## The Ways God Works <br> Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.
A. Text: Nehemiah 11-12.
B. There was no people in the city, so Nehemiah drafted people to live there.
C. Just as Nehemiah was rebuilding the city, God is rebuilding a spiritual city through us today.
II. We are all called into the ministry-the minute we become a Christian we are called into God's Jerusalem. However, we must volunteer to use our spiritual gifts.
A. Brave men of Judah and Benjamin answered the call to populate the city.
B. God is no respecter of persons-even though Benjamin and Judah had a sordid history, God used them.
III. God made a provision for ministry in the cities, and even ministry within the ministry.
A. There was the ministry of the building.
B. There was the ministry of music.

1. The central theme of all thanksgiving is that God's love endures forever. (I Chronicles 16)
2. Music is for lifting people up. (II Chronicles 25)
C. There were temple servants, chief officers, troubleshooters, etc.
IV. Towns are mentioned as helps in time of need, which represent the body of Christ spread everywhere.
V. We need to remember the heroes of the past-those God has used previously.
VI. The Bible is different because it is based upon facts.

## Application questions:

1. Who do you know that God has redeemed and used abundantly from a sordid past? How has this affected you?
2. What different kinds of ministries have had the greatest impact upon you?
3. Who is one of your heroes of the Christian faith? What inspires you about this person?
