

Nehemiah 2:9-3:32 - Rebuilding Together

尼希米記 2:9- 3:32 -一起重建

For those of you I haven't met, I'm Janet Schorer. I'm one of the wardens here at St Paul's, and I lead a community group on Tuesday nights.

對於那些我還沒有見過的人，我是珍妮特·肖勒。我是聖保羅堂的其中一名堂監，週二晚上我帶領一個小組。

I'm really excited to be opening God's word with you this morning.

今天早上能和你一起開啟上帝的話語，我真的很興奮。

Let me pray for us before we look at the next part of Nehemiah's journey.

在我們看尼希米旅程的下一部分之前，讓我為我們祈禱。

Our gracious Lord and Father. Thank you for being a sovereign over all time, history, and people. Thank you for your faithfulness to your people, despite our repeated sin and disobedience. In your love for us, you give us your Word, and in your mercy your Son, so that we might know you. Please show us more of your glory as we open your Word today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

我們仁慈的主和天父。謝謝你，你是所有時間、歷史和人民的主權者。感謝您對您的人民的忠誠，儘管我們屢次犯罪和不服從。在你對我們的愛中，你給了我們你的話語，在你的仁慈中，你的兒子，這樣我們就可以認識你。當我們今天打開你的話語時，請向我們展示更多你的榮耀。奉耶穌的名，阿門。

Last week, Steve introduced us to Nehemiah, a man of integrity, faith and conviction.

上週，史蒂夫牧師向我們介紹了尼希米，他是一個正直、有信心和信念的人。

Enslaved in exile. Trusted and treasured confidante of the King.

作為被流放的奴役。得到了國王的信賴和珍視的知己。

And yet his heart yearned for his people and the restoration of their place, the city of Jerusalem, representing the restoration of their relationship with God.

然而，他的心渴望他的子民，以及他們的地方——耶路撒冷城——的恢復，這代表著他們與上帝關係的恢復。

I have always been curious about why a place is important and tied to people's sense of who they are. I say this because, as a first-generation Australian, the stories of my family are not from here or are quite recent.

我一直很好奇為什麼地方如此重要，如此與人們對自己是誰的感覺息息相關。我這麼說是因為，作為第一代澳大利亞人，我家人的故事不是來自這裡，而且是最近才發生的。

Some years ago, I contemplated working with Aboriginal communities across NSW, where culture, personal narrative, and songlines are deeply connected to place. I was trying to deepen my understanding of First Nations culture and people.

幾年前，我正在考慮一份與新南威爾士州的原住民社區合作的工作，他們的文化和個人敘事、歌曲歌詞與地方息息相關。我試圖加深對原住民文化和人民的理解。

A wise Aboriginal woman suggested that a way for me to understand this was to explore my background and place. And so, I embarked on that journey.

一位睿智的土著婦女建議我理解這一點的一種方式是探索我自己的背景，我自己的地方。於是我踏上了這段旅程。

If you had a conversation with my Mum, you would realise it takes us to Scotland.

如果您與我媽媽交談過，您會意識到這樣做會將我們帶到蘇格蘭。

And so some years ago, I went to Edinburgh, visiting the war memorial kept within Edinburgh Castle's walls. Inside the castle is a large hall with high, ornate and quiet ceilings. Some books line the walls of this hall, with lists of Scottish people who have fought and died in war over generations.

所以幾年前，我去了愛丁堡，參觀了愛丁堡城堡內的戰爭紀念館。城堡內，有一個大殿，高高的天花板，華麗，安靜。大廳的牆壁上滿是書籍，上面列出了在戰爭中戰鬥和死亡的世世代代蘇格蘭人的名單。

In one of those books, I found my great-grandfather, who was killed in France during World War One. It was a small thing to read a name in a book, a name that I had known only in conversation, and from a letter telling his family that he died in battle.

在其中一本書中，我找到了我的曾祖父，他在第一次世界大戰期間在法國被殺。在書中讀到一個名字是一件小事，一個我只在談話中知道的名字，以及一封告訴他的家人他在戰鬥中死去的信。

At that moment, the narrative of my family, our story, came to life in a place now very foreign to us after many years in another country, but the connection remains.

在那一刻，我的家庭故事，我們的故事，在另一個國家多年後，現在對我們來說非常陌生的地方變得栩栩如生，但聯繫仍然存在。

And so, we find Nehemiah. He has departed from his home in the King's Court for his journey to Jerusalem.

於是我們找到了尼希米。他已經離開他在國王面前事奉的家，前往耶路撒冷。

In chapter one, we see that there has been much time in preparation. As Steve highlighted, the beginning of this book shows us the character of Nehemiah.

在第一章中，我們看到用了很多時間作準備。正如史蒂夫牧師所強調的，本書的開頭向我們展示了尼希米的性格。

A slave because of exile, holding a place in the high office where his integrity and trustworthiness were critical to his job and survival. But his heart was for His God, his homeland, with a people scattered and a city in ruins.

他是一個由於流亡的奴隸，身居要職，正直和值得信賴對他的工作和生存至關重要。但他的心是為了他的上帝，為了他的祖國，一個分散的民族，一個成為廢墟的城市。

Nehemiah's character, prayerful planning and wise actions are the backdrops to the next stage of his journey, where we find him today. We see these characteristics evident in how Nehemiah approaches the journey, the initial interactions and the building work.

尼希米的性格、在禱告中作出計劃和明智的行動是他下一階段旅程的背景，也就是我們今天找到他的地方。我們在尼希米如何預備旅程、最初的互動和建造工作中看到了這些特徵。

In the passage today, Nehemiah has made his trip to Jerusalem, probably taking about two months of travel. As a king's official on government business, Nehemiah travels with a military escort. So he doesn't come into town quietly, and as we will see, quickly ruffles some feathers.

在今天的經文中，尼希米已經到了耶路撒冷，大概花了兩個月的時間。尼希米作為一名處理政府事務的國王官員，在軍隊護送下旅行。所以他不會悄悄地進城，正如我們將看到的那樣，他很快就惹怒了一些人。

The first thing Nehemiah does when he arrives is rest for three days, which makes sense after travelling for two months. He takes care of himself and gets some perspective before starting the job.

尼希米到達後做的第一件事就是休息三天，這在旅行了兩個月之後是有道理的。在開始手頭的工作之前，他會照顧好自己，了解一些觀點。

We see in verse 12 that Nehemiah's initial inspection of the city was by night, not to attract attention, gathering his information and assessing the task.

我們在第 12 節看到，尼希米最初對這座城市的考察是在夜間進行的，不是為了吸引注意力，而是收集他自己的信息並評估任務。

But the words in verse 12 speak more about what is on his heart than in his project management plan - this is first and foremost God's business, come alive in Nehemiah's heart to do for God's people. This vision remains Nehemiah's sharp focus. It is clear in His mind that this is God-inspired work, a calling that has taken him from his comfortable job in a palace to the unknown. But he also doesn't want that vision to create unrealistic expectations, so getting an honest assessment of the situation is critical to plan and deliver. Nehemiah sees for himself, in verse 13, that the walls are broken down, the gates destroyed by fire.

但第 12 節中的話語更多地表達了他的心意，而不是他的項目管理計劃——這首先是上帝的事，神感動尼希米去為上帝的子民做的事。這個異象仍然是尼希米的焦點。在他的腦海中，他清楚地知道這是上帝啟發的工作，這是一項將他從舒適的宮殿工作帶到未知世界的呼召。但他也不希望這種異象產生不切實際的期望，因此對情況進行誠實評估對於能夠計劃和完成是至關重要。尼希米在第 13 節親眼看到城牆被拆毀，城門被火燒毀。

It is not until Nehemiah has made his assessment that he speaks to Jerusalem's priests, nobles and officials. I think Nehemiah's words are carefully chosen in verse 17 - the city had been destroyed and desolate for 80 years, people living amongst its brokenness without attempting to restore it. Nehemiah does not chastise them. He acknowledges the city's state and calls them to get on with the building work. And he includes himself in it - 'you see the trouble WE are in'. It is as much a problem as theirs, and he's not special or different. He suffers from Israel being broken as they do. 直到尼希米做出自己的評估，他才對耶路撒冷的祭司、貴族和官員講話。我認為尼希米在第 17 節中的話是經過精心挑選的——這座城市已經被毀壞荒涼了 80 年，人們生活在它的破碎之中，卻沒有試圖恢復它。尼希米沒有責備他們，他承認城市的狀況，並呼籲他們繼續

建造工作。他把自己也包括在內——“我們所遭的難…你們都看見了”。他的問題和他們的問題一樣多，他並不特別或與眾不同，他像他們一樣遭受以色列被毀的凌辱。

It is also a pretty smart move as a leader. He makes it clear he is alongside them. He has moved there to work with them. He's not there to supervise. He's there to work. But it is not just rhetoric. We see this in Nehemiah's prayer in chapter 1, where he '*confesses the sins WE Israelites, including me and my father's house, have committed against you.*' Nehemiah identifies with their sin, with the brokenness as a nation, and He can see the hand of God with them to be restored. 作為領導者，這也是一個非常聰明的舉動。他明確表示他與他們同在，他搬到那裡與他們一起工作，他不是在那裡監督，他在那裡工作。但這不僅僅是誇誇其談，我們在《尼希米記》第1章的禱告中看到了這一點，他「承認我們以色列人向你所犯的罪；我與我父家都犯了罪。」尼希米承認與他們同有罪，認同一個國家的破碎，他可以看到上帝的手與他們一起恢復。

When we think about the mission we are called to, Jesus' life and ministry models a similar posture for us. Hebrews 2: 17-18 says:

當我們想到我們被召喚的使命時，耶穌的生活和事工為我們樹立了類似的姿態。《希伯來書》2: 17-18 說：

For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted'.

¹⁷所以，他凡事應當與他的弟兄相同，為要在神的事上成為慈悲忠信的大祭司，為百姓的罪獻上贖罪祭。¹⁸既然他自己被試探而受苦，他能幫助被試探的人。

Jesus shows us a ministry anchored around glorifying God, lived out alongside all sorts of people in deep humanity, sharing in suffering. Nehemiah gives us an example of the value in any ministry, of walking closely with others and understanding with empathy the challenges people and communities face.

耶穌向我們展示了一個以榮耀上帝為基礎的事工，與各式各樣的人生活在深刻的人性中，分擔苦難。尼希米給了我們一個例子，說明任何事工的價值，與他人密切同行，並以同理心理解人們和社區面臨的挑戰。

When anchored in a relationship with God, we have an ongoing awareness of our own sin, but we are called to a desire to serve and help others. Not looking down, not talking about 'those people'. It is us. Shared humanity and unfair mercy.

當我們與上帝建立關係時，我們會不斷意識到自己的罪，但我們被召喚服務和幫助他人的渴望。不低看，不談論“那些人”，是我們。共同的人性和不公平的仁慈。

We also don't see Nehemiah offering to come in and do the work for them. He says let *us* build. This is about unifying the people, not letting them be passive observers. When Nehemiah puts the prospect of rebuilding to the Jewish nobles, they quickly reply 'let us start building'. They hadn't assumed that their situation couldn't be changed, and they didn't say we've tried that before and it didn't work.

我們也沒有看到尼希米進來為他們做他們的工作。他說讓我們建造。這是關於團結人民，而不是讓他們成為被動的觀察者。當尼希米向猶太貴族提出重建的前景時，他們很快回

答，「我們起來建造吧！」他們沒有假設他們的情況無法改變，也沒有說我們之前嘗試過但沒有成功。

God sent a leader from the outside, one of their own, but with a fresh perspective and a clear vision for the work. And this motivates people to get on with it. Nehemiah was never going to be able to do this work without the Jews, both practically speaking and if the purpose of rebuilding God's people was to be fulfilled.

上帝從外面派來了一位領袖，他們自己的一位，但對工作有全新的視角和清晰的願景。這促使人們繼續努力。如果沒有猶太人，尼希米永遠無法完成這項工作，無論是從實踐上講，還是要實現重建上帝子民的目的。

All the Jews needed was to hear that God was with them. It strengthened and encouraged them. And so, their enthusiasm and hope welled.

猶太人所需要的只是聽到上帝與他們同在，這加強並鼓勵了他們。因此，他們的熱情和希望湧現。

Expect opposition 期待反對

Early in chapter 2, Nehemiah has a conversation with the King, asking for leave to go and rebuild Jerusalem. This is bold enough in itself, a servant asking the King for something. But Nehemiah has been preparing this for months, praying and seeking God's timing as he plans. It is certainly the case that Nehemiah would need the king's approval to leave his job and go to Jerusalem. We know from Ezra 4 that the local officials had put a stop to rebuilding Jerusalem once before. So, Nehemiah knew he needed authority.

在第2章的開頭，尼希米與國王交談，請求允許他去重建耶路撒冷。這本身就足夠大膽，一個僕人向國王索要一些東西。但是尼希米幾個月來一直在準備這個，祈禱並按照他的計劃尋求上帝的時間。毫無疑問，尼希米需要國王的批准才能辭去工作前往耶路撒冷。我們從《以斯拉記》4章得知，當地官員曾一度阻止重建耶路撒冷。所以尼希米知道他需要權柄。

Nehemiah had also anticipated opposition. He travelled with the military to protect him. He knew that the governors and rulers in the surrounding areas would be threatened, and so he acquired the King's authority.

尼希米也預料到會有反對。他與軍隊一起旅行以保護他。他知道周圍地區的總督和統治者會受到威脅，所以他獲得了國王的權威。

And so, his arrival would attract some attention. We quickly see those opposed to any change coming out of the woodwork.

所以他的到來會引起一些關注。我們很快就會看到那些反對任何改變的人。

We meet the three opponents in verse 19.

我們在第19節遇到了三個對手。

Sanballat was from Beth Horan about 12 miles from Jerusalem. Sanballat was the main opposition. We see later in chapter 4 that he has an official position in Samaria, and so he is particularly dangerous for Nehemiah.

參巴拉是來自距離耶路撒冷約 12 英里的但和倫。參巴拉是主要的反對派。我們在第 4 章後面看到他在撒瑪利亞有一個正式的職位，所以他對尼希米來說特別危險。

Tobiah, an Ammonite, an enemy of the Jews. He was related to and had friends with those who would work on rebuilding the city. He was the one who was going to be gathering the inside information, finding the enemies on the inside who would undermine.

多比雅，一個亞捫人，猶太人的敵人。他與那些致力於重建城市的人有親戚關係並有朋友。他是要收集內部信息的人，在內部找到裡應外合去破壞的敵人。

And Geshem an Arabian.

還有一個阿拉伯人基善。

These three protagonists are quick into the conversation when the commitment is made to start the rebuilding work. And we don't see them favourably depicted. They aren't described as providing coherent well-considered arguments against the work. They mocked and ridiculed, something often described as '*the weapon of those who have no other*'. They belittled the Jews for their lack of resources and plans. In verse 19 they accuse the Jews of rebellion, of being deceitful and faithless. 當承諾開始重建工作時，這三個主角很快就進入了對話。而且我們沒有看到它們被很好地描繪出來，它們也沒有被描述為提供了連貫的、經過深思熟慮的反對這項工作的論據。他們嘲笑和譏諷，這是通常被描述為「那些沒有其他可用的人的武器」。他們貶低猶太人缺乏資源和計劃。在第 19 節，他們指責猶太人悖逆、詭詐和不忠。

Nehemiah's response to this barrage of accusations isn't to wave the King's letter in front of them. He doesn't argue at all. Instead, he says in verse 20, 'The God of heaven will give us success.'. He doesn't get drawn into their petty argument, doesn't give them a lecture on the law, nor does he ignore them. He just directs them to God, the King and Ruler of all.

尼希米對這一連串指控的回應並不是在他們面前揮舞國王的信。他根本不爭辯。相反，他在第 20 節說，「天上的神必使我們亨通。」他沒有捲入他們的瑣碎爭論，沒有給他們講法律，也沒有忽視他們。他只是將他們引向上帝，萬王之王和統治者。

There are a number of reasons why this is an important stand for Nehemiah to take.

有很多原因可以解釋為什麼這是尼希米要採取的重要立場。

Firstly, it speaks very loudly to the Jews about his purpose and affirms to them that this is God's work in them. Ignoring the critics would have created doubt in the Jew's minds about his intent. 首先，這是非常明顯地向猶太人講述他的目的，並向他們確認這是上帝在他們身上的工作。忽視批評者會在猶太人心中對他的意圖產生懷疑。

Secondly, he avoids engaging in a redundant debate with people whose position was clearly ill-informed and false. A debate would give their position a voice that wasn't warranted.

其次，他避免與那些立場明顯不知情和虛假的人進行多餘的辯論。辯論會給他們沒有根據的立場的發出聲音。

It also tells us something more about Nehemiah, anticipating this situation, drawing on his diplomacy and other skills learned in the Kings' Court to disarm and diffuse. This aids in pointing the Jews to God, not him.

它還告訴我們更多關於尼希米的事情，預見到這種情況，利用他在國王宮廷中學到的外交和其他技能，解除武裝和散播。這有助於將猶太人指向上帝，而不是他。

Nehemiah has a clear burden on his heart for the work God has called him to do. It's a deeply held, immovable mission that gives him the clarity and the courage to stand against opposition. I like that Nehemiah expected it and is calm and measured in how he handles these men.

尼希米對上帝呼召他去的工作有著明顯的擔負。這是一項根深蒂固、不可動搖的使命，讓他有清晰的精神和勇氣去反對反對派。我喜歡尼希米的預期，他處理這些人的方式很冷靜和有節制。

Is this a burden that we also have? Does it cause you to sacrifice and go into uncomfortable situations? Speak the truth and point people to God who would seek to discredit him. God called the Jews to build, as we see in Nehemiah's journey so far. He builds by praying and is determined in his faith. He is only at the beginning of the work of building, and yet his determination is evident.

這也是我們的擔負嗎？它會導致你去犧牲，進入不舒服的境地嗎？說真話，把那些試圖詆毀他的人指向上帝？上帝呼召猶太人去建造，正如尼希米迄今為止的旅程所見，他通過祈禱在他的信中下定決心建造。他才剛剛開始建造工作，但他的決心是顯而易見的。

We are similarly called, as Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:58

正如保羅在《哥林多前書》15:58中所寫，我們也有類似的呼召

Therefore my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

⁵⁸ 所以，我親愛的弟兄們，你們務要堅固，不可動搖，常常竭力多做主工，因為你們知道，你們在主裏的勞苦不是徒然的。

Whilst there is 'nothing new under the sun' we are certainly living in a time where Christians are openly mocked, criticised and derided. We are no longer able to rely on the passive indifference that might have characterised society's view of Christians in times gone by. Increasingly, being a Christian is more likely to attract the kind of commentary we see in Nehemiah, in our workplaces, at uni, in our own families, and in the court of public opinion.

雖然「日光之下無新事」，但我們確實生活在一個基督徒被公開嘲笑、批評和藐視的時代。我們不能再依賴過去社會對基督徒的看法所表現出的消極冷漠。越來越多地，當我們的工作場所、大學、我們自己的家庭和公眾輿論法庭上作為基督徒會更容易吸引我們在尼希米看到的那些評論。

It would be naïve of us not to prepare and be wise about the opposition. Much like Nehemiah, being prayerful about our personal mission, time with God in His word to sharpen us, and meeting together as God's people - all are the steps we can take today to equip us for the hard work ahead. 如果我們不做好準備，對反對不明智，那就太天真了。就像尼希米一樣，為我們的個人使命祈禱，花時間在上帝的話語中磨礪我們，作為上帝的子民聚在一起——所有這些都是我們今天可以採取的步驟，為我們未來的艱難工作做好準備。

Building together 共同建設

Nehemiah found a city without any stability - socially, economically, and spiritually. We see in Ezra 4 that they were oppressed by their foreign neighbours, unprotected, heavily taxed, and enmeshed with foreign nations who had watered them down spiritually. Defeated. And so, they were content to live with things as they were rather than risk further defeat.

尼希米來到了一個沒有任何穩定的城市—社會上、經濟上、精神上。我們在《以斯拉記》第4章中看到，他們受到外國鄰居的壓迫，沒有保護，重稅，與削弱他們靈性的外國糾纏在一起。被擊敗。所以他們滿足於接受現狀，而不是冒著進一步失敗的風險。

The Jews had long been mocked for the state of the city - it was supposed to be 'the joy of the whole earth' (Psalm 48:2), that 'God loved the gates of Zion' (Psalm 87:2). But if God loved it so much, why was it ruined? Why were its gates burned? And why hadn't the Jews done something about it?

長期以來，猶太人一直因這座城市的狀況而受到嘲笑—本被認為是「為全地所喜悅。」（詩篇 48:2），「耶和華愛…的門」（詩篇 87:2）。但如果上帝這麼愛它，為什麼它是廢墟？為什麼它的大門被燒毀了？為什麼猶太人不做點什麼呢？

Without the ability to galvanise the people for the work, Nehemiah would not be able to restore anything. Finding a way to bring back their sense of being a people, God's people, was Nehemiah's challenge.

如果沒有能力激勵人們從事這項工作，尼希米就無法恢復任何東西。尼希米面臨的挑戰是找到一種方法來恢復他們作為一個民族、上帝的子民的感覺。

As we look at Nehemiah 3 and the work that takes place, we don't see God mentioned at all. But we know that He is woven into every brick. It's a great demonstration of God at work through His people. We know that Nehemiah had one thing at the forefront of his mind - the glory of God.

當我們看《尼希米記》第3章和正在發生的工作時，我們根本沒有看到上帝被提及。但我們知道，祂已融入每一塊磚中。這是上帝通過他的子民工作的一個很好的證明。我們知道尼希米最先想到一件事—神的榮耀。

Let us take a look.

讓我們來看看。

We already know that Nehemiah planned his work, and the effort in rebuilding is another example of this.

我們已經知道尼希米計劃了他的工作，而重建的努力就是另一個例子。

There are 38 individuals people mentioned in chapter 3, and forty-two different groups named. Of course, there are many, many others not mentioned whose work was equally important.

第3章提到了38個人，並命名了42個不同的群體。當然還有很多很多沒有提到是誰的其他人的工作同樣重要。

The way that so many people stayed on track was through a common goal, working together for God's glory. I'm not going to go through every gate and group this morning, but rather some themes and observations.

這麼多人保持在正軌上的方式是通過一個共同的目標，為上帝的榮耀而共同努力。今天早上我不打算介紹每一個門和每一組，而是一些主題和觀察。

God uses many different kinds of people. 神使用許多不同種類的人。

The chapter tells us that there were rulers (verses 12-19), men and women, perfume makers, goldsmiths, merchants and people from outside the city. There was a job for everyone, and they willingly worked alongside one another. Any differences were irrelevant when it came to the task at hand. They just stood shoulder to shoulder and worked.

本章告訴我們有竹管治者（第 12-19 節）、男人和女人、香水製造商、金匠、商人和城外的人。每個人都有一份工作，他們願意並肩工作。當涉及到手頭的任務時，任何差異都無關緊要，他們只是肩並肩工作。

This reminds me a lot of the church today. God's people are made up of many ages, cultures, jobs, and backgrounds. All turning our hearts and minds to glorifying God.

這讓我想起了今天的教會，上帝的子民由許多年齡、文化、工作、背景組成。所有人都將我們的心靈和思想轉向榮耀上帝。

The example of leaders 領袖的榜樣

In verse 1, we see that the tone is set from the top with the High Priest going to work to rebuild the Sheep Gate. That the High Priest used his consecrated hands on manual labour shows that he considered this to be the work of the Lord. Eliashib enlists the other priests for the work as well. However (spoiler) he later turns into an ally of the enemy creating problems for Nehemiah.

在第 1 節中，我們看到自上而下的基調，大祭司將著手重建羊門。大祭司用他獻身的雙手從事體力勞動，表明他認為這是主的工作。以利亞實也招募了其他眾祭司參與這項工作，但是（劇透）他後來變成了敵人的盟友，給尼希米製造了麻煩。

The Sheep Gate was at the northeast corner of the city. This was the gate through which the sacrifice came into the city, so it was right that the priests restored it. It symbolically says that they are putting God first, important for people who have been stuck.

羊門在城的東北角。這是祭品進入城市的大門，所以祭司們修復它是正確的。它象徵性地表示，他們將上帝放在首位，這對陷入困境的人來說很重要。

There is unity among the people as they work, from the example of the priests to the variety of people putting their shoulders to the hard work of building. They work selflessly. We don't get any sense of there being individual effort.

人們在工作時團結一致，從祭司的榜樣到各種各樣的人都肩負著艱辛的建設工作。他們無私地工作，我們沒有任何個人努力的感覺。

Some do the work in the areas of the wall near their home (verses 10, 23 and 28-30). They took responsibility for their own neighbourhood so that their own homes were restored and liveable again.

有些人在家附近的牆壁區域做工（第 10、23 和 28-30 節）。他們對自己的社區負責，因此他們擁有的房屋得到修復並再次宜居。

Others came from other nations, from Jericho, Tekoa, Gibeon, Mizpah, Beth Zur, and others. It's not clear what benefit they got from Jerusalem's walls being repaired, but they still left their homes and jobs to come and help.

其他人來自其他國家，來自耶利哥、提哥亞、基遍、米斯巴、伯·風等。目前尚不清楚他們從耶路撒冷的城牆修復中得到了什麼好處，但他們仍然離開家園和工作來幫忙。

This kind of selflessness marks the people of God in many ways throughout history. People who pray for missionaries and countries they will never visit. Giving money to projects that we might never see. Working to sow seeds in people's lives not ever seeing its fruit. Not for personal benefit but because it is a privilege to glorify God.

這種無私在歷史上的許多方面都標誌著上帝的子民。為傳教士和他們永遠不會訪問的國家祈禱的人。為我們可能永遠看不到的項目捐款。努力在人們的生活中播下種子，卻從未看到它的果實。不是為了個人利益，而是因為榮耀上帝是一種特權。

The places that were built are outlined in a methodical style - next to him and next to him. It gives a strong visual of a city, brick by heavy brick, being rebuilt. Nehemiah records these in the various gates, moving counter-clockwise around the city.

建造的地方以有條不紊的方式概述 - 在他旁邊和他旁邊。它給人一種強烈的城市視覺效果，一磚一瓦地重建。尼希米在各個城門中記錄了這些，逆時針在城市周圍移動。

There are ten gates and several towers, as well as the work on the north wall, the western wall the southern point of the city and finally the eastern wall. Each gate had a particular purpose in the functioning of the city- especially for the Temple, for defence, sanitation, water and food, and for troops to enter and depart.

城門有十座，城樓數座，還有北牆、西牆、城南，最後是東牆。每個城門在城市的運作中都有特定的用途——專門用於聖殿、防禦、衛生、水和食物，以及軍隊進出。

In historical terms, this provides detail about the layout of Jerusalem and quite purposefully records the names of those whose work went into rebuilding it. Recounting the rebuilding of the city in this way is a reminder again of how broken Jerusalem was. They had no temple, no means of sacrifice. 從歷史的角度來看，這提供了有關耶路撒冷佈局的詳細信息，並且非常有目的地記錄了那些致力於重建它的人的姓名。以這種方式講述這座城市的重建，再次提醒我們耶路撒冷是多麼破碎。他們沒有聖殿，沒有祭祀。

No one person could achieve this work. It took leadership from Nehemiah and the cooperation of the people. Both roles were necessary and important. And so, it is for us today. Working tighter to finish the work to the glory of God.

沒有人能單獨完成這項工作，它需要尼希米的領導和人民的合作。這兩個角色都是必要且重要的。今天對我們來說也是如此。緊密努力地完成工作以榮耀上帝。

For God's glory and the joy of all people 為了上帝的榮耀和所有人的喜樂

The rebuilding of Jerusalem shows a practical mission of the heart, all for God's glory. 耶路撒冷的重建表明了內心的實際使命，一切都是為了上帝的榮耀。

The status of Jerusalem as a city was a symbol of God's people. Nehemiah knew this deeply. His part was to do the work of restoring the city and give the people of Jerusalem hope once more, reassuring them of God's promises to them fulfilled. Lifting them out of rubble from broken despondency.

耶路撒冷作為一座城市的地位是上帝子民的象徵。尼希米深知這一點。他的職責是進行重建城市的工作，並再次給耶路撒冷人民帶來希望，向他們保證上帝對他們的應許已經實現。將他們從瓦礫中，從破碎的沮喪中解救出來。

Jerusalem and its people were a city on a hill, a light that proclaimed God's glory. Not to be hidden away, cowering in rubble, defeated.

耶路撒冷及其人民是一座山上的城市，是一盞宣揚上帝的榮耀的燈。不要被隱藏起來，蜷縮在瓦礫中，被擊敗。

If its citizen's obeyed God, Jerusalem was to bear witness to Him. Its community life was to be a pointer to the peace and justice in the New Jerusalem, the city on a hill that would come at the end of time, which we see in Revelations 21 and 22.

如果它的公民順服上帝，耶路撒冷就要為祂作見證。它的群體生活將成為指向和平與正義的新耶路撒冷的指針，這座山上的城市將在時間的盡頭到來，我們在《啟示錄》21和22章中看到。

We know that this isn't an old testament idea about a place and its walls. Jesus said to His disciples in Matthew 5:14-15,

我們知道這不是一個《舊約》關於一個地方和它的牆壁的想法。耶穌在《馬太福音》5:14-15中對他的門徒說

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁴ 你們是世上的光。城造在山上是不能隱藏的。¹⁵ 人點燈，不放在斗底下，而是放在燈臺上，就照亮一家的人。

The same call that was on Nehemiah and on the people of Jerusalem, is made to us today.

對尼希米和耶路撒冷人民的同樣呼籲，今天也向我們發出。

Are you letting your light shine in this world?

你讓你的光在這個世界上閃耀嗎？

Joy and enthusiasm come through the narrative. It's hard work, messy, blistered, dirty, and bruised. They keep doing it. Some people completed more than one section.

喜悅和熱情來自敘事，是辛勤工作，凌亂，起泡，骯髒，瘀傷。他們一直在做。有些人完成了不止一個部分。

But there is energy and hope in these words as the people work together. There is enthusiastic unity. Of those who are named, about 38 people, and many many who aren't. A part played in cleaning up, healing the blisters, and preparing the food. All mattered. A joy that we share in serving.

但是當人們一起工作時，這些話中充滿了活力和希望。有熱情的團結。那些被命名的人，大約38人，還有許多沒有被命名的人。在清理、治愈水泡、準備食物方面發揮了作用。一切都很重要。我們在服務中分享的快樂。

Nehemiah's account uses the recurring phrase 'and next to him.'. It's a very clear testimony to an interdependence, lives lived alongside one another in the hard work of building God's people. A city isn't a collection of individuals but a society interacting.

尼希米的敘述使用了反復出現的短語「在他旁邊」。這是相互依存的一個非常清楚的見證，彼此生活在一起，在建設上帝子民的辛勤工作中。城市不是個體的集合，而是一個相互起作用的社會。

In 1 Corinthians 12 and 14, Paul compares individual Christians to members of the human body. Each on important, with a unique and valued function.

在《哥林多前書》12 和 14 章中，保羅將個別基督徒比作人體的成員。每個都重要，具有獨特和有價值的功能。

For me, this has always been one of the most significant parts of the bible in terms of how I view my part in the mission. As a former nurse, I've been able to see in some detail the miracle that is the human body at work. I was always most fascinated by eyes and ears, tiny little structures, bones and vessels, all working day and night so that I could process the world around me.

對我來說，就我如何看待我在宣教中的角色而言，這一直是聖經中最重要的部分之一。作為一名前護士，我已經能夠詳細地看到人體在工作的奇蹟。我總是對眼睛和耳朵、微小的結構、骨骼和血管最著迷，日夜工作，這樣我就可以認識我周圍的世界。

But each part is also unique, made for a particular purpose. As we see in the lists in chapter 3, there are people who have the same name, but they are distinguished from each other by their family background. Unity is important, but individuality is valued.

但每個部分也是獨一無二的，為特定目的而製造。正如我們在第 3 章的列表中看到的那樣，有些人的名字相同，但他們卻因家庭背景而相互區分。團結很重要，但個別性也有價值。

It strikes me that we have never needed our brothers and sisters in Christ more than we do today. As was the case for Nehemiah, anyone looking at God's people today might see our city looking a bit run down, the walls crumbling, and the fires lit at our gates. We don't need to be the same as each other. We don't have to do the same thing; throughout the Bible we see many different people all used by God in His time for His purpose.

令我震驚的是，我們從來沒有像今天這樣需要我們在基督裡的兄弟姐妹。就像尼希米的情況一樣，今天任何看到上帝子民的人都可能會看到我們的城市看起來有點破敗不堪，城牆在倒塌，大火在我們的大門上點燃。我們不需要彼此相同，我們不需要做同樣的事情，在整本聖經中，我們看到許多不同的人都被上帝為他的目的在他的時代被使用。

Our confidence must be in God. But in unity, we amplify the hope we have in Jesus. We help each other carry the load of living faithfully when we are under siege. We spur one another on when the work of mission is hard. Our unity in the Spirit is galvanising, comforting, and assuring. Let us hold onto that, defend it, prioritise it and one another with our time, talent and treasure.

我們必須對上帝有信心。但在合一中，我們放大了我們在耶穌裡的希望。當我們陷入困境時，我們互相幫助，承擔忠實生活的重擔。當宣教工作艱難時，我們互相激勵。我們在聖靈裡的合一是激勵、安慰和保證的。讓我們堅持這一點，捍衛它，用我們的時間、才能和財富來優先考慮它和彼此。

Nehemiah's vision, the desire of his heart infused in the work of the people of Jerusalem, was that God would be glorified once again through his people. His confidence is in the promises of God fulfilled in Israel's history. His hope was that in restoring the city, the relationship would also be restored.

尼希米的異象，他內心的渴望注入了耶路撒冷人民的工作，就是上帝會通過他的子民再次得到榮耀。他的信心在於上帝在以色列的歷史中應驗了的承諾，他希望在重建這座城市的過程中，這種關係也會得到恢復。

What Nehemiah was not to know was that the only way that reconciliation could happen was through the temple being torn apart and restored after three days. The only perfect, final, life-giving hope is found in God giving his son over to death, raised from the dead so that we might be restored eternally.

尼希米不知道的是，實現和解的唯一方法是再把聖殿拆毀開，三天后重建。唯一完美的、最終的、給予生命的希望在於上帝將他的兒子交給死亡，從死裡復活，這樣我們就可以永遠恢復。

Our personal hope is in resurrected Jesus. Ephesians 2 tells us that 我們個人的希望在於復活的耶穌。《以弗所書》2章告訴我們，

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins. But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

從前，你們因着自己的過犯罪惡而死了。然而，神有豐富的憐憫，因着他愛我們的大愛，⁵竟在我們因過犯而死了的時候，使我們與基督一同活過來—可見你們得救是本乎恩—⁶他又使我們在基督耶穌裏與他一同復活，一同坐在天上，⁷為要把他極豐富的恩典，就是他在基督耶穌裏向我們所施的恩慈，顯明給後來的世代。

This is a personal hope that we can be restored from our brokenness in the face of fear and defeat. Fears that, similar to the people in Jerusalem, can cause us to live amongst the rubble of our lives, inert against the measure of our sin and failure.

這是個人的希望，我們可以在面對恐懼和失敗時從破碎中恢復過來。這是像耶路撒冷的人一樣的恐懼，導致我們生活在我們生命的廢墟中，對我們的罪惡和失敗的程度無動於衷。

And yet God offers us hope. He offers you hope and a way out of it. We were dead, but the overwhelming, conquering love of God in Jesus raised us up and restored us.

然而上帝給了我們希望，他給了你希望和擺脫這些的希望。我們已經死了，但上帝在耶穌裡壓倒性的、征服的愛使我們振作起來，使我們恢復。

If that isn't hope that you have today, don't leave this morning without talking to someone about the hope they have and how you can know the richness of God's mercy for yourself.

如果這不是你今天的希望，今天早上離開時不要不和別人談談他們的希望，以及你如何知道上帝對你自己豐富的憐憫。

This is also the vision God has before the church today. We experience times of unrest and upheaval, and life doesn't go smoothly. But we can have hope that God is turning us into the kind of people who can handle whatever comes.

這也是今天神在教會面前的異象。我們經歷了動盪、生活不順利的時期。但我們可以有希望，上帝正在把我們變成能夠應付任何事情的人。

In Nehemiah, we see the historical reality of God's promises at work.

在《尼希米記》中，我們看到神應許在起作用的歷史真實性。

In Jesus, we are joined in the resurrection to the fulfilment of those promises in eternity.

在耶穌裡，我們加入了復活的行列，在永恆中實現這些應許。

Let me pray for us.

讓我為我們祈禱。

Lord, I pray that our hearts would be open to know the hope that you have called us to, the riches of our inheritance as your people and the incomparably great power for those who believe. Thank you that in raising Jesus from the dead, you have restored us to yourself. Thank you that your continued work in us restores your people, your church, to shine a light in this dark world. May we have hearts that are keenly focused on glorifying you in every way. Amen

主啊，我祈求我們的心能夠敞開，知道你呼召我們的盼望，我們作為你子民的財富，以及那些相信的人無比強大的力量。感謝你使耶穌從死裡復活，使我們恢復了你自己。感謝您在我們裡面持續的工作，恢復了您的人民，您的教會，在這個黑暗的世界中閃耀光芒。願我們有一顆專注於以各種方式榮耀你的心。阿門