

Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem!

Nehemiah 2:17: "Then I said to them, 'You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.'"

Today GLEF 2022 begins. Welcome! 5 years ago, in 2018, the first historic GLEF took place in New Jersey/USA. Since then, despite the pandemic, there have been GLEF on an annual basis in presence or digitally. At the historic beginning of GLEF 2022, we would like to reflect on the meaning, goal and vision of GLEF 2022 based on the word Nehemiah 2: 17.

First, let us think of Nehemiah. Who was he? Nehemiah belonged to the 2nd generation of Jews who were in Babylonian exile far away from Jerusalem. He, like most of you, was not born in the land of his ancestors. He grew up in Babylon. He was very clever and capable, even the king trusted him, so that Nehemiah even became the cupbearer of the king, who was then the most powerful ruler, just like the American president today. But one day, through his brother Hanani, Nehemiah received sad news: the Israelites in Jerusalem were in great need. The city wall was destroyed and the gates were burned with fire. When Nehemiah heard these words, he wept and bore suffering for days. He fasted and prayed to the God of Heaven – for months. Nehemiah was a shepherd for his people. He did not remain indifferent or helpless. When he heard the sad news, he sought help in prayer from God. For months. Would the mighty king Artaxerxes listen to him and let him go to Jerusalem? Nehemiah overcame his fear and came to the king to present his concerns. In absolute trust, Nehemiah brought his heart before the king. That's when Nehemiah learned how gracious the hand of God was over him. The king reacted positively and agreed with Nehemiah's plans and even supported him with building materials, builders and safe escort.

What did Nehemiah do when he arrived in Jerusalem and saw the destroyed wall and the burnt city gates? Strangers and enemies of God's people went in and out of the city unhindered. And for about 70 years, no one had dared to change these conditions. After looking around the city, Nehemiah could see the restoration of Jerusalem as God's holy city. He was a man of faith. He gathered the Jews and planted the vision and hope of God in the hearts of the Israelites and encouraged them to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem to cooperate in building the wall: "Come, let us rebuild the walls of Jerusalem!"

Until now, most of the Israelites had only sued. The enemies and adversaries seemed too strong and powerful to them. But Nehemiah loved his people. He planted his vision and hope for Jerusalem in the hearts of his people. He chose to be a shepherd for them. He took up the Cross of Devotion as a leader and mobilizer. He testified to his people how he had

experienced God's help up to this point and how God had even moved the king for his project. The people were encouraged. They began to draw hope and seize God's vision. And then something great happened: people all shouted together, "Come on! Let's build! Let's build!" Wow. Here we see the importance of a leader who has God's vision and hope for his nation and dares to share it with his people and mobilize the people!

Our present time is very similar to the time of Nehemiah. Europe is a continent with many beautiful church buildings. But in most of them there is no life! They are empty most of the time! No Bible study. No common life. No spiritual education and no disciple making ministry. Germany and Europe seem to be spiritually as dead. It's not much different in America, Russia, Asia and Korea either! People are frozen before a pandemic like the rabbit in front of the snake. They spend many billions of euros on war, rearmament and climate change. They think that with money they can solve all problems and satisfy any need. But spiritually, people are dead. Yes, like dry bones. As in Ezekiel 37.

What God desires is to set up men and women of faith who do not remain indifferent or helpless, but intercede with the vision and hope of God like Nehemiah for the young people in our generation! Men and women of faith who perceive the spiritual need of this generation and who are ready to stand up to mobilize young people as spiritual leaders and to set them up as spiritual co-workers and fighters. They are precisely men and women of faith who, through GLEF, have begun the practical struggle to lead this generation back to the Bible through Bible study and to dare spiritual renewal and revival by forming one to one Bible study teams.

Years ago, for example, some of the staff and combatants for world mission began to mobilize the next generation with the vision and hope of God and to serve them practically through GLEF, whatever the cost. M. Dr Samuel Lee, M. Dr. Paul Chung acted with firm devotion and have gone ahead to true rest. Like Nehemiah, they are truly an example and an model of faith for us! We saw how powerfully God's Word worked in the Next Generation, mobilizing them to work together so that they prayed with God's vision and hope for their friends, fellow students, and beyond for their campus, nation, continent, indeed for world mission, and committed themselves to it with resolve. We were also privileged to see some of the Next Gen's grow to the point where they are not only working together for GLEF, encouraging and mobilizing more Next Gen's, but also serving God's work as servants of God's Word, indeed as messengers, even though they are teenagers.

From Nehemiah we have learned the importance of 1 person praying with faith and shepherd's heart for his people, following God's guidance and being used as a mobilizer. Samuel Abraham Chang in Bonn, Daniel Gates in New Jersey, Maria P. in Moscow and Lydia P. in Istanbul and each of you, is a single individual each, but God sees each of you as the person through whom He wants to rebuild the broken spiritual walls in Germany, America and all of Europe, even in the M-world and bring spiritual renewal and revival. God give each of you through this GLEF 2022 this great vision and hope of God for your people and your generation.

Have you looked at the GLEF programme? Many co-workers have worked very hard to prepare this program in recent weeks and months. Some students in Bonn have even sacrificed their entire summer holidays to give their lectures (e.g. Inductive Bible Study and Factual Studies) with all their heart. The messengers have dealt deeply with the Word of God, especially from Hebrews, in order to personally receive God's Word and prepare living messages inspired by the Spirit of God. Our missionaries and local shepherds have also prepared for you with the vision and hope of God 9-step Bible study material and lectures on the Psalms, on the history of the Church and on the geographical history of salvation of the entire Bible on maps.

I pray that each of us may listen attentively and willingly to learn from the beginning to the end with delight and joy toward the Word of God and also with appreciation for each of the presenters, so that we may be spiritually uplifted with the Word of God, encourage one another, and work together for the work of God locally, nationally, and internationally. May God use each of you very precious as Self-Motivated Bible Teachers and Global Spiritual Leaders.

Let us follow Nehemiah's example of walking with God in good times and bad times, and writing history of faith with God. Through this GLEF 2022, let us renew our spiritual identity and serve the work of revival in cooperation in Germany, Europe, America, Russia and Korea. Let us actively prepare the spiritual environment for God's mighty work through His Word, that by 2041 100,000 missionaries will be sent out all over the world and 120 mission bases will be established in the M-World.

Let's read Nehemiah 2:17: "Then I said to them, 'You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.'"