

OCTOBER 2021 – REBUILDING THE WALLS OF JUSTICE

**“Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;
love and faithfulness go before you” Ps 89:14 (NIV)**

“Then I prayed to the God of heaven, and I answered the king, “If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.” Neh. 2:5 (NIV)

Dear Friends,

Upon the recent 20th anniversary of 9/11, I was pondering on the rebuilding that has taken place in NYC (Ground Zero and the 9/11 Memorial), in its community and specifically in the lives of the injured victims and the families who experienced the tragic loss of a loved one. Similarly, after the terrible genocide of 1994, Rwanda has rebuilt itself into a very different and better country than before the tragic death of the estimated 800 000 people.

We are all familiar with the story of Nehemiah and how he made it his life’s purpose to rebuild Jerusalem.

Like the walls around Jerusalem, the walls protecting justice globally are no doubt lying in ruins. Much of what we see daily in the media clearly demonstrates that there is no justice for the poor, the oppressed, the unborn, the widow, the orphan, the refugee, or the internally displaced person – not even for the ordinary God-fearing citizen!

It is both significant and amazing to know that it took Nehemiah and the builders only 52 days to rebuild the walls which seemed an impossible task for many decades.

Having sourced from the Nehemiah example, Advocates Africa requested its member countries in 2009 to run or launch a project in their respective countries in 52-day period starting on 1 February 2009 and ending on 24 March 2009 which project had to have the objective to repair the walls of justice and protect and advance justice in their own countries. Each member country had to identify an issue they regarded as specifically threatening to justice in their country and launch a project addressing this very issue.

The response exceeded our wildest expectations! In no less than 20 African countries projects were launched during this period. It ranged from setting up a corruption index in Nigeria, initiating legal aid clinics in Rwanda, assisting children in the Cameroon to obtain birth certificates necessary for them to go to school, peace and reconciliation initiatives in many previously war-torn countries and voter/citizen training programs.

If we study the model Nehemiah gave us, the first thing to do is to find out what God wants us to do. It will simply not be the same for all of us. We need to download heavenly patterns from God for our nations. We can only do that when we spend enough time communicating with God.

Firstly, to repent of the sins of our nations – the walls of justice can only be rebuilt when we have repented of the actions and omissions of our leaders that have shaped history until this point in time.

We need to offer ourselves again to God’s service and remind Him about His purpose with our respective lives and our countries. Nehemiah said: *“They are your servants and your people whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand”*

We need to investigate why God has placed us in our different positions of significance and authority and stop believing that it is intended only for our own benefit.

Nothing can be accomplished without the power of the Holy Spirit. In chapter 1 we read that Nehemiah, fasted, mourned, and prayed **for days**. Before Nehemiah answers the King, he again prays. He also prays when Tobiah the Ammonite hurls insult at them. When Sanballat and Geshem tries to intimidate them, he prays *“Now strengthen my hands”* and he also prays: *“remember Tobiah and Sanballat O my God, because of what they have done, remember also the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who have been trying to intimidate me”*. We simply must intensify our prayer efforts as the battle gets fiercer!

We do not need expertise or skills to be deployed by the Lord in the rebuilding efforts. In Jerusalem **everyone** helped rebuild the wall, whether they were particularly skilled or not: Perfume makers, goldsmiths, priests, temple servants and merchants made the repairs.

We notice that most families built the wall opposite their own homes. Only in exceptional cases someone made repairs further away from their own homes. This was an indication to us that in every country, God will equip us to rebuild the walls of justice in our own countries.

Whenever one tries to establish anything of significance and substance in the Kingdom you can be sure of the enemy’s attempt to intercept. It thus requires of us as God’s children to be bold, courageous and be able to discern the opposition and have the wisdom to deal with it.

The last six chapters of the book of Nehemiah describes the revival and reformation that took place. If justice is the foundation, then reformation in our different countries are the structures which have to be built.

I want to challenge you my dear friends not to be indifferent to what is happening in your countries but instead hear from God how you can rebuild the walls of justice.

Warmly in Christ



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President and CEO, Advocates International

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