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"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,"" - Nehemiah 1:

My Dear Friend, September 1, 2025

As we step into September, a month often associated with new beginnings and the promise of harvest, we are reminded of the great commission entrusted to us: To spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every corner of the earth. Just as autumn brings a change in seasons, it also calls us to a renewed commitment to prayer—our greatest tool for advancing the Kingdom of God. I want to focus this month on prayer and return again to Nehemiah for our devotion this month.

Almost the whole of Nehemiah chapter 1 is taken up with the record of Nehemiah's prayer. It is likely a sampling of the kind of praying that Nehemiah did over the "certain days" that he mourned and fasted and prayed (v. 4). This opening prayer is the longest recorded prayer that we have from this great leader. No doubt, the Holy Spirit inspired the recording of this private prayer in order that it might be publicly studied, and from it lessons drawn to help those who are still praying today.

This prayer does not come from nowhere. It is the product of convictions about God and about prayer that were rooted deeply in the heart of Nehemiah. You can often tell more about what a man believes by listening to how he prays, rather than what he professes. Nehemiah's prayer indicates the convictions of his heart. Think about these convictions. Among them, I would say that Nehemiah believed in:

1. Prayer as an Essential Work. When Nehemiah hears of the rubble and ruin in Jerusalem, he is devastated. He says in verse 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." There is a sense in which Nehemiah is driven to his knees. He recognizes that whatever else he is going to do, he must pray. As we hear Nehemiah seeking the face of God, we know that he believed prayer to be an essential work!

Prayer is not a last resort, or just an "in case of emergency" measure. Prayer is as essential as breathing for those who recognize their desperate need of God. When we do not pray, we declare our independence from God, which is akin to an infant refusing the care of its mother.

- **2. Prayer as an Earnest Work.** Nehemiah prayed passionately and he prayed persistently. For Nehemiah, prayer was not just a few idle words at the beginning of the day, and a "Now I lay me down to sleep" at night. Prayer was work to Him. It required earnest effort on his part. Praying that costs you little time and effort will likely bring little answer and response. As you hear the emotion coming through the words of Nehemiah's prayer, you are reminded of how earnest prayer should be.
- **3. Prayer as an Effective Work.** This is a man who believes that prayer works. He prays, not out of duty or habit, but out of faith and hope! He believes in the God to whom he is praying, and he likewise believes in the capability of his prayers. He prayed not only because he believed prayer to be his only resort, but also because he believed it to be his best resort.

It is one thing to know that you should pray, and to know how you should pray. But it is quite another when knowing that you should pray, and how you should pray, you then pray expecting that God will hear and answer. There is contrition in Nehemiah's prayer, but there is also confidence. He is repentant; and he is also expectant. He believes that prayer is an effective work.

Recent Highlights for Latin America



Update on OGI Expansion in Zambia



In 2011, we held our inaugural Operation Go International (OGI) Institute in El Salvador, where over 200 pastors and leaders received training. Among those participants was a young man serving on the staff of Zacamil Baptist Church in San Salvador. Utilizing the skills he learned through OGI, he reached out to the unsaved husband of a devoted church member—Carlos Platero, an avowed agnostic university professor who openly ridiculed Christianity both in the classroom and at home.

God transformed Carlos's life! He has since become a fervent witness for the Savior he once mocked and is now an accomplished soul winner, bringing many of his students to Christ. In addition to this, he is currently pastoring a local church.

In Bolivia, Pastor Villarroel and his team will be finishing the enlisting and training of churches for the launching of the Bolivia for Christ Campaign. They have raised the target number from 10,000 to 15,000 to be reached with the Gospel message in the next 12 months.

In Peru, Pastor Alejandro Barzola and his team are busy training and equipping local churches and pastors in his area in using Operation GO in their evangelistic ministries and to establish an ongoing training ministry.



The Lord has graciously provided the funds for a return trip to Zambia, presenting an incredible and divinely orchestrated opportunity to meet with the government and council of chiefs regarding the purchase of land for our ministry. This meeting is crucial, and we believe God has miraculously opened this door for us. If everything goes well and we receive approval, we will be able to acquire land in Livingston, Zambia. We have identified a parcel of land totaling between 15 to 20 acres that can be purchased for \$100,000 or less.

A generous donor has committed to a matching donation of up to \$65,000 for this project, pledging to contribute \$15,000 immediately once we raise \$15,000 on our end. We ask you to prayerfully consider contributing to this initiative. If we reach the full \$65,000 goal, with the donor's match, we will have the necessary funds to move forward. God is good!

Recent Highlights for Kenya



Pastor Peter Kiarie, our Kenyan Director, recently traveled six hours with his wife from Nakuru to West Pokot for training and the graduation of Operation Go International (OGI) participants.

Attending this event was Pastor David Simocho, who rode four hours on a motorbike to reach the remote town of Sigor. He led the morning Bible study, while Pastor Kiarie delivered the sermon during the graduation ceremony for 17 soul-winning trainees. Notably, they are planning to target two locations for church planting this year.

Pastor Kibengei had previously attended an International School of Discipleship and World Impact (ISDWI) conducted by Brother Kiarie and Pastor Khaoya at Kipkorion Baptist Church in Kitale.

Pastor Elisha Kibengei is a passionate soul winner dedicated to fulfilling the Great Commission through his life and the lives of his congregation. God is moving powerfully through Operation Go International in Kenya, leading to the establishment of new churches, the training of preachers, and the salvation of many souls.

The ministry center expansion is going great! God has blessed with the funds for extra land near the center and almost all the funds for the two extra floors. We still need about \$20,000 to finish the inside. Please pray and consider giving to this needed project.



JUST A FEW DAYS AWAY!! COME JOIN US

Get ready to be inspired, challenged, and motivated!

This gathering promises an unforgettable experience filled with impactful messages, uplifting music, and vibrant fellowship.

Location: Bridgeport, MI
Date: September 11, 2025
A Must-Attend Event: Bring a Friend!

What Awaits You:

- Dynamic Preaching Featuring: Dr. DAVID GIBBS, Jr.
 Founder and President of The Christian Law Association
- Inspirational Music by First Baptist Church of Bridgeport
- Global Guests Meet Ministry Leaders:** Connect with remarkable leaders from India, Latin America, Africa, Far East Asia, and the Americas!
- Extravagant Free Banquet

The Exciting Agenda:

Thursday - September 11

- 1 PM 4 PM: "Around The World" Ministry Overview
- Discover: A unique opportunity to meet OGI national leaders in person!
- 4:30 PM: "Monumental Impact 2025" Banquet
 - Location: The renowned Zender's in Frankenmuth, MI
 - Experience: A FIRST-CLASS dining experience *it's FREE!*
- 7 PM: Concluding Service
 Preaching by: Dr. David Gibbs, Jr.



DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE!

Our Host: First Baptist Church of Bridgeport - 2400 King Road, Saginaw, MI – J.D. Howell, Pastor (Use the QR Code to register your attendance)

Join us for a day of encouragement and fellowship that you won't want to miss!

Mark your calendars and get ready to make a monumental impact together!

"Rooted in Prayer, Reaching the World"

This month, let us remember that prayer is the lifeline that connects us to our global mission. It empowers us, guides our steps, and opens doors to hearts that are yearning for hope and salvation. The importance of prayer cannot be understated; it is through fervent supplication that we align ourselves with God's will and seek His wisdom in reaching those who have yet to hear His message of love.

In September, I invite you to join me in a special focus on prayer for the nations. Together, let us intercede for communities, leaders, and the unreached, believing that our prayers will bear fruit in lives transformed by the power of the Gospel.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication. As we unite in prayer this month, may we be reminded of the profound impact we can have when we seek God's purposes collectively. Together, let's root ourselves deeper in prayer and stretch our hands wider to embrace the world with His love.

Yours For Souls,

"COMING TOGETHER IS A BEGINNING. KEEPING TOGETHER IS A PROCESS." WORKING TOGETHER IS A SUCCESS."

Bryan Treadway, Evangelist

Thank you for your contribution to Operation Go International.

An annual statement of all donations given directly to OGI will be sent in January. If you have any questions concerning your contributions, please contact us at: 803-401-5752. THANK YOU!