD, AT WORK!!!**

Since most churches unfortunately usually do NOT prepare it’s members for relevant service and witnessing **IN THE WORK-**

PLACE, the Christian healthcare organizations or fellowships usually try to do that, parallel to the church. This is good, though this is only second best. The best would have been if the church was doing it as it should have, and in collaboration with such organizations...

Our lesson for now is that we are to **build in the health-fields TOGETHER WITH born-again CHURCH MEMBERS.**

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIPS' members

It is also God's will that Christian healthcare workers, of different Christian healthcare worker organizations, should work together, serve the Lord together and help one another to blossom for the Lord at the health facilities where they work! There should be no sign or suspicion of competition or rivalry or jealousy between them...

It is God's call and command that we "arise and BUILD" His kingdom at the health facilities where we work, **TOGETHER!**

There is a unique place and purpose for each of these organizations, and we should all seek to help one another to fulfil it, while we focus on the organization or organizations the Lord would want US to be more involved in... The most commonly utilized ones are the **EMFI, HCFI, NCFI, ICMDA, CMF, CMDA, CMAI, EU, UESI, SCA, SCM, ACSA, etc.**

For instance, the CMF, the CMDA, the EMFI and the ICMDA usually focus on reaching out to Christian doctors and dentists and medical undergraduates, encouraging and strengthening them in their walk and work. The NCFI, where it is active, usually does the same for the nurses and nursing students. The EU, the SCM, the UESI, the SCA, and the Junior CMF usually focus on the under-graduate students, etc.

By God's grace, the one organization that seeks to provide the definite opportunity for **all categories** of healthcare workers (both professional and non-professional) to meet **together,**

pray **together**, study God's Word **together**, learn **together**, worship **together**, and reach out **together** - is the HCF.

When we “arise and build” the kingdom of God at our place of work, also in and through the HCF, we need to seek and see that we **do it TOGETHER with as many as possible of the members of the OTHER Christian healthcare organizations and fellowships!!!** While we selflessly seek to support the other organizations, we should NOT neglect to build the HCF as a fellowship and an organization, for it is God's will that HCF should be part of building His kingdom in the health fields of the world!

**God wants
Christian healthcare workers
from different organizations
to work TOGETHER,
without competition,
comparing and conflict!**

When we join hands together like this in the work of God, there will be mutual edification and ALL will grow and blossom in God's work and world... It is NOT a matter of “they” and “us” - NO, not at all!!! It is a matter of ALL of us **together**, though in different ways and on different platforms, ...or put in the words of Nehemiah: **working on DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WALL**, but with the same Goal and Guide! **We cannot build if we battle with one another!!!**

While there is a place for meeting with our more specific, focussed Christian healthcare organization (like EMFI or EU or CMF), and with our church fellowship, and with our family, **...to best facilitate that the WHOLE body of Christ in a hospital or healthcare facility come together and “arise and build” the kingdom of God, it seems to be most helpful to use the model God gave the HCF** - this is also the humble, hearty recommendation in this workbook.

The key in all of this is humble, but clear, uninhibited, **God-centred leadership**, and NOT man-centred, self-centred, organization-centred leadership...

So, shall we all arise and build, TOGETHER ???!!!

CHRIST Himself...!!!

Finally, we need to make sure that we “arise and build” **WITH CHRIST** Jesus Himself...! To work with “me”, “I”, “my” and “mine”, and with “we”, “us”, “our” and “ours” is NOT God’s way of working and walking in this world, nor in the world to come!!! To work and walk **with Him, through Him, for Him, as His, with His, through His, and for His... is God’s way!**

He wants us to **WAIT** on Him and to **WORK** with Him and to **WALK** with Him, as we **WORSHIP** Him...

He said in Matthew 1:28-30, “**Come to me**, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **Take my yoke upon you** and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” In *The Message* translation we read:

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? **Come to me**. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. **Walk with me and work with me**—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly” (Matthew 11:28-30).

It is good to remember that **God is the Main Worker**, and we are given the privilege of **working with Him!** **HE** is the **Master Builder of everything** (Hebrews 3:4), and the “**Repairer of broken walls**” (Isaiah 58:12;NIV). We read very clearly that “**Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour in vain**”!! (Psalm 127:1)

There are two devotional books that have changed my life and can be a great blessing to you too - “**Waiting on God**” and “**Working with God**,” by Andrew Murray. Please download the pdfs from the internet and read it carefully and prayerfully!

I see the importance of being careful **WITH WHO** I arise and build. Some of the LESSONS I learned and the NAMES of people I think of, with who the Lord wants me to build, are as follows:

CHILDREN OF GOD

.....
.....
.....
.....

COLLEAGUES IN CHRIST

.....
.....
.....
.....

CHURCH MEMBERS and leaders

.....
.....
.....
.....

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIPS' members and leaders

.....
.....
.....
.....

CHRIST JESUS Himself

.....
.....
.....
.....

Dear Lord Jesus, please help me to “arise and build” with YOU and with those YOU know are the right people to build with. I ask this for Your Name’s sake. Amen.

Arise and

**Children
of God**

LOVE

**Colleagues
in Christ**

SERVICE

**Church
members**

**Christian
fellowships**

**Christ
himself**

The God of heaven will give us success;
therefore we His servants will arise and build.

NEHEMIAH 2:20

With who NOT

arise & build?!

We'll NOT build with the:

CROOKED (wicked/evildoers)

CRITICS (scoffers, mockers, criticizers)

COMPROMISERS (fence-sitters, double-hearted)

COWARDS (given over to fear and unbelief)

COUNTERFEIT CHRISTIANS

Having briefly looked at: (1) WITH WHO are we to “arise and build,” we’ll now look at (2) with who we are NOT to do it!

With who NOT to build?!

It was very clear to Nehemiah that there were some people with whom they should **NOT** build the walls of Jerusalem. He had no problem to say, “**NO!**” when needed, because he feared the Lord (Nehemiah 5:9 & 5:15) and walked with Him and wanted to build well! We read:

- ❖ Nehemiah said to Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab, “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)
- ❖ **Nehemiah said “NO!” four times** when enemies of the work of God wanted to meet with him... We read: “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?” Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer.” (6:2-4) Put in our own words: **“You want me to come to Ono? I say: ‘O, NO’!!!”**
- ❖ **Even to a fellow-Israelite “brother,” Shemaiah** (whose name means “the Lord hears”!), **he said “I will NOT” go with you!!! I will NOT work with you...** We read in Nehemiah 6:10-13, “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.” **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!**” **I realized that God had not sent him,** but that he had prophesied against me because

Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. **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.” Nehemiah recognized that Shemaiah was a false brother, a false friend, and therefore did NOT work with him...!

- ❖ Nehemiah recognised another false prophetess as well - a woman called Noadiah (6:14), and others! **He did NOT work with her!!! He did NOT work with them!!!** This is a lesson that was unfortunately not learned by the church of Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29) in that they “tolerated that woman **Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess**. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols...” This is still happening, even today.

- ❖ Nehemiah 13 also shows that God (through Nehemiah) did NOT allow the Israelites to marry heathen women! This is also what we read in 2 Corinthians 6:14, “**Do not be yoked together with unbelievers**. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?” It is very clear: God does NOT want us to work with certain people and He does NOT want us to marry unbelievers!!!

Nehemiah could say “NO!” when needed, because he feared God!

To follow Nehemiah’s example, we need the same wisdom, prudence, prayerfulness, discernment, fear of the Lord and obedience to God’s clear guidelines and commands... Do we have it? Will we apply it? Will we ask the Lord to help us see with WHO we should NOT work to build His kingdom at the hospital where we work??! This is easier said than done!!!

Sometimes there is a **PRUNING** that needs to take place! Sometimes the “**dead wood**” **needs to be CUT OUT!** This too is NOT an easy matter, but that is why we need the Lord, why we need good, strong, godly leaders, who love the Lord and His work **more** than their own popularity with people...!!! The good news is that **proper pruning produces precious fruit...**

Pruning



Precious fruit



We also saw that, in “***Spiritual Life in the Indian Church,***” written by Thomas Walker in Tirunelveli (in 1902), there is a real danger in our churches and organizations when “we have a vacancy to fill, and we appoint the best applicant available, perhaps, though the applicant in question may be **an utter stranger to the LIFE of Christ.**” This is NOT God’s will and NOT God’s way!!!!

He said: “***The DEAD cannot bring LIFE into our schools and congregations” and hospitals!!!! “Only spiritual men (and women) are able to do spiritual work”!***”

“Great care should be exercised, moreover, NOT to admit new workers who cannot give clear evidence that they have passed from death unto life, and are living according to their profession.” This does not mean that people who are not born-again cannot come to our fellowship meetings. NO! They are very welcome to come! But, it means that people who are not born again and filled with the Holy Spirit are NOT to lead in building the work of God, because they cannot!

**Only
spiritual men
and women
can do
spiritual work!**

The work of God is spiritual (though very practical), and only the spiritual can do spiritual work, through the Spirit of God, who’s also very practical!

We may then ask: “With who are we **NOT** to build?!”

As we understand God’s Word, we are NOT to build with people who are **CROOKED** (wicked/evildoers), **CRITICS** (scoffers, mockers, and constant criticizers), **COMPROMISERS** (who are half-hearted or double-hearted fence-sitters), **COWARDS** (who are given over to fear and unbelief), **COUNTERFEIT CHRISTIANS**, or **COLD** towards God and His work and ways. May the Lord help us to discern such people, and may He help us to NOT BE such people! We’ll look at these different groups of people now, very briefly.

CROOKED (*wicked/perverted evildoers*)

The word “**crooked**” means to be “not straightforward; deviating from rectitude; distorted from the right; false; dishonest; fraudulent; twisted; perverted; warped; deceitful...” We should not and cannot build God’s kingdom with people who are like this! We can surely reach out to such people, but NOT build God’s kingdom with them!

All those who have not repented of their sins and sin, and have not put their trust in the Lord Jesus, are still crooked. We read in God’s Word (in 2 Corinthians 6:14-18), “**Don't team up with those who are unbelievers.** How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? **How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever? And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God.** As God said: ‘I will live in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they will be my people. Therefore, **come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them, says the LORD.** Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you. **And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters,** says the LORD Almighty.’” (NLT).

CRITICS *(scoffers, mockers, criticizers)*

As soon as the children of God arose and started to BUILD, Satan sent criticizers!!! These criticizers may be from without or from within (unfortunately). Their aim is to discourage, to hinder, to bring a bad report, to lie, to make things difficult, to give a wrong impression, to spread a false story, to humiliate, to slander, to get the work to STOP!!! Nehemiah did NOT build with them!!

We read in the book of Nehemiah:

- “When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, **they were very much disturbed (displeased)** that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites” (2:10; NIV;NLT)
- “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?" (2:19)
- “When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became **angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews**, 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?" 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!" (4:1-3).
- “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.**” (4:7-8)
- “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.**" (4:11), etc.

BUT, Nehemiah and the people of God did NOT listen, did NOT become discouraged, did NOT slow down or stop the work, no, they prayed, they put a guard, they took courage (in God), they helped one another, they worked together, they asked God to strengthen their hands, they worked hard, they worked with all their heart, they remembered the Lord, and they completed the task!!!

God says: **“BLESSED is the one who does NOT walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers...”** (Psalm 1:1; NIV); “Blessed (happy, fortunate, prosperous, and enviable) is the man who walks and lives NOT in the counsel of the ungodly [following their advice, their plans and purposes], nor stands [submissive and inactive] in the path where sinners walk, nor sits down [to relax and rest] where the scornful [and the mockers] gather” (Amp)

Thank You, Lord!!!

COMPROMISERS (*half-hearted, double-hearted fence-sitters*)

Sanballat and Geshem were **compromisers** (6:2-4) who made false promises to Nehemiah, but he did NOT fall for that. He stood strong, holding on to GOD’s promises, and rejecting man’s deceitful promises. He did not compromise and he did not build with compromisers...

COMPROMISE is the language of the devil!

To “compromise” also means **to MIX right and wrong, to MIX darkness and light, to MIX good and bad, to MIX the holy and the unholy, to MIX what is heavenly with what is worldly...** This is not God’s way of building!

To MIX the standards of God’s Word with the standards of the world, is compromise. To MIX the songs of Zion with the

songs of the world is compromise. To MIX the spiritual with the sensual is compromise. To MIX the true working of the Holy Spirit with the working of deceiving, religious evil spirits (as we see in the practice of “slain in the spirit”) is compromise.

**Compromise is
the language of
the devil!**

To compromise is to accommodate what is not right, what is sinful, what is of the self, what is of Satan, what is of the world system... And, according to Francis Schaeffer, **“Accommodation leads to accommodation—which leads to accommodation...”!**

To do the right thing, but in the wrong way is also compromise! To start in the Spirit and in dependence upon God, but to end in the flesh and in trusting on our own efforts (in the work of God), is sinful compromise!

We cannot build a strong wall or building or work of God if some of us **MIX the cement with dirt.** The cement will be weakened and the building or wall will NOT stand strong.

Compromisers cannot build well!!! And we cannot build well when we “build” with compromisers!!!

May the Lord help us to be UN-COMPROMISING in our walk with Him, in our thoughts, in our words, in our deeds, in our relationships, in our worship, in our service of Him, and in our work (from day to day)!!!

May He help us to be UN-compromising, not because of legalism or religiosity, but because we love Him above all and everything!

COWARDS (*given over to fear and unbelief*)

Nehemiah and the people of God would not have been able to build the walls successfully if they were **COWARDS**. We are

also not able to build the work of God where we work if we are **COWARDS**...!!! God's Word says: "Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. But the **COWARDLY**, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death." (Revelation 21:7-8). This is very sad and serious. The Amplified Bible describes the "cowardly" as "**the cowards and the ignoble and the contemptible and the cravenly lacking in courage and the cowardly submissive...**"

In "*You will never be the same,*" Basilea Schlink wrote the following about **COWARDICE**:

"Coward! That seems to be a despicable word. **A coward is someone who is afraid to show his allegiance when it costs something, ...Cowards lack courage.** What kind of courage is meant here? It is the courage to suffer, to be despised and disdained, the courage to lose one's life. Cowards want to keep their lives and what makes life worth living for them, what they think is important and worthwhile. Cowards want to save their happiness, their reputation, their income, and everything they enjoy. ...Cowardice is nothing more than a consequence of being afraid of bearing the cross. Cowardice usually goes hand in hand with fear, especially with the fear of suffering.... That is why **we have to hate this sin and begin an all-out fight against it today.** ...If we tolerate our cowardice and make it seem harmless, we will deny and betray our Lord Jesus Christ and lose the heavenly glory for all eternity.

The important question is: How can we overcome our cowardice? One way is to **dedicate ourselves to suffering.** ...The second way to overcome ...is to **take Jesus at His word.** With compassion He said, "in the world you have tribulation", but He also added, "But be of good cheer: I have overcome the world" (John 16: 33)."

**When we
are cowards,
we cannot build
God's work...
and we cannot
build His work
with cowards...**

Cowards are always thinking: "What will the **people** say?!" ; "How will people react to this or that?!" ; "How can we keep the 'peace'?!"; "I should not do this or say that, because it will offend people...". God's Word says: "Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? **If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ**"!!! (Galatians 1:10). **We cannot live to please people and live to please God!!!**

When we are COWARDS, we cannot build the walls, we cannot build God's work in our hospitals and places of work... Also, we cannot build God's work with cowards, but we can build with those who repent and fight their cowardice and seek the Lord's help to conquer it...

May we **repent** of all forms of cowardice and may we **be filled with His Spirit**, so that we will NOT be cowards any more. Then we can "arise and build," even in the presence of our enemies (Psalm 23) and amidst many challenges.

COUNTERFEIT CHRISTIANS

To seek to build God's work in our workplace, together with **COUNTERFEIT CHRISTIANS**, is doomed to fail! ***It is like trying to build a multi-storey building with counterfeit bricks!!!***

We can and should minister to **COUNTERFEIT CHRISTIANS**, but we cannot build with them!!!

We need much discernment from the Lord when working with people, especially when wanting to build God's work. Nehemiah definitely had discernment! We read in 1 Kings 3:9, "So give your servant **a discerning heart...**", in Psalm

119:125, “I am your servant; **give me discernment**”, in 1 Corinthians 12:10, “He gives... **the ability to discern**”, and in 1 Corinthians 2:15, “Those who are spiritual **discern**...” Spiritual discernment may be one of the most neglected gifts of the Holy Spirit in the present-day church!

Some of the signs by which we can discern and recognize **COUNTERFEIT CHRISTIANS** are that they may:

- ◆ **Confess Christ**, but they do not **Confess their sins**;
- ◆ Shed **Tears**, but without **Transformation** (1 Co 6:9-10);
- ◆ **Turn from sin**, but do not turn **To God** (Hosea 7:16);
- ◆ Be **Convicted**, but not **Converted**, changed (Mat 27:3-5);
- ◆ **Change externally**, but do not **Change internally** (Luke 18:11-12);
- ◆ **Tremble** at the Word, but still not be **Transformed** (Acts 24:25);
- ◆ **Fear death and hell**, but do not **Fear and love God**;
- ◆ Make **Resolutions**, but with no **Repentance** (Jer 2:20);
- ◆ Make a **Decision**, but with no **Dependence** on God;
- ◆ Have **Religion**, but no **Relationship** with Jesus;
- ◆ **Leave** many sins, but do not passionately **Love** Jesus;
- ◆ Be **Proud** of their “**Pardon**” and their “repentance”;
- ◆ Be **Sorry** for having done wrong, without **Sorrow for sin**;
- ◆ **Confess** sins, but still **Cherish** it. The saying that “*loving of sin is worse than committing it!*” is true;
- ◆ **Proclaim** Christ as Lord, but do not live a life of **Prayer**;
- ◆ Seem **Happy**, but not **Holy, Humble** and **Hard-working**;
- ◆ Be **Warm**, while still being **Wolves** in sheep’s clothing;
- ◆ **Sing**, but do not **Soak** themselves in **Scripture**;
- ◆ **Trust** the Lord (allegedly), but do not spend **Tryst Time** alone with Him;
- ◆ Say they **Love the Lord**, but they do not **Love others**;
- ◆ Say they **Love** the Lord, but do not **Listen** to Him;
- ◆ Say they **Love** the Lord, but do not **Loathe** sin;
- ◆ **Turn** to the Lord, but do not **Trust** Him;
- ◆ Think they are **Saved**, but they are still **Self-centred**,

**Spiritual discernment
may be one of the
most neglected gifts of
the Holy Spirit in the
present-day church!**

even in their “Christian life”;

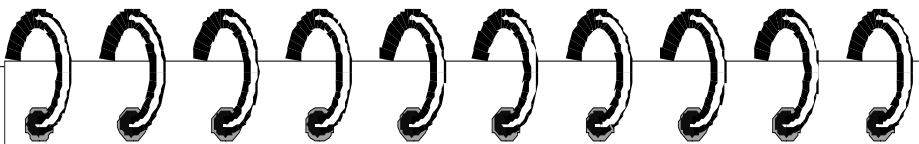
- ◆ Have a **Form** of religion, but no **Fire** of love for Jesus;
- ◆ Have **Christianity**, but without **Christ!** Etc.

May the Lord Jesus help us to be genuine Christians and not **Counterfeit Christians**, and may He help us to build with those who are true Christians, born-from-above by God’s great grace!

Please note that we are eager to reach out to the crooked and the critical and the compromisers and the cowards and the counterfeit Christians! We do not see ourselves as better than others! No! God forbid! But, we do not try to BUILD with them, because they cannot build a spiritual work, in Jesus... They first need to be born again and built up in Christ, before He can use them to build up His work in the hospital.



**True fruit
is only found from
branches that are abiding (truly)
in the Vine, in Christ...!**



Having gone through this section, now please **WRITE** in your own words (below), as a summary for yourself, what YOU have learned from the Lord about **WITH WHO NOT to build**, in God's work, also at work:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

*Father-God, I pray that You would help me to **BE** the kind of person that YOU can work with (to build), and that others can work with (to build)! Please help me to **discern** with who You want me to work and with who You want me not to work in Your work - for Jesus' sake and for the sake of Your work in our hospital. I pray this in Jesus' precious Name. Amen.*

Arise and

Stand

Work!

War

**Watch +
*pray***

Worship

**Word +
Witness**

**Wait +
*ponder***

**Walk in Spirit
+ Wisdom**

Weep

Wake up!

What situation?!

The God of heaven will give us success;
therefore our His servants will arise and stand!

How

arise & build?!

According to Nehemiah, the “HOW” of building is to:

WAKE UP! (arise!)

WEEP + PRAY + REPENT

WAIT ON GOD + PRAY + PONDER + LISTEN

WHAT IS THE SITUATION? (assess well)

WORK!

WILLINGLY

WITH ENTHUSIASM

WITH FAITH / COURAGE / LOVE / a PLAN

WITH INTEGRITY + FEAR OF GOD

WITH GOD + OTHERS: ACTION TEAM!!!

WATCH OUT...

WAR (in prayer)

WALK IN THE SPIRIT

WORD (read/study/teach/preach/discipleship)

WORSHIP GOD

WITNESS + WIN OTHERS (“Saline Process”)

WINNING FORMULA:

Love the Lord; Soak in Scripture;

Trust Time; Cry to Christ; Fully Follow;

Daily Dependence; Daily Discipline,

Cleansed by Christ, Fully Filled;

Right Relationships, Practical Prayer, etc.

WISDOM

Like Nehemiah, we have seen the need; we have heard God's call to "arise and build"; we have responded to His call; we want to build, but the question is: **HOW are we to build?!**

In this chapter we'll look at the foundational principles, the underlying guidelines, the "plumb-line" for building in God's kingdom and for doing God's work... In the *next chapter* we'll look at the *what to build*, and the *what-to-do* to build God's work in the hospital and the health fields where we work...

So, the question now is: "**HOW are we to build?!**"

The answer is: **Wake up** and arise! **Weep** and pray and repent! **Wait** on God and pray and ponder and listen! **What** is the situation? (ask). **Work** (individually, as a team, and with God)! Work (willingly, enthusiastically, with faith, courage, love, determination, diligence, integrity, not fearing people, but fearing and loving God)! **Watch** out! **Warfare** (prayer)! **Walk** in the Spirit, in **Wisdom**! **Word** given it's rightful place! **Worship** God! **Witness** and **Win others**! Use the "**Winning formula**"...

May the Lord write on our hearts as we briefly look at this in more detail now.

Wake up!

Through Nehemiah we learn that we need to **WAKE UP** from our spiritual sleep!!!

We also read in Revelation 3:2, "**Wake up**, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die..."; in Romans 13:11, "Do this, knowing the time, that **it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep...**"; and in Ephesians 5:14, "**Awake, sleeper**, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Then, in Isaiah 50:4-5 we read: "**HE wakens me** morning by morning" (Ampl), "**HE wakes me up** in the morning, wakes me

up, opens my ears to listen as one ready to take orders. The Master, God, opened my ears, and I didn't go back to sleep, didn't pull the covers back over my head" (MSG)!

**We need to
WAKE UP
and to
GET UP!!**

We need to wake up and SEE what is happening around us, and see what is NOT happening as well. We need to **LOOK and to LISTEN**, to see and to hear what is the need at our hospital and at the place where we work!!!

Then, we need to not just WAKE UP, but we also need to **GET UP!!!** As we saw in Nehemiah 2:18, "**Let us ARISE** and build", and in Ephesians 5:14, "Awake ...and **ARISE**"!!! Some people wake up and become aware of the need, spiritually and otherwise, but they do nothing about it!!!! They do not **GET UP and DO something about it!!!**

What about ME?! Did I WAKE UP to see the need around me? Did I wake up to see the need at the place where I work? Did I wake up to see the need in our country? Did I wake up to see the need in the world? Did I? And if I did wake up, did I GET UP to DO something about it?!

Weep *and pray and repent!*

One of the **FIRST** things to **DO**, once we wake up and get up, is to go down on our knees and **WEEP** (Nehemiah 1:4) and pray and confess our sins and the sins of our brothers and sisters, and repent and intercede...! (as Nehemiah did in Nehemiah 1:4-11).

Jeremiah said: "If only my head were a pool of water and my eyes a fountain of tears, I would weep day and night for all my people who have been slaughtered"!!! (Jeremiah 9:1; NLT). **True tears come from a broken heart.**



We can say that the **BEST BUILDERS** in God's work and world are **BROKEN-HEARTED BUILDERS**..., and knowing that **"the broken heart is the healed heart."**

We read in Psalm 126:6, "He that **goeth forth and WEEPETH**, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him" (KJV); "They went weeping, and carried precious seed: but they shall return with joy, and bring their sheaves" (GNV); "**The one who WEEPS as he walks along**, carrying his bag of seed, will certainly come in with a shout of joy, carrying his sheaves of grain" (NET); "**Whoso goeth on and weepeth**" (YLT); "**Whoever keeps going out weeping**" (TLV); "He who **continually goes forth weeping**" (NKJV)... will see the fruit of their prayerful labour!!!

**The BEST builders
are
BROKEN-HEARTED
builders**

According to Charles Finney, "***There can be no revival when Mr Amen and Mr Wet-Eyes are not found in the audience.***"

At one time, two Salvation Army officers set out to start a new work, "only to meet with failure and opposition. Frustrated and tired they appealed to the General (William Booth) to close the rescue mission. General Booth sent back a telegram with two words on it, **'TRY TEARS.'** They followed his advice and they witnessed a mighty revival."

Charles Spurgeon asked: "***When did you last weep because of your distance from God?*** Some of us have forgotten how to weep, my friends. When did we last weep for joy, out of sheer joy and the sense of the glory of God?"

When last did we weep?

When last did we weep for God's work?

When last did we weep for the place where we work?

When last did we weep for God to come down and work?!

We read of an astonishing vision and word from the Lord in

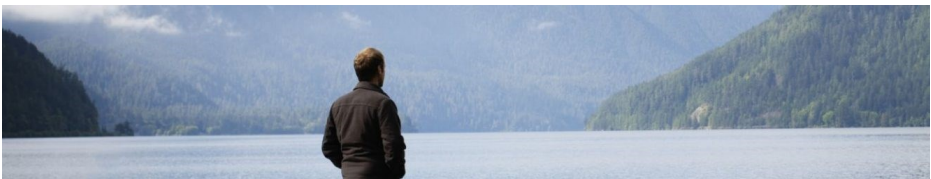
Ezekiel 9:3-6, “Then ...the Lord called to the man dressed in linen who was carrying the writer’s case. He said to him, ‘Walk through the streets of Jerusalem and **put a mark on the foreheads of ALL WHO WEEP and sigh because of the detestable sins being committed in their city.**’ Then I heard the Lord say to the other men, “Follow him through the city and kill everyone whose forehead is not marked. Show no mercy; have no pity! Kill them all—old and young, girls and women and little children. But do not touch anyone with the mark. Begin right here at the Temple.’ So they began by killing the seventy leaders.”

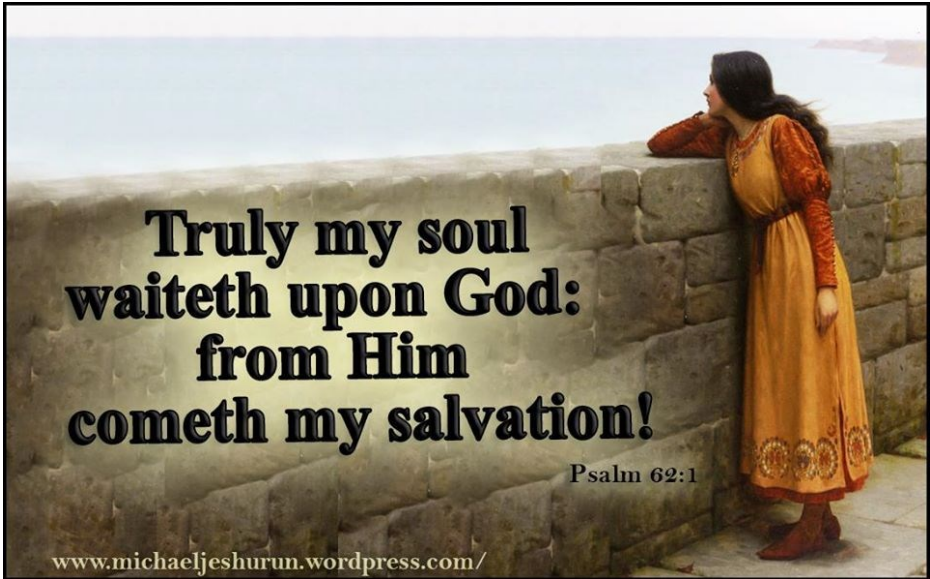
This gives us a picture of what the Lord God thinks of those who WEEP and those who do NOT weep for the sins and the state of the city (or the hospital and the fellowship we are part of)...

May He have mercy upon us and pour out His Spirit of grace and of prayer on us!!! As we read in Zechariah 12:10, “Then I will pour out **a spirit of grace and prayer** on ...the people of Jerusalem. They will look on me whom they have pierced and mourn for him as for an only son. They will grieve bitterly for him as for a firstborn son who has died” (NIV), “they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and **WEEP** bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.” (ESV)

Wait on God *and pray and ponder and listen*

Nehemiah knew how to **WAIT ON GOD** and how to **PONDER** (5:7) and **PRAY** (1:4; 2:4-5, 4:4,9, etc.) *before* he talked and also *before* he acted... **He WAITED before he WORKED...!!! His work was born out of waiting on God...!!!**





David said: “**My soul, wait only upon God** and silently submit to Him” (Psalm 62:5; Ampl); “**My soul, wait thou only upon God**; for my expectation is from him” (KJV); “**For God alone my soul waits** in silence” (Psalm 62:1; RSV); “**On Thee do I wait all the day...**” (Psalm 25:5).

My life was greatly influenced by the little book “**Waiting on God,**” by Andrew Murray. It is strongly recommended that we read it and put it into practice. Here are some of the life-giving words from it:

- ❖ “**‘Wait only upon God;’ my soul, be still, and let thy God unfold His perfect will...**”
- ❖ “It is only because Christians do not know their relation to God of absolute poverty and helplessness, that they have no sense of **the need of absolute and unceasing dependence**, or of the unspeakable blessedness of **continual waiting on God**. But when once a believer begins to see it, and consent to it, that he by the Holy Spirit must each moment receive what God each moment works, **waiting on God becomes his brightest hope and joy.**”
- ❖ “**God unceasingly giving and working; His child unceasingly waiting and receiving: this is the blessed life.**”

**Nehemiah
WAITED
before he
WORKED!**

- ❖ “There can be no good but what God works; to wait upon God, and have the heart filled with faith in His working, and in that faith to pray for His mighty power to come down, is our only wisdom. Oh for the eyes of our heart to be opened to see God working in ourselves and in others, and to see how blessed it is to worship and just to wait for His salvation!”
- ❖ “...let the truth enter our souls: **waiting on God, unceasing and entire dependence upon Him**, is, in heaven and earth, the one only true religion, the one unalterable and all-comprehensive expression for the true relationship to the ever-blessed One in whom we live.”
- ❖ “**Let us resolve at once that it shall be the one characteristic of our life and worship, a continual, humble, trustful waiting upon God.**”
- ❖ “**Realise your calling to wait upon God.**”
- ❖ “**What our religion needs is—more of God.** Many of us are too much occupied with our work. As with Martha, the very service we want to render the Master separates from Him; it is neither pleasing to Him nor profitable to ourselves. **The more work, the more need of waiting upon God...**”
- ❖ “**Remember how Jesus lived ever waiting on God. He could do nothing of Himself.**”
- ❖ “**God works continually, every moment I may wait on Him continually.**”
- ❖ “Never forget the two foundation-truths on which this blessed waiting rests. ...They are: **your absolute helplessness**; and, **the absolute sufficiency of thy God.**”
- ❖ **Our “happiness can only be found in absolute unceasing momentary dependence upon God.”**
- ❖ “That in the spiritual life our great need is the knowledge of two great lessons. (1) The one, **our entire sinfulness and helplessness, our utter impotence** by any effort of our own to do anything towards the maintenance and increase of our inner spiritual life. (2) The other, **the infinite willingness of God’s love**, which is nothing but a desire to communicate Himself and His blessedness to us **to meet our every need, and every moment to work us in by His Son and Spirit**”

what we need.”

- ❖ “That, therefore, the very essence of true religion, whether in heaven or upon earth, consists in an **unalterable dependence upon God**, because we can give God no other glory, than yielding ourselves to His love, which created us to show forth in us its glory, that it may now perfect its work in us.”

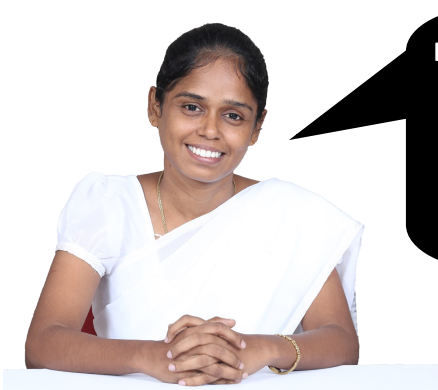
**Our happiness
can only be found in
absolute unceasing
momentary
dependence upon God!**

“**WAITING ON GOD**” we wait for **HIM**, we wait for His **Person**, we wait for His **Plans**, we wait for His **Provision**, we wait for His **Power**, we wait for the **Promise** of the Father (the fullness of the Holy Spirit), we wait for His **Providential working**, we wait for His **Presence**, we wait for supplies, we wait for His guidance, we wait for correction, we wait for teaching, we wait for His Life, we wait for His working, we wait for His orders, we wait for His timing, we wait for His instructions, we wait for His promised renewal of our strength, we wait for His mercy, we wait for His counsel...

We do not wait in passivity, but in active obedience to what we know He wants us to do, so far.

“We eagerly wait... with perseverance.” (Romans 8:25).

“Yes, Lord, **WALKING ...we WAIT for You**”!!! (Isaiah 26:8)



Elizabeth Elliot said: “Waiting on God requires the willingness to bear uncertainty, to carry within oneself the unanswered question, lifting the heart to God about it whenever it intrudes upon one’s thoughts.”

WALKING and WAITING go together!!!
WORKING and WAITING go together!!!
Our WAITING and God's WORKING go together!!!

Shall we WAIT on God more?
Shall we WAIT on Him continually?
Shall we WAIT on Him before we work?
Shall we WAIT on Him while we work?!

What is the situation?

BEFORE Nehemiah could start rebuilding the walls, he had to discover and discern “what is the situation.”

A doctor first makes a good **diagnosis** BEFORE he or she starts to treat the patient.

In healthcare, we know we cannot just implement a service and hope it'll meet the needs of the community. No, that will be a narrow-minded, curative approach to a multi-dimensional problem! We first need to make a wholistic community (needs) **assessment**, and then, based on that, plan helpful interventions (with the community, and with God's guidance). ***The same applies in BUILDING the work of God at the hospital or health facility where we work!!! We need to FIRST make a good diagnosis, a good assessment, just as Nehemiah did...***

In his book “*Building in a Broken World*,” Brother Andrew says “**Christians need constantly to ASK QUESTIONS**”!!! “**We must first know the need**”!!! “Nehemiah asked searching questions of his friends. **If God is going to use us, we'll have to have the courage to inquire about the needs** of the world,” and the needs of our hospitals and our places of work!!! He said, we need to ask: “**Where is the biggest need? Is it spiritual or physical? What are we going to do about it? Are we going to work on the symptoms, or are we going to work on the causes?**” To just keep quiet and not to question

**Christians need
constantly to
ASK QUESTIONS**

things is to play in the hand of the devil. To be afraid to confront spiritual leadership or work-related leadership should NOT make us “keep the peace” (when there’s no real peace!!!).

No! We *have* to ask questions all the time, but good questions! We only need to make sure we do not do it in a spirit of criticism or rebellion, but in a spirit of seeking and standing for God’s Truth, God’s Highest!

Have we done that?! If not, why not? When will we do it?! If we have done it, have we used the information in prayer and planning before God, and amongst the brothers and sisters?!

Paul was not afraid of questions! The Bereans were not afraid to ask questions! They wanted to know the TRUTH... We read in Acts 17:11, “...**they carefully examined the Scriptures to see if what Paul said was true.**” In the same way, we need to carefully examine our hospital, our work at the hospital, and the work of God at the hospital, to see if it is “TRUE”...

Some people, Christians as well, are afraid to ask too many questions, because they feel that if they discover a need they may have to DO something about it, and they are not willing and eager to do that!!! In this they are right, as Brother Andrew also said, “A word of warning: **the moment you know about the need, you have a responsibility**”!!!

Since we covered some of this in Section 1, on “WHY?”, when we looked at the **People** and the **Place**, we’ll not repeat it here. But maybe we should add a question about the **Person** reading this:

Are YOU available for God to use you, to help meet the need at your hospital, to help build His work there??!! Please remember, He is not looking for ability, but for avail-ability!!! Are you available for Him??!!

Brother Andrew said: “What is the type of **Person** that God is going to use? It is the person who asks to hear the truth *whatever the truth may be*. That is the moment when God begins to work in him.”

Work!

WAKING UP and **WEEPING** and **WAITING on God** and asking yourself “**WHAT is the situation?**”, will naturally (or rather supernaturally naturally) result in **WORKING with God and working for God!!!**

If our WAITING on God does not lead to actual WORKING with God, something’s seriously WRONG!!!

Our **AFFECTION** should be shown in **ACTION**, our **WORSHIP** in **WORK**, and our **LOVE** for the Lord in **LABOUR** with Him!

Alan Redpath said: “*The thing that appeals to me about Nehemiah more than anything is that he was such a practical fellow. He was NOT one of those people of whom it is sometimes said that they are so heavenly minded to be of any earthly use. He kept his feet on the ground. He knew how to ORGANIZE, and he knew how to AGONIZE.” He waited and worked, he worked and watched, he worshipped and worked! **He was a worshipping, watchful, waiting, warrior-worker of God!***

If our
WAITING on God
does not lead
to actual
WORKING with God,
something’s
seriously WRONG!!!

Through the book of Nehemiah, we learn that waiting is followed by working... We also learn that **we are to START TO WORK and DO the work of God at our places of work!!!**

We see:

- ✓ We are to **work**
- ✓ **willingly**,
- ✓ with **enthusiasm**,
- ✓ with **diligence**,
- ✓ with **faith and love and courage**,
- ✓ with **perseverance**,
- ✓ with **watchfulness**,
- ✓ with **a plan**,
- ✓ and with **wise management!**
- ✓ We are to work with **integrity and uprightness**,
- ✓ and **fearing the Lord**, and NOT man or woman...
- ✓ We are to work **as a team**,
- ✓ together with others, **in harmony**.
- ✓ We are to work **with God!!!**
- ✓ We are to work **for His glory!!!**

We also see that:

- ✓ True **SPIRITUALITY** and "**SWEAT**" goes together!
- ✓ **PLANNING** and **PRAYER** goes together!
- ✓ **WORKING** and **WATCHFUL WARFARE** goes together!
- ✓ **DELEGATION** and **DOING MY DUTY** goes together!
- ✓ Leadership in work is not **STATUS**, but **SWEATY SERVICE!**
- ✓ **HEART HOLINESS** and **HARD HANDY-WORK** goes together!
"An idle life and a holy heart is a contradiction" (Thomas Brooks)
- ✓ **WORK** and **WARFARE PRAYER** goes together! General William Booth (the founder of the Salvation Army) said:
"Work as if everything depended upon your work, and pray as if everything depended upon your prayer."
- ✓ **MOTIVATION** and **METHOD** (organization) goes together!
- ✓ A **REVIVAL OF WORK** and a **REVIVAL OF SATAN'S WICKED (AND SUBTLE) ATTACKS** go together!
- ✓ **WORK** and "**WINNING**" (advancing, conquering and gaining success) goes together!

Furthermore, personally, as far as WORKING is concerned, I see in the book of Nehemiah that:

- ✓ I need to work **in front of my own house** (3:10,28)
- ✓ I need to **be willing to also work elsewhere** (as God

may lead)

- ✓ I need to work **zealously**, like Baruch (3:20)
- ✓ I need to work **with all my heart** (4:6)
- ✓ I need to **remember the Lord**, as I work (4:14)
- ✓ I need to work being **armed and watchful!** (4:17,18)
- ✓ I need to work **from first light of dawn till the stars come out** (4:21) - Please see Amy Carmichael’s poem about this on the next page!
- ✓ I need to **continue** the work (4:21)
- ✓ I need to **devote myself** to the work, as Nehemiah did (5:16)
- ✓ I need to **recognize and overcome all the strategies of Satan** to hinder the work... (Nehemiah 4+6)
- ✓ I need to work with **much prayer** (6:9)
- ✓ I need to do the work **with the help of God** (6:16) and **to His glory!**

Is this HOW we work??!! Let’s **pause and ponder and pray... and please write down** what is our response to what we’ve read and heard so far, about how the Lord wants us to work. Is this how we work? Is this how I work? Why not? What is the Lord saying to me? What is He saying to us? My response and thoughts and feelings are:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

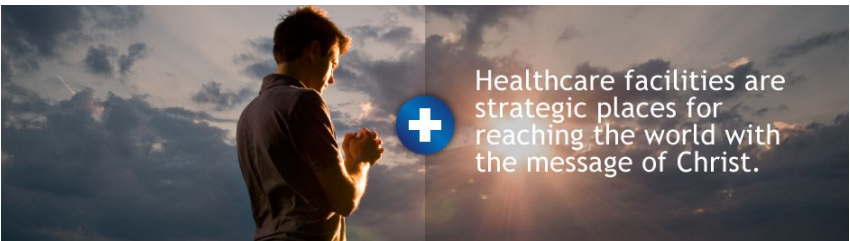
.....

.....

.....



**It is an Honour
to do Helpful, Hard,
Honest, Happy, Hearty,
Holy, Humble WORK,
with God, for others,
with others, from Him,
through Him, for Him,
in the Health field!!!**



Amy Carmichael served the Lord in India for 55 years. She wrote the poem "**Until the Stars Appear**":

Make us Thy labourers.

Let us not dream of ever looking back;

Let not our knees be feeble, hands be slack;

O make us strong to labour, strong to bear,

From the rising of the morning until the stars appear.

Make us Thy warriors,

On whom Thou canst depend to stand the brunt

Of any perilous charge on any front;

Give us the skill to handle sword and spear,

From the rising of the morning until the stars appear.

Not far from us, those stars —

Unseen as angels, and yet looking through

The quiet air, the day's transparent blue.

What shall we know, and feel, and see, and hear

When the sunset colours kindle and evening stars appear?

In "Walking with God," Phillip Keller says, "**Work is not a dirty word. Labour is not evil. There can be great dignity, intense activity, enormous pleasure in work well done. It matters not whether it is digging a garden, building a home, baking bread, or writing a book (or caring for a patient—*my addition*).** Don't overdo it, but enjoy it.

Work is one of God's greatest gifts to His people. It need not be something we shun or shirk. **Scripture is abundantly clear that we should work diligently, energetically, and with enthusiasm (en-Theo: IN-GOD) at whatever we do.**

His name, His reputation, His honour are as much at stake in the project as is mine. Whatever I find to do, therefore, I will employ all my bodily resources to accomplish in the very finest performance possible.

The secret to joyous work is to recognize that God and I are co-workers. It is a shared project. He is in it with me. To-

gether we will turn out the best possible product. ...Such bodily work is beautiful; it is up-building and deeply gratifying.”

WORK that is WORTHY of Jesus is born out of WAITING on Him...

God says in His Word: “**But now be strong, take courage ...all you people of the land, take courage... and WORK, because I am with you”!!! (Haggai 2:4). “**Take heart ...and begin to WORK**. For I am with you,’ says the LORD who rules over all.” (NET)**

**WORK that is
WORTHY of Jesus
is born out of
WAITING on Him...**

This is also what God is saying to US about His work in the places where we work! This is what He says to some of US about His work through the HCF...

And, what is so beautiful is that He does not only encourage and command us to be strong and to work, but He helps us and enables us! We read in Haggai 1:14, “So **the Lord sparked the ENTHUSIASM of** the leaders and “**the enthusiasm of the whole remnant of God’s people. They began to work** on the house of their God, the Lord of Heaven’s Armies”!!! Praise the Lord!!!

Watch out...!!!

Nehemiah was not asleep! He was watchful! He knew that the enemy would not be happy that they were rebuilding the walls... He knew, as Alan Redpath said: “Wherever a work is attempted for God, opposition is always first from without and then from within. It comes from external circumstances and from internal enemies.” Nehemiah watched and heard about the plots against them, and instructed his co-workers to continue to **WORK**, to **WATCH**, and to be ready for **WAR!!!**

Half of them worked and the other half watched (with spears,

shields, bows and armour). “Those who built the wall and those who bore burdens loaded themselves so that everyone worked with one hand and held a weapon with the other hand” (Nehemiah 4:17). Also, Nehemiah “told everyone living outside the walls to stay in Jerusalem. That way they and their servants could help with guard duty at night and work during the day. During this time, none of us—not I, nor my relatives, nor my servants, nor the guards who were with me—ever took off our clothes. We carried our weapons with us at all times, even when we went for water” (Nehemiah 4:22-23).

Do we work like this in the hospital?! Do we work like this in our wards?! Do we work like this in our clinics?! Do we work like this in the HCFI?! Do we work like this in our homes and in our churches?! Do we work, watching?!

The Lord Jesus commanded us in Matthew 26:41, “**WATCH and pray**”!!! And in 1 Corinthians 16:13 we read: “**Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.**”



Watch + Work!

Watch + Weep!

Watch + Wait!

Watch + Word!

Watch + Worship!

Watch + Walk!

Watch + Witness!

Watch + War!

Watch + Win!

In “*Winning the Invisible War*”, E.M. Bounds said, “**WATCH** is the keynote of safety. The devil works on us with a thousand instruments, comes to us in a thousand ways, administers a thousand rebukes, and assaults by a thousand surprises. **Watchfulness at all times is our only safety. We must remain wide-awake, not only when we see his form and feel his presence, but wide-awake to see him when he is not to be seen.**” “All believers, regardless of their station and season in life, need to be watchful” (Brian Hedges)

“Watch therefore, and be alert because the foe is watching you” (Jessie Penn-Lewis).

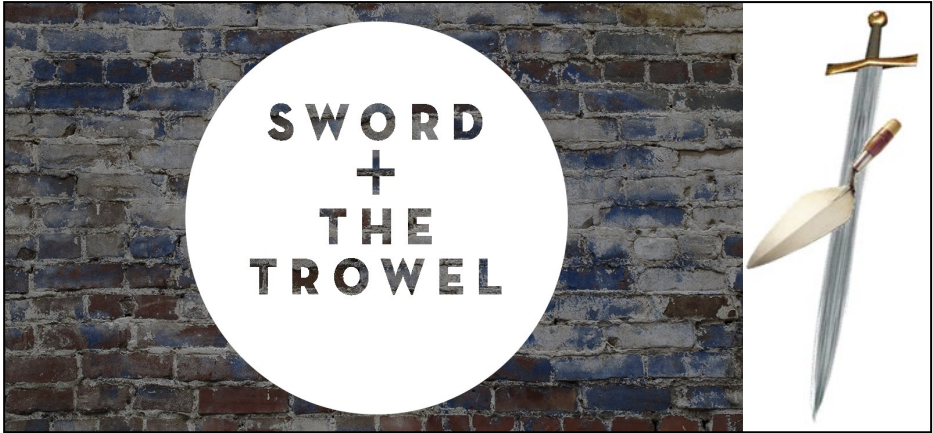
At the same time we should remember that while “the legalist depends on watchfulness, prayer, and resolutions to keep him from falling under temptation, the Christian knows better and **depends wholly on the strength of Christ,**” (as was said by Charles Finney.

**“Watch therefore,
and be alert
because the foe is
watching you”**

In his very helpful book “*Of Temptation,*” John Owen (1616-1683) says: “To **WATCH** means to **be on**

our guard, as much as it means to **take heed**, or to **consider all ways and means by which an enemy may approach us.**” He says **WATCHFULNESS** is “a universal carefulness and diligence, exercising itself in and by all ways and means prescribed by God, over our hearts and ways, the baits and methods of Satan, the occasions and advantages of sin in the world, that we be not entangled.”

In his book “*Watchfulness: Recovering a Lost Spiritual Discipline,*” Brian Hedges says: “**Watchfulness consists of four essential ingredients: wakefulness, attentiveness, vigilance, and expectancy.** Watching involves **staying awake** both morally and spiritually; **paying attention** to God’s word, to our own souls, and especially to Christ Himself; **maintaining vigilance against our mortal enemies: the world, the flesh, and the devil;** and **hoping in the Lord**—in His promises and His return.” This is beautiful ...and very important!



According to Thomas Boston (1676-1732), **“Watching is a military term... There are two things in it: 1. The soul’s keeping spiritually awake, for to watch is opposed to sleeping... 2. Observation... Our mind must be intent upon our business, that we may catch all advantages against, and ward off hazard from the enemy. Hence watching is expressed by taking heed, and by looking to ourselves (1 Cor. 10:12; 2 John 8).”**

The Lord Jesus said: **“Watch and pray.”** We need to “Be earnest and unwearied and steadfast in your prayer [life], being [both] alert and intent in [your praying] with thanksgiving” (Col 4:2; Ampl); “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit”. **Prayer is not a domestic intercom, but rebellion against the satanic status quo.** Dr Arul Anketell (from the HCFI in Sri Lanka) said, **“Prayer is the war-time walky-talky for frontline forces to enforce God’s kingdom!”** We need to pray over everything - for protection from the evil spirits watching to break in upon one’s life, and that wherever the enemy is at work he may be exposed. **“Lord, expose the darkness!”** should be a constant prayer.

In *“The Soul of Prayer,”* P.T. Forsyth said: **“Prayer is a weapon, a mighty weapon in a terrible conflict. Our prayers are to be a continual, conscious, earnest effort of battle, the battle against whatever is not God’s will.”** We read, in 1 Chronicles 5:19-20, “They waged war... They were helped in fighting... because they cried out to (God) during the battle. He

**“Prayer is a weapon,
a mighty weapon
in a terrible conflict.
Our prayers are to be
a continual, conscious,
earnest effort of battle,
the battle against
whatever is
not God’s will.”**

PT Forsyth

answered their prayers, because they trusted in Him.” God said, “Call upon Me... I will deliver you, and you will honour Me” (Psalm 50:15).

This will remain a priority and a battle for life, in which we should never underestimate the power of the enemy.

Watching and praying goes together! Prayerfulness leads to watchfulness, and

watchfulness leads to prayerfulness!!! That is why the Lord Jesus said: **“Watch AND pray”!!!**

Charlotte Elliot wrote:

Christian, seek not yet repose,
Cast thy dreams of ease away;
Thou art in the midst of foes:
Watch and pray.

Principalities and powers,
Mustering their unseen array,
Wait for thy unguarded hours:
Watch and pray.

Gird thy heavenly armour on,
Wear it ever, night and day;
Ambushed lies the evil one:
Watch and pray.

So, when we start to rebuild the work of God in our hearts and homes, and at the hospital or the health facility where we work, **we need to “WATCH and pray” all the time - before we start, as we start, after we started, and always... until the Lord Jesus comes again!**

War (spiritual warfare prayer)

In the book of Nehemiah, especially from chapters 4 to 6, it is very clear: **WORK and WAR goes together!!! The moment we want to BUILD God's work, there will be WAR!!!**

Thomas Walker (from Southern India) said: **"We may always expect some special work of the Holy Spirit to be followed immediately by Satan's fierce opposition."** Francois Coillard (1834-1904), who was his contemporary and served the Lord in Southern Africa, said: "The evangelisation of the heathen world... is a **desperate struggle with the prince of darkness, and with everything his rage can stir up** in the shape of obstacles, vexations, oppositions, and hatred, whether by circumstances or by the hand of man." We need to listen well and learn from these two men of God!

**WORK and WAR
goes together!!!
The moment
we want to BUILD
God's work,
there will be
WAR!!!**

OUR WARFARE

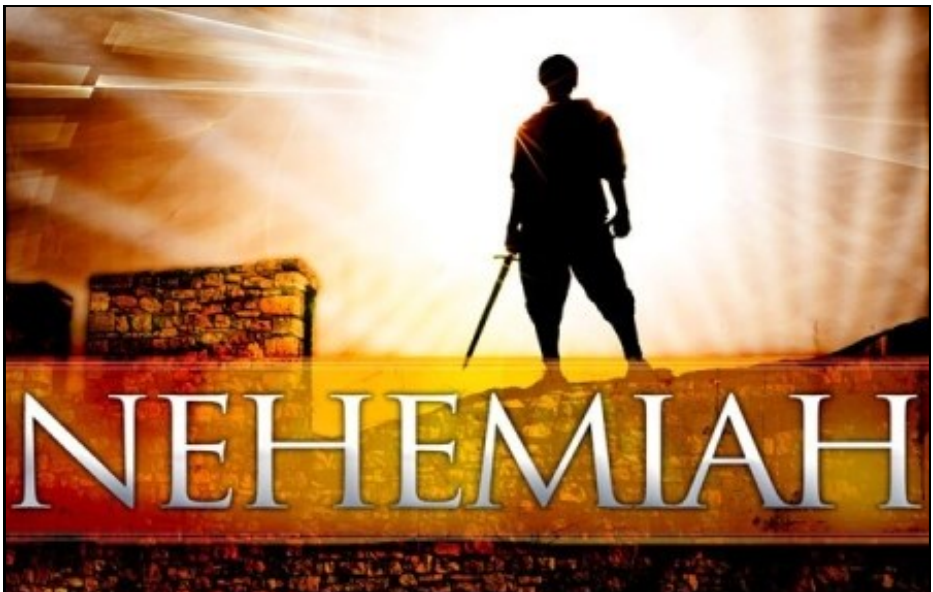
Satan (the Accuser), also called the **Devil** (the slanderer, the "one who thinks, speaks, and plans evil"), or **Apollyon** (the Destroyer), or **Beelzebub** (the lord of the flies), with all his hordes of **fallen angels** (the demons) will attack us in any way they can!!! "For **we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies**, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and **against evil spirits in the heavenly places**" (Ephesians 12:6, NLT); "For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], ours is not a conflict with mere flesh and blood, but against the despotisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, the forces that control and govern this dark world, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere, **against the spiritual hosts of evil arrayed against us in the heavenly warfare...**" (WNT; Ampl).

These evil forces, these evil spirits may attack us directly or indirectly, through other people!!! These evil spirits and/or people may attack us in the **PHYSICAL sphere** (our bodies or our physical and natural environments), or in the **PSYCHOLOGICAL sphere** (our thoughts or feelings or will), or in the **SPIRITUAL sphere** (our conscience or spirit), or in the **SOCIAL sphere** (our relationships with people, believers and non-believers), or on **any combination** of those spheres, or on ALL at the same time!!!

Paul says in 2 Corinthians 10:3-4, “For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of **OUR WARFARE** are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.” This shows there is what is called, “**OUR WARFARE**”!!! Not others’ warfare, but OUR WARFARE!

When we “arise and build” God’s work at our work and in this world, we will very soon discover “OUR WARFARE”!!!

In the book “*Demonic Bondage, Disease and Divine Deliverance*,” we read that “**each one of us is engaged in a literal**



life-or-death battle, a war! This is an awesome reality, though many people are not aware of it at all. They live as if there is no war, no battle, no fight, no struggle, no enemy, no heaven, no hell, no eternity. This battle is against the evil spirits and Satan, our own heart and flesh, and against the world and all that it stands for. It is a war that is raging in the heavenlies, with the mind as the main battlefield. This ‘war broke out in heaven’ (Rev12:7), and as Satan and his angels (the demons) were flung down and out, they went away in fury **‘to wage war’ on the remainder of the children of God** (See Revelation 12:7,9a,17a), **on earth,” especially as they seek to “arise and build” God’s kingdom on earth!!!**

Whether we believe it or not, whether we like it or not, **this war is raging in our souls and in the heavenlies, every moment of every day and night.** This is “a life-and-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels [the demons]” (Ephesians 6). They want “to steal, and to kill, and to destroy” (John 10), as they seek to blind and bind us. **That’s why “the most delicate Christian must become a stern warrior”** (according to John Bunyan). **Our lives should be characterized by a watchful warring, a wrestling, ...not against flesh and blood, but ‘against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places’...**” (Ephesians 6:12)

“The most delicate Christian must become a stern warrior...”

John Bunyan

G.D. Watson said in **“Prayer Warfare”** that “from the teaching of Scripture, and the lessons we learn in the Christ-life, it is evident that **nearly all of the mental and spiritual conflicts we have in the service of God are against spiritual beings, the countless demons that belong to the ‘kingdom of Satan,’ and who are acting under his instigation, to discourage, oppress, perplex and harass the souls that are truly given up to Christ**—and especially those who endeavour to be perfect with the Lord their God.”

THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE

Next, we need to ask ourselves **WHAT ARE “THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE”**, we read about in 2 Corinthians 10:3-4??!! The Word of God teaches us that OUR WEAPONS are not of the flesh, they are NOT based on human personality or human strength or human ingenuity... No! **OUR WEAPONS are:**

- ‡ The **WORD OF GOD**, which is the sword of the Spirit!!! (Ephesians 6:17). “All the great conquests which Christ and His saints achieve in the world are got with this sword” (William Gurnall, in his magnificent book, *“The Christian in Complete Armour”*). We read in Hebrews 4:12 (KJV) that “The Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword.”
- ‡ **Prayer**, but according to Ephesians 6:18-19, more specifically: **“WARFARE PRAYER”**!!! Also read Matthew 16:19 (about “binding and loosing” prayer), John 14:13a, and especially James 4:7, which says: **“Submit yourself to God, resist the devil, and he will flee from you”**!!! In this regard it is important to differentiate between **“request” prayers** (where we ask God do work), and **“rebuke/resist” prayers** (where we, having submitted ourselves to God, now rebuke and resist evil spirits in Jesus’ Name, and with His delegated authority). Jessie Penn-Lewis also writes in *“War on the Saints”* about the **“weapon of refusal”** which is to be used constantly in this warfare prayers...
- ‡ The **CROSS OF CHRIST**, through which He conquered death and the Accuser and all the demons, and through which I have died with Him, and having died with Him I died to sin and self and was raised to live His life now on earth, in victory!!!
- ‡ The **LIFE OF CHRIST**, in me, in us, through His Holy Spirit!!! “You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them (the spirits), because **the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world**” (1 John 4:4; NIV), “But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.” (NLT). We also read in Romans 12:21, “Don't let evil conquer you, but



Spiritual Prayer Warfare

**“The most delicate Christian must
become a stern WARRIOR”**

John Bunyan

“PRAYER is a weapon, a mighty weapon in a terrible conflict. Our PRAYERS are to be a continual, conscious, earnest effort of BATTLE, the battle against whatever is not God’s will.”

PT Forsyth

**WATCH and PRAY
as we WAIT on God and WORSHIP and WORK...**

REPENT where needed
RE-SUBMIT myself to God
RELATIONSHIP with God to be **RIGHT**
RECOGNIZE the workings of the evil spirits
REFUSE to accept anything from them
REJECT the demons - consciously, verbally
REBUKE them in Jesus’ Name
RESIST the devil & the demons (James 4:7)
RELY on Jesus’ victory on the Cross!!!

Through PRAYER, through faith in God, through faith in Christ’s victory on the Cross, WE FIGHT sin and the spirits of evil, and all that’s set against God’s will and work and way in this world and at our places of work...



conquer evil by doing good.” We conquer also by doing good through the life of God in us and through us..., also as we do the work of service in healthcare.

- † The **NAME of Jesus Christ!** (Philippians 2:10; James 2:19 Acts 16:16-18; Luke 10:17; 1 John 3:8; Colossians 2:15; Mark 16:17)
- † The **BLOOD of Christ (!)**, the **word of our TESTIMONY**, and **NOT LOVING OUR LIVES even unto death...**(Revelation 12:11).
- † The **SPIRIT OF GOD** and the **FULLNESS of the Holy Spirit!** Please read Acts 1:8, 2 Timothy 1:7, and 1 Corinthians 12 (about the gifts of the Holy Spirit). This is why William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, prayed:

***For strength to ever do the right,
For grace to conquer in the fight,
For power to walk the world in white,
Send the Fire!***

- † The **CAPTURING OF EVERY THOUGHT** and making it obedient to God is a major weapon in our spiritual warfare... (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)
- † To **PRAISE GOD** and to **SING battle songs** and other songs magnifying God and His finished work on the Cross, are also much under-used “weapons” of God. See Psalm 149:6-9.
- † **FAITH in God** and in Jesus’ victory on the Cross is another “weapon” for us to use! Read 1 John 5:4.
- † “The **LIGHT** and **TRUTH**, and **LOVE OF HEAVEN**” are also part of God’s weapons for us to use, in Him. John G. Whittier wrote:

***So let it be in God’s own might,
we gird us for the coming fight,
and, strong in Him whose cause is ours
in conflict with unholy powers,
we grasp the weapons He has given,
The Light and Truth, and Love of Heaven.***

My thoughts about these “WEAPONS” (and others) are the following, especially as I think about building the work of God at work and through the HCF:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

In her book, *“Spiritual Warfare,”* Jessie Penn-Lewis (1861-1927) said: **“PRAYER WARFARE simply means holding unceasingly the power of the ‘finished work of Christ’ over the hosts of evil, in their attack upon some place or person, until the victory is won.** Just as Moses lifted his hands steadfastly until the victory was won, so the prayer warrior holds up steadfastly the victory of the cross—the finished victory of Christ over Satan—until the forces of evil retreat and are vanquished.”

“In the warfare plane, is much time and wrestling necessary?” someone asks.

“Prayer warfare simply means holding unceasingly the power of the ‘finished work of Christ’ over the hosts of evil, in their attack upon some place or person, until the victory is won.”
Jessie Penn-Lewis

To this we answer: **Yes, every minute of your time is necessary** - "praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit." **You need to pray over everything, for protection from the foes watching to break in upon your life. This does not mean always on your knees, but a "praying without ceasing" in your inner being.** For this there needs to be a "discernment of spirits" (1 John 4:1). It is only as we advance

**"There is
no winning
without WARFARE;
there is
no opportunity
without opposition;
there is
no victory
without vigilance"!**

Alan Redpath

in spiritual growth that we apprehend that our foes are actually spirit beings, distinct personal entities. They are geographically in a place, or they are geographically out of it. They come, and they go away when they are defeated (James 4:7). **In order to recognize and defeat them you must recognize the reality of their existence.** As long as they are vaguely described as an "influence" you will fail to obtain real victory over them; just as when you think of the Holy Spirit only as an "influence" you

lose the knowledge of Him as a Person. **"Warfare" prayer is simply saying to God: "Lord, we are aware of the presence of enemies, but we do not want them, and we have a right to exemption from their presence, because of the victory of Christ at Calvary over Satan and all his hosts."**

In the little book "Prayer Warfare," A. Sims said: "Many of God's people are suffering under the cruel oppression of Satan. Mistakenly supposing that all such experiences come from the chastening hand of God, they meekly submit and suffer on as best they can, **not understanding it is their plain duty and blessed privilege to RESIST all these attacks from Satan and claim deliverance on the ground of the finished work of Calvary.**"

Alan Redpath, a man much used by God, taught us: **"There is no winning without WARFARE; there is no opportunity without opposition; there is no victory without vigilance"!**

We can say with Paul: **“But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”** (1 Corinthians 15:57)

SEE SATAN’S STRATEGIES

It is very important and helpful when we can **SEE SATAN’S STRATEGIES** to hinder the work of God, as revealed to us in the books of **Ezra** and **Nehemiah** (during the rebuilding of the house of God and the walls of Jerusalem). We can see, for instance, the following **from the book of Ezra**:

- × **Compromise**: “Let us help you build...” (Ezra 4:2). The devil will come as a “friend” or a “brother” or “sister” or as an angel of the light and pretend to want to help us, when his main aim is to hinder us. Unholy alliances lead to unholy lives and to unfinished tasks the Lord gave us to do.
- × **Discouragement** (4:4) is one of Satan’s choice weapons. Watch you thoughts and your feelings! Don’t allow discouragement to set in and overpower (and smother) you.
- × **Fear** (4:4) of others or of failure or of the unknown or of the devil is not from God, but from our enemy.
- × **Counselors against them**; counselors who were not from God (4:5). The devil often uses other Christians or people to counsel someone in need in a humanistic way. This either causes the working of the Spirit of God to be quenched in them, or to mislead them—away from the way of the Cross.
- × **False accusations** (4:6) are to be expected and not taken to heart.
- × **A letter** (4:7) may be written by the devil (through someone else, even a relative or a “friend”) that will seek to stop God’s work in you.
- × **Official orders** (a decree, a court order) to stop (4:21) may sometimes be used, especially in the work or hospital or healthcare settings.
- × **Force** (4:23) used may be verbal or legal or physical or spiritual (through witchcraft).

Then, in Ezra 4:24 we read these sad words: **“THUS THE WORK ON THE HOUSE OF GOD... CAME TO A STANDSTILL”!!! How sad!**

This is the aim of the enemy!!! Oh, may it NOT happen at our hospital, at our place of work or at our fellowship...!!!

Then, **from the book of Nehemiah**, we see the following strategies of Satan to stop or to slow down the work:

- ♦ **Scornful mocking** and **ridicule** (Nehemiah 2:19; 4:1)...
- ♦ Wanting to make us **feel inferior** and unable to do the work (4:2); telling us we are “too weak”, “not able”, “too insignificant”, “too small”, etc. One of the devil’s favorite statements (also through people) are: “You can’t!” If we believe the devil’s lies, it’ll hinder or stop us from doing God’s work!
- ♦ **Doubt** (4:2), which can paralyze any Christian and stop him or her from working for God. It is one of the top tools of the devil.
- ♦ **Insults** (4:5) can make us focus on ourselves or cause bitterness, which will both effectively bind our hands and feet and tongue...
- ♦ Plots to fight and **stir up trouble** (4:8) are to be expected.
- ♦ **Death threads** (4:11) from others or from Satan (in your mind) can bring a person to a standstill in God’s work.
- ♦ **Interpersonal conflicts and dissatisfactions and tension and unhappiness amongst the brethren** (5:1-5). **Internal strife is sadly one of the most common problems in the work of God...** It can be devastating, if not dealt with through the Cross, through dying to yourself, through walking in the light and through walking in love and forgiveness...
- ♦ **Compromise** (6:2) - repeated invitations and temptations (6:4) to compromise (in the area of finance or relationships or morals or standards or ethics or doctrine, etc.) are common.
- ♦ **Lies** written about or reported about the children of God (6:5,6) are to be taken as nothing strange for Satan to instigate.
- ♦ Trying to **frighten** them (6:9) and spreading **slander** are further strategies of unclean spirit (and their allies).

**Interpersonal
CONFLICTS
are sadly of the
most common
problems in
the work of God!**

- ♦ **Temptation to sin** by a brother (6:10) or a sister can be a devastating demonic device - if not recognized and ruthlessly rejected.
- ♦ **False prophecies** by “brothers” (6:12) and “personal prophets” can come from the devil and lead us on a side-track (even to sin).
- ♦ **Intimidation** by a “brother” (6:13) needs to be dealt with by the Cross through dying to myself and to the other person, and just be alive for God and His will.
- ♦ Wanting to give a **bad name**, to **discredit** (6:13); even **treachery** can be very hurting, if I’m not dead to myself.
- ♦ **Intimidating letters** by an enemy (6:19), even in the newspapers, must be ignored in Jesus’ Name.
- ♦ Another strategy of Satan to hinder the rebuilding of God’s work is **the presence of “rubbish”** (or rubble)! Someone said rubble can represent “the crumbled superstructure of a previous generation’s true spiritual experience with God...” We read in Nehemiah 4:10, “...**and there is much rubbish**; so that we are not able to build the wall.” It may be rubbish from the past, rubbish from my own life, rubbish from religiosity at the place where I work, rubbish from nominal Christianity, rubbish from a form of religion without the Fire of God, rubbish from ungodly cultural practices, rubbish from demonic deceptions, rubbish from building with wood, hay and stubble (1 Corinthians 3:12) and not with gold, silver and precious stones, etc. Alan Redpath said: “*All the rubbish: pride, unbelief, anger and temper, despondence, self-importance, evil desire—the rubbish of a careless, dry, barren life—what a foul heap it all is, and the building of the temple of the Holy Spirit has been retarded because of it.*” **Whatever form of “rubbish” may be in our lives or in our homes or in our hospital or in our fellowship MUST BE REMOVED - for God’s sake!**

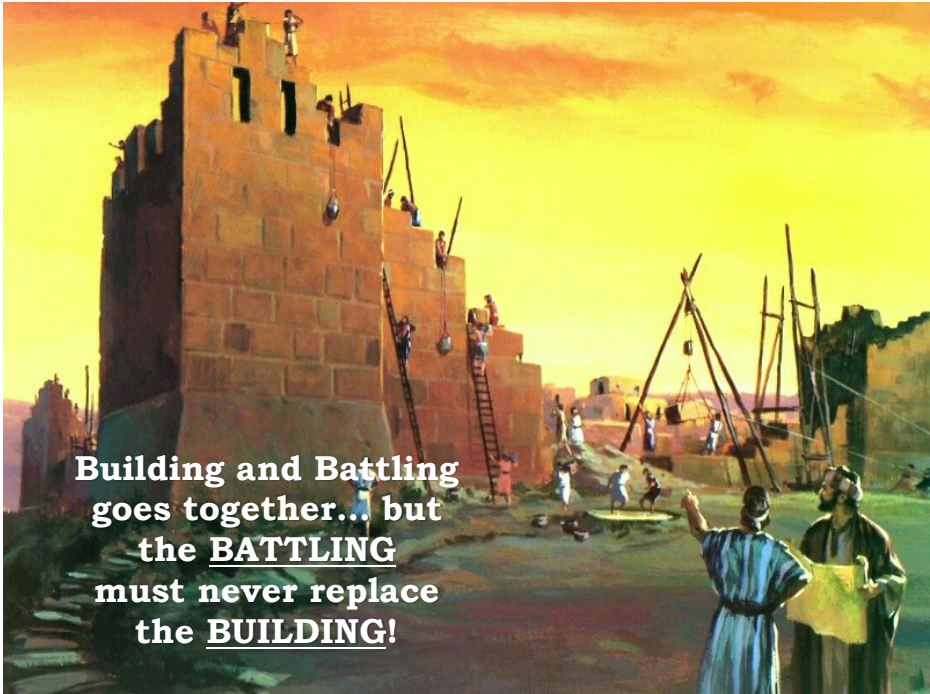
**The people had
“a mind to work,
a heart to pray, and
an eye to watch”!**

Despite all of these strategies of Satan, Nehemiah and the people of God went through ALL of this, and more. In his book, “*Victorious Christian Service*,” Alan Redpath said **the people**

had “a mind to work, a heart to pray, and an eye to watch” ...! Then we read these wonderful words in Nehemiah 6:15: **“So the wall was completed”**!!! Praise the Lord they were not stopped!!! Furthermore, they were not just conquerors, but “more than conquerors,” since **“they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God”** (Nehemiah 6:16)!!! **Hallelujah!!!**

We have seen that the **WORK** and **WARFARE** goes together; **BUILDING** and **BATTLING** goes together, **but it needs to be emphasized that “the battling of the Christian must never replace the building... The wall has got to go up”!** We have to focus on positively building, positively doing what God wants us to do to build up His work at our place of work!

Thus far, in considering **HOW** to arise and build, we’ve seen (from the book of Nehemiah) that we need to **WAKE UP, WEEP** and pray and repent, **WAIT ON GOD**, examine and see **WHAT IS THE SITUATION, WORK, WATCH** and **WAR!** Next, we’ll look at the need to...



**Building and Battling
goes together... but
the BATTLING
must never replace
the BUILDING!**

Walk in the Spirit

We cannot walk with God and work with God, and work for God, unless we **WALK IN THE SPIRIT**... Nehemiah walked in the Spirit. He was **SENSITIVE TO THE SPIRIT**, he was **GUIDED BY GOD**, he was **LED BY THE LORD**. We say this, because he prayed, he prayed before he talked (!), he prayed before he planned, he kept silent when needed, he spoke only when needed, he followed the Word of God, he discerned when false brothers wanted to “help,” he discerned when traps were laid for him and when the enemy wanted to attack them.

**We cannot
walk with God
and work with God
unless we
walk in the Spirit!**

We too need to **WALK IN THE SPIRIT** when we want to build the work of God at our places of work!!!

To walk in the Spirit means that I do **not** walk in the flesh, I do **not** walk according to the desires of my body or the thoughts and feelings of my mind. **To walk in the Spirit** means I am dependent on God for my entire life - spirit, soul and body, continually. It means that I do **not** lean on my own understanding or personality or strength or talents. It means that I listen to Him and heed to Him and am guided by Him continually. It means that I do **not** speak what I want and as I want and when I want. It also means that I do **not** act or react just by what I think or feel or desire or want or hear or see. No, I am crucified with Christ, I am risen with Christ, and I do **not** walk by following my flesh or my soul’s activities, but I follow the Lord, by His Spirit and Word in and through my spirit... To walk, like this, in the Spirit, will enable me to BUILD and to WATCH and to make WAR...

According to Watchman Nee, “the aggressive warfare against the powers of darkness is essentially a spirit conflict, and the ‘natural man’ knows nothing about it. It is to be understood only by spiritual men and women, hence the importance of

knowing what is the meaning of the term ‘spiritual,’ and how to **walk in the spirit.**”

Andrew Murray said in *“The New Life”* that **“in our speaking and working for the Lord, He will lead. Every child has the Spirit: every child has need of Him to know and to do the work of the Father. Without Him no child can please or serve the Father. The leading of the Spirit is the blessed privilege, the sure token, the only power of a child of God.** (Matt. 10:20; Acts 1:8; Rom 8:9,13; Gal. 4:6; Eph. 1:13). **...When our service of God is a bustling and working in our own wisdom and strength, the Spirit cannot be heard in us. It is the weak, the simple, who are willing to have themselves taught in humility, that receive the leading of the Spirit.** Sit down every morning, sit down often in the day, to say: ***Lord Jesus, I know nothing, I will be silent: let the Spirit lead me.*** (1 Chron.19:12; Ps. 62; 2,6; 131:2; Isa. 43:2; Hab. 2:20; Zech. 4:6 Acts 1:4)”

Another very important truth is that I cannot **WALK** in the Spirit if I have never **RECEIVED** the Holy Spirit. We read in Luke 11:13, ***“If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”***

God also says: **“EVER BE FILLED with the Holy Spirit”**!!! (Ephesians 5:18). We learn from Dr Andrew Murray that **the Cross leads to Pentecost, and Pentecost leads to the Cross...**

**The Cross
leads to Pentecost,
and Pentecost
leads to the Cross!**

Furthermore, **as the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the result of repentance and faith in God, the fullness of the Holy Spirit is the result of surrender and faith in God...**

Thomas Walker (1859-1912), who served the Lord in South India and was Amy Carmichael’s mentor, said: “Better, far better, do less work, if need be, that we may PRAY more; because work done by the rushing torrent of human energy will not



save a single soul; whereas work done in vital and unbroken contact with the living God will tell for all eternity.” **“Would not the operations of the Christian Church, in India and throughout the world, be infinitely more fruitful and effectual if we called a halt, and faced honestly and earnestly the conditions for receiving our Ascended Saviour’s great Pentecostal gift?”**

Jessie Penn-Lewis said: **“There are also large numbers of God’s children today, who have definitely received the Holy Spirit as a Person, and who do know Him, but they have NO POWER FOR SERVICE.** They have fulfilled the conditions for His indwelling in an absolute surrender to God to do His will; in the cleansing of the heart from the love of sin, and in faithful obedience up to light: with the resulting ‘fruit of the Spirit...love, joy, peace.’ **But to them it has meant inward victory, and fellowship with God, with very little change in POWER FOR AGGRESSIVE SERVICE.”**

“There is, then, an ‘endowment of power’, or a ‘baptism of the Spirit’, or a ‘Fullness of the Spirit’, ...and infilling of the Spirit that has to do with service for God rather than with the personal life of fellowship with Him, and victory over sin.”

I need to answer before the Lord, personally: Am I filled with the Holy Spirit? Am I equipped with Power for service? Do I walk in the Spirit?

Dear brothers and sisters, we cannot pass this point lightly; we cannot say we are filled when we are not; we cannot think we are filled when we are not; we cannot arise and build God’s work in the hospital and in the HCF unless we are filled with the Holy Spirit!!! May we not stop short of God’s goal and promise for us!!!

**Am I filled with
the Holy Spirit?
Am I equipped
with Power
for service?
Do I walk
in the Spirit?**

Word

Without God's WORD, we cannot build God's WORK!

Nehemiah understood the importance of the **WORD** of God in the process of **BUILDING** the people of God and the work of

**Without
God's WORD,
we cannot build
God's WORK!**

God!!! The **WORD** of God needs to be the basis of everything we do when we "arise and build" God's work at our places of work. **We need to READ it, STUDY it, TEACH it, EXPLAIN it, PREACH it, OBEY it and FOLLOW IT - personally, in our families and churches, and in the fellowship at the hospital or health facility.**

In Nehemiah chapter 8 we read that, as far as the **READING** of God's Word is concerned:

- ❖ It was **read aloud** (8:3)
- ❖ They **listened attentively** (8:3)
- ❖ They **went** as they listened to God's Word (8:9)
- ❖ They **respected** the Word and stood up when it was read (8:5)
- ❖ It was **explained and made clear** to them (8:7,8) and they understood it, with **joy** (8:12)
- ❖ They **obeyed it immediately** (8:16) and **joyfully** (8:17)
- ❖ They read it **day after day** (8:18)

As the people of God heard and listened to the Word of God, they were touched, and **they OBEYED and RESPONDED to God's Word!!!** They (1) fasted, (2) mourned for their sins, (3) separated themselves from the foreign, heathen wives (which God commanded them not to marry), and (4) confessed their sins and (5) the wickedness of their fathers (Nehemiah 9:1-3).

God says in Joshua 1:7-9, "**THIS BOOK** of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and **then you will have good success**" (KJV).

Some of the ways to become “well soaked in the Bible” is to:

- 1. Read, Read...** (+ hear)
 - 2. Re-phrase** (repeat)
 - 3. Reflect** (meditate/think)
 - 4. Research** (study)
 - 5. Record** (write)
 - 6. Remember** (memorize)
 - 7. Relate** (share with others)
 - 8. Respond** (PRAY + OBEY!)
- + **Revelation** needed
- + **Relationship** develop..!

“Don’t get off track, either left or right, so as to make sure you get to where you’re going. And don’t for a minute let **THIS BOOK** of The Revelation be out of mind. **PONDER** and meditate on it day and night, making sure you **PRACTICE** everything written in it. **Then you’ll get where you’re going; then you’ll SUCCEED.** Haven’t I commanded you? Strength! Courage! Don’t be timid; don’t get discouraged. God, your God, is with you every step you take” (MSG). This is wonderful!!! **I am sure that Nehemiah had these words from Joshua in his head and heart as his hands worked hard!!!**

*Every true work of God will be Christ-centred, **Bible-based**, Spirit-led, and God-glorifying!!!* More will be said later on HOW to use the WORD of God as we build our hearts and homes and hospitals.

Worship God

WORK without WORSHIP is worthless!!!

**WORK without
WORSHIP is
worthless!**

WORSHIP without WORK is falling far short of God’s way of worship...

A.W. Tozer beautifully said: “**Labour that does not spring out of worship is futile.**” On the other hand, as was said already: **true WORSHIP will result in WORK for Jesus and with Jesus...** In God’s eyes, work and worship go together!

With “worship” we do NOT just mean the singing together of “worship songs” and the praying together in an atmosphere of sweet “love” or tearfulness—NO! With “worship” we also do NOT mean merely having some emotional experiences and feelings that go over us or through us—NO! Not at all... True worship is in Spirit and in Truth! **True worship starts in the spirit,**

**WORSHIP without
WORK is falling far
short of God’s way
of worship...**

through the Spirit of God and secondarily reaches and influences and activates the soul (the emotions, thoughts and will) and body. It does NOT emerge from the emotions, firstly!

WORSHIP is when we sense and show the worthiness of God in a worthy way, through our work and walk and words and whole life with Him and for Him. Worship is when we work for Him, from Him, in Him, through Him, and to Him - in holy, happy, hearty, harmonious, hard-working love & obedience - to His glory. ***To worship God is to experience and exhibit a sense of ADORATION, ADMIRATION, AFFECTION, APPRECIATION, ABANDON, combined with appropriate ACTION, according to His will and for His glory...***

Also, it's important to know that **we do not worship "worship", no, we worship GOD!!!** We worship God, because His Word says in 1 Chronicles 16:29, "Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: **worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**" (KJV); in Psalm 29:2, "Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness"; in Psalm 45:11, "So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord; and **worship thou HIM**"; in Revelation 22:9, "...he said to me, ...'**worship GOD!**'", and in John 4:23-24, "But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for **the Father is seeking such people to worship him.** God is spirit, and those who worship him must **worship in spirit and truth.**"

<p>True WORSHIP of God includes ADORATION, ADMIRATION, AFFECTION, APPRECIATION, ABANDON, and ACTION - to God's glory!</p>
--

A.W. Tozer was a worshipping worker of God, or rather a working worshipper! He said:

- ❖ **God wants worshipers before He wants workers.**
- ❖ **The only acceptable workers are those who have learned the lost art of worship.**

- ❖ *No work, however sacrificial, will be permanent unless it is geared to eternity. Only what is done in a spirit of worship [to Jesus] will last forever.*
- ❖ *Work without worship is totally unacceptable to God.*
- ❖ *No worship is wholly pleasing to God until there is nothing in me displeasing to God.*
- ❖ *Man was made to worship God.*
- ❖ *God is infinitely more concerned that He has worshipers than that He has workers...*
- ❖ *We mistakenly believe that God needs workers, and so we cheerfully say, 'I'll go work for the Lord.' If we could only remember that as far as His plans are concerned, God does not need us. I think we should work for the Lord, but it is a matter of grace on God's part.*
- ❖ *However, I do not think we should ever work until we learn to worship.* *A worshiper can work with eternal quality in his work, but a worker who does not worship is only piling up wood, hay and stubble for the time when God sets the world on fire.*
- ❖ *He calls us back to that for which we were created – to worship the Lord God and to enjoy Him forever.*
- ❖ *Out of our deep worship flows our work for Him.*
- ❖ *Our work is only acceptable to God if our worship is acceptable...*
- ❖ *Worship is to feel in the heart and express in some appropriate manner a humbling but delightful sense of admiring awe ...and astonished wonder ...and overwhelming love in the presence of..." God.*

We have seen before that, whether I am a **CLERK** or a **CLINICIAN** or a **CLEANER** or a **CHEF** or a **CASHIER** or a **CARETAKER** or a **CAREER** or a **CHAPLAIN** or a **CONTROLLER** or a **COUNSELLOR** or a **CARPENTER** or a **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER** or a **COFFEE-MAKER** or a **CHIEF MATRON** or a **CLASS 4 WORKER** or whatever **CADRE** I may be in, God is calling me and giving me the opportunity to “arise and build” His kingdom at the place where I work...!!! **When we do what we are called to do at work FOR HIM, we worship Him in and through our work—for His glory!**

CS Lewis said: “Let us clear it forever from our minds. The

work of a Beethoven and the work of a charwoman become spiritual on precisely the same condition, that of being offered to God, of being done humbly ‘as to the Lord’.” For me, this means that my work is done **as worship to Jesus** when I do it “**for Him**”, in the way He wants me to do it, how He wants me to do it, and through Him helping me. **In short—my work (our work) is worship when it is done for Him, from Him, in Him, and through Him.** It is as we read in Romans 11:36, “For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.”

When we do what we are called to do at work, FOR HIM, we worship Him in and through our work - for His glory!

I need to ask myself: ***Do I worship God? Do I worship Him in and through and by my WORK in the hospital (or the health facility where I work)? Is my work worship to God?***

My response to these important questions is:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....



Lord Jesus, help me to worship You, also through my work!

Witness and Win others

I cannot build God's work in this world by isolating myself; I need to BE His wise **WITNESS** in this wicked world... The Lord Jesus said: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and **you will BE my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). **I can and should be a witness of Jesus through my LIFE and my LIPS, my WORK and my WORDS.**

When my life is lived WITH Jesus, and when I am always WITH Him (and He WITH me!), I'll find that **WITH-ness leads to me becoming and being a WIT-ness of Jesus...!!!** We read in Acts 4:13, "Now when the men of the Sanhedrin (Jewish High Court) saw the confidence and boldness of Peter and John, and grasped the fact that they were uneducated and untrained [ordinary] men, they were astounded, and began to **recognize that they had been WITH Jesus.**"

WITH-ness
leads to being a
WIT-ness
of Jesus...

The most helpful course for Christian healthcare workers, to encourage and equip them to become wise witnesses of Jesus in the workplace is **THE "SALINE PROCESS WITNESS TRAINING" COURSE**, developed by IHS Global. HCFI is one of the organizations who are in a partnership with IHS Global to use this course to train Christian healthcare workers all over the world. **The course can also be done ONLINE**, free of charge. Because of it's availability and usefulness, we'll not expand on the topic here, except to say: **PLEASE DO THE COURSE ASAP!!!**

May the Lord help us to be wise witnesses in our workplaces, and may we win others for Jesus and build His kingdom... Charles Spurgeon said: ***"If I never won souls, I would sigh till I did. I would break my heart over them if I could not break their hearts. Though I can understand the possibility of an earnest sower never reaping, I cannot understand the possibility of an earnest sower being content***

To register & then do the Saline Process Online Training (“SPOT”), please visit the following website: <https://www.spot.ihsglobal.org> The best is to do it on your laptop or desktop PC, but if you prefer to do it on your smartphone, you need to first download the App called “Go Learn”. **The course is FREE!** Once you’ve worked through it, you are able to revise any section at any time. **PLEASE DO THE COURSE and encourage others to do the same** and/or to attend a face-to-face training course (of 6-10 hours)...



not to reap. I cannot comprehend any one of you Christian people trying to win souls and not having results, and being satisfied without results.” May the Lord help us to be passionate, effective, winsome witnesses of Jesus, and win some for His kingdom of love and light!

Winning formula:

When we look at the life and work of Nehemiah, it seems he had a **WINNING FOMULA!** What was it?! Maybe we can say it was: **WAKE UP; WEEP** and pray and repent; **WAIT ON GOD; WHAT IS THE SITUATION; WORK; WATCH; WAR; WALK IN THE SPIRIT; WORD; WORSHIP GOD; WITNESS and WIN OTHERS, in WISDOM** from above...

Some may say his **WINNING FORMULA** was **PRAYER** and **PLANNING** and **PASSIONATE WORKING...** But, the best would be to say: **his winning formula was: GOD!!!**

A workbook is freely available from the HCF offices on the “**Secrets of Success for students and health professionals**” in which the following “secrets” are shared, as a **WINNING FORMULA** for success in serving God in the health fields: **Love the Lord; Soak in Scripture; Tryst Time alone with Jesus; Right Relationships, Daily Dependence; Daily Discipline, Practical Prayer, Fully Follow the Lord; Cleansed by Christ, and to be Fully Filled with the Holy Spirit...** It will be helpful to study this and even go through it together as a fellowship at the hospital, God willing.

Another aspect of Nehemiah’s “winning formula” was the fact that he encouraged people to make sure their HEARTS were right with God, to start at their HOMES and to build opposite their HOMES; also to make sure that every person knows where they had to work and to make sure that no gaps were allowed in the work. Oh, there is so much to learn from this book in the Bible!!! May the Lord help us!

We close this section of **HOW to build God’s work**, in terms of underlying principles of the “HOW,” with the important aspect of:

Wisdom

We need much WISDOM to build God’s work at our places of work!!!

God says: “**Through WISDOM a house is built**, and by understanding it is established; By knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches. **A wise man is strong**, yes, a man of knowledge increases strength; **For by wise counsel you will wage your own war**, and in a multitude of counsellors there is safety” (Proverbs 24:3-6).

**We need
much WISDOM
to build God’s
work at work...**

These verses show us clearly that **WISDOM** and **WORK** (including the building

God's work at work) and **WAR**, go together!!!

Henry Martyn (1781-1812) worked in wonderful wisdom during his years of service in India and Persia. He said, "***If any qualification seems necessary to a missionary in India, it is WISDOM, operating in the regulation of the temper and the due improvement of opportunities...***"

True WISDOM is not based on human intelligence and understanding and insight and ingenuity alone, no, true wisdom comes from ABOVE.

**WISDOM
and WORK
and WAR
go together!**

There is a **wisdom that comes from BELOW** (from the self and even from demons!), and there is the **wisdom that comes from ABOVE!** That's the WISDOM we need! We read in James 3:13-18, "Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the **mekness of wisdom**. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. **This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic**. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the **WISDOM from ABOVE is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere**. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."

WISDOM is knowing WHAT to do, WHEN, WHY, and HOW, and to do it like that, all the time being in God and doing it through God.

Nehemiah had this wisdom from Above. He feared God, and we read in Proverbs 1:7 that "**the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.**"

Furthermore, in Corinthians 1:28-31 we read that **the Lord Jesus has become our wisdom!** "God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to

nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in **Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God**, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord”...”

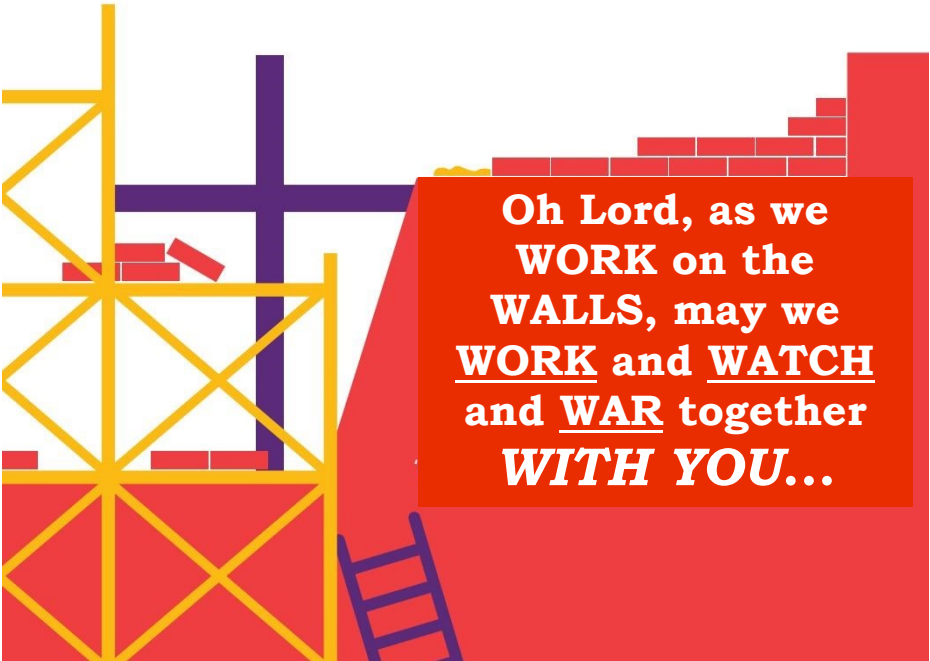
WISDOM from ABOVE is needed in starting God’s work at our places of work, in building that work, in managing and maintaining that work, in dealing with difficulties and problems relating to that work, and in leading such a work of God... In this regard, Dr Hudson Taylor’s successor in China, DE Hoste, said, “*When a man, in virtue of an official position demands obedience of another, irrespective of the latter’s reason and conscience, this is the spirit of tyranny. When on the other hand, **by the exercise of tact and sympathy; by prayer, spiritual power and sound wisdom** one is able to influence and enlighten another, so that he through the medium of his own reason and conscience is led to alter one course and adopt another, that is true spiritual leadership*” and wise use of delegated authority.

Such WISDOM comes through walking with God, waiting on Him, soaking in Scripture, daily dying to self, daily living the resurrected life (through faith in God’s working), daily dependence on Him, daily asking God for wisdom (James 1:5), taking wise counsel, humbly learning through life (from God and others), and continually being filled with the Spirit of God - the Spirit of Wisdom (Isaiah 11:2).

Oh Lord, fill us with Your Spirit of Wisdom and may He teach us to walk in WISDOM - for Your glory and to the extension of Your kingdom in the healthcare fields where we work!!!



Let's Rebuild Together



Oh Lord, as we
WORK on the
WALLS, may we
WORK and **WATCH**
and **WAR** together
WITH YOU...

Will

Wisdom

Wake up

Weep

Wait

Word

Worship

Witness

Win others

What is situation?

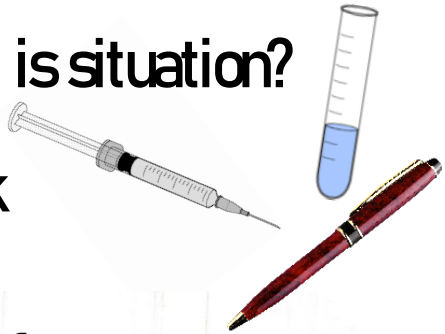
Work

Warfare

Watch

Walk in Spirit

Winning formula



Arise
and

ESB

FAITH

Work and kingdom of God!

SERVICE

Work God specifically gives me/us

Work of God through the HCF...!

GRACE

The God of heaven will give us success;
therefore we His servants will arise and build.

NEHEMIAH 2:20

What

arise & build?!

With God's help (in our hearts, homes, hospitals, health centres, and houses of God), we'll arise and build the following:

The WORK and KINGDOM of God

The WORK God specifically gives ME/US

The WORK of God THROUGH THE HCF:

***Father in heaven** starts it in the heart of a
Fellow or Female who'll take the lead for a
Fellowship to be established and grow with
Functioning Local Action Team to serve
Frontline healthcare workers... and
Further afield (neighbouring, etc.)
For God's glory...!*

Despite God's loving warnings through His prophets, the people of God did not repent and turn to Him in faithful, obedient love. As a result they were scattered and became slaves in a foreign land for many years. Jerusalem was destroyed, as well as the temple, the gates, the walls, and the worship of God among them... BUT GOD was true to His promise to let them return. As they returned to Jerusalem (in different waves at different times), the work of restoration took place, also in different waves and in different times.

We believe it is God's timing for us to rebuild the walls of His work, where we work and live and worship!

In this important chapter, we'll look at:

- A. WHAT was rebuilt (in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah)
- B. The need to build according to GOD'S PLAN
- C. WHAT He wants us to "arise and build"?!

A. WHAT WAS REBUILT (as recorded in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah)

Through Ezra and Nehemiah, we see **WHAT** was rebuilt when they returned to Jerusalem and when God worked in their midst again:

- 1) First, the **ALTAR of God** was rebuilt! (Ezra 3:3). The ALTAR represented the place of death (the one-instead-of-another kind of death), the place of sacrifice, the place of blood, the place of repentance and forgiveness and cleansing... It represents the CROSS of Christ! It represents the place of repentance and reconciliation!
- 2) Secondly, the **HOUSE of God** (the temple) was rebuilt! This represented the worship of God by the body of believers in Him. It represented their prayers, their fellowship, their reading and explaining of the Word, their sacrifices and offerings, etc. It also represented the place of the Presence of God. Today, it represents the **HEART** of a believer, and the **HOME** of believers, and the **HOUSE** of God (the true **Church**, as a mystical body of believers in Jesus).

- 3) Thirdly, the **WALLS of Jerusalem** were re-built (under Nehemiah)! The walls stand for **SECURITY, SALVATION AND SEPARATION...** Without walls, a city cannot defend itself well. Without walls a city is not well defined (in those days). The building of the walls makes it clear who is inside the city and who is NOT inside the city! The “wall is the testimony ...outward, toward man and the world” (according to T. Austin-Sparks; 1888-1971). He also said in “*Nehemiah - A Living Message for God's People Today*”: “Let us repeat this general word, that what we have in Ezra and Nehemiah is the testimony of God concerning His Son Jesus Christ, and that, in a three-fold way. The testimony concerning the Cross, in the altar; the testimony concerning the Church, in the house; and the testimony to the world, to the nations; to men, as in the wall. So that it is Christ at the centre and Christ at the circumference. It is the fullness of Christ from centre to circumference that is here; **and as to the wall particularly. It represents the defining as to what is of Christ, and what is not of Christ; as to what is according to God's Son, and what is not according to God's Son; for the wall is the boundary, the line of demarcation as to what is inside of the testimony of Jesus, and as to what is outside of that testimony.** Those are general remarks to help you grasp the whole import of this book.”
- The WALLS stand for
security, salvation
and separation...
It represents the
defining as to
what is of Christ,
and what is
not of Christ...**
- 4) Fourthly, the **GATES of the city**, in the wall, were re-built and set in place! According to Dr Bruce Thompson, in “*Walls of my Heart*,” “the gates of Jerusalem were the entrance and exit points of the city, bringing in and letting out all that is vital to the upkeep and health of the inhabitants. Often, guards kept watch of the traffic, ensuring that what came in and out of the gates was acceptable to the city magistrates. ...When gates are broken down, undefended or unguarded, and enemy can easily gain entrance, ransack, plunder and destroy a city...” **The gates in the wall represent the gates**

in our hearts and homes and the house of God, and the hospital and place where we work...!!! Those who have read “*The Holy War*” by John Bunyan, will remember that the city’s gates were called: **Eye-Gate, Ear-Gate, Nose-Gate, Mouth-Gate, Feel-Gate...** These all need to be kept well and guarded well!!!

- 5) All in all, we can say that **JERUSALEM** was rebuilt!!! Jerusalem was supposed to be the place of **Peace**, the place of **Protection**, the place of the **Presence of God**, the place of **Praise**, the place of the **Power of God** (as on the day of Pentecost), and the place of **Shalom...** We read in Isaiah 62:6-7, ***“I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.”***
- 6) Also, the Law of God, **WORD of God**, had to be restored to its proper place in their lives, personally and corporately!
- 7) Very importantly, the **PEOPLE’s lives** and well-being and productivity and fruitfulness and relationships had to be revived, re-built and re-established in God...
- 8) Ultimately, the **GLORY of GOD** had to be re-established in and among and through His people!!!

In summary, **WHAT had to be and was rebuilt in Ezra’s time and in Nehemiah’s time, were:**

- ✓ The Altar: **WEEP**
- ✓ The Temple: **WORSHIP**
- ✓ The Walls: **WAR + WITNESS**
- ✓ The Gates: **WATCH**
- ✓ The Place: **WOW!** (Jerusalem, the praise of the earth)
- ✓ The Law: **WORD**
- ✓ The People: **WOMEN, MEN + CHILDREN: WOW of Revival!**
- ✓ The Glory of God: **WORTHY!!!**

In a way, this is also what the Lord would want to rebuild in our HEARTS, in our HOMES, in His HOUSE, and in our HOSPITALS and places of work...!!!

To me, it basically means that:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

May the Spirit of God interpret it to our hearts and lead us in HIS WAY, to build according to HIS PLAN!!! We need, like Nehemiah and Noah and Moses, to...

B. The need to BUILD ACCORDING TO GOD’S PLAN!

It’s good to rise up and to start to BUILD, as we hope to do in the hospitals across India (and in the world)... **BUT, we need to build “according to the PATTERN shown you on the mountain”** (Ex 25:40), **“according to the PLAN** showed by God. This is repeated in Hebrews 8:5 - “See to it that you make everything **according to the pattern shown** you on the mountain.”

In “*Come let us build,*” Brother Bakht Singh (1903-2000) from India said:

- ❖ “**Before we rebuild, ...first, we must find out the cause of the barrenness.**” We’ve looked at this in an earlier section...
- ❖ “The Lord Jesus is our heavenly Nehemiah. He has the perfect plan for building the new Jerusalem. If we all **follow God’s order and plan** in His house, and remain under the

headship of our Lord Jesus Christ and do everything as unto Him, then alone we will have the honour to see life flowing through us to different parts of the world as we go about toiling as His co-labourers... Let us learn the secret of taking part wholeheartedly in God's **work according to His plan and order.**"



Has not the failure of many of our efforts been due to our attempting to do God's work in man's way — aye, and sometimes even in the devil's way?

Dr Hudson Taylor

As was said already, God wants us to BUILD His kingdom in our own HEARTS and HOMES and in HIS HOUSE (the church or house fellowship we are in), but He also wants us to build with Him in the HOSPITAL (or health facility) where we work most of our days!

When our HEARTS are “all for Jesus,” our HOMES are heavenly, and the HOUSE OF GOD where we fellowship is alive and flourishing, then, to build His kingdom in the HOSPITAL or health facility where we work would be a natural outflow and a spiritual necessity... Actually, **when God is our all-consuming Passion, wherever we are and in whatever we do, we want to BUILD His kingdom and glorify His Name!**

John Nevius, who was a missionary in China for many years,

said: **“Let us also remember that, while in undertaking the momentous task committed to us, we should... seek to know what is the best METHOD of work; still the best METHOD without the presence of our Master and the Spirit of all truth will be unavailing.”**

Pastor E.M. Bounds (1835-1913) said, “We are constantly on a stretch, if not on a strain, to devise new methods, new plans, new organizations (new ways - *my addition*) to advance the Church and secure enlargement and efficiency for the gospel. **...Men are God's method. The Church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men**” (and women!); **men and women who are right with God and filled by His Spirit.**

**The best method
without the
presence of the
Spirit will be
unavailing!**

Most importantly, we can say that **the Lord Jesus is God's Method!!! HE** is not just our **MOTIVATION**, our **MASTER**, our **MESSAGE**, our **MODEL**, our **MENTOR**, our **MEASURE**, but He is also our **METHOD!!!** He is the Way of God for salvation and for service, also through the HCF...!!! This needs deep thought and heart-understanding and internalization, with the help of God's Spirit. May He help us!

WE are His method!

HE is our Method!

Work in **HIS WAY!**

C. WHAT to “arise and build”??!

We'll now look at **WHAT to “arise and build.”** In this section, we'll look at the need to build:

1. **The WORK and kingdom of God,**
2. **The WORK God gives us** (and me personally), and
3. **The WORK of God through the Healthcare Christian Fellowship** (HCF).

1. BUILD: the work and kingdom of God

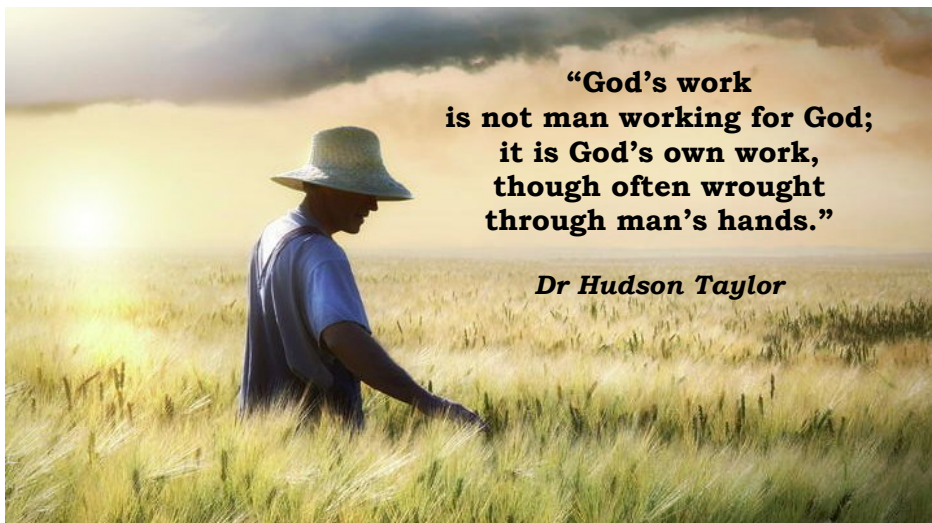
God wants us to build His work and to build His kingdom in this world and at the places where we work!

We read in Matthew 6:33, “**Seek the Kingdom of God above all else**, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need”, and in Hebrews 10:7, “Then I said, **'Look, I have come to do your will, O God'**”, and in Hebrews 10:9, “Then he said, **'Here I am, I have come to do your will.'**” “Jesus replied, **'My Father is always working, and so am I'...**” (John 5:17). This is our desire.

We can ask ourselves: ***Are we building the work of God? Are we working for God?! Are we working with God?!***

Andrew Murray understood deeply the importance of **WAITING ON GOD** and of **WORKING WITH GOD!** In his book “*Working for God*” he wrote:

- ❖ **“God's work must be done in God's way, and in God's power. It is spiritual work, to be done by spiritual men, in the power of the Spirit.**
- ❖ It is nothing less than **that work of bringing men back to their God**, at which God finds His highest glory and bless-



**“God’s work
is not man working for God;
it is God’s own work,
though often wrought
through man’s hands.”**

Dr Hudson Taylor

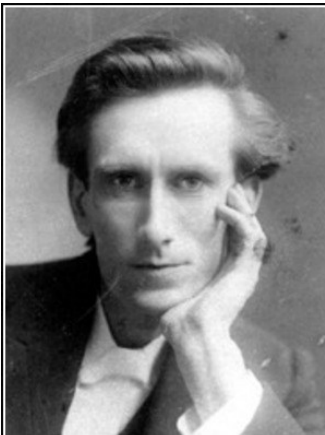
edness.

- ❖ ...It is God's will that every believer without exception, whatever be his position in life, gives himself wholly to live and work for God.
- ❖ I lovingly offer these meditations, with the fervent prayer that God, the Great Worker, may make us true Fellow-Workers with Himself.”
- ❖ **As waiting on God lies at the root of all true working for God, so working for God must be the fruit of all true waiting on Him.**
- ❖ God's work can only be done in God's strength, by God Himself working in us.
- ❖ All His work for me is through His life in me.
- ❖ **He will most surely work, if I wait on Him.**
- ❖ **All His working for me, and my waiting on Him, has but one aim, to fit me for His work of saving men.**
- ❖ Every one cannot go abroad, or give his whole time to direct work but everyone, whatever his calling or circumstances, can give his whole heart to live for souls and the spread of the kingdom.
- ❖ We must learn to believe in the ...value of every individual believer. **As men are saved one by one, they must be trained one by one for work.**
- ❖ **We must believe and teach that every believer can become an effective worker in his sphere. Are you seeking to be filled with love to souls?**
- ❖ Christ liveth in me—is the secret of joy and hope, and also of power for work. Care for the life, the life will care for the work. ‘Be filled with the Spirit.’
- ❖ How was Christ able to work the works of God? By God abiding in Him! How can I do the works of Christ? By Christ abiding in me!
- ❖ In work everything depends, O believer, on the life, the inner life, the Divine life. **Pray to realise that work is vain except as it is in 'the power of the Holy Spirit' dwelling in thee.**
- ❖ Obey the command to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Believe in His indwelling. Wait for His teaching. Yield to His leading.

**Are we working
for God?
Are we working
with God?!**

Pray for His mighty working. Live in the Spirit.

- ❖ **Love is God's power to do His work.** Love was Christ's power. **To work for God pray earnestly to be filled with love to souls!**
- ❖ Begin at once by doing lowly deeds of love. As the little child in the kindergarten. Learn by doing.
- ❖ To be a true worker the first thing is close, humble fellowship with Christ the Head, to be guided and empowered by Him. The next is humble, loving fellowship with Christ's members serving one another in love. This prepares and fits for service in the world.
- ❖ We are beginning to awaken to **the wonderful place woman can take in church and school and mission (and hospital—my addition)**. This truth needs to be brought home to every one of the King's daughters, that the adorning in which they are to attract the world, to please their Lord, and enter His presence is—good works.
- ❖ The training for the service of love begins in the home life, is strengthened in the inner chamber, reaches out to the needy around, and finds its full scope in the world for which Christ died.
- ❖ **Let us never cease to plead and labour for a true spiritual awakening throughout the Church.**
- ❖ 'Meet for the Master's use,' that is the central thought. A personal relation to Christ, an entire surrender to His disposal, a dependent waiting to be used by Him, a joyful confi-



The goal of faithfulness is not that we will do work for God, but that He will be free to do His work through us. God calls us to His service and places tremendous responsibilities on us. He expects no complaining on our part and offers no explanation on His part. God wants to use us as He used His own Son.

— Oswald Chambers —

AZ QUOTES

dence that He will use us—such is the secret of true work.

- ❖ Let the beginning of your work be a giving yourself into the hands of the Master, as your living, loving Lord.
- ❖ God does His work by working in us, inspiring and strengthening us to do His work.
- ❖ What God asks is a heart and life devoted to Him in surrender and faith.
- ❖ **As God's work is all love, love is the power that works in us, inspiring our efforts and conquering its object.**
- ❖ Let our posture be adoring worship, deep dependence, great waiting, full obedience.
- ❖ **The Holy Spirit is the power of God. Seek to be filled with the Spirit**, to have your whole life led by Him, and you will become fit for God's working mightily in you.
- ❖ **More love to souls, born out of fervent love to the Lord Jesus—is not this our great need?** Let us pray for love, and begin to love, in the faith that as we exercise the little we have, more will be given.
- ❖ **In all our work for God, prayer must take a much larger place.**
- ❖ **Let us pray for the love and power of God to come on us, for the blessed work of soul-winning.**
- ❖ The only glory we can bring to God is to yield ourselves to His redeeming love to take possession of us, to fill us with love to others, and so through us to show forth His glory.
- ❖ **Let this be the one end of our lives—to glorify God in living to work for Him... and winning souls to know and live for His glory.”**

**To work for God
pray earnestly
to be filled with
love to souls!**

**In all our work
for God, PRAYER
must take a much
larger place.**

Oh, please read this little book! It's freely available from the internet as a pdf book!

Also, there is a workbook available from HCF on “Work as Worship”, which can be a very helpful tool for further study on the importance of work in God's world.

The **main message to me** regarding this is:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

I see clearly that God wants me to build His work, to work for Him and to work with Him, wherever I am, but especially at work. I also realise that there is something very specific that He wants ME to do...

2. BUILD: do the work God gives ME/us!

God has a specific work for each one of us. He wants us to discover what it is and then to do it, for His glory! We read in John 17:4, “I have brought you glory on earth by **finishing the work YOU gave me to do**.” This is wonderful and wonder-full!

This is my prayer—to find out WHAT the Lord wants ME to do on earth, and then to DO that work and to FINISH it, with His help and for His glory!!!

Is this YOUR prayer too?!

Adolphe Monod (1802-1856) was used by the Lord, but then developed an untreatable disease. On his deathbed he spoke about the regrets of a dying man, which was published as a book after he went to heaven. In it, he said: “**I regret having regulated my life too much upon my own plans — I mean upon my plans of faithfulness and Christian sanctification — and not more simply upon the plan that the Lord unfolds before each of us**.” This is a very important life-lesson to

learn!!! He said: “What I should wish, would be to form the plan of my life, and of my daily conduct, **not** according to my own ideas, nor my own feelings — but **according to the commandments of God, to His inward witness, to the guiding of His Spirit, and to the outward direction He gives to our life...**” Speaking of the Lord Jesus, he said: “We find a man (I consider Him here as the Son of man) who has no other wish than to accomplish the mission He has received from the Father, and **who has no other plan than to enter into the plans of the Father** — so that, with His eyes constantly fixed upon Him, He is only occupied in listening to His voice, that He may follow its directions, and to discern His will, in order to execute it. **The works of Jesus Christ are prepared for Him one after another, and set by God before Him on His way,** following each other so naturally, and arising so easily one out of another, that they never occasioned any confusion, even in the busiest days of His ministry.”

May the Lord help us to follow in His footsteps, also in the way we DISCERN what is His will in our lives and then DO what is His will in our lives!!!

If you know of **something specifically THE LORD wants YOU to do**, some WORK He has given you, or put before you to do, can you please **WRITE it down**, *here below*. Please remember that it may be “small” or “big”; that is not important, but what is important is: has HE given it to YOU to do?!

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

We have seen that (1) God wants us to do the work of building **His work** and His kingdom; (2) He also wants us to work at doing the **specific work** He has prepared and given to each one of us to do, personally; and (3) He may also want us to work at building His work through the **HCF** (Healthcare Christian Fellowship) at the places where we work, in healthcare. This is what we'll look at next. To our understanding, this is a very important, practical part of God's doings!

3. BUILD: the work of God
THROUGH THE HCF
- the Healthcare Christian Fellowship

Please take note that:

Not all of us who work in healthcare may be called by the Lord to be involved with the building of His kingdom through the HCF, but most of us may be called by Him to get involved, especially since the HCF uniquely provides opportunities for Christians from all categories and classes in healthcare to come together in fellowship, prayer, worship, witnessing, disciple-making and service...

If you are already convinced by the Lord that He wants YOU to help in rebuilding the HCF where you work, the next section of this workbook will be very important!

Even if you do NOT think the Lord is calling you to such an involvement with HCF, there may be many helpful lessons to learn (as you continue to work through this workbook) which apply to your walk and work with the Lord in our places of work in healthcare...



Healthcare
Christian
Fellowship
International

I've personally been involved with the HCF since 1979, when I was an under-graduate medical student. I also had the privilege of being involved with the ACSV, the SCM, the CMF (both Junior and Senior), DFL, YWAM, the ICMDA, IHS Global, the EU, CEF, DTS, CFT, EMFI, NCFI, CMAI, PROMISS, HCJB, the

Way of the Master, Divine Plumblin, the Global CHE, and with different churches and denominations. I've served the Lord for years in the public health sector (at a rural government hospital), as well as at an urban Christian hospital. I've been involved with the wholistic clinical care of patients and families and communities; with the education of nurses, medical students and physicians; with research; with administration and management as an acting medical superintendent; and with the establishing and development of HCF (locally, provincially, nationally and to a limited extent, internationally).

I am saying this only to give you an idea from what perspective I share the following thoughts with you on **WHAT to build when we seek to build the kingdom of God in the health field THROUGH HCF.**

To summarize the "WHAT to build" when establishing and nourishing a HCF branch at a hospital, whether it's a public government hospital or a private Christian hospital, the following points are prominent for me...

To begin and build a HCF, we think of the following STAGES or STEPS:

FATHER in heaven
FELLOW or FEMALE
FELLOWSHIP
FUNCTIONING local action team
FRONTLINE healthcare worker
FURTHER afield
FOR God's glory!

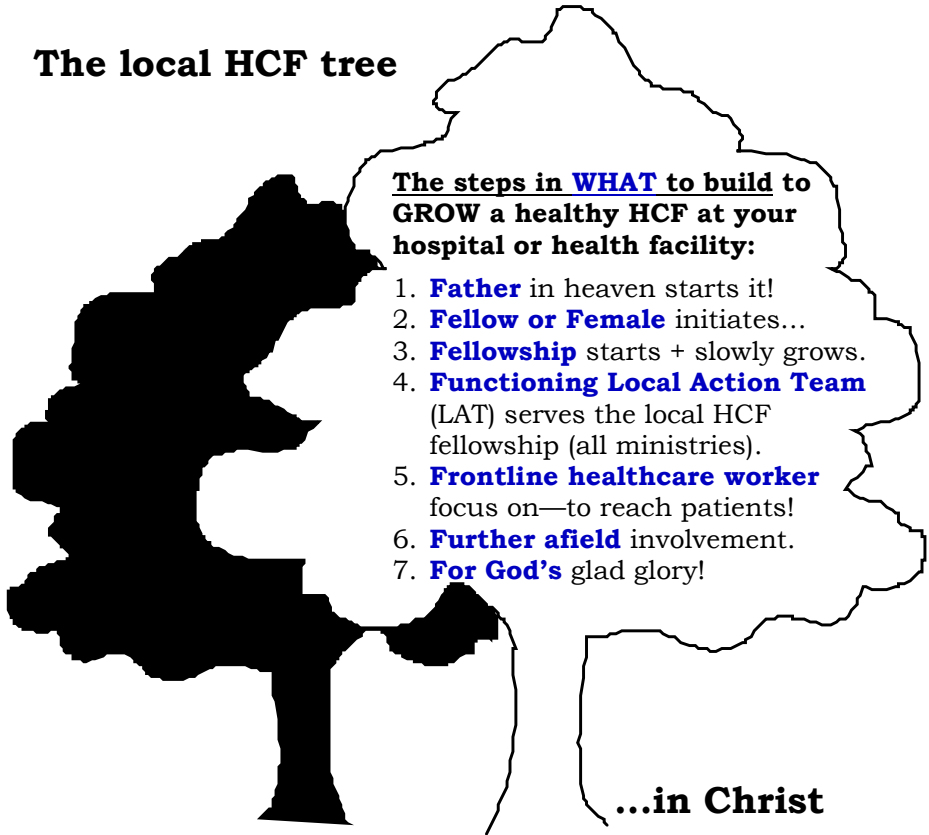
Briefly, we can say that:

1. **FATHER in heaven**: Any local HCF always starts in the heart of our loving FATHER in heaven!! He is the One who started the HCF as an organization in 1936. He is also the One to start it at any hospital or health facility in the world. As we read in Romans 11:36, "...from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen."
2. **FELLOW or FEMALE**: Then, from His heart to someone else's heart: It may be in ONE PERSON, a FELLOW or FEMALE on fire for God, a man or a woman of peace, a lover of God, a servant-leader. It may also germinate in more than one person's heart, at the same time or closely linked.
3. **FELLOWSHIP**: Then, that person or persons are used by the Lord to start a small local FELLOWSHIP of Christian believers at that hospital or health facility, coming together for prayer and fellowship and learning and worship... This fellowship may consist of 2 or 3 people, or more. They will focus on developing the 3 pillars of the HCF, which is (a) *FIRST of all*, **PRAYER**, then (b) **EVANGELISM**, or what we call "wise witnessing", and then (c) **DISCIPLESHIP** and disciple-making. As the HCF fellowship grows slowly but surely, by God's grace, in depth and in numbers, the need develops for them to then prayerfully select and appoint a local action team.

4. **FUNCTIONING local action team**: This local action team will work as a team to *serve* the fellowship and help to encourage and equip the fellowship, as a body and as individuals, to fulfil their God-given purpose at that hospital or health facility. This Local Action Team (LAT) will ask the Lord to use them to be fully and fruitfully functioning to serve the fellowship in such a way that the work of God will be built up well and that the work of God will grow and advance, through all of them serving the Lord, together!!! This Local Action Team will encourage the development and functioning of ***all the different MINISTRIES of the HCF*** (which will be discussed later), in and through the HCF fellowship.
5. **FRONTLINE healthcare worker**: Special attention will always be given to help disciple and develop the FRONTLINE healthcare worker, as he or she is the one who is next to the patients and the relatives, seeking to serve them and help them and reach them for Christ!!!
6. **FURTHER afield**: The fellowship will be encouraged to NOT look inwardly and to NOT just become another “holy, happy huddle,” but to look outwards, to look to the harvest fields—in the hospital, the community, the area, and FURTHER AFIELD - in the country, the region, and even across the world... They will seek to be part of what God is doing, through prayer and personal involvement and financial support and networking, through the different levels of the HCF action teams (locally, provincially, nationally, regionally and globally).
7. **FOR God’s glory!**: All of this is ultimately to be FOR GOD’S GLORY, and for His glory alone...!



The local HCF tree



Having identified these stages or steps in beginning and building (and growing) a local HCF fellowship, we can now look at some of the aspects in a bit more detail.

THE 7 STEPS OR STAGES OF BEGINNING & BUILDING A LOCAL HCF:

1. FATHER in HEAVEN: Francis Grim, who was used by God to start the HCF in 1936 in South Africa, always used to say: “**The HCF was started in the heart of God!!!**” It is so true and we need to remember that! We need to **pray to God to start it** where we work and we need to **pray that He will**

put it in the hearts of people to start it where we work, starting with my own heart!!! “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” (John 3:6).

2. FELLOW or FEMALE on fire for God: As we’ve seen earlier, **God uses people. God’s method is men (or women)! God is looking for a man or a woman whom He can use!!!** Will YOU be that person?! God said: “And **I sought a man among them** who should build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it, **but I found none**” (Ezekiel 22:30). God is looking for someone who is on fire for Him, someone who feels responsible before God for the state of the spiritual welfare and fruitfulness of the place where they work... So often, we wait for someone else to be like that, for someone else to do the work, for someone else to be used by God. If we were the prophet in Isaiah 6, when God asked: “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”, would we have answered: “**Here am I Lord, please send someone else...!!!**”???

Isaiah said to God: “**Here am I. Send ME!**” (Isaiah 6:8); “**Here am I. Use ME!**” It’s marvellous to see that Nehemiah had the same response. We read in Nehemiah 2:4-5, “I prayed to the God of heaven, and I answered the king, “**If it pleases the king** and if your servant has found favour in his sight, **let him send ME** to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.”

Oh, that the Lord may find some of us today who will say: “Here am I, Lord, send ME, use ME, teach ME, guide ME, equip ME, empower ME with Your Holy Spirit—for Your Name’s sake and for the sake of Your work at my work!”

God wants us to DIE to ourselves and to be alive unto Him. He says: “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit” (John 12:24). When we have DIED to ourselves and to people’s opinions, then we can follow the Lord and serve

others and lead others, as servants and as examples, as Jesus did. Then we can say: **Follow me as I follow Christ!!!** (See 1 Corinthians 11:1)

That is the way to start a local HCF!!!

The KEY is to find ONE PERSON (ONE fellow or ONE female on fire with love for Jesus)!!! **ONE PERSON** who will stand before God in the gap of the wall, on behalf of the people. **ONE PERSON** who will feel the responsibility and take the responsibility before the Lord for the spiritual well-being and fruitfulness of the hospital or health facility or college or hostel or clinic or office where he or she works or studies.

**The KEY
is to find
ONE person!**

ONE PERSON who will not wait for others to do something great, but who will begin to DO what God wants him or her to do, for Him and with Him, right there where they work! **ONE PERSON** who will not care what people will say or not say, but who will live as if before the eyes of One (the Lord Jesus Christ) only! **ONE PERSON** who will start to pray, start to call 1 or 2 more to join in prayer, and then to continue as the Lord will lead them!

Will YOU be willing to be such a person, such a follower of Jesus, such an example for others, with God's help??! If Nehemiah was not like that, the walls would never have been rebuilt!!! We may approve it that others become like that and do that, but we are often not willing to BE such people, for God's glory... Why not?!

Unless **WE** say: "Yes, Lord!" how can we expect **OTHERS** to say; "Yes, Lord!"??!

Please remember, often when we say "Yes, Lord!", He shows us someone else who also said "Yes, Lord!", with whom we can start, together, at the foot of the

**Yes, Lord!
Here am I!
Send me!
Use me!
Even me!
For Your glory!**

Cross of Christ! But don't wait for such a person, start by saying: **"Yes, Lord! Here am I! Use me as You please!"**

What is your personal response to this? Please write it down below:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

The next step is, in harmony with the Lord, is to seek to start a

3. FELLOWSHIP (a local HCF fellowship): The idea is NOT that you start a flourishing fellowship, no, the idea is that you have fellowship with the Lord (in prayer and Bible study, and in walking and working together), ...and then that you prayerfully seek to detect and discern who else is seeking to live in fellowship with God, as you do. Once the Lord showed you one or two other believers in Him, you prayerfully approach them and invite them to have fellowship together!!!

This is what the Lord Jesus Himself did! He **prayed** and **chose** a few people, then he **called** them, and they came. Then he appointed them to **continue** to be with HIM, to live in **communion** together. This is recorded in Mark 3:13-14. As He leads us, we do the same!!!

We need to be **sensitive to the Spirit, led by the Lord, and guided by God!**

The Lord Jesus said: “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them” (Matthew 18:20). **This is the start of a local FELLOWSHIP!!!** This is the start of a local “HCF Fellowship” at a hospital or a health facility, wherever I work...!!!

Are YOU willing to do that, with the Lord’s help??!!

Then, whenever we come together, maybe on a weekly basis, or twice a week, ...we **PAUSE**, we acknowledge the **PRESENCE** of the Lord, we **PRAISE** (sing together), we **PRAY** (and praise and intercede), we **PONDER** (the Word), we **PERSONALLY SHARE** and edify one another (according to our needs and God's guidance) and we walk in accountability and mutual responsibility with one another (which we can also call "walking in the light"), we leave **PUNCTUALLY** (so that we are not late for work and that no official time of work is used for our times together of fellowship), and ...we **PUT INTO PRACTICE** what we heard (through the Word and the short fellowship of sharing) and seek for **PEOPLE to be reached and drawn in** to fellowship with God and with us...

Some people, when they PRAY, they use the "ACTS" acronym, which stands for **Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (and intercession) and Spiritual warfare...!!!**

So, the beginning of the local HCF fellowship is primarily a **PRAYER FELLOWSHIP**. This HCF prayer fellowship will seek

PRAYER FELLOWSHIP



Pause
Presence
Praise
Pray
Ponder (Word)
Personally share
Punctually leave
Put into Practice
People draw in...

to slowly but steadily develop the appropriate prayer strategy for that health facility and fellowship.

PRAYER STRATEGY

As we come together weekly or twice weekly or daily, **our first priority is to PRAY to Jesus!!!**

The focus should NOT shift to “teaching” or “preaching” or “preparing to share”, but remain focussed on the Lord Jesus, in prayer...

THIS IS THE PRACTICAL PRIORITY OF THE HCF—for us as Christian healthcare workers, who work at the same health facility or hospital or college, to come together to PRAY, and to develop a PRAYER STRATEGY for our institution, our place of work!!!! This is very, very important.

We are to pray **PERSONALLY**, to pray **PRIVATELY**, to pray with our **PEERS** (as we meet impromptu or in passing; even short “open-eyed” prayers in the corridors), to pray **PUBLICLY** (in our fellowship meetings or in the cafeteria), to pray privately with **PATIENTS** (as the Lord leads and allows), to pray with our life **PARTNERS** (our spouses, if we are married, and with our children, if we have children; including family prayers), to pray with our **PARENTS**, to pray with our **PASTORS** (and other elders), to pray in our **PRAYER-TRIPLETS**, and to pray during our **PENIEL weekends** (of special times of meeting and being alone with God)...

Part of the **Global HCF prayer strategy** is furthermore to promote prayer in the following practical ways:

- ‡ The use of “**B.L.E.S.S.**” **prayers** - Body (physical needs), Labour (work and financial needs), Emotions (psychological needs), Social (relationship needs), and Spiritual needs...
- ‡ Doing **Prayer Walks**: on our way to work, at work, and on special occasions.
- ‡ How to spend have an **Hour of Prayer** (See the website)
- ‡ How to have a **Day of Prayer** (See the website)
- ‡ How to have the **Monthly HCF Day of Prayer** (1st Wednesday of every month)

Prayer triplet



DAILY:

- For 3 non-Christians
- For your 2 prayer partners

WEEKLY:

- Nine non-Christians (Mt. 18:19)
- Leaders (1Tim 2:3-4)
- Work situation
- One another



- † Daily HCF-related Prayers using **The Trumpet Call**.
- † The **Silverline Initiative**: retired people praying!
- † The **4-14 Window of Prayer**: encouraging and mobilising children between 4-14 years of age to pray for healthcare!
- † Conducting a **Healthcare Sunday** (once a year at least)
- † **National Prayer Hubs** of to be formed in the top ten most populated countries: China; India; USA; Brazil; Indonesia; Pakistan; Nigeria; Bangladesh; Russia; and Japan.
- † Raise one million **Prayer Warriors in healthcare** for healthcare in the next 10 years.
- † Prayer for the **HCF International Partners**: like ICMDA, HIS Global, Kardia, Prime, NCFI, Ukraine Medical Outreach (UMO), Health Outreaches in the Middle East (“HOME”), OMS International, Presbyterian Church of South Korea, Korean Central Presbyterian Church.
- † To have regular **Concerts of Prayer**.
- † To mobilize **local churches** to pray for healthcare...
- † Calling for days of **humbling & fasting prayer** before God!
- † **Spiritual warfare praying**, etc.

More information about the HCF prayer strategy and ministry is available in the module on “*Serving God in the Health Field*” (on the international HCF website). But it needs to be emphasized: **“The primary need is not the multiplication of prayer meetings, but that individual Christians should**

learn to pray”!!! This is extremely important and explained by Dr Andrew Murray in his last and important book, “*The State of the Church*”. An abbreviated version, applied to HCF is available on request...

The primary need is not the multiplication of prayer meetings, but that individual Christians should learn to pray!!!

EVANGELISM STRATEGY

Ideally, out of the local PRAYER fellowship, with a personal passion for Jesus, is born a **pure passion for people**, that they may come to know the Lord Jesus, and be saved and made whole! This is expressed in developing an appropriate **EVANGELISM STRATEGY** for the place where we work, irrespective of if it is a public or private institution. The best way of doing it is expressed in the **Saline Process Witness Training course**, which was developed by IHS Global. HCF is one of the international partners with IHS Global in training as many as possible Christian healthcare workers in this approach of becoming and being **“wise witnesses of Jesus in the workplace”!** This is also a high priority—that all Christian healthcare workers at a health facility do this training and become part of the follow-up afterwards, if at all possible!

The sad lack of a “passion for souls” is due to the sad lack of a passion for Jesus! When we love Jesus we will love people and long for them to be saved and come to know Him intimately! Charles Spurgeon said: *“If I never won souls, I would sigh till I did. I would break my heart over them if I could not break their hearts. Though I can understand the possibility of an earnest sower never reaping, I cannot understand the possibility of an earnest sower being content not to reap. I cannot comprehend any one of you Christian people trying to win souls and not having results, and being satisfied without results.”*

When we love Jesus we will love people and long for them to be saved!

The local HCF fellowship will seek to develop an **evangelism strategy regarding** (1) being a wise witness in the workplace, (2) hospital (ward) visitation, (3) home visitation, (4) Child evangelism in the hospital, (5) care of the dying and their carers, (6) whole person health care (total patient care), (7) whole person education, etc. **We need to always keep in mind that “evangelism” is the sharing of the good news about God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit!**

DISCIPLESHIP STRATEGY

The next area in which this small, local HCF fellowship group

will seek to grow in God, is in developing a relevant, vibrant **DISCIPLESHIP STRATEGY** and **DISCIPLE-MAKING STRATEGY** primarily for those who are attending the local HCF fellowship, but also for others. This is to help all of them to become and to be true **DISCIPLES** of Jesus, as well as to learn how to make disciples of others, with the help of God.

As far as disciple-making is concerned, the Lord Jesus said: “All authority (all power of rule) in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. **Go then and MAKE DISCIPLES...** and behold, I am with you all the days (perpetually, uniformly, and on every occasion), to the [very] close and consummation of the age. Amen (so let it be).” (Matthew 28:18-20).

WHO IS A DISCIPLE?! I understand that **a disciple** is someone who:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

We can say that a DISCIPLE is a born-again person who loves the Lord Jesus, loves other disciples of Jesus, and loves those who don’t know the Lord Jesus yet...

To expand on it a bit more, we can say that a **DISCIPLE** of the Lord Jesus is a person who has come to **LOVE** the Lord, **LEAVE** behind all other (lesser) aims and desires and worldly goals and sins, **LET GO** of all other allegiances, **LEARN** from Him, be **LED** by Him as they follow Him and obey Him day by day and in everything, **LIVE** with Him and through Him and for Him, and who wants to become **LIKE** Him, more and more - for God's glad glory and the extension of His kingdom!

A disciple's desire and decision is to be **LIKE** Jesus, as He was and is - in His **CHARACTER, CONDUCT, CONVERSATION, COMMUNICATION, CARING, CEREBRATION** (thinking), and **CULTIVATION** of others as disciples. A disciple's desire is to **LEARN TO LIVE LIKE JESUS** within the context of his or her own existing community, culture, daily living and working milieu! In other words, as salt and light and yeast *IN* society and not extracted into separate silos of religiosity.

**A DISCIPLE of Jesus
is a person who
LOVES the Lord,
LEFT ALL for Him,
LEARNS from Him,
is LED by Him,
becomes LIKE Him,
and LEADS others
to Him!**

Since the Lord Jesus is a disciple-maker and He told His disciples to go and "make disciples," a disciple of Jesus will also seek to become and to be a disciple-maker, like Jesus! This is very important and often neglected. A lover and disciple of Jesus will seek to become and to be a true disciple and disciple-maker... **A disciple of Jesus is a disciple-maker!**

We can say we are followers of Jesus, but if we are not disciple-makers, we are not full followers of Jesus, because He was a disciple-maker!!!

Also, it needs to be said that **I cannot be a disciple-maker if I am not an obedient, loving disciple of Jesus myself! Only disciples can be disciple-makers!** Disciple-makers who are not disciples will mess things up and will NOT be able to build God's kingdom! In their book "*Contagious Disciple Making*," David and Paul Watson say, "If you are going to make disciples,

then you have to be an obedient disciple of Jesus... because you love Jesus more than anything.” As it is important to be clear about what or **who is a DISCIPLE** of Jesus, we also need to be clear on **what is DISCIPLESHIP...**

DISCIPLESHIP or DISCIPLE-MAKING is basically the God-given PROCESS by which a disciple is made. Floyd McClung was much used by the Lord in making disciples across the world, especially through his involvement (initially) in the ministry of YWAM. In his book, “*You see Bones, I see an Army*,” he says: “**Making disciples is not telling other people what to do, nor is it a rigid set of rules and practices for spiritual growth... IT IS HELPING ANOTHER PERSON TO KNOW, LOVE AND OBEY JESUS.**” This is simply and truly stated!

**“Making disciples...
is helping another
person to know,
love and obey
Jesus.”**

This means that if I seek to help some of my **peers** (my colleagues), or some of my **patients**, or some of my **friends**, or some of my **neighbours**, or some of my **family** (including my own children and relatives) “to know, love and obey Jesus,” then I am involved in disciple-

making or discipleship, as Jesus wants me to be!

Floyd McClung also said that **DISCIPLE-MAKING “is looking for those God has selected for us to disciple, and passing on what God has deposited in our lives,” it means “intentionally identifying with God’s interests in that person’s life.”** The focus in disciple-making is not on what WE are doing, but on discerning what GOD is doing in that person’s life, and then seeking to work with Him, in relationship with Him and the other person.

HOW?! With the Lord’s help and working, **disciples are made through** being an **example** (modelling), through a good, godly, Christ-centred **relationship**, through Spirit-led **teaching and mentoring**, through clear and compassionate **communication**, through mutual **accountability** and taking of **responsibility**, through **prayer**, through **studying God’s Word** individ-

ually and together, through being involved in **ministry together**, through going through the **struggles and storms of life together**, etc.

One of the most important, practical lessons Floyd McClung learned in making disciples is to ***“look for those who are genuinely open and want to grow, and invest lots of time and energy in them...”***

He also learned and said: “I am not responsible for making people grow who don’t want to grow. I love them and pray for them, but I don’t chase after them. I continue to love them and serve them while ***I look for those who are serious about knowing and obeying Jesus.***”

It needs to be emphasized that **discipleship without THE WORD of God is unthinkable!!! Any form of Christian discipleship which is not thoroughly SOAKED IN SCRIPTURE and BASED ON THE BIBLE is doomed to fail!!!**



Therefore, as was said already, one of the wisest ways of effective disciple-making is to **systematically STUDY THE BIBLE**, focussing on the basic truths and themes and chapters and verses that are of importance in becoming and being a true disciple of Jesus.

Some of the BOOKS that we’ve found helpful to study the Bible in this way are: “*The New Life*” (by Andrew Murray), “*Following Jesus*” (by Günter Krallmann), “*Every Man a Bible Student*” (by Dr JE Church), “*Following Jesus*” or “*Follow*” (by Floyd McClung), and “*All for Jesus Always*” (by Frikkie Kellerman), to mention a few.

Another way of making disciples is to conduct **DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDIES**, and to use key portions from the Word of

The DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY APPROACH

of using the 10 “R”s:

1. Read, Read... (+ hear)

2. Re-phrase (retelling in own words)

3. Reflect (meditate/think/listen)

4. Research (study/compare)

5. Record (write down/journal)

6. Remember (memorize)

7. Relate (share with others)

8. Respond (pray + obey!)

+ Revelation by Holy Spirit

+ Relationship with Jesus!!!

God to disciple those present. The portions are often divided according to themes, and can be studied as such.

Still another way is to generate a **LIST of particular needs** among the members of the HCFI fellowship group, and then to study the topics one by one, either topically through the Bible, or by using key portions of Scripture, following the Discovery Bible Study approach.

The **DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY APPROACH** (or method) has the following **10 “steps”**, also called the **10 “R”s**: **Read** the portion of Scripture aloud, each one present **Re-phrase** (or Retell) it in their own words, **Reflect** (think deeply) on it (while listening to the Lord, what He may be saying to me), **Research** (study further and check and compare with other Bible portions), **Record** (write down what I understand the Lord is saying to me and what He may want me to DO), **Remember** (memorize a portion), **Relate** (share it with others in the group), **Respond** (pray and go and DO and share with others outside the group)..., while all the time focussing on the need for **Revelation** (without which all Scripture is the dead letter only, which kills) and focussing on my personal **Relationship** with the Lord Jesus!

Please note that a Discovery Bible Study **Approach** is NOT the same as a Discovery Bible Study **Disciple-making Group**!!! In a Discovery Bible Study Disciple-making Group we may make use of the Discovery Bible Study Approach, but not necessarily. Also, the Discovery Bible Study Disciple-making Group has 3 specific components and a set of questions that are unique to that method. More will be said of that soon.

There are **many different personal and corporate Bible Study methods (or approaches)**. It is not within the scope of this workbook to discuss them all. It will be a high priority in any local HCF Fellowship to arrange opportunities for teaching of these methods to one another, as well as on the importance and method of having a fruitful time alone with Jesus daily. One of the resources that may be helpful is “*Secrets of Success for Students and Health Professionals*”, available from the HCF, on request.

In HCF, globally, we encourage brothers and sisters to use at least the **“S.O.A.P.S.” Bible Study method** in their personal devotional times alone with Jesus and His Word. After, for instance, reading one chapter from the Bible every day, you record your responses to the **“S.O.A.P.S.”** in your Bible (if there is space, like in a wide-margin Bible) or in your devotional notebook or journal. This means there may be a **“S.O.A.P.S.”** summary for every day in your Bible of notebook. **“S.O.A.P.S.” stand for:**

- S: SCRIPTURE** - Which portion speaks to me?
- O: OBSERVATION** - What does it say about God, His ways, people, you?
- A: APPLICATION** - What does that mean for me? How does God want me to respond to it?
- P: PRAYER** - God help me to respond as You want...
- S: SHARE** - With whom will I share what I learnt?

Another method which is used by some (even in a group Bible Study) is called **“S.P.E.C.S.”** I can think of it as putting on my **spiritual spectacles or “S.P.E.C.S.”**:

- S: SIN** to forsake or avoid?
- P: PROMISE** to claim?
- E: EXAMPLE** to follow?
- C: COMMAND** to obey?
- S: STUMBLING BLOCKS** /errors to avoid?

As far as having a fruitful and blessed devotional time alone with the Lord Jesus is concerned, Catherine Martin developed the **“P.R.A.Y.E.R.S.” approach**. We present it here below in a slightly adapted version:

- P - PREPARE** my heart before You...
- R - READ** Your Word, Reflect, Record & Respond to it, etc.
- A - ADORE** You in worship and prayer - **“A.C.T.S.”**
- Y - YIELD** myself to You, in intimacy + loving obedience.
- E - ENJOY** Your presence and fellowship (communion).
- R - REST** in Your love... as I go and respond to Your Word.
- S - SHOW + SHARE** You with others, through my life + lips

P - PREPARE my heart... James 4:8

PRAY

Be aware of God's PRESENCE

Silent waiting, alone, in the "secret place"

Reading daily devotional

Daily Light

My Utmost for His Highest (O. Chambers)

Sharing God's Secrets (Bakht Singh)

The Valley of Vision (Puritan Prayers)

Christian poetry or songs read/listen, etc.

Think in His presence (meditate) & write...

Sing

R - READ and STUDY and EAT God's Word... Colossians 3:16

Read according to daily reading plan

Research (study) - different methods

S.P.E.C.S. method

M-method, etc.

Rephrase and Rethink (meditate on it!!)

Record in my Journal...(personalized; brief)

Remember (memorize)

Respond (go and do...)

Relate to others

REVELATION + RELATIONSHIP

A - ADORE God in worship and prayer... 1 Thes 5:17

Pray about what I read/learned (write prayer)

Pray: "A.C.T.S." - **A**dore, **C**onfess, **T**hank, **S**upplication +
Spiritual warfare prayers

Pray using my Prayer Journal/ Guide/ "App" (Murray)

Y - YIELD (surrender) to God, in intimacy + obedience... 1 Peter 5:6

Thinking and recording (writing) what I heard/learned.

Yielding to Him about what I learned/heard from Him...

E - ENJOY His presence and fellowship (communion)...Psalm 37:4

Then and whole day (taking what I received with me)

Focussing on the goal - to know God, love Him, follow Him,
show Him, share Him & glorify Him...

R - REST in His love...as I go and respond to His Word...Matt 11:28

Confident that I have met with Him & received from Him,
that He is with me, and that he is faithful and

He will keep and guide and strengthen me...& use me...

FOR HIS GLORY!

S - SHOW + SHARE with others...through my life and lips.

One of the high priorities of a local HCF fellowship is to equip and encourage all who attend the fellowship (and others) **to have a Quality Quiet Time with the Lord Jesus, on a daily basis...** Without these times alone with the Lord, our times together in a local HCF fellowship are less fruitful and may sometimes even be a hypocritical façade (or shameful sham)!



As was said, we can also use the **DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUPS** (“**D-GROUPS**”) for the purposes of disciple-making, with Jesus. There are different ways of facilitating such group meetings. The one way is described as the “ABC” approach (which I learned through Floyd McClung’s writings, and used fruitfully). The other way is the one promoted through HCF, globally. We’ll briefly present both approaches and would like to encourage you to use either of the two, enthusiastically, and in faith and dependence upon the Lord...!!!

The “ABC” APPROACH to D-Groups

According to Floyd McClung, “a ‘**D-Group**’ is a discipleship group of no more than 4-5 people following a simple **format called ABC** and uses a **Bible study method called ‘discovery Bible study’**... with the two goals of assisting pre-believers to come to faith in Jesus, and empowering existing believers to become fully devoted followers of Jesus.” The “ABC” steps for the meetings of the “Disciple-making” groups are as follows:

- A: ASK (ACCOUNTABILITY)** - 1/3 of time
- B: BIBLE** discovery method (10 Rs)!!! - 1/3 of time
- C: COMMIT** to do & share - 1/3 of time

This is simple and very practical and helpful, and do-able!

DISCOVERY Bible study DISCIPLE-MAKING Group

A: ASK (Accountability)

Experiences: Good this past week? Bad/challenging?

Personal relationship: Time with Jesus? Sharing Him? Sins? Temptations? Obeyed?

Commitment: Obeyed? Shared? Who?

PRAY: Praise + Prayer

B: BIBLE study

Read, Re-state, Reflect (*what is God saying to ME?*),

Record, Relate, Respond (this coming week),

Remember, Research (say about God, people, etc.?)

Each shares once before others share twice!!

C: COMMIT to obey

What learned (to do)? Who share with? Practice now!
Pray...

Go and do!

The characteristics of successful D-Groups are:

- ✓ Gender-based groups work better (male/female separate)
- ✓ Small groups of 4-5 people are better.
- ✓ Obedience is the key (not learning more, but obeying more!)
- ✓ Short meetings of 1-2 hour per week. With students, we can even make it shorter, initially.
- ✓ Have a specific time (which is convenient for most)
- ✓ Stick to that time.
- ✓ Start on time.
- ✓ Leaders facilitate, not “lead”, not “teach.”
- ✓ Each one starts one, asap...
- ✓ Stick to “one-third, one-third, one-third.”
- ✓ Prayer, prayer, prayer...
- ✓ Christ-centred, caring relationships.
- ✓ Keep the focus on knowing and loving and obeying Jesus!
- ✓ “**A**” is linked to Deuteronomy 6:4-9; “**B**” is linked to John 14:15-17; and “**C**” is linked to Luke 8:19-21.
- ✓ People in the group are hungry for God, humble and honest

The HCF's GLOBAL APPROACH to D-Groups

The **method** of the Discovery Bible Study is basically the same, the **format** similarly consists of 3 sections, but it's termed differently and the 4 questions asked in each of the 3 sections are slightly different than in the ABC format. Each section should take only a third (1/3) of the total time together. With this approach, the format is:

1st Part: **LOOK BACK** - *Celebration and Fellowship* (1/3)

2nd Part: **LOOK UP** - *Listening to God's Word* (1/3)

3rd Part: **LOOK FORWARD** - *Prayer and Sending* (1/3)

Here follows a more detailed summary of the format:

LOOK BACK: Celebration and Fellowship

1. What are you **thankful** for this week?
2. What are you **struggling** with? Pray for one another.
3. How did you **put in practice** your "I will" statements?
4. How did you **share God's love** in word/deeds?

NB : Facilitator also shares

LOOK UP: Listening to God's Word

1. What does **God's Word say?** (Read two times + retell)
2. What do you **learn about God** and His ways?
3. What do you **learn about human nature**, about yourself, about interpersonal relationships?
4. How could you **respond** to what you have just learnt?
What could **God be asking you to DO?**

NB : Facilitator also shares

LOOK FORWARD: Prayer and Sending

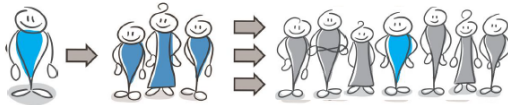
1. What will you **DO in response** to what God is saying to you - "I will..."
2. How are you going to **show God's love** to your neighbour in family, church, work, neighbourhood? - "I will..."
3. Shall **we pray?** For your "I will" statements, for your *Lost List*, etc.
4. When and where do we **meet again?** ☺☺☺



LOOK BACK - Celebrate + Fellowship



LOOK UP - Listening to God's Word



LOOK FORWARD
- Praying + Sending

Constantly keep in mind that the Lord Jesus said: ***“For where two or three gather in My Name, there am I with them”!!!*** (Matthew 18:20)

Please note, the **“D”** in the **“D-GROUP”** stands for **“Disciple-making,”** for **“Discovery,”** and for **“Doing,”** and not just hearing!

On the <https://www.hcfglobal.org/discipleship> website, you'll find more resources about which portions of the Bible to use for such D-Group meetings. **“The Big Five”** of the Discovery Group Scriptures are:

1. **The Big Commandment** - Mark 12:29-31
2. **The Big Prayer** - Matthew 6:9-13
3. **The Big Commission** - Matthew 28:18-20
4. **The Big Priority** - Matthew 6:33
5. **The Big Lifestyle** - Matthew 5:3-10

Remember, it all starts in the heart of our **Father in heaven**, who's looking for one person, one **Fellow or Female** who loves Jesus and will take the initiative and the responsibility of standing before Him in prayer and of calling 2 or 3 others (or more) to come together in a regular, local **Fellowship of prayer** (at your place of work). As this fellowship of prayer grows, the Lord may then lead you to start regular **fellowship meetings**

and/or 1 or 2 small, devoted **D-Groups!!!** **A D-Group is basically a Disciple-making, Discovery Bible studying, Praying Fellowship meeting...** So, your local HCF fellowship will slowly grow through the local HCF prayer fellowship meetings *and* the local HCF disciple-making Discovery Bible study fellowship meetings, *as well as* other fellowship meetings... In this way, **we are REBUILDING the spiritually broken down walls** at our places of work!

In his book, “*Youth Aflame: A Manual for Discipleship,*” Winkey Pratney speaks about the basic **STEPS for disciple-making,** based on the Example of the Lord Jesus. Briefly stated, the steps (slightly adapted) are:

- ☞ **SELECTION** of D-group members needs to be done prayerfully and in total dependence on God’s help and guidance.
- ☞ **SPEND** quality time together, not just during the meetings.
- ☞ **STRONG RELATIONSHIPS** to be built and maintained in a good, godly, Christ-centred way...
- ☞ **SET APART** to do God’s will in this world. Give them opportunities for decided dedication and abandonment to God’s will and purposes - set apart for God!
- ☞ **SHARE** from your personal life and walk with God. Keep it *short, simple, step by step, spiritual, and Spirit-led,* also sharing of your *struggles* (and God’s way of helping)...
- ☞ **SHOW** them by your example in all areas of your life (heart, home, house of God, health facility, HCF, homes in neighbourhood and community) - through your Christ-like character, conduct, conversation, caring, calling, cerebration (thinking), through the grace of God.
- ☞ **STIPULATE** and make it as clear as possible what practical steps need to be taken for God’s work to grow. Delegate responsibility. Show trust. But do NOT “lord” it over people!!!
- ☞ **SUPERVISE** as the team implements and be available to advice and assist and encourage and point to Jesus, and mutually learn and grow together.
- ☞ **SPIRIT-FILLED!** The Lord Jesus made it very clear that his disciples (new and old) are to be filled and anointed and empowered with the Holy Spirit.
- ☞ **SOLI DEO GLORIA** - only for God’s glory!

Once the D-Group grows and you reach the number of maybe 10 people, then it's time to **DIVIDE into 2 D-GROUPS**, who will meet separately, and continue to grow and multiply, with the Lord's help...

It may also be wise and workable if **different D-Groups** are formed in different sections and among different groups in the hospital or college. While the general local HCF fellowship meetings include ALL, from ALL sections and categories, these small groups (of 4-5 people each, only) may be for those who naturally work or relate together... For instance, there may be a few D-Groups among the nurses in the hostel, a few among the residential doctors, a few among the admin staff, two among the security guards, etc.

If by now you already have a local HCF Local Action Team (LAT), some of the members of the LAT may become the servant-leaders of some of these new D-Groups. If there is no LAT yet, then a more mature member of the original D-Group will become the servant-leader of the new D-Group, God willing. The idea is that everyone who joins the D-Group will in the near future become a servant-leader of a new D-Group... **This is disciple-making, multiplying!**

MULTIPLICATION

The Power of Doubling
Every Year



It has been said that **D-Groups** are *groups of 4-5 men or 4-5 women “who commit to meet weekly for the purpose of friendship and encouragement to grow as multiplying followers of Jesus. Each week, groups will discuss how God has recently impacted them through His Word, the Bible. They will challenge one another to personal faithfulness to God and others. And group members will pray for and encourage one another to show and tell the Gospel as a way of life. We anticipate each D-Group will meet for one year and then multiply...”*

Just to recap: We are looking at **the 7 steps or stages of beginning & building a LOCAL HCF**. The 7 steps or stages are: (1) **FATHER in heaven** starts in the heart of (2) one **FELLOW OR FEMALE** who'll take the responsibility to initiate what God wants, by starting a (3) local **FELLOWSHIP** (of prayer and evangelism and disciple-making). This is to be followed by (4) establishing a **FUNCTIONING LOCAL ACTION TEAM**, as a servant to the fellowship, with (5) focus on the **FRONTLINE HEALTHCARE WORKER**, (6) seeking to be a blessing and co-worker **FURTHER AFIELD**, and (7) all **FOR GOD'S GLORY!**

At this stage, a few more words need to be said about how to promote and participate towards a **FRUITFUL FELLOWSHIP**...

We read in Acts 2:42 that the believers “were continually and faithfully devoting themselves to (1) the instruction of the apostles, and to (2) **FELLOWSHIP**, to (3) eating meals together and to (4) prayers.” *They devoted themselves to this!* John said in 1 John 1:3, “**Our FELLOWSHIP is with the Father and with the Son...**”, and in 1 John 1:7 we read, “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, **we have FELLOWSHIP with one another**, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”

NOT all that is considered “fellowship” these days is true Christian fellowship!!! This is very important to realize!

According to the New Testament, Christian **FELLOWSHIP** (or as it is called in the Greek language: “*koinonia*”) is NOT just a

“holy huddle,” nor a “happy huddle,” nor a “hugging huddle,” nor a “hand-holding huddle,” NO! It involves **RELATIONSHIP** (with God and with one another), **PARTNERSHIP** (with commitment to work together), **COMPANIONSHIP**, **COMMUNION** and **STEWARDSHIP**. It also involves **CHRIST-LIKE CONNECTING**, **COMMUNICATING**, **COLLABORATING**, **COMPASSIONATE CAREFUL CARING**, and above all else **CHRIST-CENTRED** and **CHRIST-GLORIFYING LIVING** and **LOVING** and **LABOURING...**

Furthermore, Christian fellowship is **based on the Lord Jesus Christ** and what He has done for us on the Cross and in each one of us who are saved. It is therefore also **based on truth and on light and on service to one another** (in agape-love). It is **ruled by the Word of God** and always under the Word of God. Christian fellowship is **spiritual** fellowship, in the Spirit of God. It is not soulish fellowship! Christian spiritual fellowship is fellowship **in Christ** and **through Christ** and **to Christ!** Since it is always only **through Christ** that I am in fellowship and that I have fellowship with another brother or sister, we can say it is **Christ-mediated fellowship!** This is very important to discern and develop, with the Lord’s help.

This kind of **FELLOWSHIP with one another** is part of God’s plan and blessing for us as believers. As was said, it is NOT mainly a fellowship on an emotional or physical or social level, but **mainly on a spiritual level** (though experienced and expressed on the other levels too). It is a fellowship **only in**

**NOT all “fellowship”
is true Christian
spiritual fellowship!
Only that which is
in Christ, from Christ,
through Christ
and to Christ,
is true Christian
spiritual fellowship!**

and through the Lord Jesus Christ (and to Him). Anything else is mere *human* fellowship, or *emotional* fellowship or *soulish* fellowship, **not Christian** fellowship, **not spiritual** fellowship. We can say: cheerful chatting is **not** fellowship, fun-filled fraternizing is **not** fellowship, religious rituals or rhetoric is **not** fellowship, scripture studying (by itself) is **not** fellowship, sensual socializing is **not** fellowship, desirous dreaming is **not**

fellowship, soulish sentimentality is **not** fellowship, humane hand-holding is **not** fellowship, emotional excitement is **not** fellowship - we mean **Christian spiritual fellowship**. **Only that which is from Christ, through Christ, in Christ and for Christ, based on what He did on the Cross, and under His Word, is true Christian spiritual fellowship!**

For a more detailed explanation of this, please read “*Life Together*,” by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, which is available as a pdf.

John MacArthur said: “**Anybody in fellowship with Jesus Christ is also in fellowship with anybody else who is also in fellowship with Jesus Christ**” According to J.I. Packer, “**As we value the health of our souls... we must learn to prize fellowship.**”

On a practical level, **this LOCAL HCF FELLOWSHIP** of born-again believers in Jesus, working together at a health facility, **could find expression in, for instance:**

1. The **prayer fellowship meetings** - where we have times of prayer together as Christian healthcare workers, daily or weekly or bi-weekly, or anytime.
2. **Prayer triplets** meeting weekly, but praying daily.
3. **Short services** together (before work, or during lunch time, or on some evenings - maybe weekly, as a “HCF” meeting)
4. **D-Groups:** Different Discovery Bible study Disciple-making groups meeting on a weekly basis, or two-weekly.
5. **Meals (or “love feasts”)** together from time to time.
6. **Special functions** (for new students or new staff or events or celebrations or Christian holidays).
7. **Concerts of Prayer** occasionally.
8. **Special days of fasting and prayer** (together or simultaneously).
9. Occasional **seminars or conferences or retreats**, together.
10. Conducting **Christian medical outreaches** together.
11. **Short 5-10 minute devotions** in the wards or hostel or classrooms or offices or theatres or elsewhere, depending on the possibilities at the particular hospital and on the Lord’s guidance....

We also need to emphasize that without RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS, there can be no FRUITFUL FELLOWSHIPS!

The BIGGEST problem in the work of the Lord is NOT the enemy from without, but the enemy from within! With this we mean: **secret sins and self-sins** (where there is interpersonal conflict and disharmony between children of God)... It is helpful to remember that the SECRET of oneness and God's blessing is found in Psalm 133, which is one of the "Climbing Songs." **Interpersonal conflict is resolved where there is:**

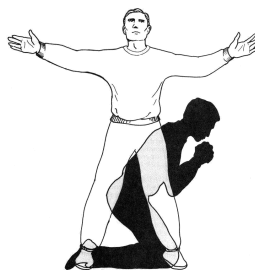
- ‡ **Openness** (Lev 26:40,41) through honest walking in the light (1 John 1: 7-9) and confession of my sins (James 5:16).
- ‡ **Brokenness** (Lev 26:40,41 and Ps 51:17) of heart, with a deep humbling of myself before God and others (2 Chronicles 7:14), and a resultant humility of heart and mind. This happens at the foot of the Cross of Christ. There the "ground is level" and I become one with my brothers and sisters in the Lord.



- ‡ **Oneness** (Ps 133:1), which is the supernatural fruit of Openness and Brokenness. God says: "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!"; "How wonderful, how beautiful, when brothers and sisters get along!" (MSG).
- ‡ **Fullness** (Ps 133:3) of the Holy Spirit —"For there (at the place of Openness, Brokenness and Oneness - my addition)

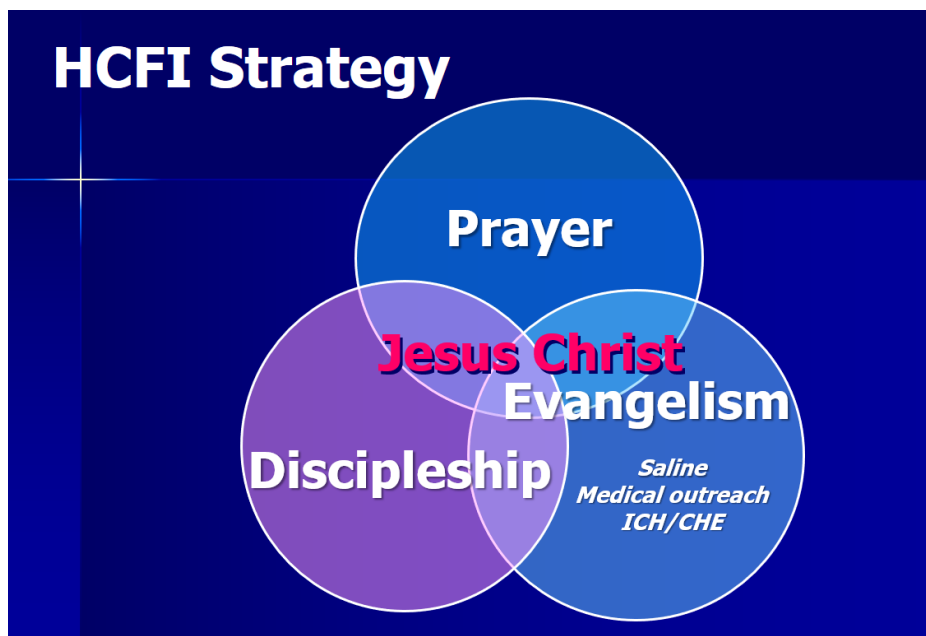
the Lord bestows His blessing...”; “Yes, that’s where God commands the blessing...” (MSG). Please see Acts 2:1-4. *The Cross leads to Pentecost and Pentecost leads to the Cross...*

† **Prayerfulness** precedes (Acts 1:14) and follows (Acts 2:42) this Blessing. Jonathan Edwards said: *“The Spirit of God is the Chief of blessings, for it is the sum of all spiritual blessings; which we need infinitely more than others, and wherein our true and eternal happiness consists. That which is the sum of the blessings... Christians have to pray for...”*



Praise the Lord! A **FRUITFUL FELLOWSHIP** of believers at a health facility can be a great blessing in this broken world - to God’s glory!

By now, the **3 MAIN PILLARS of the HCF strategy** are well established in the local HCF fellowship. The three pillars are: (1) **PRAYER**, (2) **EVANGELISM**, and (3) **DISCIPLESHIP** (and disciple-making)...



It is very important to emphasize that, in the HCF, though these are these three pillars, **the focus is not on prayer, but on JESUS; the focus is not on evangelism, but on JESUS; the focus is not on discipleship, but on JESUS!!!** And, **the focus on not on us, nor on the patients, but on JESUS!!!**

Loving HIM, serving HIM, following HIM, obeying HIM, knowing HIM, making HIM known, glorifying HIM...!!!!

In short, the HEART of the HCF is - HIM!!!

Also, at this stage, as the HCFI fellowship is slowly growing, it may be the God-given time to consider to select and start a well functioning HCF Local Action Team (or LAT)...

4. FUNCTIONING HCF LOCAL ACTION TEAM

This is based on a model the Lord graciously gave to some of the HCF;s international leaders when they sought the Lord for the way forward, some years ago. It works beautifully! It avoids the traditional “committee”-style of leadership and management.

It facilitates shared leadership (under the Lord) and **stimulates the maximal involvement of different people in the fellowship**. It is **action-oriented** and not meeting-oriented!!! That’s why it’s called an “ACTION” team.

Also, it’s called an action “TEAM,” because it is to function **as a TEAM**, under God. It is NOT perpetuating the worldly style of leadership, where one or two or three people control the whole fellowship and all the activities!!! NO! That is NOT God’s way. His way is that, like in Nehemiah, **we ALL BUILD the walls TOGETHER!!!!**

To help us understand **the forming and the functioning of a HCF Local Action Team**, we can look at the following, carefully and prayerfully:

LOCAL ACTION TEAMS!

We'll look at the Wow, What, Why, Who, How form and How function (including the different HCF ministries) of a local action team (a LAT)...

WOW!!! God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit is an action team!!! God ALWAYS works as a Team!!! This is good to know, and important. They are not just a team, they are ONE!

WHAT: *Two to nine (2-9) well-communicating Christians, called by God, working together and moving together harmoniously towards the fulfilment of shared, prayerfully-determined, God-given goals, in the light of the HCFI vision (relating to prayer, evangelism and discipleship), for God's glory.* As was said already, an "action team" is NOT a committee, but a TEAM, focussing on ACTION (not on just meeting and eating)!!! A LOCAL action team (LAT) concentrates its efforts on one area in the health field, e.g. a hospital, CHC, clinic, college, nursing school, practice, HMO, etc.

WHY: **Teams are God's idea!!!** To effectively manage and participate in the HCF work for which they are responsible. Action Team members do this in collaboration with the rest of the HCF fellowship and family. "Powerful, purposeful and prayerful evangelistic action is needed in the Health Field. Teams of Christians from all disciplines of the Health Field should cooperate whole-heartedly in meeting the spiritual needs of their patients and colleagues. Together, they can do this far more effectively and efficiently. Local Action Teams require involvement in time, effort, and finances. Thus we will be able to gather in the harvest for Christ Jesus effectively." (Singapore HCF)

WHO: Christian healthcare workers who know the Lord Jesus as Saviour and Lord, who walk in the fullness of the Holy Spirit, whose life and work is a witness of Jesus, who subscribe to the HCF Basis of Faith, who are committed to serve

God through the fulfilment of the HCF vision, who are faithful and careful to complete assignments, who have servant hearts, who is willing to take responsibility for the area involved, and who support the work of the team financially...

HOW FORM: As you know by know: if first starts in the heart of our **FATHER IN HEAVEN**, who works in a **FELLOW OR FEMALE**, called by God and on fire for God, who then starts a local HCF **FELLOWSHIP**... then,... “AFTER meeting for some time, he or she will take note those who show spiritual leadership potential. After prayer and guidance from God, invite those potential servant-leaders to a separate evening when the purpose and function of Action Teams are explained. They are then asked to pray whether God wants them to be involved in the Action Team or not, and fix a date for the next meeting. Those who, after prayer, feel that God wants them involved in this way, are to attend a meeting where the Action Team is officially appointed by a HCF staff worker (if available)... Teaching these potential servant-leaders from the workbook ‘*Action Teams on Target*’ before they make a commitment can be useful, so they know exactly what they are committing themselves to do. Ensure that each member meets the requirements...” These guidelines are taken (and adapted) from the HCF Training Module.

Please note: it is very, very important that the people chosen to be part of the Local Action Team are walking with God, walking in the Spirit, and already showing through their walk and work that they are living out the HCF vision and mission. People are NOT to be chosen because of their personality or because of their position in the hospital or in society, or because of their natural leadership personality or position. Also, they are NOT to be chosen because they appear to be knowledgeable and know the Bible—the devil also knows the Bible! The people selected **MUST** be chosen by God, and shown by God that it is His will for them to join the local action team.

Being in the Local Action Team (the “LAT”) is NOT to have a position of status, but a position of SERVICE!!!



***Like a TEAM
is needed to
resuscitate
a patient,
God uses
action TEAMS
to resuscitate
His work
in HCF,
in hospitals!***

It is better to have LESS people on the action team, but they are God's choice, than to have a big action team, but the wrong people are on the team!!!

It is NEVER a good idea to appoint someone into a position (on the HCF local action team, for instance) who has not already PROVEN himself or herself to be actually doing what their position of service calls for... For instance, if he or she is not a prayerful person, you can NOT appoint them to the action team to develop the ministry of prayer!!!

This has been one of the biggest problems in the development of the HCF in different countries - when people were appointed in positions they were not ready and fit to fill, spiritually and professionally speaking!!! Often, when there is a vacancy, and there is someone who is a "spiritual" person, it is said: "We should appoint him or her in that position!" BUT that is NOT right!!! We should rather say: "If you think the Lord wants you to be part of the HCF fellowship and even part of the HCF servant-leadership, then start to DO what you know the Lord wants you to do! Start to BE what you need to BE in fulfilling the HCF vision! Start to BE a servant! Start to pray! Start to evangelise! Start to disciple others... then, as you serve, it will be evident to all that you are the right person to

fill that position of service on the action team (for a while)!!!”.

It's NOT the appointing in a position that is important, it's the DOING of what God wants us to DO that is important!!!

Please remember, **it is better to grow the local action team slowly**, and to make sure it is done in the Spirit, **in a spiritual way**, than to be too fast... Once formed, and as it is being formed and reformed continually, we need to look at HOW it is to function.

HOW FUNCTION: As a **TEAM**, we have a **COMMON GOAL**.

We **COMMUNICATE** and **COOPERATE WELL**, in a **CLIMATE OF TRUST**, with **CHRIST** as our Leader and Helper and Example...!

On the local action team, we function as **SERVANTS**, not as bosses!!! We read in 1 Corinthians 4:1, “This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.” The word “servant” used here means “under-rower” and the word “steward” means “house manager”. This

means we are to be under-rowers and house managers... ***An under-rower is a galley slave on the lowest level of the ship, who rows in submission to the captain's beat, ...until he dies! God is looking for faithful “under-rowers” on His ship, including the HCF fellow-ship!***

**We function
as a TEAM, with a
COMMON GOAL.
We COMMUNICATE
and COOPERATE well,
in a CLIMATE OF
TRUST, with CHRIST
as our Leader,
and Helper
and Example!**

Furthermore, the Local Action Team will FUNCTION: *As a **team**, together. *The **different HCF ministries** are allocated to different members of the action team. ***Each taking responsibility** for their area of ministry, *but all working together on all of the ministries (in some way or the other). ***Each have a little sub-group** (outside the action team) whom they work with and disciple in that area of ministry. ***Pray together weekly**

and ***meet monthly** for (1) praise, (2) progress report, (3) prayerful planning for the next month, and (4) prayer... *Each action team member presents a **report** on *what happened during that past month and *what the Lord put on their hearts and the hearts of their subgroup for the month or time ahead... *The action team prays and plans together and harmonizes the different ministries... ***Minutes** are made and given to each, soon after the meeting. *Each ministry member on the Local Action Team (LAT) **networks** with the similar ministry members of other nearby LATs, horizontally, and vertically with the similar ministry members on the Area Action Team (AAT), if there is one, or with the State Action Team (SAT), if there is one, or with the Provincial Action Team (PAT), if there is one, or with the National Action Team (NAT)!; etc...

WHICH HCF MINISTRIES?: There are core ministries in the local HCF fellowship and action team, as well as other ministries. Based on local needs, unique ministries may also be started, as the Lord may lead!

- ❖ **The CORE ministries are:** *PRAYER, EVANGELISM and DISCIPLESHIP & DISCIPLE-MAKING.*
- ❖ **The OTHER ministries may be:** *DEVELOPMENT & MANAGEMENT, TRAINING (camps, conferences & seminars), MEDIA & SOCIAL, FINANCE & ADMIN, CHILDREN, ETHICS & HEALTHCARE TRENDS, CHURCHES.* As a part of *EVANGELISM*, or separately from it, we may have the ministries of *SALINE PROCESS* witness training, *MEDICAL OUTREACH* and *INTEGRAL COMMUNITY HEALTH (ICH)*, called *CHE (COMMUNITY HEALTH EVANGELISM)* by some.
- ❖ **The UNIQUE ministries** that may be started, based on local needs and the Lord's leading, may be: *SCHOOL* health & adolescent health, caring for people affected by *HIV/AIDS*, *PUBLICATIONS* (which may be under media too), *Christian WHOLE-PERSON EDUCATION, APOLOGETICS, HOME CARE, SHALOM HEALTH CARE, BIBLICAL HEALTH CARE*, etc.

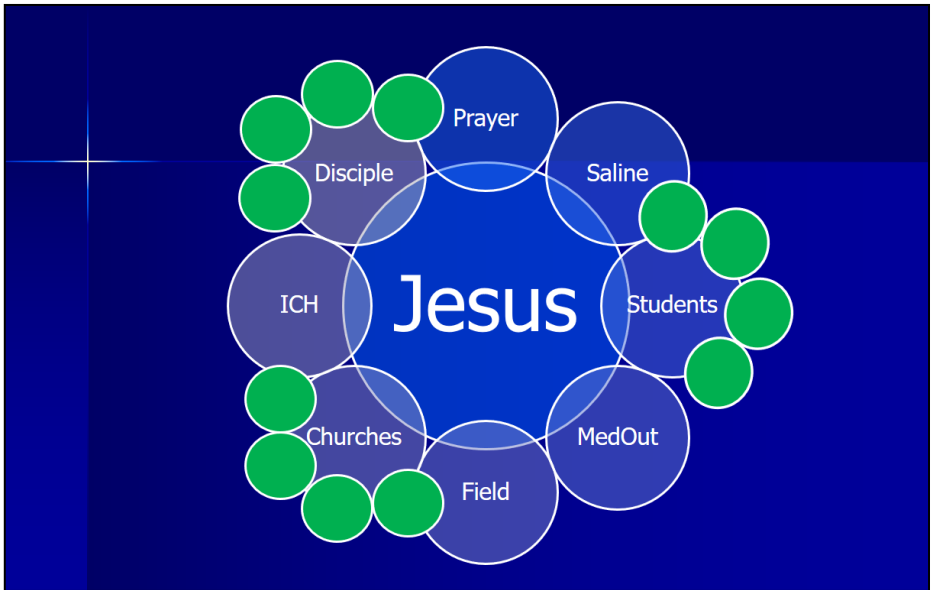
It may happen that **one action member may have the responsibility for the development of more than one of the**



above-mentioned ministries, together with his or her sub-groups... This is no problem, provided it is the Lord's will. As was said before: it's better to have a smaller action team, who serve the Lord and the fellowship well, than to have a large action team who serves themselves...

The illustration on the right shows how **EACH member** of the local action team will seek to gather with him or her a **SMALL GROUP** (or **SUB-GROUP**) of passionate Christians, who have it on their heart to serve the Lord together, in that particular area of ministry. They will meet together regularly (weekly) to **PRAY and PLAN** together, regarding that ministry, and to hear from the Lord, and to implement what was decided by the local action team or the fellowship.

In this way, apart from what's happening through the D-Groups, **disciple-making will take place all the time**, both IN the local action team, among the members, as well as OUTSIDE the local action team, among the members in the SMALL GROUPS... The aim is to disciple others who will replace me in the near future, so that they will do the same too...



The function and the role of the members of the local action team can be compared to the function and the role of the LEVITES among the people of God in the Old Testament. The Levites (of then) are a MODEL for us (now) as to how the local action members are to walk and work, and why...!

We see in the Old Testament that, for the Israelites to be what God wanted them to be, in blessing the nations, **the LEVITES were needed!!!** In the same way, at the right time, the members of the local action team are needed!!! God chose the Levites (and the LAT members) **to be PATTERNS and PACESETTERS, and to secure and guard the continuance of the un-grieved PRESENCE of the Lord in their midst...** Now, in the time of the New Testament, all born-again believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are spiritual LEVITES, with the same calling - so that our homes and hospitals and health centres may be places where Christ is found!!!

Let's very briefly look at this "LEVITE-MODEL"...

The LEVITES were to:

- † **WALK** in front of the other people of God.
- † **WATCH** over the Ark of the Lord's Presence and the people's life and actions and business and worship.
- † **WATCH** over God's **WORD**... (Deut 33:9,10) + **WARN**...!!!
- † **WAIT** in His Presence.
- † **WORSHIP** God and lead others to worship Him.
- † **WORK** to keep the Fire burning, do the offerings, be helpful, "on regular duty," administer, quality control & teach.
- † **WARFARE** of the service, in different forms of service and ministry (Please see Numbers 8:24-26, the marginal reading)
- † **WAR** in intercessory prayer and **WARFARE PRAYER**.
- † **WORD** practice and proclaim and teach.

The **LIFE** and **LANGUAGE** and **LABOUR** of the **LEVITES** was like a **LIFE-GIVING LIGHT** of God's holy **LOVE** and **LIFE** in the midst of His people *and* the gentiles... May the Lord fill us with His Spirit, so that all the local action team members of the local HCF fellowships may be like the Levites were!!!

It is expected that all the local action team members will **work through the HCF workbook "Action Teams on Target,"** facilitated by the servant-leader or by a full-time HCF staff-member, if possible. **You cannot expect to work well in God's work if you don't prepare yourself well, with His help, and by working through this above-mentioned workbook.** In it, more detail is given about EACH of the ministries, how best it can function, so that God's work can flourish. It also discusses the practicalities of conducting the local action meetings, as well as the local fellowship meetings, and how to work with authorities, in your place of work. This is very important!

So far, we saw some of the steps or stages in WHAT to build to GROW a healthy HCF at your hospital or health facility. We saw: (1) **FATHER** in heaven starts it! (2) **FELLOW OR FEMALE** initiates...; (3) **FELLOWSHIP** slowly grows; and (4) **FUNCTIONING LOCAL ACTION TEAM (LAT)** serves the local HCFI fellowship (ministries). The next step (or stage) and priority is to focus on the development and equipping of the...

5. FRONTLINE HEALTHCARE WORKER

This is a term coined by Dr Keith Michael, the International Coordinator of the HCF International. There is a real danger that we may be busy with “prayer fellowships” and “HCF local fellowships” and “D-Groups” and “sub-groups” and “Saline training,” and be very BUSY with many ACTIVITIES, but **we may miss out on appropriately focussing on the FRONT-LINE HEALTHCARE WORKER, and through them, to their peers and to the precious patients!!!** This is to be avoided at all cost!

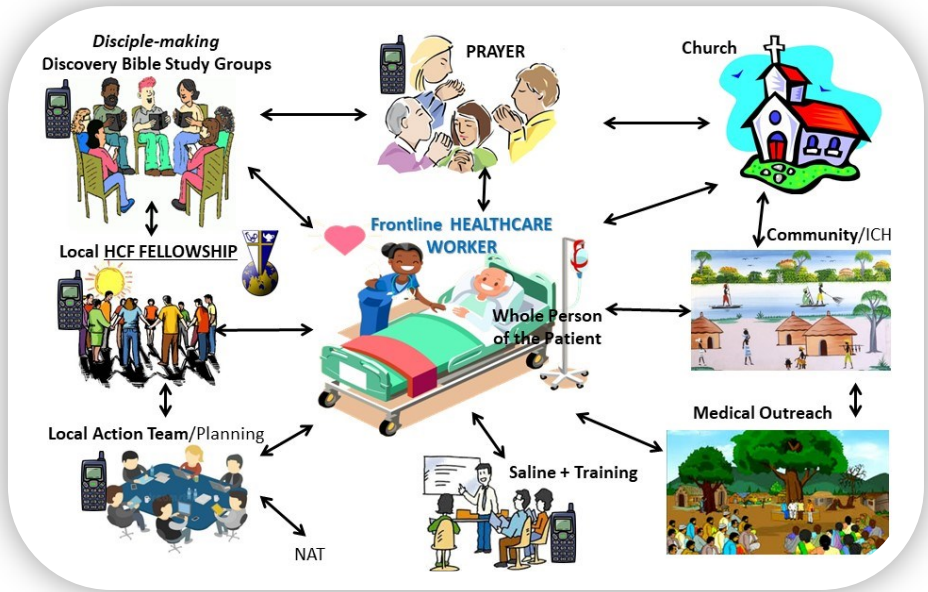
Nehemiah did not just think of the walls to be built, the task to be completed, no, **he thought of EACH individual WORKER** and how to support and safeguard them and help them to reach the goal God had for them, individually, and corporately (together). Also in the work of God through the HCF, we want to not neglect the frontline healthcare worker. We want to actually focus on them, and through them on the patients!!! So when activities are planned, when topics are decided upon, when intercession is made, **we are to remember the FRONT-LINE HEALTHCARE WORKER!!!**

The FRONTLINE HEALTHCARE WORKER is the person NEXT to the patient in need... He or she may be a professional or a non-professional worker. If professional, he or she may be a healthcare professional or an allied healthcare professional. The frontline healthcare worker may be a **CLERK** or a **CLINICIAN** or a **CLEANER** or a **CASHIER** or a **CARER** (a nurse), or a **CARETAKER** or a **CHAPLAIN** or a **CONTROLLER** or a **COUNSELLOR** or a **COFFEE-MAKER** or a **CAR-GUARD**, or a **CLASS 4 WORKER** or whatever **CADRE** he or she may be in...!!!

We need to seriously ask ourselves: **HOW CAN I REACH THE FRONTLINE HEALTHCARE WORKER FOR CHRIST, THAT HE OR SHE CAN REACH THEIR PEERS AND THE PATIENTS FOR CHRIST???**!!!

We can look at the frontline healthcare worker, and his or her needs and opportunities for involvement and growth, regarding

what the HCF offers, by studying the following picture (which was originally drawn up by Dr Keith Michael):



The Frontline Healthcare Worker in HCF

“Oh Lord, help us to serve and equip and encourage them well!”

If we do not effectively reach the frontline healthcare worker for Christ, there is something wrong with the way we build the work of God in the hospital or health facility...!

In a local HCF fellowship we do not focus on the so-called prominent people, we focus on Jesus and on the frontline healthcare workers, and through them on the patients!

May the Lord give us a prayerful passion for people, a practical passion for patients, and above all, a personal passion for Jesus!!!

The next step or stage in the building of a local HCF in the healthcare workplace is:

6. FURTHER AFIELD INVOLVEMENT

As was said earlier, the local HCF fellowship will be encouraged to NOT look inwardly and to NOT just become another “holy, happy huddle,” but to look outwards, to look to the harvest fields—in the hospital, the community, the area, as well as **FURTHER AFIELD** - in the country, the region, and even across the world... They will seek to be part of what God is doing through prayer, and through personal involvement, and through financial support, as well as through networking on the different levels of the HCF Action Teams...

With this we mean that any brother or sister on the local action team, who is involved with and responsible for a specific ministry (for instance for discipleship and disciple-making), will seek to contact those brothers and sisters of other local actions teams (from other hospitals or health facilities) who are involved with developing the discipleship and disciple-making ministries **THERE**, and learn from them and share with them and coordinate with them, to improve the discipleship and disciple-making ministries, both here and there. This is called **horizontal networking**...

The person responsible for the discipleship and disciple-making ministry on the Local Action Team will also seek to contact the person responsible for discipleship and disciple-making on the Area Action team (for the area in which the hospital is) and/or with the person for it on the State Action team (or called Provincial Action Team in some countries), or on the National Action Team, and eventually with the person on the Regional Action team and the International (Global) Action team... This is called **vertical networking**.

BOTH the horizontal networking and the vertical networking are also to be a two-way process of mutual learning and teaching and sharing, for God’s Name’s sake.

Once a Local HCF Fellowship and Local Action Team functions fruitfully, they can be a great help to other fellowships at different hospitals and health facilities—to visit them, share with

them, encourage them and assist them to also be established well, in the Lord, and in the strategy and methodology the Lord gave the HCF to use!

Some people have a problem with the “**STRUCTURE**”; they say we should “follow the **SPIRIT**,” and then they do not establish any stable structure in their fellowships. While it may sound “spiritual,” it is NOT from the Lord... ***A hand without any bones inside (no inner structure) will be like an over-soft, warm jelly-fish and NOT able to do any significant work of loving service!***

I learned a few very important lessons from the Word of God, in the book of Ezekiel 37:1-11. We read:

“1 The hand of the Lord was upon me, and He brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. [**SEE the situation**] 2 And He caused me to pass round about among them, and behold, there were very many [human bones] in the open valley or plain, and behold, they were very dry. 3 And He said to me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, You know! [**SEE a vision of what can be**] 4 Again He said to me, Prophecy to these bones and say to them, O you dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. 5 Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath and spirit to enter you, and you shall live; 6 And I will lay sinews upon you and bring up flesh upon you and cover you with skin, and I will put breath and spirit in you, and you [dry bones] shall live; and you shall know, understand, and realize that I am the Lord [the Sovereign Ruler, Who calls forth loyalty and obedient service]. 7 So I prophesied as I was commanded; [**STRATEGY - doing what God wants and says to be done**] and as I prophesied, there was a [thundering] noise and behold, a shaking and trembling and a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. [**STRUCTURE came together, and was put into place**] ... 8 And I looked and behold, there were sinews upon [the bones] and flesh came upon them and skin covered them over [**STRATEGY: shape was given to the structure**], but there was no breath or spirit in them. 9 Then said He to me, Prophecy to

the breath and spirit, son of man, and say to the breath and spirit, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath and spirit, and breathe upon these slain that they may live. 10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath and spirit came into [the bones], [**SPIRIT**] ...and they lived and stood up [**STOOD**, individually and together, as an army of the Lord] upon their feet, an exceedingly great host. 11 Then He said to me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel.” - ***the whole HCF in my country?!!***

	<p>SEE situation + vision</p>	<p>We see in Ezekiel 37 that VISION is not enough!!! From this I learn the following for HCF in our hospitals, clinics and health facilities:</p>
	<p>STRUCTURE bones</p>	<p>.....</p>
	<p>STRATEGY flesh + obedience</p>	<p>.....</p>
	<p>SPIRIT came and gave Life!!!</p>	<p>.....</p>
	<p>STOOD alive and ready for SERVICE + SPIRITUAL WARFARE</p>	<p>.....</p>

To have **STRUCTURE** without **STRATEGY** is like a hand with the hard skeleton bones only, but with no flesh! To have **STRATEGY** without **STRUCTURE** is like a hand with flesh, but with **NO** bones (skeleton) in...! And, to have **structure and strategy**, but without the **SPIRIT** of Christ in all, is like a hand with bones and flesh, but without life!!!

*We need to pause
and ponder and pray
about this deeply...*



In any HCF fellowship, we need to have **SIGHT** (vision), with **STRUCTURE**, with **STRATEGY**, and filled with the **SPIRIT** of Christ in all, that we can **STAND** in victorious **SPIRITUAL WARFARE** and **SERVICE**...!!!

The **SIGHT** God gave us (our vision) is JESUS!!! - that healthcare workers may come to know Him, show Him and share Him, so that their peers and patients may come to know Him too...

The **STRUCTURE** God gave us in HCF is the local HCF fellowship, the local HCF action team with the different ministry streams, and the networks along those streams, horizontally and vertically.

The **STRATEGY** He gave us is prayer, evangelism and discipleship (and disciple-making)!

The **SPIRIT** we need is the Promise of the Father, the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit!!!

We thank God for the SIGHT He gave us, for the STRUCTURE He gave us, for the STRATEGY He gave us, and above all for the SPIRIT He gave us, in His great grace! We also thank Him for the many opportunities He gives us to STAND for Him and with Him in spiritual warfare and loving service to so many in great need and brokenness...

We would love to share these truths with as many as possible other Christian healthcare workers and hospitals and health facilities, so that the work of God can grow in the health fields of the world, that His kingdom may come, that His Name be glorified, and that He may indeed be what He is - the Lord of healthcare!!!

This brings us to the final stage or step in the building of a local HCF in any health facility:

7. FOR GOD'S GLAD GLORY!!!

Our ultimate aim and purpose is **THAT ALL MAY BE ONLY AND ALWAYS FOR HIS GLORY ALONE!!!**

This is our prayer. For this we give our lives. For this we seek His face. For this we seek to hear the **FATHER'S** heart. For this we surrender to be the **FELLOW OR FEMALE** He can use. For this we take initiative, start a local HCF **FELLOWSHIP**, stimulate the growth of such a fellowship, form a **FUNCTIONING HCF LOCAL ACTION TEAM** of servant-leaders, strengthen the **FRONTLINE HEALTHCARE WORKERS**, seek to be involved **FURTHER AFIELD...** All **FOR GOD'S GLAD GLORY!!!**"

Hallelujah!!!

Dear Father, please help me to see the privilege and the responsibility to ARISE & BUILD Your work at my work, also through the HCF...



Arise
and

Build

FAITH

LOVE

COMMUNITY

SERVICE

WHEN?!

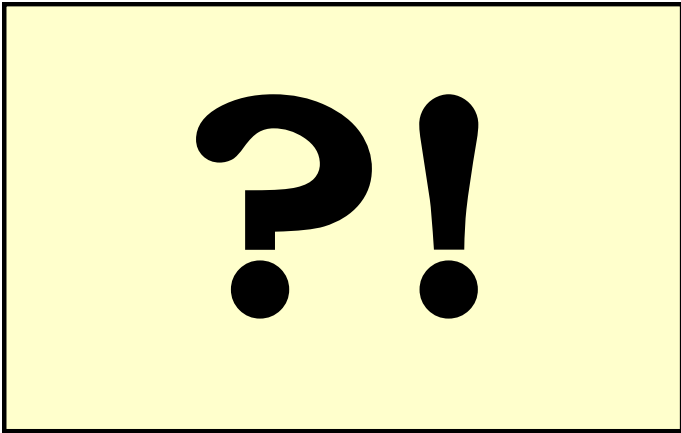
GRACE

The God of heaven will give us success;
therefore we His servants will arise and build.

NEHEMIAH 2:20

When

arise & build?!



Through Nehemiah we have heard **God’s call to “ARISE and BUILD”!** As we worked through this workbook, we looked at: **WHY** arise and build? **WHY NOT? WHERE** should we arise and build? **WHO** should do it? **WITH WHO** and with who not? **HOW** to build to succeed? **WHAT** to build? The question before us at present is: **WHEN** shall we do it??!!

WHEN shall we start to build in our Hearts, in our Homes, in our Hospitals and in our Health facilities?! WHEN shall we start to build the HCF where we work??!! WHEN shall we start the prayer fellowship? WHEN shall we start the D-Groups! WHEN shall we start the seminars? WHEN shall we start the local action team? WHEN shall we start the Saline witness training and follow-up meetings? Etc.

My personal response to this is:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

God’s Word says: **“There is ...a TIME TO BUILD”!!!**
(Ecclesiastes 3:1+3)

It is so easy for us to say: “It is NOT time yet”, when, according to God, IT IS THE RIGHT TIME!!!!

We read in Haggai 1:2-15

“This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies says: **The people are saying, ‘The time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord.’**” 3 Then the Lord sent this message through the prophet Haggai: 4 **“Why are you living in luxurious houses while my house lies in ruins?** 5 This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies

says: Look at what's happening to you! 6 You have planted much but harvest little. You eat but are not satisfied. You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm. Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes! 7 **"This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says:** Look at what's happening to you! 8 **NOW go up into the hills, bring down timber, and REBUILD MY HOUSE.** Then I will take pleasure in it and be honoured, says the Lord. 9 You hoped for rich harvests, but they were poor. And when you brought your harvest home, I blew it away. Why? Because **my house lies in ruins, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, while all of you are busy building your own fine houses.** ...12 **Then** Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and **the whole remnant of God's people began to obey the message from the Lord their God.** When they heard the words of the prophet Haggai, whom the Lord their God had sent, the people feared the Lord. 13 Then Haggai, the Lord's messenger, gave the people this message from the Lord: **"I am with you, says the Lord!"** 14 **So the Lord sparked the enthusiasm** of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the enthusiasm of Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, **and the enthusiasm of the whole remnant of God's people. THEY BEGAN TO WORK** on the house of their God, the Lord of Heaven's Armies, 15 on September 21 of the second year of King Darius's reign."

Then, in Haggai 2:4 we read:

"But NOW be strong, Zerubbabel,' declares the LORD. 'Be strong, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,' declares the LORD, **'and work. For I am with you,'** declares the LORD Almighty" (NIV); **"...Be strong, all you people still left in the land. And NOW GET TO WORK, for I am with you, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies"** (NLT).

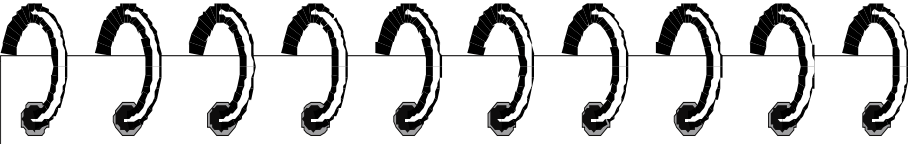
Dear brothers and sisters, do we hear God's heart?! He says: "But NOW be strong... and NOW get to work, for I am with you..."!!!

We do NOT hear that we should first complete our studies and THEN build God's work. We do NOT hear that we should first grow more spiritually and THEN build the work of God through the HCF... We do NOT hear that we should first get married and raise our children and THEN build God's work in this world... We do NOT hear that we should first complete our PG studies and THEN build God's work at work... We do NOT hear that we should first get a better job and THEN build God's work... We do NOT hear that we should first pay off our debts and THEN build God's work... NO!!!! None of this!!!!

The Word of God is clear to each one of us who have ears to hear what the Spirit says:

NOW
get to work,
for I am with you!!!

Do you HEAR God saying that to you, personally?!



Please **WRITE** in **YOUR PERSONAL RESPONSE** to what **YOU** understand the LORD is saying to **YOU** through these Scriptures in Haggai and Ecclesiastes, and through this short chapter about WHEN to start to build:, **WHEN** to do what you know He wants **YOU** to do:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Dear Father,

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

I ask this in Jesus' Name and for His sake. Amen.

Arise
and

Build

FAITH

LOVE

COMMUNITY

SERVICE

You?!

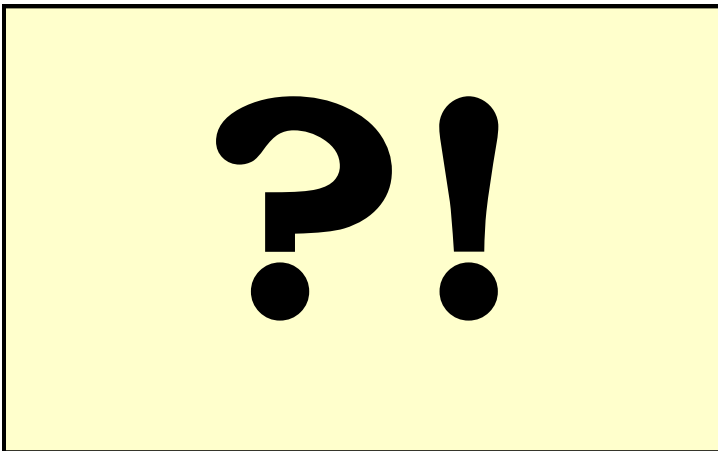
GRACE

The God of heaven will give us success;
therefore we His servants will arise and build.

NEHEMIAH 2:20

Will you

arise & build?!



Let's look again at Nehemiah, what he did and how he responded. We read in Nehemiah 1:4, "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) "I prayed to the God of heaven, and I answered the king, 'If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favour in his sight, **let him send me** to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried **so that I can rebuild it**'..." (2:4,5)...

Later, after having surveyed the walls, turning to his brothers and sisters in God, Nehemiah said to them: "You see the bad situation we are in - how Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates are burned with fire. **COME, LET US BUILD** up the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a disgrace." - Nehemiah 2:17. "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." (NIV); "And they said, **"LET US RISE UP AND BUILD."** So they strengthened their hands for the good work." (Nehemiah 2:18; ESV). "They replied, **"LET'S GET OUT THERE AND BUILD!"** (ISV). The beautiful thing is:

When Nehemiah said: "LET US BUILD"!

They all replied: "LET US BUILD"!

I love these words:

COME

LET US

RISE UP

+ RE-BUILD

...and they DID IT!!!

We read in Nehemiah 6:15-16, "So the wall was completed... in 52 days. When all our enemies heard about this ...they realized that **this work had been done with the help of our God.**"

GOD CALLS US TO "ARISE AND BUILD"...

GOD CALLS US TO DO IT NOW...

WILL YOU DO IT??!!

Arise
and

Build

FAITH

LOVE

COMMUNITY

SERVICE

Revival!

GRACE

The God of heaven will give us success;
therefore we His servants will arise and build.

NEHEMIAH 2:20

Wow!

REVIVAL!

What?

When?

Way to?

Wow!

Will you?!



This chapter is very, very important...

We learn from the book of Nehemiah that **God did not just help them to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, but He brought REVIVAL to the people!**



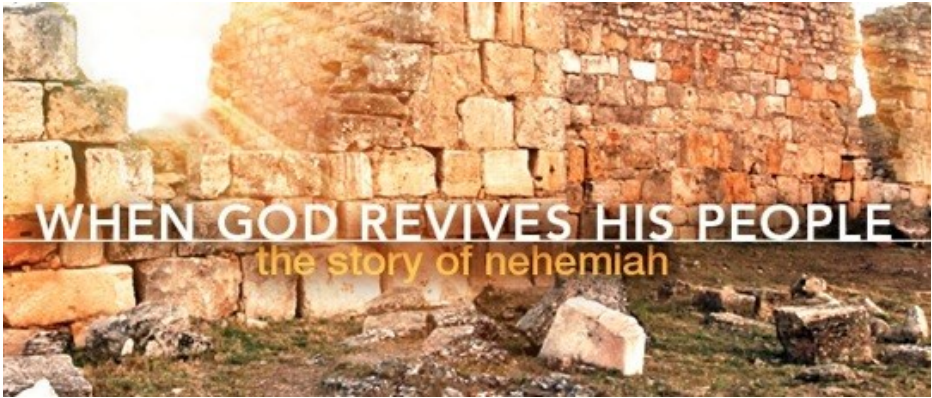
This is also His desire for us. *He does not only want to rebuild the broken down walls of the HCF and the health facilities where we work, but He wants to bring REVIVAL - starting in me!*

The shortest summary of the book of Nehemiah is possibly:

- † The **REMEMBRANCE** of Nehemiah (Chapters 1-2)
- † The **REBUILDING** of the walls (Chapters 3-7)
- † The **REVIVAL** among the people (Chapters 8-13)

A more comprehensive overview would be (according to Dr Bruce Thompson, *adapted*) as follows:

Ruin + Rubble
Revelation of the need
Rise up (wake up + get up)
Remember
Repent
Return to the Lord
Release from guilt
Rebuild
Redouble the guard (watch)
Ready for war
Recognize enemy
Refuse + Renounce enemy
Resist enemy
Renewing
Relationship with God
Read His Word
Restoration
Reformation
REVIVAL!



Put in other words, the first chapters in Nehemiah describe the rebuilding of the physical walls of Jerusalem, and the last chapters describe the rebuilding of the spiritual walls of the people in Jerusalem.

It is clear that God was not just interested in the mere physical **rebuilding of the PLACE** - the temple and the walls and the gates of Jerusalem - no, He was more interested in the **rebuilding and restoration and revival of the PEOPLE...!**

We read of an amazing **REVIVAL** among the people of God in Nehemiah in the last few chapters, especially in chapters 8 and 9. This is very wonderful!

This is also our deep desire for the work of God in the hospital and in the health facilities where we work! We long to see the work of God healthy and growing in the hospitals in our country, and across the world... We long to see the HCF flourishing again... But, for now, we know: WE NEED REVIVAL!!!! We need revival in the HCF! We need revival in our hospitals! We need revival in the health facilities! We need revival in the colleges! We need revival in the health field, worldwide! We need revival in the lives of the Christian healthcare workers!!! We need revival in our homes! WE need revival!!!

I believe with all my heart that God wants to rebuild and

revive the HCF, and, even more importantly, He wants to revive US, as healthcare workers, in the HCF...!!!

Dear brothers and sister, in this last chapter of the workbook, we'll look at **REVIVAL**: (1) **WHAT** it is; (2) **WHEN** it is needed, (3) **the WAY** to revival - How we can come to experience it, by God's grace; (4) **the "Wow"** of it, to God's glory, and (5) **WILL I** be revived?!

**God wants
to rebuild
and *revive*
the **HCF**,
and...
He wants to
revive **US!****

1. WHAT is Revival...?

REVIVAL is when God comes down in a special way, and His awesome, holy Presence saturates the community in such a real and living way that (1) **believers**, who had slumbered spiritually or backslidden into sin, are awakened spiritually, resuscitated spiritually, convicted of sin, confess their sins to God, repent radically, are cleansed and changed and consecrated fully, and filled afresh with the Holy Spirit, and (2) that **unbelievers** become aware of God and His Presence and His holiness and love, see their sins as never before, see that they deserve God's just punishment and hell, see Jesus as their only Hope of Salvation, radically and whole-heartedly repent and turn to the Lord, cry out to Him for mercy, receive Him and put their trust in Him for all they need and all eternity, and start to live holy, loving, obedient lives, while passionately seeking to share the love and law and grace and mercy of God with others who are lost and bound and broken and burdened, and in need of Jesus...

✧ *The word "**RE-VIVE**" literally means "**AGAIN-LIVE.**" It means to bring back to life again - as happens during the resuscitation of a patient.*

✧ ***Revival is a spiritual resuscitation!***

✧ ***Revival is a spiritual re-awakening of God's people...***

✧ ***Revival is a "community saturated with God..." an awareness of God gripping the community... the community***

suddenly becomes God-conscious.” (Duncan Campbell)

- ✚ “Revival is not a green valley getting greener, but a valley full of dry bones being made to live again and for those dead bones to stand up an exceeding great army.” (Eze 37)
- ✚ “Revival is not the top blowing off, but the bottom falling out...” (Dr JE Church)
- ✚ “Revival simply means New Life, and that implies that there is already Life there, but that the Life has ebbed.”
- ✚ **“Revival is just the Life of the Lord Jesus poured into human hearts,” again, or for the first time.**
- ✚ “Revival is just you and I walking along the Highway (of holiness) in complete oneness with the Lord Jesus and with one another, with cups continually cleansed and overflowing with the life and love of God.” (Roy Hession)
- ✚ **“A revival is nothing else than a new beginning of obedience to God”!** (Charles Finney)
- ✚ “Revival is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.” “The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the essence of Revival.”
- ✚ “Revival is being absolutely filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit...”
- ✚ “Revival is the people of God living in the power of an un-grieved, unquenched Spirit.”
- ✚ “Revival (is) a work of God by his Spirit through his Word bringing the spiritually dead to living faith in Christ and re-newing the inner life of Christians who have grown slack and sleepy” (JI Packer)
- ✚ **Revival is “the imparting of life to those who are dead, and the imparting of health to those who are dying.”**
- ✚ **Revival is “the renewal of the first love of Christians, resulting in the awakening and conversion of sinners to God.”**
- ✚ **Revival is when God comes down again (Isaiah 64:1-2)**

REVIVAL is the spiritual resuscitation and re-awakening and refreshing of Christians, through the holy, loving Presence of God, by the working of the Holy Spirit.

✚ **Revival is times of refreshing from the Presence of the Lord (Acts 3:20)**

✚ **Revival is a Person - the Lord Jesus Christ!**

In the book “*Seeking Him: Experiencing the Joy of Personal Revival*” (by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth), we read that **REVIVAL** is *not* an **EVENT** we can plan and schedule, it is *not* the same as **EVANGELISM**, it is *not* mere **EMOTIONALISM**, it is *not* just **EXCITEMENT** or **ENTHUSIASM**, it is *not* just any “**EXPERIENCE**,” no, **true REVIVAL** is much, much more than that! **True REVIVAL** is a Heaven-sent, Bible-based, Jesus-focussed, Spirit-empowered, truth-checked, life-changing, transforming **EXPERIENCE** of the reality of God as a holy, loving, just, convicting, merciful, forgiving, awesome, faithful, all-mighty, all-present, all-knowing, practical Saviour, Father and indwelling Life-giving Holy Spirit, ...**EXPRESSED** through a holy, loving, obedient, Christ-like, Spirit-filled life of loving and serving God and others, to His glory!

Furthermore, we can and should differentiate between what we can call: (i) **PERSONAL revival**, (ii) **PLACE revival**, and (iii) **PUBLIC revival**, though the one may lead to the other, by God’s great grace... For instance, in the book “*Revival in the Rubble*,” based on the book of Nehemiah, John Kitchen wrote: “*The revival began in Nehemiah’s tearful, broken heart and spread to the people for whom he wept. Maybe God longs to use your tears to send brokenness and blessing to others.*”

PERSONAL revival is when I personally experience a fresh work of the Spirit of God in my life, when I repent (as a believer) of all sins in my life and am restored to love and trust and obey Jesus afresh, when I am on fire for God, with love and zeal for Jesus again - holy, happy, harmonious, hard-working and hearty - to His glory! ***This is the normal Christian life! This is what the Lord wants to do in every Christian who works in healthcare! Has He done this in ME? Am I revived today?! Have I experienced personal revival in MY LIFE?! When?***

<p style="text-align: center;">Have I experienced personal revival in my life?</p>

PLACE revival is when the Spirit of God works mightily and savingly amongst a group of people, who simultaneously or over a period of time come to a renewed or first-time radical repentance and faith in Jesus, and are filled with the Holy Spirit and start to live unselfish, holy, loving, obedient, fruitful, passionate, prayerful, soul-winning, God-glorifying lives for Jesus and through Jesus...! It may be a visitation of God at a certain hospital or a college or a prison or a school or a particular church, etc. The community at large may not be directly affected or aware, but they may become aware and affected too... ***This is what the Lord wants to do in every hospital where His children work! Do we believe this? Do we realise this? Do we desire this? Do we pray for this? Do we ask the Lord to revive US, so that He can revive our HOSPITAL?!***

PUBLIC revival is the term we use to describe when God comes down in a Divine, supernatural visitation and revelation of Himself in a community at large. That is when, as Duncan Campbell describes, a “community (is) saturated with the Presence of God... an awareness of God gripping the community... (and) the community suddenly becomes God-conscious.” It is so wide-spread that the whole community is affected, bars and brothels are closed down, jails become empty, crime comes to a near stop, etc.—the moral and spiritual atmosphere and life of the community is changed! ***This is, we believe, what the Lord wants to do in every community, in every nation. This is how it will be in heaven, but how the Lord longs for it to be on earth too! How far are we from experiencing this? How few of us have seen and experienced something like this! OH, LORD REVIVE US AGAIN...!!!***

Are we satisfied with our spiritual lives or not?! It seems that many, many Christians (including Christian healthcare workers) are satisfied with their lives as it is; they do not feel or think that they need revival! They may even think that they are okay or good or better than others! We read in Revelation chapter 3: “You say, ‘I am

<p>Are we satisfied with our spiritual lives or not?!</p>
--

rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But **YOU DO NOT REALIZE** that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked” (v17); ...“These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.” (v14b-16)... “So be earnest and repent...” (v19b)!!!

It is necessary for us to ask ourselves: “**Do we realize our need? Do we realize we need revival? Do I realize I need a personal revival?**” The next section may help us to answer this important question.

2. WHEN is a Revival needed again?

As was said already, many, many Christians may not realise that they need revival and need it desperately. But, there are symptoms and signs that may help us *SEE* if we need revival! In her book “*Seeking Him: Experiencing the Joy of Personal Revival*,” the author mentions the following **symptoms and signs that show we need a revival.** **WE NEED REVIVAL...**

- × **when we do not love Him as we once did.**
- × **when earthly interests and occupations are more important to us than eternal ones.**
- × when we would rather watch TV and read secular books and magazines than read the Bible and pray.
- × when church dinners are better attended than prayer meetings.
- × **when concerts draw bigger crowds than prayer meetings.**
- × **when we have little or no desire for prayer.**
- × **when we would rather make money than give money.**
- × **when we put people into leadership positions in our churches (and in the HCF - *my addition*) who do not meet scriptural qualifications.**
- × **when our Christianity is joyless and passionless.**
- × **when we know truth in our heads that we are not**

practicing in our lives.

- × **when we make little effort to witness to the lost.**
- × **when we have time for sports, recreation, and entertainment, but not for Bible study and prayer.**
- × **when we do not tremble at the Word of God.**
- × **when preaching lacks conviction, confrontation, and divine fire and anointing.**
- × when we seldom think thoughts of eternity.
- × **when God's people are more concerned about their jobs and their careers than about the Kingdom of Christ and the salvation of the lost.**
- × **when God's people get together with other believers and the conversation is primarily about the news, weather, and sports, rather than the Lord.**
- × when church services are predictable and "business as usual."
- × when believers can be at odds with each other and not feel compelled to pursue reconciliation.
- × **when Christian husbands and wives are not praying together.**
- × when our marriages are co-existing rather than full of the love of Christ.
- × when our children are growing up to adopt worldly values, secular philosophies, and ungodly lifestyles.
- × **when we are more concerned about our children's education and their athletic activities than about the condition of their souls.**
- × **when sin in the church is pushed under the carpet.**
- × when known sin is not dealt with through the biblical process of discipline and restoration.
- × **when we tolerate "little" sins of gossip, a critical spirit, and lack of love.**
- × **when we will watch things on television and movies that are not holy.**
- × when our singing is half-hearted and our worship lifeless.
- × when our prayers are empty words designed to impress others.

**Oh Lord,
show me myself!
Oh Lord,
show me Thyself!**

- × **when our prayers lack fervency.**
- × **when our hearts are cold and our eyes are dry.**
- × **when we aren't seeing regular evidence of the supernatural power of God.**
- × **when we have ceased to weep and mourn and grieve over our own sin and the sin of others.**
- × when we are content to live with explainable, ordinary Christianity and church services.
- × when we are bored with worship.
- × **when people have to be entertained to be drawn to church (or to the HCF meetings - *my addition*).**
- × **when our music and dress become patterned after the world.**
- × when we start fitting into and adapting to the world, rather than calling the world to adapt to God's standards of holiness.
- × when we don't long for the company and fellowship of God's people.
- × when people have to be begged to give and to serve in the church.
- × when our giving is measured and calculated, rather than extravagant and sacrificial.
- × **when we aren't seeing lost people drawn to Jesus on a regular basis.**
- × when we aren't exercising faith and believing God for the impossible.
- × when we are more concerned about what others think about us than what God thinks about us.
- × **when we are unmoved by the fact that 2.5 billion people in this world have never heard the name of Jesus.**
- × **when we are unmoved by the thought of neighbours, business associates, and acquaintances who are lost and without Christ.**
- × **when the lost world around us doesn't know or care that we exist.**
- × **when we are making little or no difference in the secular world around us.**
- × **when the fire has gone out in our hearts, our marriages, and the church.**
- × **when we are blind to the extent of our need and don't**

think we need revival.

As Christian healthcare workers, some further symptoms and signs that may show that **WE NEED REVIVAL** are:

- × **when we are ashamed to share the love of Jesus with patients and their families.**
- × **when we do not pray with our patients.**
- × **when we are more concerned about our salaries than about the salvation of souls.**
- × **when we do not have a passion to serve the Lord by serving the patients.**
- × **when we are negligent in our work.**
- × **when we come late to work**, rob our employer of the work due to him and the patients, and think there's no problem with it.
- × **when we are proud or jealous or critical or judgemental or lazy or loveless or impatient or easily angered or lustful...**
- × **when we are not honest at work** and in our record-keeping and in our administrative work and in our speaking to patients.
- × **when we do not see people come to know Jesus as their personal Saviour and Lord and Deliverer, where we work.**
- × **when we glorify people** (pastors or teachers or worship leaders or musicians or singers or evangelists or doctors or professors, or ourselves!) **in our meetings and fellowship, and not Jesus Himself.**
- × **when we are stingy or self-centred or easily hurt or unforgiving or bitter towards anyone else...**
- × when we gossip and spread slanderous stories.
- × **when we have any immoral relationship** with someone of the opposite gender, or the same gender (in our thoughts or in our emotions or physically)...
- × **when we are reluctant to be involved in missions** (whether local missions or world missions or cross-cultural missions or same-cultural missions; whether rural or urban; whether in mission hospitals or in secular hospitals, etc.)

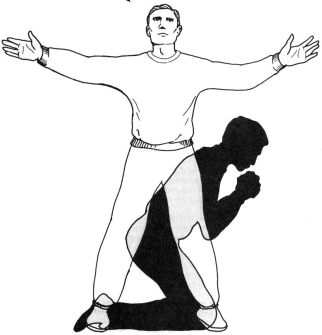
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

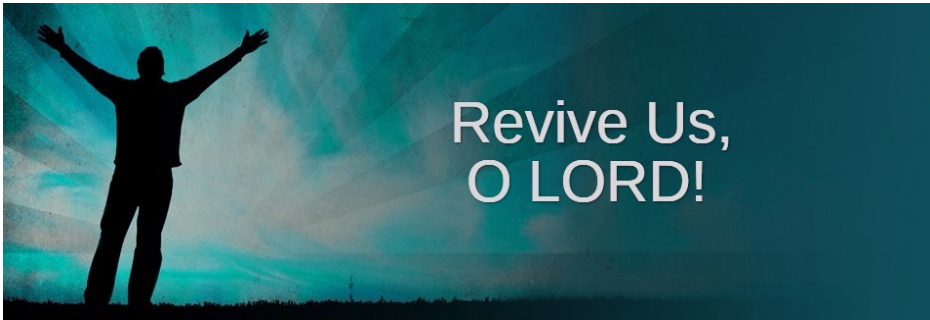
Oh, it is so clear to us , isn't it?! - WE NEED REVIVAL!!!!!!

In his heart-searching book, “*The State of the Church: A Plea for More Prayer,*” Dr Andrew Murray says: “**...nothing less than a mighty revival is needed to rouse and fit the Church (and the HCF - my addition) for the work to which God calls her. ...But ...The revival we need is the revival of holiness, in which the consecration of the whole being to the service of Christ, and that for the whole life, shall be counted possible...**”

So we pray:

“Oh, that You would rend the heavens and COME DOWN”!!! (Is 64:1). “O Lord, REVIVE Your work in the midst of the years” (Hab 3:2). “Will you not REVIVE US AGAIN, that your people may rejoice in you?” (Ps 85:6).





3. WAY TO REVIVAL: HOW can we come to experience true, personal REVIVAL?!

“Will You not REVIVE us again?”

Psalm 85:6

Dr A.W. Tozer, who was a man of God and a true prophet of righteousness and revival, said the following about this verse, and **THE WAY TO REVIVAL**...

“I have previously shown that **any Christian who desires to may at any time experience a radical spiritual REVIVAL**, and this altogether independent of the attitude of his fellow Christians.

The important question now is, **HOW?** Well, here are some suggestions which anyone can follow and which, I am convinced, will result in a wonderfully improved Christian life.

Get thoroughly dissatisfied with yourself. Complacency is the deadly enemy of spiritual progress. The contented soul is the stagnant soul. When speaking of earthly goods Paul could say, “I have learned. . . to be content”; but when referring to his spiritual life he testified, “I press toward the mark.” So stir up the gift of God that is in thee.

Set your face like a flint toward a sweeping transformation of your life. Timid experimenters are tagged for failure before

they start. We must throw our whole soul into our desire for God. "The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."

Put yourself in the way of the blessing. It is a mistake to look for grace to visit us as a kind of benign magic, or to expect God's help to come as a windfall apart from conditions known and met. There are plainly marked paths which lead straight to the green pastures; let us walk in them. ***To desire revival, for instance, and at the same time to neglect prayer and devotion is to wish one way and walk another.***

**To desire revival,
...and at the same
time to neglect
prayer and devotion
is to wish one way
and walk another.**

Do a thorough job of repenting. Do not hurry to get it over with. Hasty repentance means shallow spiritual experience and lack of certainty in the whole life. Let godly sorrow do her healing work. Until we allow the consciousness of sin to wound us we will never develop a fear of evil. It is our wretched habit of tolerating sin that keeps us in our half-dead condition.

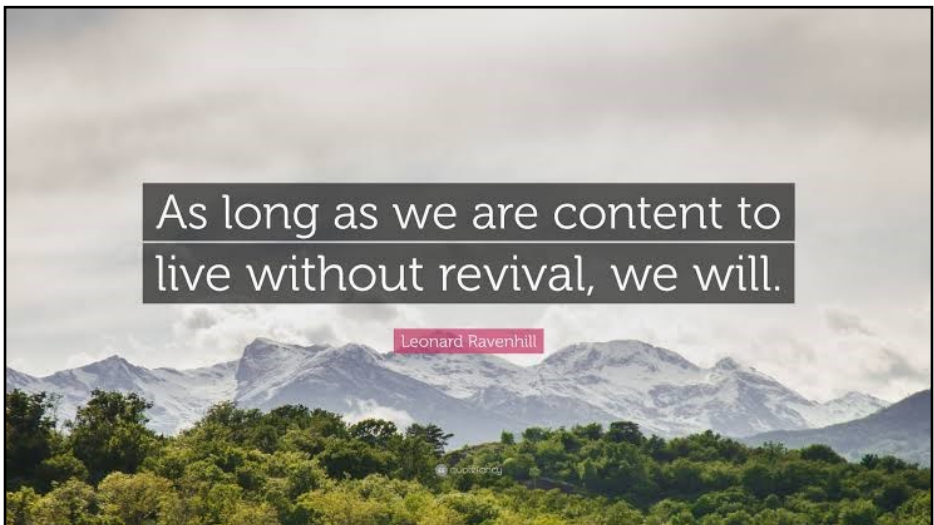
Make restitution wherever possible. If you owe a debt, pay it, or at least have a frank understanding with your creditor about your intentions to pay, so your honesty will be above question. If you have quarreled with anyone, go as far as you can in an effort to achieve reconciliation. As fully as possible make the crooked things straight.

Bring your life into accord with the Sermon on the Mount and such other New Testament Scriptures as are designed to instruct us in the way of righteousness. ***An honest man with an open Bible and a pad and pencil is sure to find out what is wrong with him very quickly.*** I recommend that the self-examination be made on our knees, rising to obey God's commandments as they are revealed to us from the Word. There is nothing romantic or colorful about this plain downright way of dealing with ourselves, but it gets the work

done. Isaac's workmen did not look like heroic figures as they digged in the valley, but they got the wells open, and that was what they had set out to do.

Be serious-minded. You can well afford to see fewer comedy shows on TV. Unless you break away from the funny boys, every spiritual impression will continue to be lost to your heart, and that right in your own living room, the people of the world used to go to the movies to escape serious thinking about God and religion. You would not join them there, but you now enjoy spiritual communion with them in you own home. The devil's ideals, moral standards and mental attitudes are being accepted by you without your knowing it. And you wonder why you can make no progress in your Christian life. Your interior climate is not favorable to the growth of spiritual graces. ***There must be a radical change in your habits or there will not be any permanent improvement in your interior life.***

Deliberately narrow your interests. The Jack-of-all-trades is the master of none. The Christian life requires that we be specialists. Too many projects use up time and energy without bringing us nearer to God. If you will narrow your interests God will enlarge your heart. "Jesus only" seems to be the unconverted man to be the motto of death, but a great company of happy men and women can testify that it became to them a



way into a world infinitely wider and richer than anything they had ever known before. Christ is the essence of all wisdom, beauty and virtue. To know Him in growing intimacy is to increase in appreciation of all things good and beautiful. The mansions of the heart will become larger when their doors are thrown open to Christ and closed against the world and sin. Try it.

Begin to witness. Find something to do for God and your fellow men. **Refuse to rust out.** Make yourself available to your pastor and do anything you are asked to do. Do not insist upon a place of leadership. **Learn to obey. Take the low place** until such time as God sees fit to set you in a higher one. Back your new intentions with your money and your gifts, such as they are.

Have faith in God. Begin to expect. Look up toward the throne where your Advocate sits at the right hand of God. All heaven is on your side. God will not disappoint you.

If you will follow these suggestions you will most surely experience REVIVAL in your own heart. And who can tell how far it may spread?

God knows how desperately the church (and the HCF - my addition) needs a spiritual resurrection. And it can only come through the **REVIVED INDIVIDUAL.**” May He help us!

This ends the portion so well written by A.W. Tozer.

Alan Redpath is another true man of God, pointing out **the WAY to REVIVAL.** In his book on Nehemiah, called, “*Victorious Christian Service,*” he says: “God’s clearly defined means are just these things: our **RETURN** to broken-heartedness (a tenderness of heart in which He can plant the seed of the Spirit); a **REFLECTION** on God’s goodness (a taking of time for meditation); a **RECOGNITION** of our sinfulness (an honest self-examination regarding sin, *and deep repentance—my addition*); a **RENEWAL** of our obedience (that puts revival into action).”

According to G. Campbell Morgan: “**Revival cannot be organized, but we can set our sails to catch the wind from heaven when God chooses to blow upon His people once again.**” This is very true and very important!

In Revelation 2:1-7 and 3:14-22 we find the description of two **groups of Christians who needed revival**. In those portions we also find **God’s WAY, God’s remedy, God’s prescription for them (& for me) to be revived again!** In short, it is that I:

Realize my need (3:17)

Recognize my needs and my sins (3:17)

Remember from where I have fallen (2:5)

Repent!!! (2:5; 3:19) in earnest (3:19), radically!!!

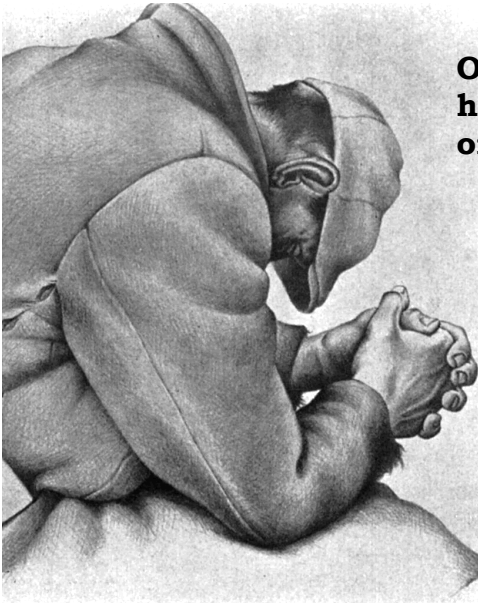
Return to the Lord (2:5)

Re-surrender or open fully to Him (3:20)

Receive Him afresh in me (3:20)

Relationship restored - eat together (3:20), listen (2:7)

Redo the things I did at first (2:5): relying on Him, loving Him, listening to Him, leaning on Him, living for Him, obeying Him, walking with Him, talking with Him, working with Him, sharing about Him, etc.



**Oh, Lord,
have mercy
on me!**

2 Chronicles 7:14 is another very important God-given scripture pointing to **God's WAY if bringing REVIVAL**.
God says:

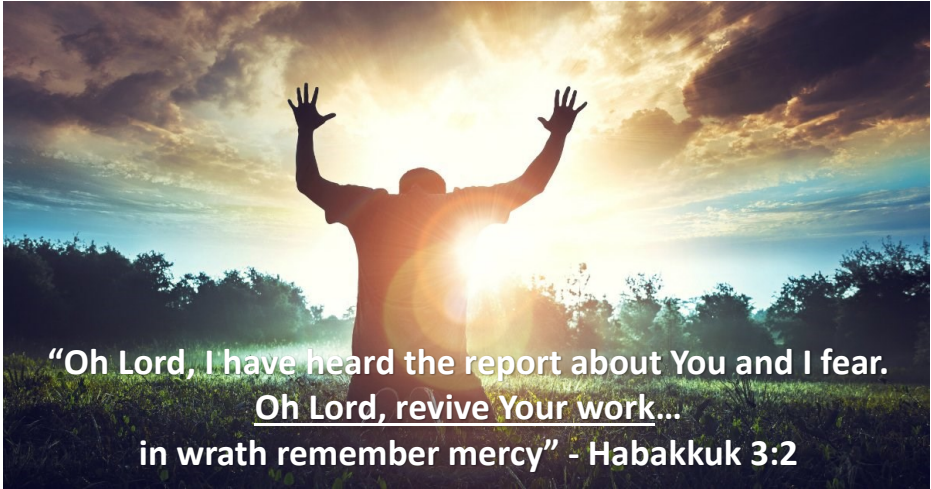
“If my people,
who are called by my name,
will **HUMBLE THEMSELVES**
and **PRAY**
and **SEEK MY FACE**
and **TURN from their wicked ways**,
then I will hear from heaven,
and I will forgive their sin
and will heal their land.”

This is wonderful! From these verses we see **God's conditions for revival, God's WAY TO REVIVAL** (and by the way, *Revival is a Person - the Lord Jesus Christ!*). God says He will hear, forgive and heal (in other words - revive!), ...if His people, the Christians, the Christian healthcare workers, will:

- † **HUMBLE themselves**
- † **PRAY to Him**
- † **SEEK His face**
- † **TURN from their wicked ways**

Duncan Campbell, who was used by God during the revival in the Hebrides said: **“If you want revival, get right with God**. If you are not prepared to bring the “last piece” (to the altar), for God's sake stop talking about revival, your talking and praying is but the laughing-stock of devils...” “Brethren, **it seems to me just so much sentimental humbug to be praying as we are praying**, to be waiting as we are waiting here, **if we ourselves are not rightly related to God...**” “**Are my hands clean, is my heart pure?**”!

May we encourage you to prayerfully read “**The Price and Power of Revival**,” by Duncan Campbell. The pdf, and others from his ministry, are freely available from the internet.



“Oh Lord, revive Your work”!!!
Habakkuk 3:2

In *The Living Bible* translation, Habakkuk 3:1-2 reads: “This is the prayer of triumph that Habakkuk sang before the Lord: ***O Lord, now I have heard your report, and I worship you in awe for the fearful things you are going to do. In this time of our deep need, begin again to help us, as you did in years gone by. Show us your power to save us. In your wrath, remember mercy.***” To this prayer, we say: “Amen!”

In “*The Ministry of Intercession*” Dr Andrew Murray, who experienced a God-sent revival in his ministry, wrote about “**The Coming Revival.**” Commenting on Habakkuk 3:2 and a few other verses, he highlighted the following 4 lessons:

- 1) “**REVIVAL IS GOD'S WORK; He alone can give it; it must come from above.** ...it is the spirit of **absolute dependence upon God**, giving Him the honour and the glory, that will prepare for it.

- 2) **The REVIVAL God is to give will be GIVEN IN ANSWER TO PRAYER** ...Let not one believer think himself too weak to help, or imagine that he will not be missed ...And let us have the truth graven deep in our hearts: **every REVIVAL comes, as Pentecost came, as the fruit of united, continued prayer. The coming REVIVAL must begin with a great prayer REVIVAL. It is in the closet, with the door shut, that the sound of abundance of rain will be first heard.**
- 3) **It is to the HUMBLE AND CONTRITE that the REVIVAL is promised.** ...The need of revival always points to previous decline; and decline was always caused by sin. **Humiliation and contrition have ever been the conditions of REVIVAL. ...If there be no humiliation and forsaking of sin there can be no revival** or deliverance ...‘Cry aloud and spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show My people their transgression.’ **Every deep REVIVAL among God’s people must have its roots in a deep sense and confession of sin.** ...He REVIVES the heart of the contrite one.
- 4) There is a last thought, suggested by the text from Hosea 6:1-3. **It is as we ‘RETURN TO THE LORD’ that REVIVAL will come;** for if we had not wandered from Him, His life would be among us in power. ***‘Come and let us RETURN to the Lord: for He hath torn, He will heal us: He hath smitten; He will bind us up: He will REVIVE us, and we shall live in His sight.’*** ... **‘Let us RETURN to the Lord’ must be the keynote of the REVIVAL. Let us return,** acknowledging and forsaking whatever there has been in the Church (and in the HCF and in US - *my addition*) that is not entirely according to His mind and spirit. **Let us return,** yielding up and casting out whatever there has been in our religion or along with it of the power of God’s two great enemies - *confidence in the flesh or the spirit of the world.* **Let us return,** in the acknowledgment of how undividedly God must have us, to fill us with His Spirit, and use us for the kingdom of His Son. **Oh, let us return,** in the surrender of a dependence and a devotion which has no measure but the absolute claim of Him who is the Lord! **Let us return** to the Lord with our whole heart, that He may make and keep us wholly His. He will REVIVE us, and we shall live in His sight. **Let us turn** to the God of Pentecost, as Christ led his disciples to turn to Him, and the God of Pentecost will turn to us.”

He further said: “Let us lift up our voice to proclaim the great truths: **The revival must come from above; the revival must be received in faith from above and brought down by prayer; the revival comes to the humble and contrite, for them to carry to others; if we return to the Lord with our whole heart, **HE WILL REVIVE US.****

On those who see these truths, rests the solemn responsibility of giving themselves up to witness for them and to act them out. And as each of us pleads for the revival throughout the Church (and the HCF – *my addition*), **let us specially, at the same time, cry to God for our own neighbourhood or sphere of work.** Let, with every minister and worker, there be ‘great searchings of heart,’ as to **WHETHER THEY ARE READY TO GIVE SUCH PROPORTION OF TIME AND STRENGTH TO PRAYER AS GOD WOULD HAVE.** ...Of all who speak or think of, or long for, revival, let not one hold back in this great work of honest, earnest, definite pleading: ***Revive Thy work, O Lord! Wilt Thou not revive us again?***”

“COME AND LET US RETURN TO THE LORD”; ‘HE WILL REVIVE US!’ And ‘**let us know, let us follow on to know the Lord. His going forth is sure as the morning; and HE SHALL COME UNTO US AS THE RAIN, as the latter rain that watereth the earth.**’ Amen. So be it.”



He will come to us like
RAIN

“Oh, that we might know the LORD! Let us press on to know Him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring.”

Hosea 6:3 (NLT)

Dr Andrew Murray also wrote an open letter to Christians, more than a 100 years ago, in which he speaks of “The WAY to REVIVAL.” Here are just a few highlights from it, to us:

- ❖ ***“It is of very little help to read ...if the main aim of our reading is just to get new thoughts”!!!***
- ❖ ***“In the dealing with everything pertaining to the spiritual life, it is of the greatest need that a person must TAKE TIME, come apart, completely alone, and ask himself (or herself): What should be the outworking (the outcome, the result) of what was read? What is the message God has for us? What is the attitude He expects of us, and especially, what is the answer we are meant to give Him?”***
- ❖ ***“Lord, teach me that the salvation of our nation (and of our hospital and HCF—my addition) must start IN THE INNER ROOM with those who meet with You and, in reality, receive new grace from You.”***
- ❖ ***“Beloved Brothers, the revival cannot come before God’s children come to know and confess and forsake their sin and their wrongness, and receive the Godly cleansing in reality.”***
- ❖ ***“THE REVIVAL MUST START WITH INDIVIDUAL PERSONS.. who completely surrender and devote themselves to Christ, to live wholly for Him. It takes place in the hidden, unseen place, where sin is discovered and forsaken in the Blood that cleanses from all sins.”***
- ❖ ***“As REVIVAL comes from God’s side THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT, it comes from man’s side THROUGH PRAYER”!***
- ❖ ***“Just as a revival in the church is indispensable for the salvation of souls, so it is indispensable for that revival that individual persons completely ABANDON themselves to God, to live a life of more devotion and complete surrender and sacrifice to Him.”***

“As revival comes from God’s side through the Holy Spirit, it comes from man’s side through prayer”!

4. “WOW” of Revival!

There is no way that words can describe the wonder and the “**WOW**” of revival, when the Lord Jesus reveals Himself among His people in a real and in a glorious way!

There is an awe-filled awareness of the holiness of God, the glory of God, the love of God, the justice of God, the mercy of God, the power of God, and the presence of God... There is a deep conviction of sin... There is a crying to God for mercy... There is an acute awareness of heaven and of hell... There is a weeping for sin... There is a deep repentance not to be repented of... There is a brokenness of heart at the foot of the Cross... There is a joy that cannot dry up, a love that cannot end, a zeal that cannot tire... There is a holy hatred for sin, there is a love and a holy hunger for God and for His Word... There is a sense of life and of death, and of eternity... There is an eagerness to hear God’s Word... There is a carefulness in one’s conduct and conversation, because one doesn’t want to grieve the Spirit of God... There is a song that cannot be suppressed... There is an agony for those who are unsaved... There is a burden to pray... There is a desire to live, and to die to self, and to live for Jesus and for others and for saving souls... There is a prompt obedience to God... There is a practical passion for souls and for God and for missions... There is love... There is holiness... There is a hunger for God, and a complete satisfaction in Him... There is powerful, plain preaching... There is a sweet solemnity... There is wonder... There is weeping... There is worship... There is joy... There is praise... **There is GOD!**

It is like heaven on earth!

Oh, how we long to see and experience this in our **HEART** and in our **HOME** and in the **HOUSE OF GOD**, and in our **HOSPITAL** (or health facility) where we work, and in our **HCF**, and in the **HOMES ACROSS THE COMMUNITY** and nation in which we are!

So we pray and we cry out to God:

.....

.....

**“Oh, that You would rend the heavens
and come down, that the mountains would
tremble before You!” Isaiah 64:1**



.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Oh, that You would come down!

Oh, that You would revive us again!

Oh, that You would glorify yourself again!

Dear Lord, this is our prayer!

Dear brothers and sister, we've seen from the book of Nehemiah, that God linked the **REBUILDING of the PLACE** with the **REVIVAL of the PEOPLE**. We saw **WHAT** revival is and **WHEN** it is needed. We also saw God's **WAY** for us to revival, and, briefly, the wonderful **Wow** of revival. The question that remains is: **"WILL I be revived?!"**

5. WILL I be revived, PERSONALLY?!

This is the question I need to answer at the end of this workbook! It's not enough to **TALK** about revival, we need to **TASTE** revival... It's not enough to **READ** about revival, it needs to be a **REALITY** to us...

While we pray to the Lord and seek His face for a sovereign, supernatural, Heaven-sent, **public revival**, at the same time, we are responsible before Him to be **personally revived**, in His grace. The question is: "Will I be revived, personally?!"

Leonard Ravenhill (who wrote "*Why Revival Tarries*," "*Revival Praying*" and "*Revival - God's Way*," etc.) aptly said: **"As long as we are content to live without revival, we will."** This sadly true, since if people do not experience personal revival, it's because they are content not to experience it!

But, thank God, **I am NOT content to live without personal revival!!!**

I WILL do what God wants me to do!

With His help, I WILL humble myself; I WILL pray to the Lord; I WILL seek His face; I WILL turn from my wicked ways... (2 Chronicles 7:14). I WILL Repent; I WILL return to the Lord; I WILL re-surrender fully to Him; I WILL receive Him afresh; I WILL redo the things I did at first... (Revelation 2 & 3). I WILL seek first to be in a right relationship with God, through Christ, and to let Him be King in my life (Matthew 6:33). I WILL let God search me and try me and know my heart and lead me (Psalm 139:23-24). I WILL not cover up my sins; I WILL confess

and forsake my sins (Proverbs 28:13). I WILL confess my sins to the Lord (Psalm 32:5). I WILL repent and believe the Good News! (Mark 1:15). I WILL repent and be baptized and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38-39).

Will YOU too?!

By God's grace, when we DO what He tells us to do, He WILL revive us! He says in His Word: **"REPENT, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, THAT TIMES OF REFRESHING MAY COME FROM THE LORD..."** (Acts 3:19;NIV); **"So repent (change your mind and purpose); turn around and return [to God],** that your sins may be erased (blotted out, wiped clean), that **times of REFRESHING (of RECOVERING** from the effects of heat, **of REVIVING** with fresh air) may come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19; Amplified).

Through these verses in God's Word we see that, **by God's grace, when we REPENT, He REVIVES us (personally)!** This is wonderful! Praise the Lord!

**Oh God, I need YOU!
Please bring REVIVAL
and begin it in ME - for
Jesus' sake! I will do
what You want me to do!**

"When God wants to do a fresh, reviving work in His people, He finds a person & breaks his heart."



"To be BROKEN is the beginning of revival"

The question is: “Will I do that?!”; “Will you do that?!”

Earlier in this chapter we also read HOW, according to A.W. Tozer, we may come to experience **PERSONAL REVIVAL** in our lives. In summary, he said:

- ‡ **“Get thoroughly dissatisfied with yourself.**
- ‡ **Set your face like a flint** toward a sweeping transformation of your life.
- ‡ **Put yourself in the way of the blessing.** ...To desire revival, for instance, and at the same time to neglect prayer and devotion is to wish one way and walk another.
- ‡ **Do a thorough job of repenting.**
- ‡ **Make restitution wherever possible.** Bring your life into accord with the Sermon on the Mount and such other New Testament Scriptures as are designed to instruct us in the way of righteousness. ...An honest man with an open Bible and a pad and pencil is sure to find out what is wrong with him very quickly.
- ‡ **Be serious-minded.** ...There must be a radical change in your habits or there will not be any permanent improvement in your interior life.
- ‡ **Deliberately narrow your interests.**
- ‡ **Begin to witness.** ...Refuse to rust out. ...Learn to obey. Take the low place.
- ‡ **Have faith in God.** ...God will not disappoint you.

If you will follow these suggestions you will most surely experience **REVIVAL** in your own heart. And who can tell how far it may spread?”

The **DESIRE** to be revived need to become a **DECISION** of the will, with complete **DEPENDENCE** upon the Lord, as I **DEDICATE** and **DEVOTE** myself *decidedly and irrevocably (in a covenant with Him)* to the **DOING** of what He wants me to **DO**, with His help and for His glory!

In “*The Lewis Awakening*,” Duncan Campbell said: **“What, then, is the essential to recovery and revival? Surely a whole-hearted DESIRE to be right with God, to stand before**

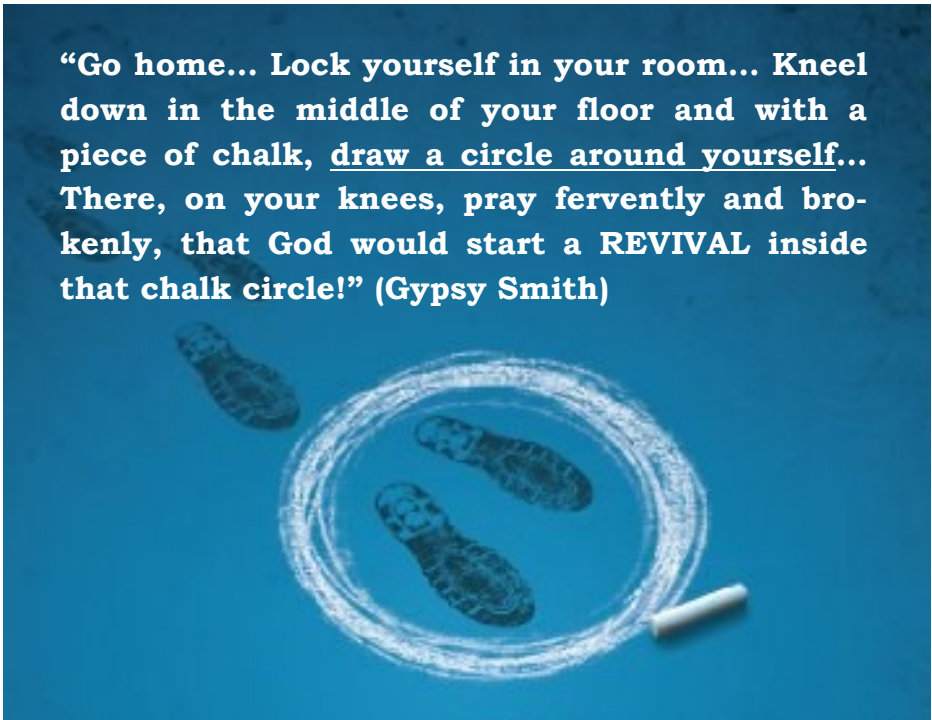
Him in an adjusted relationship. I am convinced that if we are to see the hand of God at work, we must give to our lives the propulsion of a sacred vow, and with Hezekiah of old say: 'Now it is in mine heart to make a **covenant with the Lord God of Israel**'...,” and **DO IT!**

Gypsy Smith (1860-1947) is another man of God who was all-out for Jesus and who experienced the Lord work in **personal and public REVIVAL**. He said, if we want to see and experience REVIVAL, we need to do the following: “Go home... Lock yourself in your room... Kneel down in the middle of your floor and with a piece of chalk, **draw a circle around yourself**... There, on your knees, pray fervently and brokenly, that God would start a Revival inside that chalk circle!”

Will you DO that?

Will YOU do that?

“Go home... Lock yourself in your room... Kneel down in the middle of your floor and with a piece of chalk, draw a circle around yourself... There, on your knees, pray fervently and brokenly, that God would start a REVIVAL inside that chalk circle!” (Gypsy Smith)







Please **WRITE** in your own words, what is on your heart about the need for **PUBLIC REVIVAL** in our community:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Please write your personal response to God’s message to you about the need for **PERSONAL REVIVAL** in your OWN life:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Dear Father, I pray

.....

.....

..... Amen.

A photograph of a stone wall under a blue sky with clouds. The wall is made of reddish-brown stones and is partially visible on the right side of the frame. The sky is a vibrant blue with scattered white clouds. The word "Revive" is written in large, white, outlined letters in the upper left quadrant.

Revive

Rebuild

Notes

After PRAYER, please write down (in the space above) the **MAIN LESSONS** you learned through this workbook, as well as the **MAIN TASKS** the Lord has given you to DO now...



Notes



Recommended Reading

NEHEMIAH:

Redpath A. **Victorious Christian Service**. Old Tappan: Fleming H, Revell Co., 1958.
White J. **Excellence in Leadership**. Nottingham: Inter-Varsity Press, 1986.
Singh B. **Come, let us build**. Hyderabad: Hebron, 1975.
Packer JI. **A Passion for Faithfulness**. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1995.
Kitchen J. **Revival in the Rubble**. Fort Washington: CLC Publications, 2006.
Andrew Br. **Building in a Broken World**. Eastbourne: Kingsway Publications, 1981.

DISCIPLESHIP + DISCIPLE-MAKING:

Murray A. **The New Life** (An Exciting New Life). Kensington: Whitaker House, 1982.
Krallmann G. **Following Jesus**. Delmas: Manna Publications, 1986.
Krallmann G. **Mentoring for Mission**. Tyrone: Authentic Publishing, 2002.
McClung F. **Follow**. Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2010.
McClung F. **You See Bones...I See An Army**. Cape Town: Struik, 2008.
MacDonald W. **True Discipleship**. Mumbai: GLS Publishing, 2012 (1969).
Pratney WA. **Youth Aflame**. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1970.
Watson D&P. **Disciple Making**. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2014.
Bonhoeffer D. **The Cost of Discipleship**. New York: MacMillan Publishing Co., 1959.
Bonhoeffer D. **Life Together**. New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1954.
Sanders OJ. **Spiritual Leadership**. Manila: OMF Literature, 1967.
Jones ES. **The Way**. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1947.
DeMoss NL. **Lies Women Believe**. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2001.
Kellerman FWJ. **Secrets of Success** (workbook). Vellore, 2016.
Kellerman FWJ. **Work as Worship** (workbook). Vellore, 2016.
Kellerman FWJ. **All for Jesus Always**. Durban: PK Printers, 2011.

REVIVAL + PRAYER:

Hession R. **The Calvary Road: The Way of Personal Revival**. Aylesbury: Rickfords Hill Publishing Ltd., 1950.
Hession R. **We would see Jesus**. Fort Washington: CLC, 1958.
Hession R. **When I saw Him**. Hyderabad: Authentic Press, 1975.
Hession R. **My Calvary Road**. Fort Washington: CLC, 1978.
Murray A. **Waiting on God**. London: Nisbet & Co, Ltd., no date.
Murray A. **Working for God**. New York: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1901.
Murray A. **The Prayer Life**. Lakeland: Marshall Morgan & Scott, 1968 (1912).
Murray A. **The State of the Church**. London: Nisbet & Co. Ltd., 1911.
Murray A. **The Ministry of Intercession**. Minneapolis: Bethany House Pub., 1981.
Campbell D. **The Price and Power of Revival**. Edinburgh: The Faith Mission, no date.
Olford SF. **Heart-Cry for Revival**. Westwood: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1962.
Finney CG (Ed: Shelhamer E). **Revival**. Wendover: Rickfords Hill Publishing Ltd., 2003.
Ravenhill L. **Revival Praying**. Bloomington: Bethany House Publishers, 1962.
Ravenhill L. **Why Revival Tarries**. Hyderabad: Authentic Books, 2006 (1959).
Ravenhill L. **Revival - God's Way**. Vellore: Blessing Youth Mission, no date. (1983)
DeMoss NL & Grissom T. **Seeking Him: Experiencing the Joy of Personal Revival**. Vereeniging: Christian Art Publishers, 2005.
Forsyth PT. **The Soul of Prayer**. London: Independent Press, 1949.
Bounds EM. **Power Through Prayer**. London: Marshall, Morgan & Scott, 1910.
Schlink B. **You will never be the same**. Secunderabad: OM Books, 1972.
Grubb N. **Continuous Revival**. Fort Washington: CLC, 1983.

Grubb N. **CT Studd - Cricketer and Pioneer**. Fort Washington: CLC, 1933.
Smith O.J. **The Revival we Need**. New York: The Christian Alliance Publ. Co., 1925.
Byron P. **One Cry**. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2014.
Edwards BH. **Revival: A people saturated with God**. Durham: EP, 1990.
Winslow O. **Personal Declension and Revival of Religion in the Soul**. Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1960 (1841).
Ellsworth R. **Come Down, Lord!** Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1988.
Woolsey A. **Duncan Campbell - A Biography**. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1974.
Schlink B. **Repentance - the Joy-filled Life**. London: Lakeland, 1968.
Miller B. **Praying Hyde**. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1943.
Searle W. **David Brainerd's Personal Testimony**. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1978.
Jericho Walls. **Focus on Prayer for Revival 120 Days**. Lynwood Ridge: Jericho Walls, no date.
Kivengere F. **Revolutionary Love**. Alresford: CLC, 1983.
Edman VR. **Finney Lives On**. Minneapolis: Bethany Fellowship, Inc., 1951.

***“It’s not the reading of many books
that make a man wise,
but the well reading of a few,
could he be sure to have the best”
(Richard Baxter)
- and the best is the Bible!***



Frontline healthcare worker



PEOPLE

Revive + Rebuild

Great command + commission fulfill *in the health fields*

Oh Lord, may You help us - for Your glory!

PLACE

Revive + Rebuild

**“More people
pass through
the hospitals of the world,
each year,
than through its churches...!”**

Francis Grim



Healthcare
Christian
Fellowship
International