

## ***Nehemiah 2:19-4:2***

*NE 2:19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. "What is this you are doing?" they asked. "Are you rebelling against the king?"*

*NE 2:20 I answered 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."*

*NE 3:1 Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests went to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set its doors in place, building as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and as far as the Tower of Hananel. <sup>2</sup> The men of Jericho built the adjoining section, and Zaccur son of Imri built next to them.*

*NE 3:3 The Fish Gate was rebuilt by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid its beams and put its doors and bolts and bars in place. <sup>4</sup> Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired the next section. Next to him Meshullam son of Berekiah, the son of Meshezabel, made repairs, and next to him Zadok son of Baana also made repairs. <sup>5</sup> The next section was repaired by the men of Tekoa, but their nobles would not put their shoulders to the work under their supervisors.*

*NE 3:6 The Jeshanah Gate was repaired by Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah. They laid its beams and put its doors and bolts and bars in place. <sup>7</sup> Next to them, repairs were made by men from Gibeon and Mizpah--Melatiah of Gibeon and Jadon of Meronoth--places under the authority of the governor of Trans-Euphrates. <sup>8</sup> Uzziel son of Harhaiah, one of the goldsmiths, repaired the next section; and Hananiah, one of the perfume-makers, made repairs next to that. They restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall. <sup>9</sup> Rephaiah son of Hur, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section. <sup>10</sup> Adjoining this, Jedaiah son of Harumaph made repairs opposite his house, and Hattush son of Hashabneiah made repairs next to him. <sup>11</sup> Malkijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of Pahath-Moab repaired another section and the Tower of the Ovens. <sup>12</sup> Shallum son of Hallohesh, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section with the help of his daughters.*

*NE 3:13 The Valley Gate was repaired by Hanun and the residents of Zanoah. They rebuilt it and put its doors and bolts and bars in place. They also repaired five hundred yards of the wall as far as the Dung Gate.*

*NE 3:14 The Dung Gate was repaired by Malkijah son of Recab, ruler of the district of Beth Hakkerem. He rebuilt it and put its doors and bolts and bars in place.*

*NE 3:15 The Fountain Gate was repaired by Shallun son of Col-Hozeh, ruler of the district of Mizpah. He rebuilt it, roofing it over and putting its doors and bolts and bars in place. He also repaired the wall of the Pool of Siloam, by the King's Garden, as far as the steps going down from the City of David. <sup>16</sup> Beyond him, Nehemiah son of Azbuk, ruler of a half-district of Beth Zur, made repairs up to a point opposite the tombs of David, as far as the artificial pool and the House of the Heroes.*

*NE 3:17 Next to him, the repairs were made by the Levites under Rehum son of Bani. Beside him, Hashabiah, ruler of half the district of Keilah, carried out repairs for his district. <sup>18</sup> Next to him, the repairs were made by their countrymen under Binnui son of Henadad, ruler of the other half-district of Keilah. <sup>19</sup> Next to him, Ezer son of Jeshua, ruler of Mizpah, repaired another section, from a point facing the ascent to the armory as far as the angle. <sup>20</sup> Next to him, Baruch son of Zabbai zealously repaired another section, from the angle to the entrance of the house of Eliashib the high priest. <sup>21</sup> Next to him, Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired another section, from the entrance of Eliashib's house to the end of it.*

*NE 3:22 The repairs next to him were made by the priests from the surrounding region. <sup>23</sup> Beyond them, Benjamin and Hasshub made repairs in front of their house; and next to them, Azariah son of Maaseiah, the son of Ananiah, made repairs beside his house. <sup>24</sup> Next to him, Binnui son of Henadad repaired another section, from Azariah's house to the angle and the corner, <sup>25</sup> and Palal son of Uzai worked opposite the angle and the tower projecting from the upper palace near the court of the guard. Next to him, Pedaiah son of Parosh <sup>26</sup> and the temple servants living on the hill of Ophel made repairs up to a point opposite the Water Gate toward the east and the projecting tower. <sup>27</sup> Next to them, the men of Tekoa repaired another section, from the great projecting tower to the wall of Ophel.*

*NE 3:28 Above the Horse Gate, the priests made repairs, each in front of his own house. <sup>29</sup> Next to them, Zadok son of Immer made repairs opposite his house. Next to him, Shemaiah son of Shecaniah, the guard at the East Gate, made repairs. <sup>30</sup> Next to him, Hananiah son of Shelemiah, and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another section. Next to them, Meshullam son of Berekiah made repairs opposite his living quarters. <sup>31</sup> Next to him, Malkijah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs as far as the house of the temple servants and the merchants, opposite the Inspection Gate, and as far as the room above the corner; <sup>32</sup> and between the room above the corner and the Sheep Gate the goldsmiths and merchants made repairs.*

*NE 4:1 When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, <sup>2</sup> and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, "What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble--burned as they are?"*

## **1. There are always questions. Deal with it with integrity.**

*NE 2:19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. "What is this you are doing?" they asked. "Are you rebelling against the king?"*

*NE 2:20 I answered 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."*

I am pretty sure that this is not what the opposition wanted to hear.

Issues need to be dealt with honestly, with integrity but answers given.

Sometimes what we do and the way we do it doesn't please people. Some times those people are out side church sometimes inside church. The response should be the same. Answer the questions, deal with it with integrity. But one thing here, the criticizers may not change their minds! And despite all their attempts to change yours you might not either.

That's where integrity comes in. Notice I say deal with it.

Don't ignore it, answer, and if they don't like it, answer again.

Then give them no share in the spoils. IN other words if someone criticizes the way you do ministry yet you are successful at it – they don't get any credit to it.

## **2. Work together – bit by bit.**

3:1- 32. Each group of people had their own bit to do. Each group worked in amazing unity. Each group did the job.

We could do a similar list of how we work together in this church.

Kimberley and Elspeth builds the part of the wall called Kids Church, along with their team..

Julie and Julie build the part of the wall called Playtime along with their team.

Matt, Lauren, Ryan, Josh and Caleb builds part of the wall called Youth Group or link with Nick, Trace and Jake.

The list could go on.

See we do it. What we don't do is write it down like this so we get a big picture of what is happening in the church. We see our little bit and we can even get discouraged because we are working hard and others don't seem to be.

According to the national Church life survey 48% of our people are in some type of leadership.

It takes on average 31 people to put on the three church services here each week. And that is just one part of what we do.

Bathurst Baptist Church is a bigger part of the wall than most of us realise. – And it is connected to other parts of the wall, We work with other churches and share ministries and bible studies, Minister's fellowship, the list goes on. What we are building is our bit of wall of God's kingdom.

### 3. Doing God's will and work assures criticism.

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The tragedy is these days that most of the criticism comes from within the church. That isn't persecution it is pettiness. What we do together should create some of these responses from community.

What these Christians doing?? Doing good.

Do they really think they can evangelise us? We have a valid message to share.

Will they make a lot of noise celebrating?? probably

Can they bring back the old days when our country was mostly Christian? We hope so.

We need to create this type of questioning, not questioning of others' ministry.

We are encouraged here to all do our bit, and let that join up with others in ministry.

I think the aim here is to do such a good job, the outside world get scared.

Let's scare 'em.