

Impact

Joining Forces

September 10, 2017 / Jeff Gunn

¹⁰ Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, “The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.”

¹¹ Also our enemies said, “Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work.”

¹² Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, “Wherever you turn, they will attack us.”

¹³ Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows.¹⁴ After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”

¹⁵ When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work.

¹⁶ From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah ¹⁷ who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, ¹⁸ and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me.

¹⁹ Then I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. ²⁰ Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!”

²¹ So we continued the work with half the men holding spears, from the first light of dawn till the stars came out. ²² At that time I also said to the people, “Have every man and his helper stay inside Jerusalem at night, so they can serve us as guards

by night and as workers by day.” ²³ Neither I nor my brothers nor my men nor the guards with me took off our clothes; each had his weapon, even when he went for water. **Nehemiah 4:10-23, NIV**

¹⁷ Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: “Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall. **Luke 11:17, NIV**

A divided church _____ its impact.

¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. **2 Corinthians 5:18, NIV**

God wants to join forces with us to impact the world with the work of _____ people to God!

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. **1 Corinthians 12:27, NIV**

Every last person—and their _____—is needed!

¹⁵ So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. ¹⁶ When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God. **Nehemiah 6:15-16, NIV**

When the church joins forces with God and one another, the results will be _____ - _____!

MEMORY VERSE

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. **1 Corinthians 12:27, NIV**

My next step: Teamwork makes the dream work. I will join forces with God and my church to help rejoin people to God.

What’s your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.