The Ways God Works Ray Stedman

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- 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 ha this affected you?
2. What different kinds of ministries have had the greatest impact upon you?

3.	Who	is (one	of you	ır heroe	s of t	he	Christia	n faith?	What	inspires	you	about	this	person?