

The Urban Convocation Newsletter



PUBLISHED BY DOMINION FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES

Volume 1, Issue 2

Fall 2008

God's Got It!

What does God have that we need in Newark and this region? He has a time tested urban restoration model that can be found in the book of Nehemiah.

Nehemiah developed and then implemented a strategy—a plan of action that brought restoration and order to the city of Jerusalem. Just as Nehemiah trusted God and got busy in the city; the body of Christ must do the same today before we will see greater change in the city. “By the blessing of the influence of the upright, and God’s favor because of them, the city is exalted” (Proverbs 11:11 Amplified Bible).

It’s his model we are sharing in this newsletter simply because in worked for Nehemiah and one is needed in the

city and this region. I’ve heard ministers during political campaigns complain how certain candidates did not have an urban strategy. *No one has an urban strategy that is more effective than God’s.* Why rely on man’s plan when God has one that works?

The enemy has a strategy against our urban community that is in full effect. Sin is abounding in the city, and our communities are suffering because of it. We are experiencing all manner of evil in our communities because man is doing what is right in his eyes, and the grace of God is being hindered by the lust of the flesh.

Our communities are suffering because the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

We become wiser than the children of this world when we look to the future by implementing an action plan, *one that’s* adopted by many churches in Newark, a plan that has the potential to unify the church at Newark, this region, bring more salt and light into the community and ultimately change that pleases God.

Where sin abounds the grace of God that is in the people of God, those who are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works, must abound much more. Where is the abounding presence of the church in Newark?

As described in this issue of the Newsletter, God does have an urban strategy for this time and season This seven-step, time-tested Urban Restoration Model applies as well today as it did in Nehemiah’s time.

Nehemiah’s Prayer:

“OH LORD, GOD OF HEAVEN, THE GREAT AND AWESOME GOD, WHO KEEPS HIS COVENANT OF LOVE WITH THOSE WHO LOVE HIM AND OBEY HIS COMMANDS, LET YOUR EAR BE ATTENTIVE AND YOUR EYES OPEN TO HEAR THE PRAYER YOU SERVANT IS PRAYING BEFORE YOU DAY AND NIGHT FOR YOUR SERVANTS, THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL.” - NEHEMIAH 1:5-6.

Seven Steps to Rebuilding a City

Look around, what do you see, a city falling apart, a society that doesn’t care, mean spirited people? Do you see poverty, high interest borrowing, inflation, and hate? Do you see sexual immorality, children without parenting, drugs, drugs and more drugs?

The list goes on, but there is an answer, and it will take all

of us who want to see love, compassion, forgiveness, generosity, kindness, strong families and a sober society filled with joy, to come together in Christ.

In 445 BC, a man named Nehemiah was the cupbearer to the King of Babylon; he was an exile from Jerusalem, a Jew. One day he learned about the city of Jerusalem being “in great trouble and disgrace”. He felt the need to rebuild the city and the

LORD has placed this story in the Bible, The Book of Nehemiah, so we can have a guideline to rebuilding our own cities. This will not happen if we do not have faith and believe that the LORD can save us! His word does not lie, it is the same, in the past, the present and the future...we are attempting to let you know that God has provided us with this guideline for rebuilding our lives and our cities.

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Nehemiah's Model for Urban Restoration—continued from page 1

Here are Nehemiah's seven steps:

1. Mission Visualization: When we look around, can we see what is really going on? We must change our hearts from hearts of stone to warm and loving hearts. Then we must put our hearts into changing our world. How about starting with being kind to those closest to us—our families?

The first chapter of Nehemiah shows that he felt like us when he heard the news of Jerusalem, very deeply saddened. Then he took his first step, a leap of Faith, setting aside his fear and accepting that God would be there with him. He made the decision to make a better city and life for the people; he saw a beautiful city, clean and peaceful, filled with God's love. Can you see it? It is going to be a better life.

2. Team Mobilization: Nehemiah began this project in his heart. Without this, there would be no one to lead, and without our hearts truly committed to rebuilding, we cannot even follow our leaders who do have heart. At first Nehemiah told no one of his project, but after he surveyed the city and saw what needed to be done, he went to the priests, nobles and officials. With no fear in his heart and confidence in his God, he told it like it was, just we need to tell it like it really is. Let's go out into our homes and jobs and into the streets and like those in Jerusalem, say "LET US START REBUILDING"!!!

3. Enemy Identification: Nehemiah met much resistance from some very powerful people. Does this sound like what you hear in your city? Mocking, ridiculing, "what are you doing?" "You can't do that," "That will never work," or "Don't bother." These people think that this is the way the world should be. They benefit from the evil times with money and lust for flesh and goods, but they hate and will never be filled with joy. They are the enemy! Nehemiah answers

them by saying "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".

4. Economic Equalization: In Nehemiah chapter 5 the Jews cry out "We are mortgaging our fields, vineyards and our homes to get grain during the famine. We have had to borrow money to pay the King's tax. Although we are of the same flesh and blood as our countrymen and though our sons are as good as theirs, yet we have subjected our sons and daughters to slavery." Doesn't this sound familiar? Look at our economic situation: Are we taking high interest, high risk loans on our properties and businesses? You bet we are, it is on the front page of the papers every day. God calls it usury, Are we using Credit Cards to buy basic things such as food and clothing and gas? We are putting our children into slavery. It does not appear to be that way, but if, as a society, we are in debt, so deep, one way or another, we will be enslaved.

God hates all this—He does not want us to be enslaved. Jesus Christ is freedom and without him, we cannot be free. Nehemiah demanded that those who were benefiting, on the backs of the people, must return what was taken. We all need to act together to straighten out the mess we have made by living without God. Just as Nehemiah did not take any extra payments for his work, let us not take advantage of our brothers and sisters, but help to lift them up, physically, economically and spiritually.

5. Word Saturation: As the physical walls and buildings of Jerusalem were being completed, Nehemiah had the priests read the word of God and the Jewish laws to the peo-

ple. He knew this was the next step: There is no other way but to live with God.

The Word of God is how we know him. How can we know what is right, if we do not even hear his words? The Bible is the living word of the Lord! He is guiding us and telling us how to live! The Word must be preached and discussed....and lived. Church on Sunday is not enough. The Word must be on our hearts and in our minds constantly, help us preach and live and listen to God's word, the Bible. Read Nehemiah and see how Jerusalem was rebuilt, then apply it first in your home and then in the street and at work. The Lord will turn all this around. If we have Faith, Hope and Love in Him, then we will see the results!

6. Holy Day Observation: In Jerusalem the people worked 7 days a week. There was no day of rest and no time to stop and reflect on God. Nehemiah, however, shut the city down on the Sabbath Day, because he knew the people needed a day of rest and a day of reflection. If we hear the Word but never stop to meditate on it, it will not be a part of our life. Let us take Sabbath Days and celebrate or mourn on our Holy Days. Let us make God important enough to stop and worship him!

7. Marriage and Family Stabilization: Nehemiah made the people stop the practice of marrying those outside of the Jewish race. This was in the Jewish Law, given to them by God. When they married those from surrounding nations and worshipped their gods, look what happened to the city! Are our families built on solid ground? Are our children being raised by a father and mother? Only if they are the lucky ones. We do not even have enough respect for ourselves to keep our families together. This should be the plainest and most important thing in our life, but we cannot even see it.

Do you see how this all ties together? Consider the following:

*** Marriage and Family Stability:** We cannot do the plainest, simplest thing, keep our families together, love them and protect them.

*** Holy Day Observation:** We do not even know we are supposed to do this, because we never take the time to think about it and think about where it all starts—our Creator, the LORD.

*** Word Saturation:** No one ever told us what was right and wrong. We need to preach the Gospel, and it is Good News!

*** Economic Equalization:** We are all just trying to get by, working all the time or giving up and turning to drugs and alcohol. When we have to work 7 days a week, and still need to borrow money to pay the bills and don't take a day off, once a week to hear the Word, we are already becoming slaves. Slaves work 7 days a week, not free men, or if we cannot live without the drugs to get by, we are already slaves!

*** Enemy Identification:** They have been telling us, "This is how it is, it cannot get better, don't believe it." They want you to live the way you do. They are benefiting from it, they do not want changes, and they are the enemy!

*** Mission Visualization:** It all starts with a seed. We never saw it in our minds, because the enemy has done everything to lead us away from it. It is all right here, in the Bible and in our hearts. Go out and start rebuilding, learn to love God, love ourselves and love our neighbors. May the Lord Jesus Christ bless you all.

Apostle Bernard Wilks convened the 2008 MLK Urban Convocation.





Dominion Fellowship Ministries Team Goes to Argentina

On June 27th, 2008 three Dominion Fellowship Ministries members traveled to Argentina as part of the 2008 Harvest Evangelism International Overseas Transformation Mission Conference. More than sixty individuals from five continents gathered together for ten days of life-changing, hands-on, how-to training that equipped and empowered us on how to bring transformation to our lives, churches, cities and every area of our personal influence. We were able to minister the message of peace, fellowship and salvation through Jesus to Christians and non-Christians alike during services, mealtimes and on the streets of Argentina.

And more than all, we were brothers and sisters with the Argentineans from different cultures joining together, full of grace with one heart wanting to know better how to serve Christ and love Him more; and how best to share Christ and His love with others in hopes of changing persons and their climate for Christ.

Our 9AM bus trips to the churches were filled with anticipation of what our day would be like as we happily shared with each other either the previous day's events or our current day expectations, always reminiscing of the joy of being a part of what God was doing in Argentina and its people.

How Did We Say It?

*** With confidence and belief that He will deliver:** "Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come fearlessly into God's presence, assured of his glad welcome" ([Ephesians 3:12](#)).

*** With joy that He can deliver.** "You have shown me the way of life, and you will give me wonderful joy in your presence" ([Acts 2:28](#)).

*** With expectation that God is going to deliver.** "Listen to my voice in the morning, LORD. Each morning I bring my requests to you and wait expectantly" ([Psalm 5:3](#)).

The Argentineans we met were ready to travel along their religious journey as trusting children of God, not as worldly wise theologically astute scholars. Now don't take me wrong on this; we are not told to throw away our brains to become Christians. However, we are taught to live in a way that is often upside down to the world and its conventional wisdom. To do that, we must go back and experience the gift of salvation, the magnificence of God, and the wonders of grace as wide-eyed, excitable children who trust in God's ways, God's love, and God's care and be open to receive from Him.



The Manna Station on 16th Avenue has weekly outreach events and is the hub for 'Operation Saturation'.

Dominion Fellowship Ministries Statement of Purpose

To unite ministers committed to the gospel of Jesus Christ with service providers, government entities, and businesses, for the enhancement of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness of persons within the urban setting.



Amish brothers praying for residents in Newark's Seth Boyden neighborhood during our 'Operation Saturation' exercises in July.

Upcoming Events

1. **Saturday, September 27, 9:30AM—Street Adopters Meeting at 275 Sussex Avenue; 1:30PM Operation Saturation at Manna Station, 12th Street and 16th Avenue**
2. **Friday, October 3, 7PM—Clergy Appreciation Day, sponsored by the Resident Ministers Association**
3. **Sunday, October 26, 4PM—Dominion Day 20th Anniversary, sponsored by Dominion Fellowship Ministries**
4. **Saturday, November 22, 4PM—Pre-Thanksgiving Evening of Elegance “Gospel Art” Gala, Dominion Fellowship Ministries**
5. **Sunday-Monday, January 18-19, 2009—Dr. MLK, Jr. Urban Convocation, sponsored by Dominion Fellowship Ministries.**

DOMINION FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES IS A NEWARK-BASED OUTREACH CHURCH

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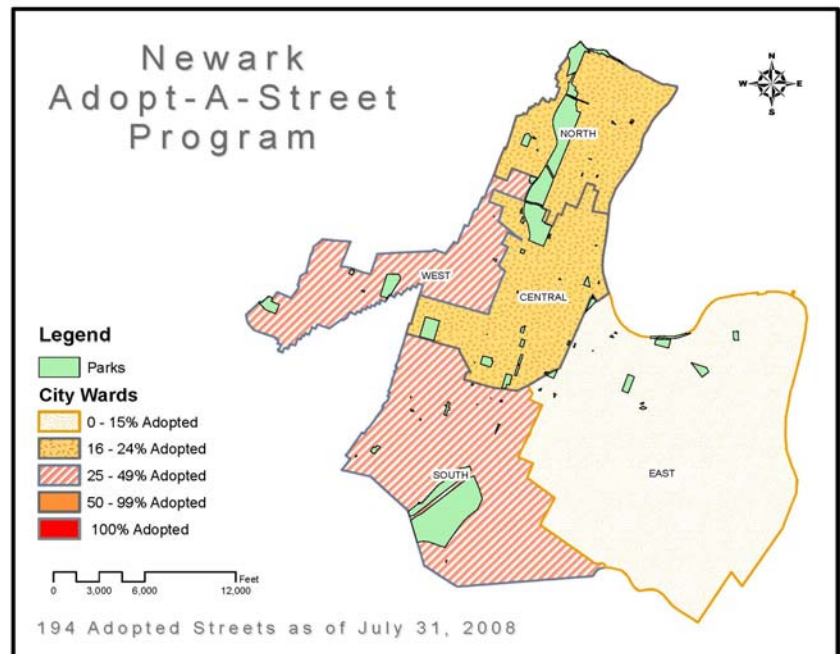


**Join us this fall as
Dominion Fellowship Ministries
celebrates 20 years
of ministry in Newark!**

PrayForNewark Reports That 21% of Streets Have Been Adopted

NEWARK, NJ: PrayForNewark reports that 21% of Newark's streets have been adopted through July. If you would like additional information, contact www.prayfornewark.org or call Pastor David Ingersoll at 201-349-6787. The goal of this website is to develop a sustainable model that will lead to daily prayer for 100% of the streets of Newark by the end of this year.

Prayfornewark.org is sponsored by four non-profit ministries: World Impact-Newark, The Caring Network Volunteer Services, Dominion Fellowship Ministries, and the Technology Community Outreach Ministry. Through this website a person who is interested in praying for Newark can complete an online form to adopt a particular street in Newark, or alternatively to pray for a street that is suggested by the sponsors. The website also includes detailed information about Newark, about the biblical basis for praying for “highways of holiness”, and a chatroom to link together people who are praying for a particular street or neighborhood in the city. This website can also be adapted for use by those who are interested in setting up a prayer website in other cities.



What happens when you adopt a street?

When you adopt a street, you invite the spirit of adoption into the neighborhood. The spirit of adoption takes the place of the spirit of bondage and abandonment. The result is that the spiritual climate of Newark is changed—one street at a time!

You can adopt a Newark street at
www.prayfornewark.org

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