

**Our Mission – Part 1**  
Sunday 24 January 2016  
A series from the book of Nehemiah

What do you care about?

**1. Caring starts with asking – taking time**

*“Hanani, one of my brothers, came to visit me with some other men who had just arrived from Judah. I asked them about the Jews who had returned there from captivity and about how things were going in Jerusalem.” Nehemiah 1:2*

**2. Caring deeply, stirs our hearts – weeping**

*“They said to me, “Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire.”<sup>4</sup> When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned...” Nehemiah 1:3-4a*

**3. Caring practically, moves us to our knees – praying**

*“In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven.” Nehemiah 1:4*

- Show God how much it means to us

*“...for days I mourned fasted and prayed to the God of heaven.” v 4*

*“...listen to my prayer. Look down and see me praying night and day...” v 6a*

- Be mindful of who God is – show respect

*“O LORD, God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of unfailing love with those who love him and obey his commands,<sup>6</sup> listen to my prayer!” v 5*

- Confess your sins

*“I confess that we have sinned against you. Yes, even my own family and I have sinned!<sup>7</sup> We have sinned terribly by not obeying the commands, decrees, and regulations that you gave us through your servant Moses. v 6-7*

- Remind God of his Word

*“Please remember what you told your servant Moses: ‘If you are unfaithful to me, I will scatter you among the nations.<sup>9</sup> But if you return to me and obey my commands and live by them, then even if you are exiled to the ends of the earth, I will bring you back to the place I have chosen for my name to be honoured.’” v 9*

- As we pray God often plants within us a specific request

*“O Lord, please hear my prayer! Listen to the prayers of those of us who delight in honouring you. Please grant me success today by making the king favourable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me.” v 11*

**4. Caring fully, means we do what we can – volunteering**

*“Please grant me success today by making the king favourable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me.” Nehemiah 1:10*

*“If it please the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant, **send me** to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried.” Nehemiah 2:5*