

Burden for the Brethren

"When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven" Nehemiah 1:3.

We can see the importance and strategies of mission in the book of Nehemiah. In chapter 1 we read about Nehemiah getting news about the condition of the city of Jerusalem, its walls and the temple. His reaction to the news is the verse quoted above. There are a few essential requirements for someone to engage in a mission. We will think about just one of them today:

Heart for the well being of the people and the land.

Nehemiah had a very comfortable life in the palace of the king. He had a secure career. However, when he heard the news of his own country's ruin he was not comfortable anymore; he set aside all his comfort and wept over the destruction brought to the city. When you see and hear about persecution how do you feel? When churches are burned in India, when Christians by hundreds are killed by ISIS and others do you have a burden for your brothers around the world? Are you disturbed at news like this?

What upsets us is the priority in our life. Does the condition of the world upset us? Do violence and sin upset us?

What breaks God's heart must break our heart also.

Mission should start from our emotion – from deep down our heart; not just some activities of our will or reason. *Mission (activities) is an extension of our life.* It is not some occasional activities when it is so convenient for us or giving some money whenever we can.

In chapter 2:18 we can see the people's heart united and they encouraging each other for the work.

In chapter three we read about each family doing their part in the work of rebuilding; not only the hearts but the hands are also united now to accomplish the work.

We need to have a holy/heavenly disturbance in our hearts like Nehemiah and the people had about the work of God; only then we will be able to accomplish the mission entrusted to us. Have a heart for the well being of our brethren and the perishing world!

(From Pastor Aby Peter's message on Mission Night on Aug 29, 2015)

(Morning Star News) – Heightened hostilities against Christians in India that began late last year continued through a hot summer, with Hindu extremists threatening Christians and forcing them to "reconvert" to Hinduism, church leaders said.

In Rajasthan in the northwest, 10 Christian families in Nakhnool village, near Alwar, have fled after intolerant Hindus harassed and threatened to kill them, area church leaders said.

"Since June 27, we have not been able to have any kind of worship meetings," area pastor Malkeet Singh told Morning Star News. **"The extremists threatened to harm us if we utter the name of Christ or conduct any Christian meetings."**

"About 600 people gathered in front of Pastor Singh's house, put up the idol of the Hindu god Hanuman, forced Pastor Singh and 10 family members to worship the idol and forced him to sign a paper which said, 'I am willing to be a Hindu,'" said Rajamman Johnson,

regional secretary of the Friends Missionary Prayer Band (FMBP). "They forced them to drink water procured from the Ganga River and put *kumkum* [red marks] on their foreheads to show that they were now Hindus. "As the Hindu extremists had threatened to kill him if he continued to lead worship meetings, Pastor Singh had been in hiding for a month. The extremists found him and took him to his house for the ritual, Johnson said.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY

ON SEPTEMBER 19 @ 06:30 PM

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"I am the LORD who heals you"

Please pray for:

**Mrs. Marykutty Thomas (Sist. Suja's Mom), Pr. Mathew Samuel,
Bro. Babu Thannickal, Sist. Shiny Chacko, Sam Mathew, Ammini
George, Mariamma Johny (Kunjumol), Usha Danielkutty
Kiran (Dr. Jolly Mathew's granddaughter),
Nirmala (Friend of Snehalatha Nair), Pr. Daniel Koshy (Brother
in Law of CM Abraham & all who are sick among us.**

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Please pray for these Countries

	Country	Popula- tion (in millions)	Chris- tians	Evan- gelicals	President	Prime Minister
Sun	Tajikistan	8.6	1.3%	0.1%	Emomali Rah- mon	Qohir Rasul- zoda
Mon	Tanzania	52.3	45.6%	9.8%	Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete	Mizengo Kayanza Peter Pinda
Tue	Thailand	67.3	1.3%	0.5%	Phumiphon Adunyadet (King)	
Wed	Togo	7.1	44.4%	8.9%	Faure Gnassingbe	Komi Sélom Klassou
Thu	Trinidad & Tobago	1.4	66.1%	17.2%	Anthony Thomas Aquina s Carmona	Kamla Persad- Bissessar
Fri	Tunisia	11.2	0.3%	0.0%	Beji Caid Es- sebsi	Habib Essid
Sat	Turkey	76.3	0.3%	0.0%	Recep Tayyip Erdoğan	Ahmet Davutoğlu