



The Moving of God

By A. Hinchliff

It is amazing how God moves upon the hearts of His people, and others, to accomplish His purpose in the earth. When He wanted the temple rebuilt in Jerusalem, after it had been destroyed by the Babylonians, he stirred up the spirit of Cyrus, king of Persia, that he made a proclamation decreeing that it be done.

Then God turned to the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, also the priests and Levites who were captives in Babylon, and moved upon their hearts to go back to Jerusalem to accomplish that which He had purposed - the rebuilding of the temple which had been destroyed. Their neighbours were moved upon to supply those returning with silver and gold for the rebuilding. Cyrus also brought out all of the vessels from the temple in Jerusalem that Nebuchadnezzar had brought to Babylon and put in the temple of their gods, to send them back to Jerusalem.

The purpose of God in this present "Move of the Spirit" is the coming together of the body of Christ and the rebuilding of His temple which has been split and divided into a thousand or more different sects. Again God is seeking out a people who are hungry for Him and His ways and who are submissive to His will and purpose.

His purpose in restoring the gifts of the Spirit to the church was so the builders of His temple would have tools to work with. Most of these gifts or tools had been lost for many hundreds of years. They were lost in the rubble of the

destroyed temple. But God said He would restore the nine gifts of the Spirit to the church.

As Ezekiel prophesied to the dry bones in the valley so prophecy was restored to the church for the bringing together and building up of it's members. It is by prophecy and the laying on of the hands of a presbytery on different individuals, that are indicated by the Holy Spirit, that the gifts of the Spirit are restored. Prophecy is a life giving stream that brings life and unity to the people of God. It is invaluable in the reconstruction of the temple. When the temple was being rebuilt in Jerusalem Haggai and Zechariah prophesied in the Name of the Lord and so helped the builders in their reconstruction work. We are helped and encouraged by the flow of prophecy among us. Those with that gift have a great responsibility.

The gift of healing was restored to the church. Healing is important not only to the physical, but is also important to the spirit. There are many wounded and broken spirits that are in need of healing besides those that have a physical need.

When the temple in Jerusalem was rebuilt I imagine they reused a lot of the material that had been used in the first temple. Many of those stones would have been damaged in the destruction so they would have to be reworked to fit into the restoration. Many of us need the touch of the master builder's hand to restore us both physically and spiritually so we can be fitted into His temple.

A portion of the western wall of the temple mount remains until this day. It is amazing the ability and skill used in its building. How they were able to cut stones four feet by four feet by eight feet without the power tools we have today and how they were able to move them from the quarry and assemble them without hydraulic power is a mystery to me. There are many mysteries in the building of His temple today. Many of the stones need to be reworked so they can be fitted in and many are being brought from the quarry and fitted in to His glorious temple. Miracles of this nature continually happen. This is the work of the Spirit of God as exercised through the members of His body.

I am sure that the gift of the word of wisdom came into play many times in the building of that ancient temple, especially when they were confronted by their enemies. It is very important in the building of His dwelling place today. The word of knowledge was very important to them also, especially when the work was being interfered with by their enemies. In Ezra 4 we have an account of all the trouble their adversaries gave them in building. They first wanted to help them build but an enemy on the construction crew would only be asking for trouble. Their enemies then hired councilors to try to discourage the builders. Finally they sent a letter to the king to try to have him stop the building which he did. The prophets encouraged the elders and the people and the build-

ing was resumed.

These gifts are invaluable in the construction of the house that God is building in our day. There have been many adversaries but the work is going on. Our King has given orders that the building of His dwelling place proceed; a temple

not made with hands, but constructed of living stones which are His people.

God is moving by His Spirit and is calling out people from every tongue and nation to be living stones used by the Builder of His dwelling place. We must never let our adversaries discourage us

but continue building as He leads and instructs us through the leading of His Spirit. Depend much on the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. They are all necessary for the successful completion of that temple which God has called His people to build.

Days of Preparation

By Albert Hannigan

The Lord has been speaking to us of late so much about the kingdom of God and of how the whole creation is groaning, waiting for the manifestation of Christ in His sons. Jesus exhorted us to seek first the kingdom above all else.

It is clear that the first steps toward the kingdom of God is to be born again. Jesus told Nicodemus, who came to him by night, "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

On the day of Pentecost, Peter gave that wonderful message to the people, explaining that glorious outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the work of redemption through Christ. When the people wondered what they should do, Peter said, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

So we are saved by faith in the finished work of Calvary, but then comes a responsibility to work the works as we are led by the Spirit. Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: (it is) the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

Christ Our Example

Acts 10:38 "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."

Today God has anointed you and me with the Holy Spirit that we too might fill our lives with doing good. The gifts and ministries which God has imparted unto His Church are for the purpose of doing things for others.

Pure Religion

Abridged Electronic Version

James 1:27 "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, (and) to keep himself unspotted from the world." We are our brother's keeper, and in compassion God would have us minister to the needs of others and yet at the same time our relationship with God should be very close and clean and pure. Worldliness and unclean living should be left behind us.

Matthew 25:34-46 is a wonderful passage telling who would inherit the kingdom. Matthew 25:34-36 "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: V.35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: V.36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me."

Obviously, those who were ministering to those needs were doing it out of the love that was in their hearts and not out of duty, not realizing that as they were ministering to others they were ministering unto Christ.

I was impressed one day in talking to a care-giver in a nursing home. One patient had to have everything done for him for he was incapable of doing anything for himself. He was, as the saying goes, "completely out of it". But she said, "I realize as I was doing things for this man, I was doing it unto Christ." What a wonderful attitude.

"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. V. 11 And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: V. 12 That ye be not slothful, but follow-

ers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises." Hebrews 6:10-12.

Isaiah 58:6-8 is a wonderful passage regarding the works that God expects of us. Isaiah 58:6 "(Is) not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? V.7 (Is it) not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?" - (or relatives).

I Corinthians 13, that wonderful chapter on love, speaks of the necessity of love being the motivation for what we do for others. "Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor — and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing." If we have the Spirit of Christ, then love and compassion will be our motivation, and there will be joy in ministering to others.

Alms

In Acts chapter 10 the story is told of the Gentile Cornelius and how he walked with God. "A devout man and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always." It is not surprising that God would first choose such a man to reveal the truth of salvation in Christ, to the Gentiles.

Acts 9:36 "... Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did." Though she died, God chose to raise her from the dead.

Romans 15:1 "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. V. 2 Let every one of us please (his) neighbour for (his) good to edification."

Give

"Freely ye have received, freely give." Matthew 10:7.

When Jesus sent the twelve disciples

out to minister He said, "As ye go, preach, saying The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give."

Luke 6:38 "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

Treasures in Heaven

Jesus said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: Matthew 6:19, 20.

How do you lay up treasure in heaven? Jesus answers this in his conversation with the rich young ruler. Matthew 19:21

- This man had kept the commandments faithfully but still wondered what he lacked in order to have eternal life. Jesus said, "Go sell all that you have and give to the poor and you shall have treasure in heaven and come and follow me."

It is plain to be seen that if we give of ourselves in ministering to others that we are laying up treasure in heaven.

God has blest us as Christians so abundantly. He has promised to supply all our needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. He has blest us so greatly in the spiritual realm, in the past, in the present. In the future we know He will manifest Himself more and more, and we can share this glorious salvation with all who will receive it. He blesses many with material things, enabling us to minister in material ways.

Ephesians 4:28 tells us to work with our hands that we may have to give to the needy. As we bless others God blesses us

and there is joy in helping others.

As we walk close to God He will give wisdom and will lead us by His Spirit in helping others.

I am reminded of the words of an old song, "Lead on O King eternal, Till sins fierce war shall cease, And holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace. For not with swords loud clashing nor roll of stirring drums, With deeds of love and mercy. Thy heavenly kingdom comes.

II Corinthians 9:6 "But this (I say), He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, (so let him give); not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

May we be faithful in ministering in love and compassion to others. These are days of preparation for the kingdom of God.

When the Spirit of God began to reveal that the Church is not a building, but that we are the Church, it was a tremendous revelation and God surely did a wonderful work.

God is speaking to us in no uncertain terms. I've noticed in recent times that God seems to be bringing out the messages of the prophets of old and bringing them to reality to us in these days and those messages are still alive, and they're still new and they are messages for us; what the prophets and what the whole Word of God says. Very often we tend to overlook the Old Testament and we concentrate on the New Testament. In my early days when I came to know the Lord; I thought the old a little outdated, and so I began reading the New Testament, which is very good, but soon I came to the realization that the New Testament is a fulfillment of the Old Testament, and grace is the fulfillment of law. It tells me that God is taking his people from stage to stage and we have moved on. We're in that new and living way, and there is still yet an unfolding and ever living revelation that is coming forth to the Church, so the Church is a living organism, a vibrant body that is moving on, just as a living being with all the veins and tissues and the pumping of the blood; that moves you and gives you

Abridged Electronic Version

Rebuilding

by Robert Persaud

the enthusiasm, - that's the Body of Christ.

We are moving on. We are marching on with hearts courageous. Sometimes you can get so excited in the things of God, and you ought to be. After all if you are not excited in the things of God, where is the excitement? I saw a hockey match being played, and I thought, well at times I saw that people expressed a little emotion here and there. Sometimes it's good to rejoice in the Lord, you know, because in the presence of the Lord, what's happening there? Fullness of joy and at His right hand pleasures forevermore. I just can't see a person drinking in joy, "Oh, I'm drinking in some joy here," and not being excited at all. You've got to rejoice in the Lord! Amen.

If we could turn to the book of Nehemiah, I'd like us to take time to read through this book of Nehemiah. It's a wonderful message that God has been speaking to us as a Church, and has been awakening us to even in this time. The scripture says that whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning and our inspiration, that we through patience and comfort of the Holy Scriptures might have hope. Sometimes if we find ourselves losing that hope, we need to reflect on what God has said and we need to go back and see. It is the same

God; what He has done in days of old He's been doing the same today and He will continue to do it.

God is God and He always will be God; He wouldn't step down to a lower level as time goes by, as so many people in the world out there would try to dismiss the thoughts of God and try to bring Him down to a lower level, - Oh in those days He worked miracles, in those days He did so many things, but He's not the same God today. He's very much the same God! He's even closer to us because there's this new and living way.

Nehemiah chapter one, verse one says, "The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace, V.2 That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and (certain) men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. V.3 And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province (are) in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also (is) broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire."

We can see clearly here, that Nehemiah, a man of God - his name actually means "Jehova comforts". He was at the time in Shushan the palace

with the king; he was the king's cupbearer, and he had the special privilege of tasting whatever the king drank, - that's a good job, and so he had to sample all of these things and he went before the king constantly, but you know, despite the fact that he was in Shushan the palace with all the luxury of those days, he remembered Jerusalem.

What had happened to Jerusalem? Jerusalem was destroyed Jerusalem, the city that many of the Jews had to flee from and some of them were killed, some of them were taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar. So the whole area and the land that God had given His people lay desolate, but there was a man who had a concern, and there are certain truths that we can derive from this book here as the Church, and we can see the areas that we can improve on for the glory of God.

Again verse 2 of Nehemiah chapter 1, "That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and (certain) men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. V.3 And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province (are) in great affliction and reproach: ...". I can imagine how Nehemiah's heart was grieved. "...Jerusalem also (is) broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire." What a desolation!

You know it grieved my heart much with El Nino, when I went into some areas of Guyana I saw that it was just burnt, and some of the brooks were dry and you could see that the sediments were all cracked below and I just began to cry before the Lord and the tears began to stream down and I said, "What desolation!" It's a sight that brings concern, and grief and sorrow, and this was the case of Nehemiah. He was there in a comfortable position, but he did not think about himself, and this is one of the things as the Church, we need to be awakened to. We are our brother's keeper! We are responsible! We need not think about ourselves. We are to have a concern. The Church needs to have a concern, and a burden. If you remove that burden from the Church, you remove the concern, we would be a prayerless church. It's with a burden, with a concern that drives us to prayer, because we look around us, oh, there is so much prayer required today.

Nehemiah 1:4 "And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned (certain) days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of

heaven,...". You know, I underlined those words in my Bible, - I wept, I mourned, I fasted, and I prayed. Don't you see the place where we need to be? Don't you see how a driving concern and a burden brings us to that place of fasting and praying. There is something about Nehemiah in his time of prayer and fasting, he sure had a vision. He had a vision, he saw that these walls needed to be rebuilt. The city needed to be rebuilt, and I tell you what, if there ever was a time that the Church needs a vision, it's now! If ever there was a time that we need a vision before God to be clearer than ever before, it's now! Just think about the challenges around us. We need a vision!

Proverbs 29 verse 18 says, "Where there is no vision...", what happens? There is desolation; "...the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." Where there is no vision, the people perish, and we need to have a vision today, and that vision needs to get clearer before us. Let's not miss the mark. You know, I came across a saying, - The main thing is to let the main thing be the main thing.' Does this make sense? The main thing is to let the main thing be the main thing, and we need to be focused as a Church. We need to be right on to know exactly where God is leading us, and the thing I like about God, He doesn't lead us all over the place. The Spirit of God has direction. The Spirit of God has purpose, and they that are led by the Spirit of God, we will have direction and purpose. This is what the case of Nehemiah was.

I have a little quotation, Three men worked on a large building project. One was asked, "What are you doing?" "I am making mortar", he said. The second man said, "I am helping put up this great stone wall." When the third man was asked, he replied, "I am building acathedral to the glory of God." Isn't that something? They all were doing the same job, but it's just one that had a vision, and the other one's didn't have any purpose and meaning, and that's why the Church needs to have that vision, to have that purpose fulfilling that vision to know where we are going. We need to build for the glory of God, not just laying bricks and mixing cement, (as we would say at home), and laying stones, - we need to see beyond that; we need to see that we are building a cathedral for the glory of God; we need to see beyond, not what is just there, but beyond, and this is what Nehemiah had; he had that vision and purpose. He saw that there was need for the rebuilding of the gates and the walls.

One of the areas the Church can do so much rebuilding is prayer. Prayer is very important. In I Thessalonians 5:17 - I remember I used to like to quote this scripture verse, "pray without ceasing." In our youth meetings everybody had to say a scripture verse, and I always thought too many people were hooked on John 11:35 "Jesus wept", - that's the shortest one, so I began thinking as a teen-ager, 'What can I say?' I said, "Well, okay, I'll move away a little," and I'll stick to this one, I Thess.5:17 "Pray without ceasing." Let's not be discouraged in our prayer; we might be praying for something; it might take a year, two years, -Let's not stop praying. One of the translations says, "Pray without stopping." Another translation says, "Pray until you see changes." In other words, - don't just stop praying; you might be right to the brink, and you might be wondering, well, what's happening with all those prayers? - where are those prayers today that I've made in so many years gone by, and it's taking a long time? Listen! One day is a thousand years with the Lord, and a thousand years is as one clay before the Lord. God's ways are far beyond our ways. God's thoughts are far beyond our thoughts, so let's not be discouraged, and pray. Let's pray in the morning, pray in the noontime, pray, pray, pray, - pray all the time. Pray without ceasing!

You know, I'm impressed by one person who said that he doesn't pray much, but there isn't a half an hour that passes that he doesn't pray. Isn't that something! That should be the attitude of every one of us, saints of God, - to be on praying ground. If ever a time we need to be on the grounds of prayer, it's now. Nehemiah did just that, - he prayed and he prayed and he prayed. In James 5:16 it says, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." It availeth much. So sometimes you may not know how far your prayer reaches, but let us continue and let us be encouraged to pray.

Nehemiah 2:1 "And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, (that) wine (was) before him: and I took up the wine, and gave (it) unto the king. Now I had not been (before time) sad in his presence. V. 2 Wherefore the king said unto me, Why (is) thy countenance sad, seeing thou (art) not sick? this (is) nothing (else) but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid,..." You know why Nehemiah was sore afraid? Because you couldn't go before the king with a sad countenance. You could be killed; you could be de-

stroyed. I think it was in the book of Esther that when she went before the king and it had to do with the king holding out that sceptre in order for her to find favour before the king. In those days if one would go before the king and the king wasn't pleased in any way you could be killed, - that's how serious it was. So I can understand Nehemiah's position. He had a burden for the people of God; he had a burden for Jerusalem to be rebuilt, and at the same time he was sad, and you know, - how could he go before the king? The king saw that his facial expression was so sad and depressed.

Nehemiah 2:3 "And said unto the king, Let the king live for ever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers; sepulchres, (lieth) waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?" Isn't this sad? "Then the king said unto me, For what doest thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven." I like this; as long as we live in the presence of God, you will always find favour, favour among the ungodly, favour in the most difficult situation, even the worst circumstances.

Nehemiah 2:5 "And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it." This was a man, irrespective of what cost, "I will build it." That's what he wanted to be involved in, the rebuilding of Jerusalem, the rebuilding of the city. V.6 "And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him.) For how long shall thy journey be? and when wilt thou return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time." Here was a good steward, a good servant, a man who proved himself and found favour before the king. On behalf of whom? His own people, the Jews, the people of God.

Verse 7, "Moreover I said unto the king, If it please the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over till I come into Judah; V.8 And a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which (appertained) to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me." I like those words. You know, Nehemiah said, "Well, okay, I've got a project here to do. I've got God's project in mind," and having the project, he

didn't know where the resources are going to come from; he didn't even know how he's going to pass through those areas; he had to get in our day, modern day, his visas, and there were many restrictions. You just couldn't pass there as you liked; you could be killed and it was dangerous, but as long as you get the king to give what we would term, what I would call, the visa, you can pass through freely, and Nehemiah found all of that favour. He even found favour to have the timber, the materials to do the rebuilding. I'd like to pause here, this is something that happens all the time. I noticed something in the office, - 'When something important is going on, silence is a lie.' Whenever God is beginning to work, there is always something on the go. Whenever the Spirit of God is moving there is always criticism, there is always somebody out there trying to discourage and we see it exactly here in Nehemiah's model, we see it clearly coming out here. Nehemiah 2:9 "Then I came to the governors beyond the river, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me." I underlined this verse. V.10 When Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard (of if), it grieved them exceedingly that there was come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel." Does this sound familiar? Whenever you're pressing on, especially in the kingdom of God, you always find some Sanballat and Tobiah out there, who are just ready to pull you down, to pull you back, to distract your attention one way or the other, but let us be focused with the vision that Nehemiah had, and I tell you what, - they are not going to give up; with the last ounce of straw as we would say, they would even clutch at that. They are not going to give up because the way that God has called us, it's not an easy way. I know there's a problem in the world today that many people are preaching a prosperity gospel, 'If you come to the Lord, you accept Him and serve Him and everything is going to be alright.' That is not so; that's not what the scriptures say; they say that many tribulations and temptations and trials are going to come our way, because this is the refining process that God is using to bring us out and to make us, and the beauty of all these things, it helps us to walk straight. I don't know about you brethren, but it helps us to walk straight, because we realize that we have got to go straight before us, and these are things that try to distract us. Nehemiah had a similar problem.

Nehemiah 2:11 "So I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days. V. 12 And I arose in the night, I and some few men with me; neither told I (any) man what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem: neither (was there any) beast with me, save the beast that I rode upon." You see, Nehemiah was dealing with God. As long as you are in the realm of the Spirit and dealing with God, the One who is in control, you should not have any fear, any problems, He is going to make the way for you. He said here that he arose and he had to go by night; if we can go there in our mind's eye and see what's happening; he had to visit that desolate area by night. He had to go very quietly to survey the entire destruction, but in his heart God has laid a plan out and he wanted to obey that plan.

Let's back up a little bit and it says here in verse 8 "And a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which (appertained) to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me." The first thing Nehemiah thought about, that God led him to do was to rebuild the wall and the gates. If you remove the walls the entire security of that city is destroyed, in other words you are open, and the first thing you had to do was to rebuild that wall. There are many walls that need to be rebuilt, even in our lives. We are God's Jerusalem; we're the City of God; we're Zion where God is supposed to be dwelling, is it not so, and there are walls that need to be rebuilt. Let us get before God and ask Him to show us the areas where the walls and the gates need to be rebuilt. The walls of family devotion need to be rebuilt; the walls of our prayer life needs to be rebuilt; there are several walls that need to be reinforced so that the enemy will not be able to come in; we need to safeguard those areas. I tell you, that if ever there was time that the attacks of the enemy and the fiery darts of the enemy are before us it's now, and we need the security of the Almighty God around our lives, around our families, among our loved ones, even those who are outside of that ARK of salvation; we need that ever so much.

Coming closer to the walls there are the gates, and usually there is the main gate, and the gates according to the Jewish system speak about the place of authority. In order to go into the city you had to pass through the gates, and you

had to get special permission to go through the gate. The gates where there are guards in the gate that you had to check, and check points, what I would like to term, customs and immigration officials, you know, it's just that we have big fancy names in these days, but they were all existing there, and you had to get special permission. The gates spoke about that place of authority; it's where the parliament and where the centre of commerce seems to be; it was the hub of activities that takes place within the gates. So Nehemiah realized the importance of rebuilding those gates, because if the gates are broken down, that means the place of authority is broken down.

I often think of that scripture in Matthew chapter 16. This was the incident when Jesus and the disciples were there and if we can read from verse 13 Matthew 16:13 "When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? V.14 And they said, Some (say that thou art) John the Baptist: some, Elias, and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. V.15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? V. 16 And Simon Peter (he seemed to be always the spokesperson among the disciples) answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God. vv.17 and Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed (it) unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. V.18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock (not upon Peter, not upon a man) I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Here we see this word 'gates' coming back again, "...and the gates of hell..."

You know, we encounter a lot of demonic cases in the interior of Guyana and this is one of the verses and the promises that we lay hold on so heavily, that the gates of hell, the place of authority of hell shall not prevail against the Church. This is a tremendous promise of Jesus, the word of Jesus that was given to the Church, and let us as a Church take our place of authority; let us realize what we have in Christ Jesus; for too long we have suffered defeat; for too long we have been standing by and allowing the enemy to take control; we need to assert ourselves as the people of God, we need to be awakened as the saints of God that the gates of hell, that place of authority in hell, shall not, will not, can not prevail against the Church, the Body of Christ, how affirmative it is, that's how clear cut

it is; there is no...ifs and buts and mights in there. It shall not prevail against the Church; that place of authority will not prevail against the Church, and we will be able to conquer and break down the walls of the enemy. Let's go back to Nehemiah.

We look at chapter 2 verse 9,10,11, 12 where Nehemiah was faced with those discouraging situations. Verse 19, - I'm going to deal a little bit with Sanballat and Tobiah - I'm not going to finish with him just like that, because you know, there is so much discouragement in the Church today, and discouragement - somebody puts it this way, 'discouragement is one of the most useful tools in the devil's workshop', and you know discouragement comes in so many ways, and causes the people of God to be shifted away from what God wants of them. Discouragement came to the prophet Elijah; discouragement comes from time to time to every one of us; oh, yes, quite frankly I've often been discouraged too. Discouragement seems to come on every angle, but it's not the discouragement so much, as how we deal with the discouragement, and God has given us the means, and He is showing us clearly how to deal with these discouragements that come our way as the people of God.

Nehemiah 2, Verse 19 "But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard (it), they laughed us to scorn, (you see what they did, - they are laughing Nehemiah to scorn) and despised us, and said, What (is) this thing that ye do? will ye rebel against the king?" You see how closer they came now; at first they spoke and now they laughed and they scorned. Doesn't this sound familiar? This is the trap of the enemy. They went a little further, - they laughed and scorned and they despised this man, Nehemiah and what he was doing and they now referred to the place of authority here, in the king, "...will ye rebel against the king?" they're involving somebody else now, and discouragement can be very contagious. If you're discouraged sometimes and you talk to a brother in a discouraging way, you discourage him too. We've got to know, saints of God, to pray for one another; that's why the scripture says to pray for one another; confess your faults one to another and to build up one another in that most holy faith, edify one another, - that is so important.

Nehemiah 2:20 "Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of

heaven,..." (Listen to the reply: let's take a model, let's take page out of Nehemiah's book). "..., The God of heaven, he will prosper us; (Those are positive words) therefore we his servants will arise and build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem." And it's time we wake up, and even speak to our circumstances, - "You have no portion, no right, no memorial in my life as child of God." We need to realize that, whatever is facing us, what God is saying to us here that we must arise and build, go ahead with God's program, - you know people used to like to use the word 'program' and they link it so much with man-made programs, but that's why I like to use God's program, go ahead with what God is leading you to do, and there are times your faith is going to be tested, especially sometimes, and I should pause here to say that discouragement does not only come from outside, of those who are outside of the kingdom of God, but discouragement even within. I'm a little frank here, but you know, - the apostle Paul said he had fightings, struggles, within and without.

Discouragement can come sometimes deep within our own selves; our biggest discouragement sometimes comes from our own self; our biggest hindrance to the flow of the Spirit of God is our own self sometimes, our own flesh, our own carnal thinking, our own self-judgment, self opinion and all these things tend to hinder us and bring about the discouragement for what God wants us to go ahead. But let us, by His Holy Spirit press into the kingdom, saints; let us press on to what God has before us; let us arise and build the kingdom of God; let us edify, let us build up ourselves in the most holy faith. I pause here to say, if ever a time as the people of God we need in our private prayer to speak more in tongues; we need to edify ourselves in that heavenly language, - he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh unto God, he edifieth himself, and this is one of the areas that we need encouraging, especially young people Young people, spend time in prayer before God and speak out in that heavenly language, and you will be edified and be built up and you will see the difference; you will see that the power of God will be with you even in the midst of other young people who do not know him, in the colleges, in the universities, and wherever you might go and travel, you will see there's a difference in your life, and God will help you. Praise God! Let's go over to chapter 4.

Nehemiah 4:1 "But it came to pass,

that when Sanballat heard that we build the wall (progress is taking place now) he was wroth, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews." Can we see what's taking place here, brethren? V.2 "And he spake before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said. What do these feeble Jews?" (You talk about slams, you talk about remarks!) "...will they fortify themselves? will they sacrifice? will they make an end in a day? will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned? And these are the questions that so often come our way. By the way. I should tell you that the accuser of the brethren has always

been there, and sometimes I'm coming to realize more and more that the people of the world who don't know God, that come to present themselves a discouragement, I see beyond them, I see that there is a need beyond, - they need the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour, but I see beyond that facade the accuser of the brethren, that often uses them to just get at God's people, in every respect and in every way.

Within the Church there are difficulties that bring about these things and I see carnality; I see just the self nature arising above, from time to time, trying to persuade or try to dissuade where the Spirit of God is leading, so don't get me wrong, - I'm not saying that because difficulties arise among one or two brethren that that's the devil, it could very well be, you know, within the carnal realm, and we need also to be very focused about that and see how Nehemiah handled it. The intensity of this discouragement grew and grew and grew, and we find here even in this chapter 4 if we read down further in verse 17. Before we go to verse 17, let's go to verse 6.

Nehemiah 4:6 "So build we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work." This speaks about unity, in order for the people of God to press on. Let's put it frankly, we have to have a mind to work. We have to have unity of mind, unity of Spirit, and that's why it is so much emphasized that if we try with a little group here and a group there and I am in my little corner, you're in your little corner and we're building the kingdom of God, that's not God's way! The people had a mind to work. Oh, I just admire those people. I could just imagine how they must have sat among themselves, there might have been difficulties, yes, there might have been problems. Wherever human beings are rubbing shoulder to shoulder as we would

say, there are going to be glitches; that's in of His Spirit. So we need to have a mind to the natural world; that happens until we work. We need to be of one mind, one grow into perfection. We have not yet accord, one spirit, isn't that true? We arrived, brethren, but we are growing more need to have oneness of mind and that's and more into sonship, into what God wants the way the Spirit of God will help us to us, into that perfect unity, but while we are build and to establish the walls and the here and now, God is taking us on deeper and gates.
deeper into the fulness

Continued in next issue.

A Tribute in Memory of Brother Arthur G. Wagar

I have been asked, and feel very honored, to express a few thoughts regarding the life of our Brother Arthur Wagar. I first met Bro. Art in the fall of 1947 at Sharon Bible College, North Battleford,

Saskatchewan, Canada, which was to be the opening of the first year of the college. There were about seventy students in attendance. We all worked hard during the day to prepare the newly acquired buildings for classes. The evenings were spent mostly in prayer and fasting, seeking God for the moving of the Holy Spirit and God's blessing upon the classes. In February of 1948, the Spirit of God was mightily

outpoured upon us, and a great revival had begun. Bro. Wagar and I had the great honor and privilege to be present and to witness and become part of this present Move of the Holy Spirit, which at this time has spread all over the world. I have had the honor of being able to travel together with him in the ministry, in Canada, USA, Africa, New Zealand, West Indies, and other parts of the world.

Brother Art was a man of prayer with an intense desire to do the will of God and to fulfill His calling and ministry before God and the Church. He was very knowledgeable in the scriptures, and always careful to teach with a prophetic anointing, the truths that the Holy Spirit has revealed, which are progressive and alive today. His heart was always filled with compassion for the elderly and the sick. He loved the children and young people and they loved him. He loved the whole Church, and always had time for everyone. On Sunday morning, Sept. 13/98, he was to travel to the West Indies to minister at an elders' and deacons' seminar, but instead, God called him home at age 74. Our heavenly Father saw fit to promote him to become part of that great cloud of witnesses and one of the heroes of faith. His good example



will continue to inspire all of us to faithfully minister in the gift and ministry God has bestowed upon us. Bro. Wagar fought a good fight, he finished his course, he kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for him a crown

of righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge has given him, but not only to him, but unto all them also that love His appearing. I'm sure, our dear Brother has heard these precious words from his Heavenly Father, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Now, we that are left behind, we'll all miss him very much; I'm so sorry that he died, but so glad that he lived. On behalf of all the various ministries and our wives and members of all the churches, extend our love and heartfelt sympathy and sincere prayers to our sister, Irma Wagar. May God impart to you His comfort, peace and strength, to face the future with courage and hope. We are living in the very last days and it will not be long now until we will meet our loved ones who are asleep in Christ, again soon.

So Until Then: He is resting,
safely resting, in the
shelter of His love, He is resting, calmly
resting, He has
peace with God above; Nothing here on
earth can harm him,
while he leans on Jesus' breast, He is
sheltered so securely, and has
triumphed through each test.
Beautiful hiding place, wonderful
hiding place,
He is resting safely in the rock of ages,
Beautiful hiding place, wonderful
hiding place,
He is resting safely, in the arms of God.

Brother Ewald Wanagas

CALLED HOME

Arthur Wagar Sally Bangs
Sept. 13, 1998 Sept. 25, 1998
Lloydminster, Burlington,
Sask. Ontario

A Heartfelt Thank You

to everyone who in many various ways helped us

all and gave us so much love at the time of Art's sudden passing. It is so wonderful to have

a
Father and His beloved Family to come and rescue sad and troubled members. Only God will know how much what "YOU" did and helped with, helped myself and all our relatives at this shocking and difficult time. Thank God for each one of you. — Love Irma and ALL relatives