

THE GOOD WORK—1

WHEN YOU CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE

... So they began *the good work*. Nehemiah 2:18 NLT

Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. Nehemiah 1:2 NIV

They said to me, “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.” Nehemiah 1:3 NIV

HOW DO YOU BEGIN THE GOOD WORK?

1) Sit down to cry.

When I heard these things, I sat down and wept ... Nehemiah 1:4 NIV

• What breaks your heart?

2) Kneel down to pray.

... *For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.* Nehemiah 1:4 NIV

... *“LORD, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁶let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel.”* ... Nehemiah 1:5-6 NIV

... “Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man.” ... Nehemiah 1:11 NIV

3) Stand up and act.

The king said to me, “What is it you want?” Then I prayed to the God of heaven, ⁵and I answered the king, “If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.” Nehemiah 2:4-5 NIV