

# Preparing for Strategic Planning

## Lessons from Nehemiah 1

### 1. Get the Facts

*The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. They said to me, 'Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.'* (Nehemiah 1:1-3)

**Spend time reflecting on the state of your life, ministry or organisation...**

### 2. Go to God

*When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. Then I said: 'Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel.'* (Nehemiah 1:4-6a)

**Spend time giving God the praise He deserves for who he is and all he does...**

### 3. Confess your Sins

*I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's family, have committed against you. We have acted very wickedly towards you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.* (Nehemiah 1:6b-7)

**Spend time confessing any personal or corporate sin that God brings to your attention...**

### 4. Remember the Past

*'Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, "If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name." 'They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand.'* (Nehemiah 1:8-10)

**Spend time remembering all that God has done in the past in and through you or your ministry...**

### 5. Ask for Help

*Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favour in the presence of this man.'* (Nehemiah 1:11)

**Spend time asking God to help you experience success and favour in the coming months...**