

Rebuilding the Walls

Greg Armstrong

Since I first started with LifeLight Ministries almost a year ago, I have had the privilege of meeting with many pastors throughout the City of Winnipeg and beyond, and have enjoyed hearing and witnessing firsthand the many ways God has positioned and intentionally placed His plan on each one's heart.

Just recently it hit me as I was reading about Nehemiah riding in the night through the city of Jerusalem, surveying the broken, burnt walls and gates of a once great city. What spoke to me in light of where Scripture distribution has led me in my work with LifeLight as I drive from church to church, was where Nehemiah found himself in spaces in the rubble where even his donkey [my van] could not fit, forcing him to take an alternative route.

In chapter one Nehemiah recalls news from those who returned to the province of Judah. Things were not going well for them; they were experiencing great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem had been demolished and burned.

Upon getting this report, Nehemiah demonstrates his conviction, compassion and dependence on the Lord's power and strength in a time of intense sorrow and mourning. Instead of accepting the situation as being hopeless, he fasted and prayed. His prayer (Nehemiah 1:4-11) is one of Scripture's most beautiful prayers, the prayer of a man called to a mission – rebuilding the huge wall, against all odds.

Every time I read this story, I rest in this truth: *If the Lord is for us, who can stand against His word?*

As I drive around our beautiful city, Winnipeg, connecting with His faithful servants and messengers of the Truth, I have a burden for what is lost, burnt and broken in humanity. I have come across some enormous needs, in both large and small spaces – people who are hospitalized, imprisoned, disenfranchised, lonely and hopeless – places where there is a need for much, much more availability to Scriptures.



The many food banks are doing a wonderful job and filling a big need, but they only feed the outer shell, and day and night men, women and children are starving spiritually and must beg again for the next meal; it makes me weep. Then, like angels scattered about in places where things are not going well, and even where trouble is most common, I have found chaplains, a faithful army of men and women obedient to God's calling, like Nehemiah's wall-building crew. They are serving in hospitals, prisons, fire and police departments, airports, military facilities, sports teams and camps, working night and day to help rebuild

what is broken in humanity, ministering to people who are hungry for God.

Nehemiah pleaded with God, and expressed it so well: *We are your servants, a people rescued by your great power and might. O Lord, please hear my [our] prayer! Listen to those of us who delight in honouring You. Please grant me [us] success as I [we] go to ask the king [our partners/supporters] for a great favour. Put it into his heart [their hearts] to be kind [generous] to me [this need].*

These chaplains in the front lines often have no budget for needed Scriptures. I would like to challenge the many partners/supporters and friends of LifeLight Ministries to lavishly contribute to the need for funds to help place Scriptures generously into the hands of Winnipeg's chaplains who, in turn, will pass God's Word on to those who need it, those who are in "great trouble and disgrace."

Rick Ciecwiwa is the chaplain of the Winnipeg Fire Department. He reports:

- *As we begin to meet the Christian firefighters and paramedics at breakfasts, we are presenting each one with a copy of the "Answering the Call" New Testament. Several of these NTs have already been passed on to other members of the department as well.*



- *A couple of NTs have been given to personnel in hospital and one to a firefighter family couple whose wedding I performed.*

- *A New Testament was given to half a dozen retired couples in the Firefighter Support Group.*

Pray that each Bible will find a fertile heart, that His Word will take root, and that many people will decide to follow its teachings. Isaiah 55:1-13 expresses so well "the feeding of souls," bringing honour to His name."

If you would like to know more about the need of placing relevant Scriptures in the hands of chaplains throughout Winnipeg, or if you would like to adopt a particular chaplain's need for Scriptures with an ongoing financial commitment, don't hesitate to call me (204-471-6295). Please designate your financial support toward this project as "Scriptures for Chaplains."



Greg Armstrong is the LifeLight Regional Representative for Winnipeg (a half-time position). The other half time is with Eastview Community Church in Winnipeg, where Greg and his wife, Janet, attend.



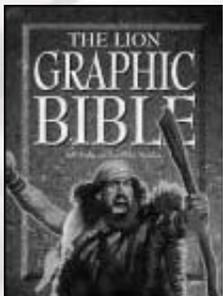
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Dear Friends of LifeLight:

In a few weeks we will be celebrating Canadian Thanksgiving. What lies ahead in these next few weeks, no one knows. We have not had the heat many farmers wished for, for their beans and corn. Some of the summer sports have been hurting because of cool weather or excessive moisture. Maybe your construction business has been down because of weather conditions. Yet, as we look back, don't we have a lot to be thankful for? Certainly as we compare our situation with that of a lot of people in other countries, we have been abundantly blessed and have reason to celebrate Thanksgiving.

At LifeLight we have had our challenges too. We thank God for the thousands of Scriptures we have been able to send out – to churches, camps, inner-city ministries, prisons, and to many individuals. The number of Scriptures ordered this year compared to last year has almost double.

On top of this, we published 16,000 LifeLight New Testaments, and what a blessing they have been! More than 6000 have already been distributed. Peter Loewen has distributed more than 3000 of them in northern Manitoba schools. In The Pas, Manitoba, the students were writing exams, but the principal helped to carry in two hundred LifeLight NTs and offered to hand them out to the students the following day. Positive responses like this are repeated over and over again from principals and teachers, as well as the students who receive the Scriptures.



Recently we received a thousand Graphic Bibles, a large colourful comic book, with thirty-five stories from both the Old and New Testaments. The bill for these Bibles comes due this month. For a donation of \$20.00 (plus postage), you can get your own copy of this book that children will enjoy for a long time. Maybe you would like to double your donation and put one of these Graphic Bibles in your church library. You could be a missionary by placing a copy in the library in your school or in the waiting room at a car dealership or medical office.

Thank you for considering a donation to LifeLight Ministries so more Scriptures can be made available to people who do not have a Bible and may not be attending a church.

Yours for lost souls,
Dan Koop
Executive Director



Enclosed is my donation for:

- \$ _____ LifeLight Scriptures for Native communities
- \$ _____ "Answering the Call" NTs for firemen in _____
(town or city)
- \$ _____ Graphic Bibles

Please send _____ copies (suggested donation: \$20 per copy plus postage). Donation enclosed: \$ _____

\$ _____ Expenses such as office and travel

\$ _____ Staff support:

- _____ Greg Armstrong _____ Martha Kroeker
- _____ Tamara Craig _____ John & Marilyn Van Essen
- _____ Dan Koop

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ PC _____