REBUILDING THE WALLS

A Biblical Perspective on Leading, Building and Maintaining It.

History provides us with great stories of famous leaders who have lead powerfully at various points in time. But finding a simple, relatable story that can teach and benefit those that desire to start something from an idea and then turn that idea into reality, guiding and leading it powerfully and effectively, is difficult to find. There is one incredible historical account that does, but few read. Are you ready? It’s the Book of Nehemiah in the Old Testament.

The Book of Nehemiah gives one of the most powerful testimonies to successful personal leadership in difficult times. There are no three day training seminars to attend, 4 year degrees to earn, expensive material, manuals, or software to buy, just 13 short chapters that provide the most powerful tools needed for successful personal leadership in the face of opposition. What is so incredible is that it can be applied to us individually, our families, our careers, our businesses, and so many other areas of our lives! The ending results will be the same if you follow the basic principals. You be the judge.

The Book of Nehemiah was named after the central character of the book, a cupbearer for King Artaxerxes who ruled in Babylon between 444-432 BC. The principle objective of the book was to describe the circumstances surrounding the rebuilding and dedication of the wall around Jerusalem. A city and dream that had been destroyed by the Babylonians 70 years earlier and the city left in ruins and the majority of the people marched away to Babylon as slaves.

At Sea Mercy, we believe every organization must have an established leadership style or structure that they will follow in order to find their success. Some leaders of organizations "build to sell" others "build for ongoing profit" and others "build to invest". Each style requires a different leadership mindset in the development of the organization. At Sea Mercy, our goal is the latter, but with a twist. Our leadership was looking for that unique style that would focus not on investing for financial gain, but to invest in the lives people… those we serve and those that we work with. We believe that this Nehemiah Leadership Process is exactly the successful leadership style we intend to follow and build our Sea Mercy programs around. We hope it helps give you a better idea of our organization and our goals and purpose.

PREPARATION

Read Chapters 1 and 2 of Nehemiah

The Need For Visionaries (2:5)
“Hero’s Wanted! (no previous experience required)”
Many times we can get defeated in the notion that you have to be "someone special" to accomplish "something special.” Nehemiah was not anyone “special” in his days, at least no more special than any one of us in today’s world. He was a servant who had a personal goal and vision and he combined it with the desire to see it happen. For Nehemiah, his vision was clear, concise, and measurable. This laser beam focus allowed him to fully grasp what it would take to see his vision accomplished.
For us, the most important aspect of rebuilding our broken down “walls” is the need for individual visionaries that want to see it accomplished and are willing to do whatever is needed to achieve it. As an individual, you need to take on the vision of change and glory, meditate on it, and put it deep in your heart. Without the “burned in” vision in your minds eye, it will be hard to see the changes needed to achieve your ultimate goal. In addition, it is also important to surround yourself with those having the same vision to support and encourage each other during the rebuilding.

At Sea Mercy, we have thought about, prayed about, researched, and talked about this vision for the people of the South Pacific for over 10 years. We have a heart for them and a desire to do something about it. It is something that those of us who are leading the vision, and those that we are desiring to work with, must be totally committed to doing everything we can to see it become a reality.

Survey The Walls (2:8)
Acknowledge the “true” condition of your walls. Whether it is your marriage, your relationship with God, your gratitude, your purity, or any other numbers of aspects of your life, remember it at its height and recognize where you have allowed it to fall. We often chose not to accept the fact that our personal walls have fallen into disgrace and we therefore refuse to begin a program to rebuild them. In addition, too often we look away from the problems that brought down the “walls” and therefore fail to fully comprehend what it will take to rebuild them to their original condition.

Take the time to think through and write down the areas of your life that have changed, from its glory days to the present condition, and commit them to be rebuilt or repaired.

At Sea Mercy, we are very clear about where the need stands with regards to health care for many of the remote islanders in the South Pacific. Although we have read extensively on the needs, we are not sitting back and looking from a distance. We will be traveling to the South Pacific to examine first hand what those walls look like and to learn as much as we can about the challenges that we will face along the way.

Take Responsibility For Its Condition (1:5-9)
Nehemiah could have easily said, “It’s not my fault for the condition of the walls, I never even lived there!” and then blamed others. Instead he took personal responsibility for it and all that anyone else had done. His heart and actions not only set the example for others to imitate, but he recognized the importance of acknowledging weaknesses so that he would know what needed to change in him. For many, it is our nature to blame shift or make excuses for the condition of our walls, but in truth each person needs to lead in recognizing where we failed and take ownership of the problem. Without doing this, taking personal responsibility, we allow others to control our destiny.

At Sea Mercy, we see the world as one community (but not one government) and as American's we have been blessed like no other nation in that world community. We could claim that it is not our county or our responsibility to take care of them, but because we can make a difference, we chose to try. Those that are given much, much is expected (Luke 12:48). We are clear in that we can't change the whole world at once, but we can start by working with one part of it. We are willing to start small and with proper support and leadership and the heart to do so; we hope to grow it quickly in order to help other island nations.

Have A Heavy Heart About The Condition (1:4-)
Our desire to successfully accomplish something is greatly determined by our emotional level behind it. If we fail to “feel” for the condition of our “walls” our heart will not truly have the desire to change it and those that you have asked to help you rebuild your wall will take on that same lack of desire. In nearly every aspect of life it is very difficult, if not impossible, to help someone that does not want to help themselves. Take as much time as needed to pray, and if necessary, weep over your broken walls and dreams. Get your determination and personal convictions about your vision(s) before God in prayer. Once you have reached that point of being broken, get up, dust yourself off and get going with your renewed determination.

At Sea Mercy, whether you are a volunteer, a government leader, or a corporate sponsor, we believe that without having the heart and emotion behind this program, it will fail to reach its desired potential. It is
something that we require of our volunteers and of the island nations that we will chose to work with. If our volunteers do not have this heart, then it will be a burden to them. If the government leaders of these island nations do not have this heart for their own people, then their support for our efforts to help them will be greatly reduced.

Count The Costs Before Rebuilding (2:7-8 How did he know he would need all this?)
Many of us charge into a project without looking at the costs that could be incurred. Instead of learning from our prior mistakes, we blindly charge right back in and repeat them over and over again and then wonder why we fail over and over again. You have to understand that bringing about change is a battle that carries costs (personal, emotional, physical, and financial) and the longer you or your group has been living with the walls down, the harder it will be to bring about change.

Personal
- **Time** - Change takes “extra” time. Depending upon the time you have set for completion you may be required to go above your normal commitment level during this rebuilding (it takes a great deal more energy to get something started - a train - than to keep it moving once it’s going). Plan for it, but remember that it’s only for a short while and focus on the results or benefits of its completion.
- **Emotions** - Be prepared for some challenging times that will try your patience and convictions about bringing about the changes. Remember your vision and turn to those around you that have that same vision to spur you on.
- **Relationships** - Requiring those we know and work closely with to change is very difficult, yet they need to support the change and do so without “special privileges”. Your “true” friends and true disciples will still be there and if it is a righteous one, and will even take on and support that same vision for you.
- **Financial** - There is always financial costs to bring about change, with lifestyle decisions, career choices, and location.

Those of us at Sea Mercy know that it will take all that we have to build this program. Time and energy, emotions, relationships and even personal income are all costs that we have counted in order to bring this program to where it is at today. The vast majority of the costs associated with bringing this program to reality will have been absorbed by those leading the program. We also realize that we are putting our current income sources and investments at risk in dedicating our time and energy in order to bring this program to life. We know that there will be even more costs to count as the program develops and more and more of our time and energy will be required to lead and grow the program.

Group
- **Letters of Support 2:7-8** - Without unconditional support from leadership toward the vision of your rebuilt walls, the rebuilding will never succeed to its full potential. Gather your support and instill the vision in your family group leader, sector leader, etc. before the rebuilding begins. Get their personal commitment and understanding of the difficult times that will be encountered and the need for their support for you and the “vision” to overcome the obstacles that will arise.
- **Costs** - There are initial financial and emotional costs for change, but keep the focus on the costs of not changing that it will continue to occur until the wall is rebuilt.
- **Personnel** - “Let it be known that those that oppose it will have no share in it” 2:20. The last thing a vision needs is to have those from within opposing the rebuilding of the wall. Make it clear that those standing in the way will not be there to enjoy the fruits of other workers labor, everyone does their share. They are either with you or against you, talk with your leaders to decide what this cost should be.

At Sea Mercy, we believe that every partner, government agency, corporate sponsor, and volunteer is part of our program and a member of our group. And just like those who are leading the program had to count the costs, each member will also have to count the above costs in supporting the Sea Mercy program. Although we will gratefully accept any level of support, we are looking for relationships that will last a lifetime and beyond.

Lead The Expedition Back To Rebuild It
Make It Personal 2:8. So often we want to leave things in the hands of others to rebuild our walls, when in truth it is up to “God and your heart” to make sure it takes place. See with your own eyes the condition
of your wall so as to know the progress of the rebuilding and to show those you are leading that you do care personally for the progress.

**Make It Secret 2:12.** The whole world does not need to know your vision, in fact it may be better that only a few know about it. Whether it is your spouse, children, neighbors, teacher, or others, there will be those that refuse to change and will be greatly disturbed when they hear that change is coming. Survey the walls in secret, design your plan for rebuilding it, gather your letters of support, select your initial team of visionaries, and then begin the construction. The more secret your goal, the more difficult it will be to implement. It is always wise and more productive to have those closest to you directly involved in your vision.

**Make It Thorough 2:13-15.** Count all the costs before you begin. Most of us focus on the big things and forget the small ones, only later to find that the small ones end up bringing about the ruin of the rebuilding. Decide the best plan of action for each area of operation, results and costs associated with rebuilding that section of the wall. Survey every stone.

Those of us at Sea Mercy who will be "full-time" in the program will lead this it personally from the front, not from the back. We believe that we must keep our eyes on the program in order for it to succeed and grow to its full potential. We will have leaders on the floating health clinic guiding the operations, leaders on the island nation who are guiding the inflow of supplies and communication with the local governments and intern selection. Those on the home front, whose eyes must be focused on working directly with the local and international sponsors, and still others whose eyes must be focused on working with the vast volunteer base that will provide the much needed expertise and care to those on the islands. Our leaders will lead personally in all areas.

**THE CONSTRUCTION (Getting Started)**

*Read Chapters 3 and 4 of Nehemiah!*

**Carry Out The Work Rapidly And Successfully (3:1- )**

The thing that stands out the most in Chapter 3 is how quickly and diligently the people set out to rebuild the walls. This sense of urgency needs to be the same for an individual and family group that is looking to rebuild their walls. Our desire may be to take it slow and easy, but you will find that the longer a project takes, the more opportunity for everyone (including you) to lose heart, become distracted and lose the desire for the change.

At Sea Mercy, our goal is to establish a timetable for delivery and development, milestones if you will, and then work diligently and quickly toward seeing those milestones met. We know there will be setbacks and unforeseen challenges, but we will strive with all of our efforts, relationships and resources to achieve our goals.


Giving credit where credit is due is a great motivator, but also having the ability to look back and see where you were and how far you have come is a great incentive to maintain the walls once they have been rebuilt. Documenting the progression also gives a strong incentive to those individuals assisting you that you are serious about the changes and that you are grateful for their assistance.

One of our specific goals and visions is to keep every member of the Sea Mercy organizations (volunteers, sponsors, and government leaders) informed about our progress and victories and challenges. We will accomplish this through the effective use of social media and professional communication through monthly newsletters, blogs, website, Twitter feeds, Facebook updates and personal communication. All of which will expresses our ongoing gratitude and to document our progress.

**Successful Support Will Accomplish The Above (3:1-32)**
Getting everyone to support the project is a task in itself. You need to lead by example and be willing to get in and get dirty before they do (whether you are leading, teaching, or being taught). Promote and encourage those that champion the rebuilding and look for:

**Volunteer Work** - Look for those that work out of zeal for the project, not out of compulsion. Those with the zeal for the project will be the ones that will continue to support it after it’s built, and those working out of compulsion will be the ones who will quickly allow the wall to fall back into disrepair. Remember the workers.

**United Work** - Make sure that everyone does their part and notify those that are not or are allowing others to do the “dirty” work because of seniority, or some other godlessness, that it will not be tolerated. Set the stage before the construction begins and there will be no surprises when a rebuke comes from you while building.

**Cooperation** - Each group does their part with all their hearts. Make it the responsibility of each individual for their changes, not a roving band of workers that come in and organize them and move on. Without the changing of the individuals within, the section of the wall in that area will fall again. More important, be on the lookout for those groups whose leaders refuse to do the work (make them responsible).

At Sea Mercy, we will strive to keep an eye on every part of the direct and indirect aspects of the program. Our goal will be to continually strive to find the talent and resources that have a heart for the islanders, a heart for the success of the program, and who are able to lead powerfully in each role that they assume.

**Look For Words From The Enemy To Demoralize The Workers (4:1-3, 10-12)**
So often we think of the enemy as the world, when in reality it is our own words and attitudes that can do the most damage (mostly from leaders, sometimes from within your group). A negative word, remark or persecution from an adversary can fuel the fire for harder work, but negative comments from within yourself or your own group can quench the spirit of any rebuilding. Watch for it, expect it, and if necessary be ready to make an example, or an example being made of you as to why it won’t be tolerated.

At Sea Mercy, our goal is to always instill, encourage and build upon the incredible hearts of the volunteers and leaders within the organization. But when life challenges or disappointments come, we also know that it can harden or embitter a heart and ultimately endanger the morale or joy of the program. We will be ever diligent in protecting the hearts of our volunteers and leaders and if necessary, to bring them home early in order to heal or recover.

**Be Prepared For Opposition**
There are those disciples that have direct knowledge of your vision and those that have no knowledge of your vision. You will find the majority of your opposition will come from the latter. They will respond out of confusion from not being personally involved and/or invited to be a part of the rebuilding. The risks involved with “secret” visions generally create more opposition than open ones. Either way you need to be prepared and ready to battle it with:

**Prior Planning and Preparation (4:4)** – Continually educate and update those involved before, during and after the rebuilding.

**Letters of Support (4:13)** - Let those in opposition know that those above them are behind this project and behind you!

**Strong Leadership And Personal Example (4:4-6)** - Strive to be faultless in how you lead the rebuilding and it will be difficult for the enemy to gather support. Keep your motives pure and righteous.

At Sea Mercy, our goal is to always work with current government organizations and established programs in order to help them succeed. We also know that there are times when a program could cause concern or fear from existing programs and feel Sea Mercy is a threat to them, not an ally. We hope to clarify and solidify those relationships prior to any launch, but we also will ensure that we have the support and backing of those in higher positions to avoid interruption of the program.

**Defend Your Weakest Point First (4:13)**
With every new project there are times of great danger and it is the weakest point that is most vulnerable. Prior preparation will help avoid the apparent “disasters” that are really just a vulnerable moment in the transition period. Defend that area with extra effort to rebuild it quickly and to avoid the attacks be ready.
to defend it when it does come under fire. Never think that an area is safe until it has been rebuilt, keep those helping you notified and on alert. Be ready to defend it or you will risk losing all your hard work.

At Sea Mercy, we will be continually monitoring our progress, our supplies, and our resources to ensure that there is no surprises or an interruption of service. Should one occur, we hope that our careful monitoring will enable us to respond quickly and defend the area under attack, pulling in the needed resources and relationships to secure the need.

Be Ready To Defend (as a whole) The Area That Is Attacked (4:19-20)
So often when the walls are attacked it is our nature to defend only your own wall (“it's not my area or family group”). What needs to be instilled is a group feeling that one area or section of the wall is just as important as the whole wall and that if one part is attacked; the whole city comes to its defense. This will not only build a sense of teamwork, but also a difficult defense for an enemy to overcome.

At Sea Mercy, every part of our organization and program is crucial. Whether the volunteer base, the floating health care clinic, the sponsors, the relationships with government leaders... each part is vital to the success of the program and if one is in danger, the whole program is at risk. With that understanding, each part is just as important as the other and each part will need to have the resources and support of all the others in order for the program as a whole to succeed to its full potential.

THE CONSTRUCTION (Keeping It Going)

Read chapters 5 through 7

Be Prepared For Continuous Problems (5:1-2)
Be ready for a long fight in order to complete the walls. Our nature is to gear up for one battle, win it, and then retire. To bring about complete change requires us to enter into continuous battles until complete victory is accomplished. By winning the first battle, the enemy will become craftier as the building continues, stay alert, and don’t quit.

At Sea Mercy, our vision and goals are comprised of many steps and stages. Meeting one goal is but one step on a long journey to the success of the program. We are determined to stay focused on each aspect of the program until the whole wall is completed. If we reach your goal in one area, then we will shift resources to assist other programs. This is about teamwork and family, understanding that when one wins we all win, and when one loses we all lose.

Look Out For Leadership Taking Advantage of the Workers (5:7)
Too often we fall into the delusion that the workers would fail if it were not for the leaders, and leadership begins to lord it over them or lower their personal standards (I have more responsibility so I’m excused from the building). When this happens they stop being the example for the workers to follow and suddenly become a hollow voice who fails to move the hearts of the workers. Be on the lookout for those appointed to lead from falling into this hypocrisy. Help them and encourage them to stay in the trenches with the rest of the workers.

At Sea Mercy, no one is above reproach. Our policy is patterned after the Bible in that if anyone is not holding up their end, that they are free to respectfully talk with them personally. If that fails to move their hearts or brings about the change or resolution needed, bring along another to work through it until it is resolved as the Bible directs.

Feed Your People 5:2
It is so important to take care of the needs of the workers and to listen to their concerns. Nehemiah ate with his workers 5:4. Eat with your people and your leaders, regularly have lunch or dinner with them and talk
about the rebuilding 5:17. Sharing a meal not only brings about closeness, but also trust and confidence that you truly are a team.

*At Sea Mercy, relationships are the most important aspect of our program. We are very clear that our success is built around our relationships with our patients, our volunteers, our government leaders, and our sponsors. Our goal is to spend incredible time with each.*

**Never Compromise With The Enemy**
Many projects are not halted by one battle with the enemy, but by the slow constriction caused by compromises. One individual who does not want to change might say “I won’t cause a fuss, or become your enemy, if you leave my area alone.” If you agree, you’ve started down the path that will never see your vision fulfilled and this compromise will continually haunt you throughout your rebuilding. If you have compromised your values and integrity once, it is assumed that you will do it again and again. Your enemy will win in the end.

*At Sea Mercy, we all operate under the same standard of love, leadership and morality as the Bible teaches. We will not compromise on that standard in any aspect of the program or operations.*

**Do Not Allow Yourself To Be “Pulled Out Of Action” By The Enemy (6:2)**
The best method for the enemy to keep you from rebuilding the walls is to pull you out of the action. Whether in discussions, meetings, arguments, etc. if they can keep you off the wall, then the work will halt, or dissension will begin to build. Stay with it at all costs! Watch out for:

*Meetings (6:7)* - Let the opposition know that this is your priority and that you cannot be pulled away from it. Refer to your Letters of Support if necessary as the reason, but keep working and let those working with you see that priority in your actions. I’m not referring to meetings of the body, but to unnecessary discussion meetings intended to sidetrack your group, or you.

*At Sea Mercy, we believe that time is short and valuable. We will evaluate each event that is proposed and determine the positive or negatives of accepting. We intend to stay focused on our mission and stay with it.*

*False Accusations (6:6-7)* - There will be those from within that will try to discredit you, but keep your work blameless and it will be difficult for them to gather support.

*At Sea Mercy, we intend to stay above reproach in every aspect of our programs. We will be open about our failures and will be quick to apologize to any who have been hurt from our leadership mistakes. We intend to stay righteous and open as an organization!*

*False Leaders (6:12-13)* - Nehemiah had his leaders take an oath 5:12-13 to confirm their commitment, have the members take a similar oath and sign it. Those that chose not to sign it or who break their oath, remove them from the rebuilding.

*At Sea Mercy, our leaders and volunteers are committed to our mission and our commitments. We know how important that commitment is if we are to achieve our mission.*

**Chose Wise Helpers (during and after) With The Right Heart, Not Just The Right Credentials (7:2)**
Schooling is great, but the heart behind it is what really counts. Chose men and women of integrity that hold to their word and you will see your confidence increased and your success more assured. In addition, find those that truly believe in the project and put them in positions of authority in your life to make things happen. By doing this, you will find workers and leaders who care about the success of the project and will see it through to the end.

*At Sea Mercy, our goal is to select the most qualified individuals with the most qualified heart to accomplish our mission. That same "heart" criteria will apply to those leading the program and those volunteering for it as well.*

**Protect What Has Been Built 7:3**
Avoid the thought that once it is complete it will be fine on its own. Protect what you have built with accountability and observation or you may find the walls crumbling again.

*At Sea Mercy, we will be continually reviewing and re-evaluating our programs, our goals and our visions regularly. If they are any aspects of the program that are falling into disrepair, then we will focus on fixing
it immediately. We approach and mindset is that it is easier to repair a small crack early, than to wait for the whole wall to fall and the rebuild it.

Make A List (publish it for all to see) Of Those That Helped In Each Area (recognize them) (the whole book!)
There are several ways to encourage people, but the best way is to recognize them for their accomplishments. As we mentioned earlier, keep track of what and who is doing the work, recognize them and let everyone know that they were vital to the walls rebuilding. It does not matter what wall is being rebuilt by whom, honor those working on the “dung gate” as much as those working on the more prestigious gates of your life.

At Sea Mercy, we believe an organization can never say “thank you” enough to those that have supported and helped it. We intend to always honor those that helped build the Sea Mercy program.

Celebrate The Day 8:10
Let the workers know that the building phase of the project has been completed successfully and that there were heroes’ made, victories won, and costs paid to bring it all about. Let them rejoice in the moment and make it special and they will never forget and always remember what made it successful (they will teach others).

At Sea Mercy, we believe that it each victory is a celebration and that honoring those steps is important to the morale of the volunteers and everyone involved in the victory. There is nothing like victory parties to drive home the point and encourage people to keep fighting and building.

COMPLETION (Now The Hard Part)

Read Chapters 8 and 9

After Completion Talk With The Whole Assembly (8:1)
Gather your workers together as a group and go over what was just accomplished. Let them know what is expected of them to keep the wall in order. Teach those that are new to the group what is expected of them and the cost of what it took to rebuild the walls.

At Sea Mercy, we believe in the value of yearly group wide meetings to discuss the victories, the obstacles, the new visions and opportunities, and to celebrate and honor those that worked so hard in the building.

Require/Expect A Response From The People (9:1)
As the leader of your vision you are to be held more accountable than anyone else. Likewise, you need to take ownership of the rest of the walls as well and be committed to defend any or all of it when the enemy comes again. Go over these points:

Confession of Sin (9:2)- Always be ready to acknowledge the problems and share about what brought down the walls, this brings about a changed heart. Confession brings about humility. Be specific, not just “I’m a sinner”, but exactly what it was that brought down your walls or the family group walls (9:2-32).

At Sea Mercy, we believe in taking ownership of our program failures and faults as we build, not hiding or glossing over them. Without that ownership mindset, change will be difficult and support and confidence will wane.

Acknowledge The Result (9:33) - Make sure you realize that the poor condition of the walls was a result of you, not anyone else, and that it was deserved! 9:33

At Sea Mercy, we will continue to acknowledge, discuss and share opening about the progress in correcting the problem, and continue to strive to correct it. We will not blame shift.

State An Oath (9:38) - State an oath that binds you to the defense of the walls (yours and others). Let there be no excuse later as to “I didn’t know”, hold yourself accountable for your words.
At Sea Mercy, our mission and leadership purpose will be clear and available to every element of the organization. We want and need to be held accountable if we are to achieve our mission.

**Remember The Past Condition (9:2-32)**

Never forget to look back and remember the condition of your walls and how they felt at that time. Let it sink in deep so that you never want to go back to it. Remember the documentation of the changes? Read it regularly in case you have forgotten how far you have come (i.e., what made you succeed great and what made you fail).

At Sea Mercy, we will keep an ongoing history of our programs and our progress. History has a tendency to repeat itself when we forget to remember it.

**MAINTENANCE (Keeping The Walls Strong)**

*Read Chapters 10 through 13*

The biggest thing to remember and to teach to others is that the sacrifice is our self, not something or someone else. This is personal and important, and each person is responsible.

**Rejoice In Their Leaders (11:2)**

For many it is hard to be lead and a feeling of resentment results when lead, but if a person is lead to victory and shown how to maintain a victorious self, they will rejoice in their leaders. Help them see their own victories and how it was brought about from the great examples of their leaders. Not only will it develop more trust, but also when the next battle comes they will be quick to rush to the walls to defend them.

At Sea Mercy, we believe that every volunteer that joins us is an opportunity to create an incredible future leader, or to learn something incredible from them. Leading people can many times be the most challenging of all endeavors, but we intend to make the most of every opportunity and feel that God has put them there for a specific reason. We believe by taking the time to invest in them, the will always be grateful, encouraging, and we will build a friend and supporter of the program for life.

**Keep Your Workers In Touch With Gods Word (13:1)**

Are we still working God’s plan? That should be the question on everyone’s hearts all day long. Nehemiah dedicated and purified the walls and rooms 13:4-7. He even would re-purify them when they were desecrated. If your workers fail, don’t abandon them; rededicate them (bring them back to their original commitment)! Keep an eye on the hearts of your workers. Ask yourself and those involved, “When I find something I’m not doing, how quickly do I repent?” Walls are rarely pulled down, but instead are allowed to gradually fall into disrepair over time.

At Sea Mercy, we do not believe we were called to do this for our own glory, but for God’s glory. We believe that our volunteer’s relationship with God is more important than the service that they are trying to deliver. Without it, their hearts for the islanders will grow cold and the work will no longer be a joy, but a burden. We will strive to keep God and his purpose at the forefront of each volunteer’s heart.

**Keep The Sabbath Holy (13:15)**

Make sure you (and the others) are keeping their priorities (God, family, purpose, programs, etc.). It is too easy to lose track of what really brought about the building of the walls and go back to where we were. Keeping your priorities will keep help ensure a continual victory.

At Sea Mercy, we will be worshipping together, praying together, singing together, and guiding each others hearts.
Keep The Workers Pure (13:23)
Select those with the above heart, those that are committed to the goal and oath set out to help avoid backsliding and intermarrying (i.e. the weakening of the body as a whole).

At Sea Mercy, we believe all aspects of our organization must be above reproach to any that would chose to either visit or evaluate our programs. Our volunteers will be held to the same Biblical standard as our leaders so that at every turn they will see God working powerfully, not hypocrisy.

Sincerely,

Richard & Stephanie Hackett
President & Founders
The Eyes of the Heart Foundation
Sea Mercy Program
www.seamercy.org