



# Institute for National Transformation

## Lecture 10

### INT Projects:

### Effective Packaging of Burdens as Vehicles for National Transformation



# Definitions of Burden





# Proper Channeling of Burden

## Nehemiah 1:1,2

When Nehemiah heard these words:

- a) **He sat down** - the news had weight - load, a burden;
- b) **He wept** - the burden affected his emotions;
- c) **He mourned for many days**: created a sense of helplessness;
- d) **He fasted and prayed before the God** of heaven - resulted in effective prayer. Without a burden, prayer is hard.



# Empathizing With the People

## Nehemiah 1:5 -10

- Until we **sit where people sit**, **walk where they walk**; until **we get into their shoes**, we cannot be effective burden bearers.
- Nehemiah was **comfortable** and did not need to worry about Jerusalem
- Our Savior was **comfortable** in heaven and did not have to be bothered about us suffering here on earth



# Taking Responsibility & Planning

## Nehemiah 2

- Accepted responsibility to carry out his burden by going to Jerusalem- did not transfer it to a third party; **he left his comfort zone**
- He prayed that God will grant him favour with the King by touching his heart to:
  1. Approve Nehemiah's plan to go to Jerusalem;
  2. Give Nehemiah letters to governors for safe passage;
  3. Give letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, for timber to make beams **for the gates of the citadel which *pertains* to the temple, for the city wall, and for the house that he will occupy;**



# Understanding Burdens

1. Burdens are **God's invitation for partnership** in and a vehicle for Community Transformation;
2. Burdens should not be wasted but **should be properly channeled** towards achieving the intended objectives by the burden-giver: God. **People's lives depend on them;**
3. Burden **fulfillment plans** should be put in place and **carefully executed.**



# Intimacy with the Problem

## Nehemiah 2:14-16

14 Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but there was no room for the animal under me to pass. 15 So I went up in the night by the valley, and viewed the wall; then I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned. 16 And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I had done; I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, or the others who did the work.



# Courage to Speak

## Nehemiah 2:17,18

- Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.”<sup>18</sup> I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me.
- They replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work

# It is a collective responsibility



## Nehemiah 2:18b

So **they** said, “Let us  
rise up and build.”  
Then **they set their**  
hands to this good  
work.



# Summary of Nehemiah's Approach

## Nehemiah 1 & 2

1. **Heard** about the problem
2. Developed a **burden**
3. **Separated to seek** divine solution
4. Took responsibility
5. Devised a **well thought-out plan of action**
6. Presented it to his master
7. Got approval
8. Departed to Jerusalem (**took the first step**)



# Summary of Nehemiah's Experience

## Nehemiah 1 & 2

9. Remained secluded (out of public eyes) to intimate himself with the scope of the problem - **got specific facts/data**
10. He **created a platform** on which he confronted & challenged the people that matter: Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, and others
11. He **got a buy-in** from the people - 'So they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to this good work
12. He **revised his plan** and then **implemented it**



# Discouragement

## Nehemiah 4:10-12

- 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.”
- <sup>11</sup> 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.”
- <sup>12</sup> Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, “Wherever you turn, they will attack us.”



# Threat of attack

## Nehemiah 4:13

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.



# Packaging Your Burdens for NT

## Nehemiah Approach

1. Which of the problems you've **heard or seen** troubles you the most? Write it down
2. **Separate yourself to God** and obtain divine solution
3. **Take responsibility** to spearhead that change!
4. Devised a **well thought-out plan of action**
5. **Present your plan** to your divine connections/networks and **secure their blessings**



# Summary of Nehemiah's Experience

## Nehemiah 1 & 2

6. **Go** to your land/sphere prepare to deliver it
7. When you get there, **stay low key for a season** and intimate yourself with the scope and specifics of the problem- **put faces to the issues and get facts/data**
8. **Create a platform** (NGO, Business, Institutions, etc.) on which to confront/challenge people that matter- know the group to which you are called
9. **Register the platform** with Board (directors, advisors etc);
10. **Get buy in from them** until they said, "Let us rise up and build," and then set their hands to this good work



# Nehemiah's Implementation Strategy

11. **Revise strategic plans to accommodate facts** on the ground before implementation.
12. Identify, train and hand over the micro-management of the repair of different “gates” to potential partners in the private and public sectors;
13. Have **clear cut job descriptions and work instructions and scope of responsibility** for each group on how to repair their “gate”;
14. Start with rebuilding physical walls first, **create infrastructure** then progress to emotional walls, then spiritual walls – people want to see.



# Nehemiah's Implementation Strategy

15. **Maintain supervisory role** and **lead by integrity and by zeal**
16. **Devise means of monitoring** the outcomes of the building work, how is it progressing?
17. **Expect opposition** within the camp (false prophets) and outside the camp (Samballat & Tobiah) but refuse to be distracted.



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# Packing Burdens as Vehicles for National Transformation

Thank You for Listening  
God bless You!