



BUILDING
on the Legacy



**Calling
forth the
generations.**

Isaiah 41:4

How Nehemiah Built on the Legacy

By Jon Fugler

We can learn a lot about *Building on the Legacy* from the first seven chapters of the book of Nehemiah. As you may recall, Nehemiah received the report that “the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates have been burned with fire.”(1:3) In other words, this glorious city had been destroyed, because without its protective wall it was subject to any kind of attack. Now that’s a property problem! Jerusalem was a huge part of Israel’s legacy, and as it was reported to Nehemiah, the people “are in great trouble and disgrace.” Their legacy could have come to an end if it were not for the response of Nehemiah and the people of Jerusalem. Of course, the walls of Grace Church still stand after 60-plus years, and we are not in a position of disgrace. We do, however, have a property problem.

Observe Nehemiah’s rebuilding strategy, recorded in detail. He began by inspecting the walls, taking full account of the damage around the perimeter of the city. (1:13-15) Then he called the people together and gave his report, saying “Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and we will no longer be in disgrace.” (1:17)

Fast forward to the 21st century. Our elders have “walked the perimeter” and have presented a plan on how we can do our “wall-building.” On April 29, we will gather together to respond as the people of Jerusalem did, “Let us start rebuilding.”

Notice their strategy throughout chapters 3-6. Each family took a section of the wall and rebuilt it. They all did their part, depending on how much they could handle. Read the inspiring account in 3:15-27, where the words, “next to him... next to him... next to him” paint the picture of everyone working side by side. Despite incredible opposition, even threats of death, Nehemiah records the miracle, “So the wall was completed on the 25th of Elul, in fifty-two days.”(6:15)

Our task at Grace Church is to build on the legacy left by men and women before us. Our circumstances are nothing compared to the environment Nehemiah and his people faced. We actually have it easy. Will you consider building your section of the wall? We don’t have to break rocks or swing a hammer. We simply need to commit our God-given resources, “our” money, so the job can be completed. When it comes to giving to the Lord’s work, God assures us in 2 Corinthians 8:12, “For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.” Let’s be encouraged by the inspiring victory of the people of Jerusalem. We have so much to learn from their example.

What Building on the Legacy Means to those in our Congregation

From Dave O'Brien



Prior to moving up here my family attended Grace on weekends when we were on vacation. In 1976 we moved to Los Osos from southern California and made Grace our church home. I was entering high school when we moved here and my parents

were looking for a church with a solid youth program. They chose Grace because of the outstanding youth programs. After Liesl and I were married, we attended the church she had been attending for a year and then returned to Grace. We have had all of our four children dedicated here and have all enjoyed being a part of Sunday school classes - both adult and children's. Our children have also grown in the Lord by participating in the AWANA program. We have always appreciated the Bible-based teaching that Grace has consistently provided. We believe that the Building on the Legacy Campaign is a great way to ensure that Grace Church will be a thriving church for many years to come, just as it has been to three generations of our family during the last thirty-one years.

Above, clockwise from left: Liesl, Dave, Kelsey, Kaylee, Rachel & Tyler

From College Student to College Mentor

Paying it Forward



Greg Johnson knows what it takes to mentor college students at Grace because he was being mentored here when he was a Cal Poly student from 1976-1982. Now, 30 years later, the impact of the Grace College Ministry lives on through him. Today, Greg coordinates the adopt-a-student program, where families from the church are paired up with college students to develop relationships and provide a few home-cooked meals.

Greg says he is involved these days because Pat and Aldy O'Brien (still at Grace) were his adult mentors back when he attended the College Group, and "I want to follow in their footsteps."

One of Greg's highlights as a student was visitation in the dorms. He would follow up with students who had attended Grace. That's where he met his wife, Bonnie, who became a Christian while at Poly and went out on visitation outings with Greg.

The legacy gets even richer, as Bonnie said that one of her dorm visits was with Pam Goss. Pam attended Grace for many years after that visit, and now serves as a missionary with Wycliffe.

This is one of several Grace College Ministry stories that exemplify the rich heritage of our church. A good number of people serving at Grace today came up through the College Ministry.

Building on the Legacy Banquet

As we count down the days to the Building on the Legacy Celebration Pledge Banquet, we are trusting that God will make this a special evening. While we are raising funds for the future of Grace Church, we must remember that this is more than a fund-raising event. It's about making disciples here on the Central Coast and beyond. This disciple-making has been going on for 75 years at Grace, much of that time in the current facilities. Let's continue the legacy.

Our BBQ and prayer time after Sunday service on the 15th was so encouraging as we gathered around the tables and brought Grace Church before the Lord. We have been bathing the Building on the Legacy vision in prayer from the very start. This emphasis on prayer will continue past the banquet, too.

By now, you should have received your invitation to the banquet. Invitation Committee members have been visiting ABF classes, Growth Groups and homes to make sure everyone receives an invitation to attend. Inside the invitation packet is a brochure and a prayer bookmark, as well as the reservation form. We want you to be prepared for the big night. The banquet is free, and is at the Madonna Expo Center. If by chance you did not receive an invitation, please call the Grace Church office at 543-2358 immediately!

BUILDING on the Legacy

You are cordially invited to join the staff and congregation of Grace Church at our Building on the Legacy Celebration and Pledge Banquet Sunday, April 29, 2007 5:30 pm Madonna Inn Expo Center San Luis Obispo, CA Please respond no later than Friday, April 20th by calling 805.543.2358 Child care and transportation are available, if needed

Your faithfulness extends to every generation. Psalm 119:90

At the banquet... while enjoying a great meal together, we'll be reminded of the heritage and legacy of Grace Church, hear the details of the Building on the Legacy project, and then have the opportunity to respond by making a financial commitment. This is the time you will be asked to give, and that is why it is important for you to be there, if at all possible.

You'll be asked... to consider giving in one of three ways: a lump sum gift, a monthly pledge, or a yearly pledge, for three years. If you feel that God has not given you the financial resources to participate in this campaign, you will help us pray through this project and calling on the name of the Lord.

BUILDING on the Legacy Understanding that all I/we possess is a gift from God and that God delights in blessing the obedience of His people, I/we rejoice in the opportunity to participate in Grace Church's Building on the Legacy Vision. To help reach the goal of raising \$2,000,000, I/we pledge the following:

\$ _____ Amount per month for the next 3 years; or
 \$ _____ Amount per year for the next 3 years; or
 \$ _____ Onetime contribution. Please specify date of contribution: _____

Grace Church will gladly accept donations of stocks, bonds, mutual funds and property.
 Description of Gift: _____ Approximate value of gift: \$ _____

I/we will give my/our gifts listed above beginning in May 2007. This is a statement of intent and may be modified as circumstances warrant.
 _____ I/we are unable to pledge at this time, but will hold up in prayer the Building on the Legacy Vision.