



Nehemiah led a nation to rebuild a wall in a record time. The Bible says that the wall was completed in 52 days! It was such a fantastic feat that, *"all the surrounding nations lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done by the hand of God"* (Nehemiah 6:15-16).

However, it must not be forgotten that this building project was born out of a broken heart and prayer. Nehemiah 1:3-5 says, *"Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire. When I*

*(Nehemiah) heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed."* While Nehemiah planned and made preparations, he prayed, so that *the gracious hand of the Lord* was on him. 52 days! Yes! But there was over a year of working behind the scenes before the first stone was put back in place. The people of that day **stood up** when it really mattered; when the nations around them needed to see who God really was. When the enemy threatened to end their project, they all **stood firm** until they saw God's plan fulfilled. When Nehemiah stood among the ruins in Jerusalem and challenged them with these words, *Let us rebuild the walls*, the people **stood with him** and they all did something that only God could do.

We, as *Nehemiah Teams*, have a vision to lead young people to finish the Great Commission in this generation. We are providing strategic opportunities for young people to spend 52 days sharing the gospel among the unreached and hard to reach. God is doing great things in a short amount of time, just like in Nehemiah's day. But the real work, the hard work takes place all year long! As we prepare and as we plan, we pray and some are praying with us, but we need many more who will **Take a Stand** in prayer, so that *the gracious hand of the Lord* will be seen in all we do.

The Bible says, *"I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so that I would not have to destroy it."* Ezekiel 22:30

*"This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Woe to the foolish prophets who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing! Your prophets, O Israel, are like foxes among ruins. You have not gone up to the breaks in the wall to repair it for the house of Israel so that it will stand firm in the battle on the day of the LORD."*

Ezekiel 13:3-5

In Ezekiel's day, none could be found to take a stand. The prophets and the people were playing games instead of making a difference among the ruins of the city. We want to invite you and your church to join with us in this prayer initiative called **Take a Stand**.

- **Stand up** (in the gap) for the nations,
- **Stand firm** against the enemy, and
- **Stand with** *Nehemiah Teams* workers and students.

## **How to get started:**

1. Go to your pastor/youth pastor/ college minister about doing this ministry. Get their permission and support.
2. Make an announcement to others to join you.
3. Designate a room and/or corner for this ministry. You might need to do both. A corner will be more visible and keep prayer needs in front of people. A prayer room will be more private and will allow people to really pray.



## **What to include in your place of prayer**

1. Stand up for the Nations: A World Map (<http://imbresources.org/index.cfm/product/detail/prodID/2926>) or one purchased from a local school/office supply
2. Information about the people groups we are partnering with. ("Hike 4 Missions" online folder found on Nehemiah Teams Resources webpage <http://www.nehemiahteam.com/hike-4-missions.html>)
3. Names and pictures of Nehemiah Teams/Project 52 staff and the students going on summer teams. Students begin getting assigned in November of each year, with most assigned by early April. At your request, we will send you staff pictures/bio information of NT/P52 staff and assigned students. There will be some example prayer cards that can be accessed online. These prayer cards can be put up on the wall and/or given out to church members. <http://www.nehemiahteam.com/nt-resources.html>

## **Instructions for Praying**

1. Stand up for the Nations: Choose a people group or groups to pray for today. Information about various people groups is available in the "Hike 4 Missions" online folder found on the Nehemiah Teams website Resources page. <http://www.nehemiahteam.com/people-group-profilesstickers.html>
2. Stand firm against the enemy:
  - A. To bring conviction of sin to unbelievers and prompting to repent.
  - B. To remove the influence of evil spirits away from unbelievers so they are able to respond to the gospel. The Bible says, "*Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.*" (Matt. 18:19) Another way to say that is we can and must agree together in prayer to push back, cut off (bind) the work of the enemy in the life of people or nations and we must (loose)pray-down the kingdom of heaven. Jesus said, "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." We must, in the name and authority of Jesus, subdue the power, silence the voice, and separate the power of the enemy away from people.
  - C. To work according to Acts 4:29,30
3. Stand with Nehemiah Teams staff and students
  - IMB prayer guides: <http://imbresources.org/index.cfm/product/list/catID/44/deptID/1> Many of these are free products that you can order and have available