

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the buildings and streets. In the center of the image, a prominent white building with a large, ornate dome stands out. Other buildings of various architectural styles are scattered throughout the cityscape. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds, and the overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

n e h e m i a h

expanding the tent of God's purposes



Azusa Street Tent Meetings early 1900s



Billy Graham Tent Meetings 1948

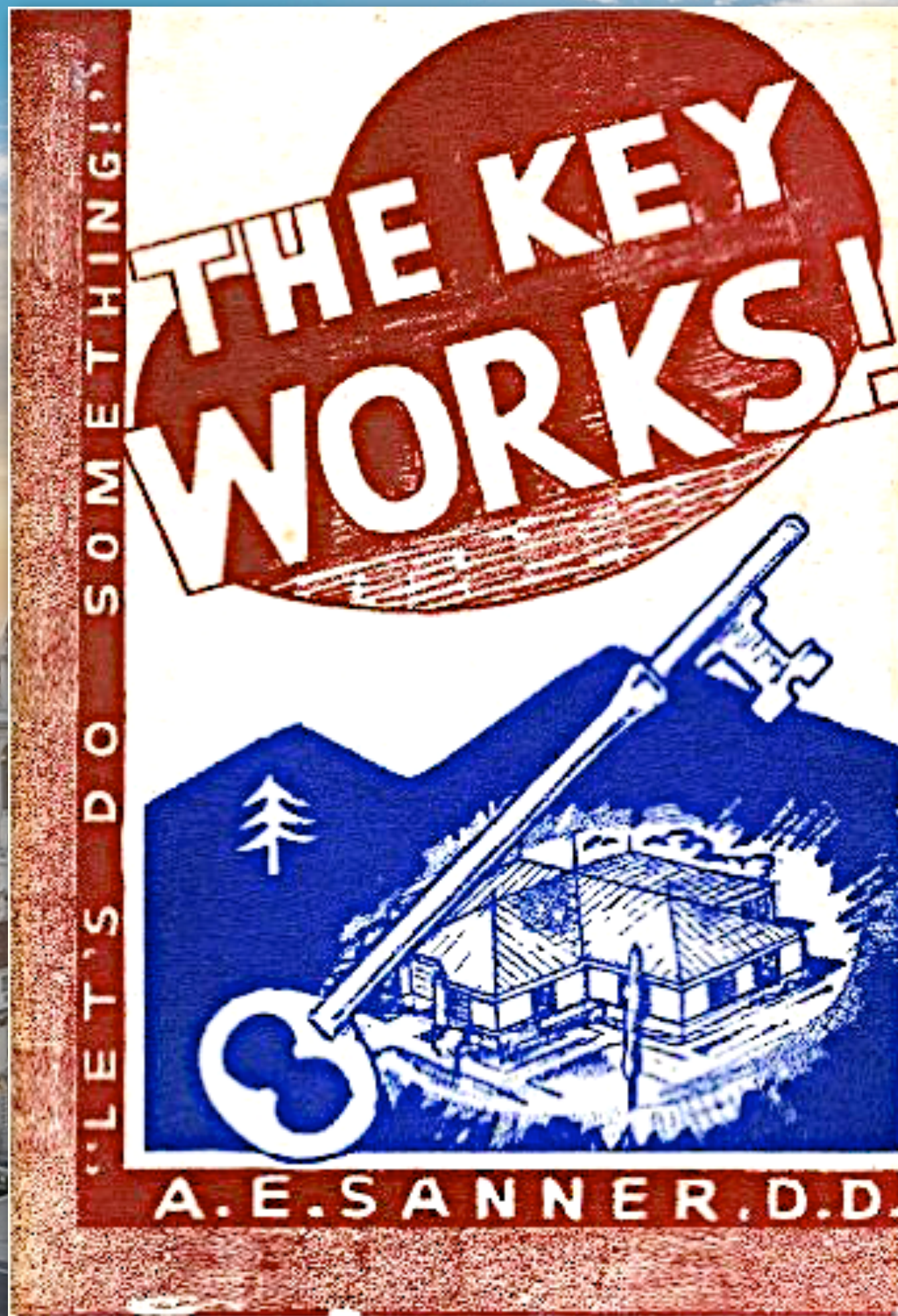


Jesus People Tent Meetings - Calvary Chapel - early 1970s



Jesus People Baptisms - Newport Beach early 1970s

(this Auditorium)
built to house
Nazarene tent
meetings
1944



Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem **Nehemiah 1-3**

God calls Nehemiah, a person of great privilege, into a greater calling
He goes into a period of extended prayer
Then receives the favor of God to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the city
He inspects the walls and rally other builders
And the whole community begins to re-build the wall. Everyone has a place.

For us, “rebuild the wall” = “enlarge the tent”

We are to
extend the tent
of God's presence
so more can find
shelter in His
presence

Isaiah 54

2 **Enlarge the place of your tent,
stretch your tent curtains wide,**
do not hold back; lengthen your cords,
strengthen your stakes.

3 **For you will spread out to the right and to
the left;**
**your descendants will dispossess nations
and settle in their desolate cities.**



Isaiah 54

2 "Enlarge the place of your tent,
stretch your tent curtains wide,
do not hold back; lengthen your cords,
strengthen your stakes.

3 For you will spread out to the right and to
the left;
your descendants will dispossess nations
and settle in their desolate cities.

Be proactive
in building
community
here

Give

Intercede



Isaiah 54

2 **"Enlarge the place of your tent,
stretch your tent curtains wide,
do not hold back; lengthen your cords,
strengthen your stakes.**

3 For you will spread out to the right and to
the left;
your descendants will dispossess nations
and settle in their desolate cities.

be bold to
evangelize and
invite

Serve
children, youth
+ collegiates

Be yourself in
the Lord

How To Respond to Opposition Nehemiah 4

Opposition often
arises from the
status quo 2.19

¹ When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, ² and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, "What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?"

How To Respond to Opposition Nehemiah 4

Opposition often
arises from the
status quo 2.19

mock + ridicule 4.3

³Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said,
“What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it
would break down their wall of stones!”

How To Respond to Opposition Nehemiah 4

Opposition often
arises from the
status quo 2.19

mock + ridicule 4.3

⁴ Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. ⁵ Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders. ⁶ So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.

Go to God first 4:4-5

Don't quit 4.6

How To Respond to Opposition Nehemiah 4

**Opposition often
arises from the
status quo 2.19**

mock + ridicule 4.3

**greater intensity
from inside and
outside
4.7-9, then 11-12**

⁷ But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. ⁸ They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it.

⁹ But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

Go to God first 4:4-5

Don't quit 4.6

How To Respond to Opposition Nehemiah 4

**Opposition often
arises from the
status quo 2.19**

**mock + ridicule 4.3
greater intensity
from inside and
outside
4.7-8 10-12**

¹⁰ Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall."

¹¹ Also our enemies said, "Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work."

¹² Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, "Wherever you turn, they will attack us."

Go to God first 4:4-5

Don't quit 4.6

**Deeper spirituality,
practical response +
continued hard work
4.9, 13-14**

How To Respond to Opposition Nehemiah 4

¹³ Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows.

¹⁴ After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes."

¹⁵ When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work.

Go to God first 4:4-5

Don't quit 4.6

Deeper spirituality, practical response + continued hard work 4.9, 13-14

How To Respond to Opposition Nehemiah 4

¹⁶ From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah ¹⁷ who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, ¹⁸ and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me.

Go to God first 4:4-5

Don't quit 4.6

Deeper spirituality, practical response + continued hard work 4.9, 13-14

Living as as one family and guarding each other's backs. 4.15-20

How To Respond to Opposition Nehemiah 4

¹⁹ Then I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. ²⁰ Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!"

Go to God first 4:4-5

Don't quit 4.6

Deeper spirituality, practical response + continued hard work 4.9, 13-14

Living as as one family and guarding each other's backs. 4.15-20

How To Respond to Opposition Nehemiah 4

²¹ So we continued the work with half the men holding spears, from the first light of dawn till the stars came out. ²² At that time I also said to the people, "Have every man and his helper stay inside Jerusalem at night, so they can serve us as guards by night and as workers by day." ²³ Neither I nor my brothers nor my men nor the guards with me took off our clothes; each had his weapon, even when he went for water.

Go to God first 4:4-5

Don't quit 4.6

Deeper spirituality, practical response + continued hard work 4.9, 13-14

Living as as one family and guarding each other's backs. 4.15-20

Staying alert 4:19-23

How To Respond to Opposition Nehemiah 4

²¹ So we continued the work with half the men holding spears, from the first light of dawn till the stars came out. ²² At that time I also said to the people, "Have every man and his helper stay inside Jerusalem at night, so they can serve us as guards by night and as workers by day." ²³ Neither I nor my brothers nor my men nor the guards with me took off our clothes; each had his weapon, even when he went for water.

Go to God first 4:4-5

Don't quit 4.6

Deeper spirituality, practical response + continued hard work 4.9, 13-14

Living as as one family and guarding each other's backs. 4.15-20

Staying alert 4:19-23

Using All of What God's Given to Serve the Poor

Nehemiah 5

- while Nehemiah and the workers are staying up day and night, others are living life as usual
- while some are sacrificing extraordinarily, others are not only not helping, but others are just takers

Using All of What God's Given to Serve the Poor

Nehemiah 5

¹⁴ Moreover, from the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, until his thirty-second year—twelve years—neither I nor my brothers ate the food allotted to the governor. ¹⁵ But the earlier governors—those preceding me—placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels of silver from them in addition to food and wine. Their assistants also lorded it over the people. But out of reverence for God I did not act like that. ¹⁶ Instead, I devoted myself to the work on this wall. All my men were assembled there for the work; we did not acquire any land.

Using All of What God's Given to Serve the Poor

Nehemiah 5

¹⁷ Furthermore, a hundred and fifty Jews and officials ate at my table, as well as those who came to us from the surrounding nations. ¹⁸ Each day one ox, six choice sheep and some poultry were prepared for me, and every ten days an abundant supply of wine of all kinds. In spite of all this, I never demanded the food allotted to the governor, because the demands were heavy on these people.

¹⁹ Remember me with favor, my God, for all I have done for these people.

Using All of What God's Given to Serve the Poor

Nehemiah 5

Nehemiah
"cashes in" his
titles and privilege
to serve the poor
and God's
purposes

**God is
doing new
things**


**Strengthen
Your
Stakes**

**Extend the
Tent**

**Keep
Going**

“Cash in”

Response

An aerial photograph of San Francisco, California, featuring the San Francisco City Hall building with its prominent dome. The image is overlaid with three large, dark circular shapes, each containing a line of text in a light yellow font. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the overall lighting suggests a late afternoon or early morning setting.

I need
strength and
encouragement

I need physical
or emotional
healing

I want to know
Jesus as my Lord
and Savior

Pray for Strengthened Stakes

- deeper community, stronger lifegroups and relationships, among kids, among youth, among college students, with families, multi-generationally
- finances to enlarge the tent
- intercession increase

Pray for New Tent Pegs and Lengthened Cords

- greeters, brothers, sisters, uncles and aunts for kids, youth and college students
- volunteers that grow the love and reach of this church

Pray for Strength Against Opposition

- wisdom and depth for church leaders
- strength for the weary
- spiritual protection

For for New Growth in the Fall

- New believers
- Students
- Families
- Underserved populations