



WATCHMAN'S TRUMPET



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FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR

Hello,

Happy New Year! I welcome you to this new month and present to you January 2023 edition of Watchman's Trumpet. The theme of this month's edition is "Nehemiah Mission" (Part II). It is a concluding edition of a two-part series started in December.

Nehemiah was a layman, not a priest like Ezra nor a prophet like Malachi. He served the Persian king in a secular position. He was the cupbearer to King Artaxerxes I at a time when Judah in Palestine had been partly repopulated by Jews released from their exile in Babylonia. The Temple at Jerusalem had been rebuilt, but the Jewish community there was dispirited and defenceless against its non-Jewish neighbours. Distressed at news of the desolate condition of Jerusalem, Nehemiah obtained permission from Artaxerxes to journey to Palestine to help rebuild its ruined structures.

He was provided with an escort and with documents that guaranteed the assistance of Judah's Persian officials. So about 444 BC he arrived in Jerusalem and aroused the people there to the necessity of repopulating the city and rebuilding its walls. Despite hostility from the (non-Jewish) local officials in neighbouring districts, in the space of 52 days the Jews under his direction succeeded in rebuilding Jerusalem's walls. He also undertook various religious and economic reforms before returning to Persia.

On a second visit to Jerusalem he strengthened his fellow Jews' observance of the Sabbath and ended the custom of Jewish men marrying foreign-born wives. This latter act helped to keep the Judaeans separate from their non-Jewish neighbours.

Nehemiah's life provides a fine study on leadership. His humility before God goal setting and accomplishment model teaches us that God uses all manner of people in all manner of places doing all manner of work. You do not have to feel a sense of special call to serve God and be a generational blessing. God placed you where you are for a purpose. There is a purpose your position and skills can serve in expanding God's kingdom where you are. You may be the Nehemiah the world have been waiting for. My prayer is that God will tremendously use this edition to inspire you to rise up and do great things for the Lord in your nation. Welcome!

PRESERVING KINGDOM ACHIEVEMENTS

"Now it came to pass, when the wall was built, and I had set up the doors, and the porters and the singers and the Levites were appointed, That I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem: for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many.



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And I said unto them, Let not the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun be hot; and while they stand by, let them shut the doors, and bar them: and appoint watches of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, every one in his watch, and every one to be over against his house" Nehemiah 7:1-3.

"I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence, And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth" Isaiah 62:6,7.

After the wall has been rebuilt, Nehemiah set the gates in place and appointed gatekeepers. He also appointed Levites who has the responsibility of guiding the people in worship. He appointed overseers and watchmen and gave them instructions on how to preserve the gains they had made.

The church of Christ has enemies that are unrelenting in their determination to make nonsense of our gains and

progress. It is therefore necessary to continuously watch and be vigilant. Structures must be set up and measures put in place to preserve the gains of God's people and keep the church in the path of progress.

We shall consider 3 points:

1. Setting up the gates
2. Appointment of overseers and watchmen
3. Divine instructions to spiritual watchmen

1. Setting up the Gates

"Now it came to pass, when the wall was built, and I had set up the doors, and the porters and the singers and the Levites were appointed" **Nehemiah 7:1.**

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" **Proverbs 4:23.**

After completing the project, the first thing Nehemiah did was to set up the gate (the door) and appoint watchmen. Gates are access points into cities in those days as it is in some cities, estates, houses and nations today. It stands for point of contact and exchange with outside world. Uncontrolled access through gates make individuals and nations vulnerable. At individual level, all human beings have access points. Some call it point of weakness. That is the area in your life where you must provide a control (discipline) all the time otherwise all kinds of things will creep in (".... Creeping things that are creeping all over the earth" **Leviticus 11:14**), by these you could be defiled and become abominable before God.

True Christians are expected to exercise control over their eyes, ears, nose and sense of smell, our tongue and what we take into our mouth. These are sources through which information get to our hearts and eventually to our minds to want to exercise control over us. (**I Corinthians 10:23, Roman 14:20,21**). Hence, we are enjoined to keep our heart with all diligence **proverbs 4:23** At communal level, ushers have the responsibility of keeping the door of physical house of God while pastors and prayers warrior have the spiritual responsibility of ensuring that

enemies barred from taking control of the life of our members.

2. Appointment of overseers and watchmen

"...I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem: for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many" **Nehemiah 7:2.**

"Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me" **Ezekiel 3:17.**

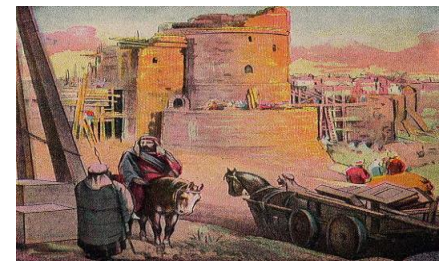
The next thing Nehemiah did after setting up the gates was to appoint watchmen and overseer. Believers are watchmen over the people among whom they live or work whether those people know it or not. Ministers are overseers over the heritage and flock of the Lord. Their responsibility is to keep the wolves away. Nehemiah appointed Hanani and an unnamed commander of the citadel to take charge of the city and monitor the access points. Let us remember that the same Hanani was the one who brought the report of the state of Jerusalem to Nehemiah in Shushan. Therefore, he was part of the vision from the beginning. He is one of those we might today call stakeholders. The bible clearly instruct us not to appoint novices or those who holds no stake in kingdom business to oversee kingdom work. We must even be careful of totally depending on hirelings.



The scripture contains other qualifications to be considered in appointing people as workers and leaders in the church **I Timothy 3:1-13**. Worthy of note is the fact that the appointment was not because of secular relationship but because these men had integrity and feared God.

3. Divine instruction to spiritual watchmen

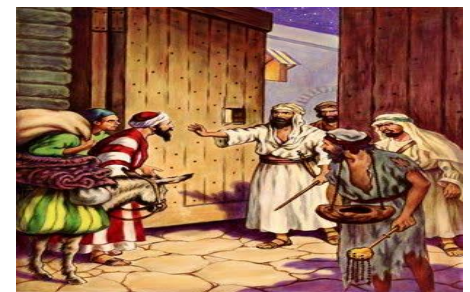
"And I said unto them, Let not the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun be hot; and while they stand by, let them shut the doors, and bar them:



and appoint watches of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, everyone in his watch, and every one to be over against his house" **Nehemiah 7:3**

"The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock" **1 Peter 5:1-3.**

Appointment comes with commission and instructions. Church offices or ordained posts in the ministry are never given as honorary titles. Those appointed are appointed to work and their responsibilities comes with their appointment. Nehemiah gave clear charge of what the appointed overseers and watchmen were to do. Their commission was to preserve the heritage of the Lord from corruption. They were to keep God's people in the centre of the will of the Lord and to feed the people with the word of God. The greatest destroying force opposing God's people is not witches, demons or Satan but ignorance of the word of God (**Hosea 4:6**),



Spiritual watchmen: Apostle, prophet, pastor, evangelists, teachers have Christ's mandate not only to seek and convert to Christ as many sinners as we could, we also have the mandate to lead God's people out of this world's Egypt into the Canaan of rest.



ABOUT WATCHMAN OUTREACH MISSION

Watchman Outreach Mission as envisioned fundamentally comprises of men and women of faith who watch over one another and together watch for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Next to this primary assignment is an equally important responsibility of bringing others into the same state of watchfulness and readiness as the coming of the Lord draws near. Ours is a trans-ministerial, trans-denominational mission. Our core values include expository teaching, prayer and counselling. We train in principles and practice of Christian discipleship and equip for effective Kingdom Service.

The Lord Jesus Christ in one of His parable said “*While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept*” **Mathew 25:5**. Watchman Outreach Mission is a response of faith to this and similar warnings about events in the last days. Our response is based on the premise that prophecies, visions and revelations about the future such as the one documented in the Lord’s parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins are sign-posts by which men are warned to keep vigil to avoid disastrous end. We serve to wake up the church and men everywhere to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return.

The Mission, based in Ibadan, Nigeria, was launched in 2009 and its maiden outing took place on the 20th November of the same year. On that day, we partnered with All Nations Evangelical Ministry (ANEM), Akobo, Ibadan for Evangelistic and Medical Mission Outreach to Idi - Ose Village on Arulogun - Olorunda Road in Lagelu Local Government, Ibadan.

In the years that followed we networked with churches and other Christian groups too to implement our mandate which include conducting gospel outreaches, discipleship training for new converts, organizing and facilitating workers and ministerial training, conducting administrative reviews in churches and ministries, writing of proposals for reforms and church growth strategies that can enhance social cohesion, improve church finances and foster overall development, unity and growth of such ministries; monitoring and/or supervision of the implementation of such reforms and strategies.

Some of these Christian groups and ministries include with Christ Apostolic Church, Oke - Ife in Ajangboju, Ibadan, Nigerian Military Christian Fellowship, Adekunle Fajuyi Cantonment Chapter in Oyo - State Nigeria, Christ Gospel Mission International, Light of Jesus Evangelistic Ministry with branches in different cities in South Western Nigeria, and Ark of Salvation Church of Christ (ASCC) with headquarters at Molade, Monatan Ibadan.

Till date, although partnered ministries change from time to time depending on the leading we receive from the Lord, we remain committed to our main purpose and vision; that of service to the church and in the world to wake up men everywhere and encourage them to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return. Through our activities, souls had been saved, believers edified and church workers’ spiritual growth and development enhanced, all to the glory of God.

WATCHMAN PRAYER HOUR



Prayer Points - For January 2023

1. Thank God for the privilege of participating in God’s work and projects
2. Pray for all visionary leaders in the kingdom, that God will sustain their visions and continuously guide them towards fulfillment
3. Pray for all missionaries that God will encourage them with results and meet all their needs
4. Pray for grace to lead a well-ordered life
5. Pray for restoration of the church worldwide to her rightful place of holiness, honour, dominion and glory
6. Pray for concern for others who are hurting and in distress; pray that God will fill your heart with love for all His people
7. Pray for wisdom in planning and preparation for all God-ordained tasks
8. Pray for reward and blessings of participation in God’s work; pray against all hindrances

“ men ought always to pray, and not to faint;” **Luke 18:1**

May the Lord hear and answer all our prayers - AMEN!

Watchman Prayer Hour holds every Saturday from 10.30am - 12.00MD. We invite you to join us at our office in 78/80 Nepa (IBEDC) Building, Opposite U.I. Second Gate, Ibadan . Oyo - State Follow us on any of our Social media platforms and send your inquiries or prayer requests to any of our digital addresses.

RECORD KEEPING, ROLL CALL AND ACCOUNTING

"... And I found a register of the genealogy of them which came up at the first, and found written therein, And of the priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Koz, the children of Barzillai, which took one of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite to wife, and was called after their name. These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but it was not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood" **Nehemiah 7:5, 63, 64.**

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" **Revelation 20:12, 15.**

As Nehemiah considered how to repopulate the city, he first did a head-count and mustered those who were with him in the work who returned from exile. The census seeks to link them to their lineage. It was meant to unveil their profile and establish their relationship with God of Israel and the Israel of God. Those who could not show that their families descended from Israel or authenticate their claim to priesthood were rejected. This teaches believers a great lesson today. Furthermore, clear record was shown of contribution of money and related materials received as contribution to the work.

We shall consider three subtopics

1. God's interest in faithful accounting and record keeping
2. Names of Redeemed in the book of life

3. Implication of missing names in the book of life

1. God's interest in faithful accounting and record keeping

Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" **1 Corinthians 4:1, 2.**

"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God" **Romans 14:12.**

The auditing instructions impressed upon Nehemiah's heart is consistent with God's dealing and nature. It has serious eternal implication for workers, ministers and church leaders who are unfaithful or mismanage the business of God committed into their hands. Ministers are stewards of the manifold grace of God. They are expected to be faithful **1 Corinthians 4:1, 2.**

2. Names of the redeemed in the book of life

"And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life" **Philippians 4:3.**

"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels" **Revelation 3:5.**

God is not only interested in record-keeping He keeps record. God keep record of the details of how men live their lives on earth and how they fared in their relationship with divine truth, divine ordinances and divine institutions.



A day of accountability and reckoning lies ahead for all men; believers and unbelievers.

The Book of life is described as the book that the Lord has written (Exodus 32:32). Names of believers who backslid are expunged from it (Exodus 32:32). The book stores names of those living righteous life (Psalm 69:19-28), and contains the names of those who labour in the Lord **Philippians 4:3**. The Bible clearly declares the damnation of those on that final day whose names are missing in the book of life.

3. Implication of missing names in the book of life

"And of the priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Koz, the children of Barzillai, which took one of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite to wife, and was called after their name. These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but it was not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood" **Nehemiah 7:63, 64.**

"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" **Revelation 20:15.**

Just like Nehemiah excluded as unclean those whose identity was doubtful, some men will be excluded and banished from heaven if their names could not be found in the book of life. They will be banished forever. **Revelation 20:12-15.** They will be cast into the lake of fire.

The days we spend on earth gives us great opportunities, opportunities to have our names written in the book of life by accepting Jesus as our Saviour. Today we can decide where we want to spend eternity. The sinners can spend eternity in heaven if today he will confess his sins, forsake them, and accept Christ as Lord and Saviour. One day it will be too late. It will be too late to pray for mercy or to repent. Jesus loves you; He does not want you or anyone to perish **John 3:16.**



DEDICATING OUR GAINS

“And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites out of all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem, to keep the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings, and with singing, with cymbals, psalteries, and with harps. Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced: for God had made them rejoice with great joy: the wives also and the children rejoiced: so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off” Nehemiah 12:27, 43.

“Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain” Psalm 127:1.

After the completion of the work and meticulous arrangement for its preservation, Nehemiah led the people to dedicate the wall and celebrate God’s faithfulness with joy and thanksgiving

We shall consider:

1. Acknowledging God in all our ways
2. The power of praise and worship
3. Consecration of God: immunity against future loss

2. Acknowledging God in all our ways

“So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days. And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard thereof, and all the heathen that were about us saw these things, they were much cast down in their own eyes: for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God” Nehemiah 6:15-16.

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same



bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing” John 15:4, 5.

The time spent in praises, worship and thanksgiving is not wasted. It is a way of acknowledging God’s role in all our endeavors and achievements. Thanklessness and forgetfulness will limit or hinder further future blessings. The Bible enjoins that our request in prayers must be mingled with thanksgiving always. True believers are not only expected to dedicate all our achievements to God, we are to offer unto Him as a token of our appreciation worthy portion of all that we have received from Him. Tithing is a minimum, a starting point. The more we have received from the Lord, the more we are expected to give to support His work. We are also to give to needy men in and outside the church in the name of the Lord. It is still part of the way to show our appreciation to God.

2. The power of praise and worship

“And both the singers and the porters kept the ward of their God, and the ward of the purification, according to the commandment of David, and of Solomon his son” Nehemiah 12:45

“And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one’s bands were loosed” Acts 16:25, 26.

The wall of Jerusalem was dedicated with great joy and thankfulness. The choir were there to minister and all the people attended the dedication and thanksgiving service. They all matched round the wall praying, praising God and singing at different spots. God made them succeed. They triumph in the face of hostilities and opposition. God prospered the works of their hands. One thing that touches God’s heart more than anything is praise.

The devil can easily understand if we praise God when things are all right with us and we are making progress. However, he is confounded and confused when in the face of almost over-bearing pressures and pains we can still raise our voices in songs to God who reigns on the throne of the universe; and over all circumstances and situations. We should not be fair-weather Christians and “bread and butter” believers. Our love for God should be supreme. Our vision of heaven should be unclouded and our commitment to God complete and total, notwithstanding the changing circumstances of our daily life.

3. Consecration to God: immunity against future loss

“And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites out of all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem, to keep the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings, and with singing, with cymbals, psalteries, and with harps” Nehemiah 12:27.

“They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth forever” Psalm 125:1.



The things that we dedicate are placed on God’s altar, and within the perimeter of God’s constant watch. What we dedicate are by implication consecrated to God. This is the surest way of making us and ours secured in the face of restless, wandering felons and unrelenting enemy - the devil. Nehemiah must have understood that it is not by their power that they had that record success of rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem in fifty-two days. The Lord was among them and worked with them. Even their enemies acknowledged it. Dedicating the walls therefore was an act of thanksgiving and also done to hand it over to God for safekeeping. Dedicating our life, resources, plans and projects is the surest insurance against future loss

CONSTANT VIGILANCE OF SPIRITUAL WATCHMEN

“And before this, Eliashib the priest, having the oversight of the chamber of the house of our God, was allied unto Tobiah: And he had prepared for him a great chamber, where aforetime they laid the meat offerings, the frankincense, and the vessels, and the tithes of the corn, the new wine, and the oil, which was commanded to be given to the Levites, and the singers, and the porters; and the offerings of the priests” **Nehemiah 13:4-5.**

“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak” **Mathew 26:4.**

Eliashib the priest who was appointed as supervisor of the storerooms was a close associate of Tobiah the Ammonite. While Nehemiah was away, he converted one of the large storerooms to living room and placed it at Tobiah's disposal. Besides, those who were supposed to be on full-time service like the Levites and musicians had gone back to their secular work. There was also the perversion of Sabbath regulations and God's instructions on separation from the heathen nations in marriage was largely ignored, thus almost eroding the gains of earlier reform. This called for a follow-up visit and renewal of the people's dedication. The lesson here is that it will take constant watchfulness by spiritual watchmen placed over the household of God to make God's people persist and persevere on the narrow way that leads to heaven. The possibility of degeneration and backsliding is real. It is more likely when watchmen are permissive and docile or when they sleep at the post of duty.

We shall consider three subtopics

1. Possibility of degeneration and backsliding
2. Restoration of backsliders
3. Eternal vigilance, price of liberty

1. Possibility of degeneration and Backsliding

“And before this, Eliashib the priest, having the oversight of the chamber of the house of our God, was allied unto Tobiah: And he had prepared for him a great chamber, where aforetime they laid the meat offerings, the frankincense, and the vessels, and the tithes of the corn, the new wine, and the oil, which was commanded to be given to the Levites, and the singers, and the porters; and the offerings of the priests” **Nehemiah 13:4-5.**

“And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved” **Mathew 24:11-13.**

Within a short time, a once well-revived people in Nehemiah 10 lapse into corruption and compromise with the enemy, misappropriation of resources, desecration of the holy place and unequal yoke in marriage. This pointed to the fact that there is no spiritual height that immune a person from backsliding.

To backslide means that one who had previously realized his sinfulness and had attained true identity with Christ, experienced manifestation of divine presence, empowered by the Holy Spirit to live a life that is in consonance with the word of God is now living in rebellion against God and experiences or expresses apathy towards God.



Causes of backsliding include:

1. Desire for forbidden things
2. Self-management
3. Carelessness and taking undue liberty
4. Self-confidence
5. Being spoilt by earthly pleasure and kindness from others
6. Presumption
7. Pre-occupation with difficulties rather than focus on God's power and ability
8. Harshness of spirit

9. Lightness of spirit
10. Neglect of prayer and Bible study

2. Restoration of Backsliders

“Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up” **Hosea 6:1.**

“Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings. Behold, we come unto thee; for thou art the Lord our God. Truly in vain is salvation hoped for from the hills, and from the multitude of mountains: truly in the Lord our God is the salvation of Israel” **Jeremiah 3:22-23.**

Nehemiah's action revealed how those who are still in faith and in the Lord could help restore those who have strayed. It also revealed how spiritual and church leaders should confront and tackle mass or group backsliding:

- i. He uncovered the problem and revealed it to those who do not or could not see it.
- ii. He brought God and scriptural perspective into the situation
- iii. He took strong, unmistakable action



“So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work”.

Nehemiah 4:6

- iv. He disciplined those he had to
- v. All his actions were undertaken in love, fairness and guided by the fear of God. It was perceived to be so.
- vi. He showed the way and the path to repentance, restitution and restoration to God and return to the path of duty.

Nehemiah's response and that of other saints of old in the bible has proved effective in handling every opposition to believers' progress. They are useful guidelines or principles for contemporary believers.

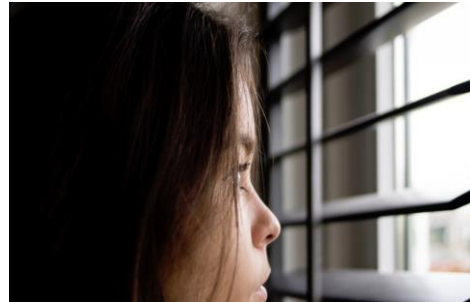
3. Eternal vigilance: price of liberty

"Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood, and the covenant of the priesthood, and of the Levites. Thus cleansed I them from all strangers, and appointed the wards of the priests and the Levites, everyone in his business; And for the wood offering, at times appointed, and for the first fruits. Remember me, O my God, for good" Nehemiah 13:29-31.

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.

Christian seek not yet repose, hear thy guardian angel say, thou art in the midst of toes, watch and pray. Sense of duty and need for watchfulness made Nehemiah to return to Jerusalem after a while to see whether the structures that he put in place during the previous reform was still in place or not. The first lesson coming out of this is the benefit of fulltime ministry or at least asking those who are tent-makers to seek employment in or seek posting to

their place of ministerial assignment; that is, the town or nation where their congregation resides. We are witnesses to the great damage absenteeism of parents are doing to children upbringing in families. This can also happen to a congregation if ministers do not stay or reside in their place of primary assignment. Converted souls need constant oversight. Ministers, workers and leaders must constantly watch over the souls that God had committed to their care to forestall their returning to their old sinful ways and lives.



Beyond watching over others, we must watch over our own souls, so we do not preach to others and have ourselves become cast away (I Corinthians 9:27-29). Jesus repeatedly emphasize the fact that those who are sincere about making heaven their final destination should constantly watch and pray Mathew 26:41. He gave the parable of ten virgins to show that even when we live righteous and live as God commanded we still need to constantly watch against relentless attacks and enticements by the trio of Satan, the world and the flesh which will continue to come to us while our life on earth lasts either as temptations, pressure or as persecution. We must watch our Words, Action, Thoughts, Companies and conversation. We must watch our Hearts and the desires and ideas we entertain in it.



Vigilance also has to do with focus. Not all happenings in this world or around us are important or deserves our attention. We must learn like Mary in the story of Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38-42 to recognize priorities and stick to essential issues in life. Essential issues are issues that borders on our spiritual life and daily walk with the Lord. These include our spiritual experiences of salvation, sanctification and Holy Spirit's baptism; our service to the Lord and divine approval of it, our eternal reward and destination at the end of earthly life.

Nehemiah served the lord and the church in his generation. He willingly sacrificed all it takes to fulfil his ministry and bring God's people under his care to a place of safety and security both in spiritual and secular sense. Today, as we witness the collapse of institutions and institutional ideals all around us, we are convinced that there are need for "*Nehemiahs*"; who can be used by God to build or re-build the walls of invaded lives in ministries, churches, secular institutions and nations. You could be the next Nehemiah that your ministry, the whole nation and our generation have been waiting for. Consecrate yourself to the Lord today. Then rise up and take your proper place in the annals of men's history and in the program of God. The world and the church is waiting. Romans 8:19 *"For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God"*.



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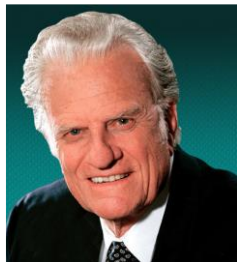
Billy Graham was born on November 7, 1918 on a North Carolina dairy farm to William Franklin Graham and Morrow Coffey Graham. He made a personal commitment to Christ in 1934 at the age of 16 after hearing travelling evangelist Mordecai Ham speak in his home town of Charlotte, North Carolina. In 1940, he enrolled at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois, to study anthropology. He graduated in 1943 and two months later married a fellow student - Ruth McCue Bell, whose parents were missionaries in China. Billy applied to become a U.S. Army chaplain but was told he needed pastoral experience first, and therefore accepted a call to a small Baptist church in Western Springs, Illinois.

While there, he was offered the opportunity to host a 45-minute religious program called "*Songs in the Night*" on Chicago's largest radio station. It was there he met and became friends with Canada's George Beverly Shea, a soloist on the show. After graduating from high school, Billy enrolled at Florida Bible Institute, now Trinity College, and began to lead prayer meetings at a nearby trailer park and downtown mission hall. He also preached at a local church, as an ordained minister of the Southern Baptist Convention. Other churches began inviting him to speak. In 1945, He was invited to become the first full-time organizer for Youth for Christ - establishing a lifelong path for him as an evangelist.

In 1948, Billy Graham began a series of evangelistic meetings in Modesto, California, along with his ministry team comprising of Cliff Barrows, George Beverly Shea and Grady Wilson. Four years later, while Billy was conducting evangelistic meetings in Los Angeles, the news media began covering him. These were local stories. However, his messages also featured in the wire services and in Time, Life, and Newsweek magazines. What was initially supposed to be a few weeks of meetings attracted such large crowds that they continued for months. Shortly afterward, Billy began a national weekly radio program, "*The Hour of Decision*" that continues today on hundreds of stations in the U.S., Canada, and overseas. In 1950, Graham founded the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) with its headquarters in Minneapolis.

MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

BILLY GRAHAM
1918 - 12018



The association relocated to Charlotte, North Carolina, in 1999. By the end of the 20th Century, Billy Graham had preached the Gospel on every continent, conducted more than 400 crusades in 185 countries and territories on six continents. One special televised broadcast in 1996 alone may have reached a television audience of as many as 2.5 billion people worldwide.

Graham had enormous influence during his sixty-year ministry. He provided spiritual counsel to 12 sitting U.S. presidents—from Harry S. Truman to Barack Obama. He participated in events surrounding nine presidential inaugurations—participating in four swearing-in ceremonies. Not only was Graham knighted in Britain in 2001 for his service to religion and civility, the American preacher also received illustrious awards from his home country including the Ronald Reagan Foundation Freedom Award, the Templeton Foundation Prize, and the Congressional Gold Medal. In addition, the Billy Graham Library, which commemorates the life of the renowned evangelist, opened in 2007.

He passed away on February 21, 2018 at the age of 99. On February 28, 2018, Billy Graham became the fourth ever private citizen to lie in honor in the Capitol Rotunda. Before he died, Billy Graham passed his duties and leadership of BGEA to his son, Franklin Graham. He will be remembered primarily for influencing millions of people across the world.

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."
Hebrews 6:10

SONG OF THE MONTH

LISTEN TO THE MASTER PLEADING

1. Listen to the Master's pleading,
There is urgent work for all;
Heed the Spirit's interceding,
Give this answer to the call:—

Refrain:

*I am ready for the service for
Thee, dear Lord,
Here am I, send me,
I am willing to be what you'd
have me be,
I will go where you want me to
go,
I am ready for service for Thee,
dear Lord,
Here am I, send me
Tho' the pathway seems dark, for
Thee I'll do or die,
I am ready for service, Lord.*

2. There's a voice to you now calling,
Will you heed the earnest word?
On the ear 'tis gently falling,
Give this answer to your Lord
[Refrain]
3. Many souls in sin are dying;
Haste to help them while you may,
For the time is swiftly flying,
Will you now to Jesus say?
[Refrain]

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