

## Sunday morning text and Sermon

### Nehemiah 4 Dealing with Opposition

<sup>1</sup> When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, <sup>2</sup> 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?"

<sup>3</sup> Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, "What they are building—if even a fox climbed up on it, he would break down their wall of stones!"

<sup>4</sup> Hear us, O our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. <sup>5</sup> Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of <sup>la</sup> the builders.

<sup>6</sup> So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.

<sup>7</sup> But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the men of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. <sup>8</sup> They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. <sup>9</sup> But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

<sup>10</sup> 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."

<sup>11</sup> 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."

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

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> 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 brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes."

<sup>15</sup> 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 his own work.

<sup>16</sup> 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 <sup>17</sup> who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, <sup>18</sup> and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me.

<sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!"

<sup>21</sup> So we continued the work with half the men holding spears, from the first light of dawn till the stars came out. <sup>22</sup> 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 workmen by day." <sup>23</sup> 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.

(Questions for further study on this passage are on the church website [www.testwoodbaptist.org](http://www.testwoodbaptist.org))

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We value your feedback – please use this tear off slip.

Feedback/comments/prayer requests



Sun 7<sup>th</sup> Feb

## Welcome to Testwood Baptist Church

### This morning

Welcome to Testwood as we meet to worship God today. Refreshments will be served after both services. This morning Ray King, our Youth & Children's Pastor, will be speaking from Nehemiah 4. There is crèche provision & groups for 3 – 14s. Please let us know if there are specific needs we can help with (e.g. a large print version of this newsletter.) A Welcome Pack is available at the Welcome Desk if you're new to church, and someone will be there to answer any questions.

### This evening

This evening service at 6 p.m, Brian Coward will be speaking at our monthly Communion & Healing Service. He will be introducing a teaching series that will run through the year at these communion services called "Finding God in desert places".

### Church Growth Conference

Gordon, Leigh, Jeff & Hugh would value our prayers as they attend a conference this week at Saddleback Church in L.A.

### Baptism service

There will be a baptism service on March 28th in the evening. Please let any of the pastoral staff know if you would like to be baptized.

### Discovering the DNA of Testwood Baptist Church

We will be running our pre-church membership course soon. This Commitment Course will be held on 5 Sunday evenings, spread out over several months. It will give opportunity to discover what our mission & values are and to ask any questions. Megan Murray is the person to ask about Church Membership.

### 24/7 Prayer

We will soon be having another week of 24/7 prayer starting on Sunday evening the 7<sup>th</sup> of March until Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March. Watch this space.

[www.testwoodbaptist.org](http://www.testwoodbaptist.org)

023 80860320

Dates for your diary

Journeys Course

This is a five week course examining the Christian faith, through real people, amazing stories and changed lives. If you would like to attend please register at the welcome desk or if you would like to invite someone else please take a card from the welcome desk.

The course starts on Tuesday 2nd March 8-9.30pm.

Bob Pearce – supports Totton Family Fun Day

There are still tickets available for this concert on the 20th February. This excellent opportunity to invite your friends and neighbours to hear an excellent musician and his talented band. Tickets available from the welcome desk. Bob was so impressed with what we are doing here that proceeds of this concert are in aid of Totton Family Fun Day.

YFM Coffee Morning

The YFM Coffee Morning runs every Thursday morning (term time only), 9.30 - 11.30, in room 6 at the back of the church. There is a programme set up for each term and a leaflet detailing this, which can be picked up in reception. Everyone welcome!

Also... Volunteer crèche workers required during this time. If you able to help please see Kelly Price or Paula Oag.

SPOT Course (Supporting Parents of Teenagers)

YFM will be running a SPOT course starting on Tuesday 23rd February, 10am - 12noon, for 6 weeks. If you're interested, please speak to Kelly Price or contact the YFM office on 023 80860320.

Children's Theatre Club.

Meets every Monday in term time. 6.15 - 7.30pm in Room 6. All children Year 3 and above are welcome. See Belinda Rhodes for more details or Email her through the Church Web site. Many thanks. Belinda

Soup Lunch.

We would like to invite you to a soup lunch on Sunday 7/3 at 1p.m. Tickets £1 from Welcome Desk, Proceeds to Christian Aid. We provide soup and bread, with some information about Christian Aid, and an opportunity to donate again! Many thanks from the Thursday Women's Homegroup. Any questions see Sue Mansbridge/Hev Brider

Prayer on a Thursday Evening

This takes place every Thursday from 8.00 to 10.00pm at TBC. Why not bring your housegroup along once a month or so. Also worship leaders occasionally required on a Thursday. Please see Rob Oag.

February

- Sat 20th Bob Pearce concert
Fri 26th Card making night

March

- Tues 2nd Journeys course starts
Sat 6th Prayer breakfast
Sun 7th Women's Homegroup soup lunch
" Week of 24/7 prayer starts
Fri 26th Women's Ministry movie and meal
Tues 30th Church members meeting

Also .....

- Fun Day on the Testwood Rec – Saturday, June 12th (see Dave Brider or Steve Reynolds)
• Church picnic – Sun June 27th after church
• Men's Golf Day June 30th- details to follow or see Steve Brider
• Church camping weekend - July 2nd – 4th (see Fiona & Simon Cowlard) (new site this year)

Managing Angry Feelings Group

YFM will be running a Managing Angry Feelings Group for children aged between 8 and 10 years, and their parents after half term. If you would like more information please speak to Kelly Price or contact the YFM office on 023 8086 0320.

Request

Are you a graphic designer? If so please speak to Leigh or Hayley Barnard or email hayley@debrasearle.com.

An Evening With...

Jeff Lucas and Saltmine Theatre Company. Monday 1st March at Above Bar Church Southampton 7.30pm. Details on reception.

Pastoral Care ...

A reminder that the Pastoral Care Team, Brian Coward, Jeff Knight, Megan Murray, Julie Orchard are available for any pastoral concerns. If you need a helping hand or a listening ear, then contact any one of us, or phone the church reception and a message will be passed to one of us.

Your response

If you are a visitor and would like to know more please fill in, tick as appropriate, tear off & place in the offering bags or take to the Welcome Desk.

Name
Address
Telephone
Email
[ ] More about what this church is all about
[ ] Children's or youth activities
[ ] Small groups that meet midweek
[ ] Courses that explore the Christian faith (Alpha/Journeys)