

Rise and Build

Church Building Campaign Reading

Reader #1: Nehemiah said to them,

Reader #2: You see the trouble we are in? Jerusalem is in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the walls, and we will no longer be in disgrace.

Reader #1: He told them of the gracious hand of the Lord,

Reader #2: and they replied,

Both: Let us begin to rebuild.

Reader #2: And they began this good work.

Reader #1: Like so many years ago,

Reader #2: God's hand is upon us.

Reader #1: We have been challenged to build,

Reader #2: not out of pride,

Reader #1: but out of honor to our God.

Reader #2: The world around us is in turmoil.

Reader #1: We have the answers to their deepest need.

Reader #2: Will we respond to the challenge?

Reader #1: Can you hear the call of Nehemiah?

Reader #2: Come, let us build.

Reader #1: Many could have believed.

Reader #2: There's no way we'll be able to build!

Reader #1: He's crazy! We can't finish a project like that. It is just too big!

Reader #2: Where will we get the money?

Reader #1: How will we spread the word?

Reader #2: We thought about it a few years ago, but tabled the whole thing until we felt the economy improved.

Reader #1: But they were inspired by a God who parted the waters and freed the captives.

Reader #2: We'll be attacked,

Reader #1: some said.

Reader #2: We'll fail,

Reader #1: some worried.

Reader #2: But Nehemiah had a vision that wouldn't rest.

Both: What about our vision?

Reader #2: Will we rest in the glow of past accomplishments?

Reader #1: Will we be satisfied with our current situation and the people who come faithfully,

Reader #2: or will we reach out to a world in turmoil?

Reader #1: Violence—

Reader #2: family abuse—

Reader #1: hopeless situations

Reader #2: dominated by the powers and principalities of this evil age.

Reader #1: Will we take up our sword and fight the good fight?

Reader #2: Will we catch a vision for the future of (Church Name)?

Reader #1: Will we rise and build?

Reader #2: God said, "Build the walls,"

Reader #1: and He's calling to us now.

Both: It took teamwork,

Reader #1: wisdom,

Reader #2: character,

Reader #1: sacrifice,

Reader #2: courage

Reader #1: and energy.

Reader #2: It took stewardship,

Reader #1: unity,

Reader #2: and prayer.

Both: But Nehemiah completed his task.

Reader #2: Will we?

Reader #1: Will we?

Both: Will we?

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