

Be A Soldier With Purpose

By Daisy Hepburn

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This information might be just hallowed, but I a sense of your presence and power, Lord, it is my earnest prayer that these words that I should speak might be acceptable in your sight.

[unintelligible] A good thing to remember and a better thing to do, work with the construction gang, not with the wrecking crew. A good thing to remember and a better thing to do. Work with the construction gang, not with the wrecking crew. But several years ago, and you who are still coming in, it will not disturb me. I will talk around you, if you want to come on up so they don't have to stand there in the back. It will not upset me at all.

Several years ago, now probably 15 or 18, I had the opportunity to hear Mrs. Dawson Trotman. Lila Trotman, the widow of the Founders and Aggravators Movement, at Women's Retreat in Mission Springs, where my husband was formerly the director of ministries. Lila Trotman was speaking [inaudible] the women there gathered. And she was discussing, first of all, the most amazing experience that I presume a lot of you are aware of. In the fact that Dawson Trotman spoke with his wife one day at a lakeside and said God had allowed him to know. And I don't pretend to understand this. God had allowed him to know that his days were going to be very short on this earth and that he was very anxious that Lila, his wife know some of the vision that God had given to him for the Navigators Movement.

And so, while Lila was kicking and screaming into the information, Dawson let her know that there were some specific patterns, some plans for that movement. And as he shared the vision, Lila said, Mrs. Trotman said at that retreat, how she resisted the fact that she would become a

leader. She didn't want to be a leader. She didn't feel she had those skills. And it was very difficult for her to even listen to that which Dawson was communicating to her. When the Lord took her husband home a little over two weeks later, while trying to stay the mother in the ground, Lila was thrust into a position that she did not seek nor covet.

She was not comfortable in it. But God in his great grace, gave her the ability to move into a role of particular influence in the lives of the very many people who had looked at Dawson Trotman for direction and for help and for guidance. Lyla Trotman said, "I got down on my knees in that crisis time in my own life, my old personal walks with the Lord. And I said, God, give me something to hang onto." She did not have any confidence in her ability to move people about and to work with them well. And she took this as her prayer that day. It made an impact on my life to the extent that I offer it to you.

She said, "The Lord let me know this was to be my prayer: 'Lord, let me never enter life except to build.'" It was the key to all of her relationships. Building in lives. The scripture says in w Timothy 2:14 and 16 that there were some trouble in ranks and that Paul was instructing Timothy to not dabble in all those arguments and things that didn't have any answers or gossip or small talk or so on, but to get on with things that really counted, that would build in the lives of existence.

It was almost five years ago. My husband was on the faculty of Minnehaha Academy, a good school Christian school in Minneapolis. It was there that a turning point happened in my own life, and not only the building process of God's character in me, but also in my service to the Lord in seeking to build in others' lives. I decided that tonight I would take a simple outline, lifting that figure of the Workman out of 2 Timothy 2, and referring to the builder of the Old

Testament, Nehemiah. And let's see if I can give you just a few points that might illustrate for you the building process in my own life as well as that which God has called me to do.

And I'm sure lots of you who are here gathered tonight at that same divine directive to build.

Well, you know about Nehemiah, how he was caught error to the King in a position of relative security. About a thousand miles away from Jerusalem. The scripture says: "The words of Nehemiah and the month of Kislev in the 20th year, while I was in the citadel of Suza, one of my brothers came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that survived the exile and also about Jerusalem. And 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.'"

That was I" for information. The information came to Nehemiah that the walls were broken down in Jerusalem, a thousand miles away. Why should he get involved? He responded to that information with the very next steps that I pray I will respond with information about the broken down walls and the gates that are burned with fire, even in the spiritual figure of those things, in the same way as Nehemiah did.

He prayed, fastened and mourned and wept before God. I for intercession. "I" for information.

"I" for intercession. The book of Nehemiah begins and ends with prayers and, you know, shooting up for all those arrow prayers in and out of the crisis points of these few chapters in the Old Testament, Nehemiah says, "Lord, I need your mercy. I stand as a priest, as it were, for my people. I and my people have sinned. I for identification with the problem.

"I confess, Lord, we are in trouble. We've acted very wickedly toward you. We've not obeyed the commands decreed in laws you gave your servant. O Lord, let your ear be attempted to this the prayer of your sinner as Nehemiah prayed with that information that a thousand miles away from

him, the walls were broken down, the gates were burned with fire, and the carelessness and so on of the people there. The second chapter opens with the fact that Nehemiah makes plans to go in under the king.

The king said, "Why do you look so sad?" You know the answer. "The King said to me, 'What is it you want?' Then I pray to the God of heaven. And I answered the King, 'If it pleases the King, and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to build.'" "I" for involvement in the building project. Lord, I want to enter lives to build. Send me.

Dear people, when the Lord brings you to that place, as I have asked him to bring me once again in this January of a new year, to a new awareness of the destruction around me. Yea, one step further, the lostness of the lost who are without him, that I might be just as rare after prayer and fasten, after gathering information, to be able to present myself to my Lord and King and say, Lord, send me to build.

Well, after taking that great risk and getting out of that place, I received a relative security which an awful lot of us are finding ourselves today in the body of Christ and our Holy huddles, just saying, "Lord, I'm saved. My family's saved. I'm ready to go to heaven. I'll just hang on here until you come to get me."

I'm reminded of an experience in Minnesota, driving home from church one day and coming down to an intersection. There was a little old, broken down kind of Norwegian Lutheran church on the corner, and it said Resurrection Lutheran Church. Okay, I said to myself as I stopped at the stop sign and saw on the opposite corner a great big empty lot. And on that lot was a sign. And I sat there all by myself at that stop sign, laughing at laughing.

The sign on the lot said Resurrection Parking Lot. Now, maybe that doesn't make you respond in the same way it did me. But I began to think, I wonder what goes on in that corner. Is that some

kind of a safety zone where we could all just gather and praise the Lord until he comes together, a place where he will know where we are. We'll just park here until a resurrection.

It looks like some of those loopers in that Church would have done. Never mind. Anyhow, I thought, "Oh, Lord, I don't want to, just as I said this morning, be left here on this earth to decorate the church. There is something for me to do and to be for such a time as this." Well, Nehemiah got all the supplies together, 1000 inconvenient miles.

I guess that's probably one of my greatest problems in responding to information that's negative. And the building needs to be done and we need to be workmen that don't need to be ashamed and we need to get on with it. You see, I have such a basic commitment to convenience that it really does cripple me when some real disastrous right. I'll see if I can work it in. Do you know what? God has an incredible sense of humor and particularly in Santa Clara County. And I know some of you are from Northern California in the San Jose area. I had the opportunity just a week ago today to speak to the San Jose Rescue Mission Women's Auxiliary annual meeting. You know what? I see churches and women particularly and men, often, who have spent years praying for missionaries in Asia and Africa, who have rolled bandages and who have gathered together for prayer meetings apart as their schedule allowed.

God has done, frankly, one of the most humorous things I could imagine. God has lifted an entire Asian city and deposited something like 200,000 of them in Santa Clara County. He has brought the mission field here. And now we are discovering that it is no longer sufficient to simply say, let's get together and pray if you can all work it in at 07:00 on Tuesday night. Now the people in the churches there are getting phone calls.

Can you come and take this little couple to the store? Because they don't know. Well, I just don't know. When you see this little Korean boy has got to be taken to the dentist, and a variety of

other things. God has some building that's going on there through his people, frankly, in an inconvenient way. Nehemiah did in the rest of that chapter what I would challenge you to do in these next few minutes with me.

Before he began to build that wall which would take them those 52 days, he inspected the damage. He went out by night and toward the site back to where God met me five years ago in Minneapolis. In a special way. I was very involved, as I've been for years and teaching the word of God, which is my love. I have neighborhood groups of 150, 175 women on Harvest Church and we called it the spice of life and just all kinds of good stuff, lots of retreats, thoroughly enjoy it.

Then one day I came home from a grocery shopping trip. It was near supper time and my husband came up at the same time and I had my arms full of groceries and there was rubber band into our front door knob, a piece of paper that was inviting us to a neighborhood meeting in the local library on Lake Street in Minneapolis.

And I remember saying, well, I don't have time for this. It's Wednesday night, you know, where all God's people have to be on Wednesday night. And I thought, no, I don't have time for that. And then I put the groceries down as something. I choose to believe it was the spirit of God compelled me. And I said, David, I guess I really feel like I have to go to this. You see, I had been thankful to the Lord that I had had an eye for influence in our neighborhood surrounded [inaudible] Covenant Church in which we were a part.

And I thought, Lord, am I going to just choose those parts of influential ministries that are attractive and just park in that parking lot?" I went to that meeting, and it has changed my life. Injecting me with something from which I pray I never recover. I went to that meeting, and it was a discussion of the fact that there were going to be adult movie houses and adult bookstores

by city ordinance in Minneapolis allowed to be opened there in just proximity to a new shopping center on Lake Street.

This happened to me that night. I got more information than I wanted to have. That information may be responsible. It's far, far simpler to just keep on moving through and behaving as if the walls aren't broken down and the gates aren't burned with fire out there.

Well, I came home from that meeting and I got down by our bed and I made a commitment to the Lord. And I said, Lord Jesus, first, forgive me, but because I had been in relative security, almost everyone that I spoke to had invited me to speak and really, even sometimes paying to hear what I had to say and to get into a situation that might even on occasion, be hostile. I'm not sure I wanted to get involved.

But as I went and inspected the damage, I realized that the commitment that I was making to the Lord was one that needed to be made as I sought his forgiveness for my ignoring the destruction around me. And I said, Lord, by the presence and power of your Holy Spirit in my life, I will not let a week go by that I do not do at least one specific thing to be part of the answer to the immorality around me.

Now, due to the fact that we have a limited time, I am going to just tell you a couple of the ways in the last couple of years, and I'm going to bring it right up to the minute in which God has helped me to make good on that commitment. For if you went out tonight and inspected the damage, you would know that we are being, in essence, in one day, be it through television screen pornography on the newsstand yesterday's celebration, a dubious distinction day of the celebration of the 11th year since the Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion in this country. And I say to you tonight, as you look around and if you are investigating at all, you will know that the thing that probably comes to you more than anything else is the over whelmingness of

the problem. Nehemiah got back after his investigation and he said, are you with me? The scripture said, the people said, let's start building. And they did build because they had a mind to work.

It was two years ago now that we lived in Mount Hermon until last August 8 for the last four years. And we moved to San Francisco so my husband could accept this new job. It was two years ago that when I went down the Hill from our home in Mount Herman, which just overlooked Roaring Camp. For those of you who know the area and went to the Safeway store, walked into Safeway store and got my stuff and was checking out. And all of a sudden I saw to my left a Playboy magazine.

And I said to the checker, since when has Playboy been in a Safeway? And she said, do you have a complaint to make? And I said, as a matter of fact, I do. I certainly could be able to shop here while that's there. She said, would you like to see the manager? And I said, yes, I certainly would. And so she got the manager over and I said, sir, since when has Playboy been here? And he said, well, would you like to fill out a compliment? And I said, yes. And he gave me a little card, the kind that you have if you're bacon's molding or something like that.

And I said, could you give me 50? I'm on my way to a group over here that I feel will share my concern and perhaps all of us together might support you with what I'm confident is your desire to rid your store.

And so I took them and we did go through this. And I tell you this and I'm telling you it in minuscule because I want to get on with this. And that is that we learned, and I don't take this credit, but I do say this because of what God has done in my own heart and life. He has given me a desire to build. It's not something that I authored, certainly not any glory connected with this.

But I just tell you tonight that God has given me a spot on the wall and he's done the same thing for everything online, a place. What did Nehemiah do when you signed those people? He said, you get out there and you get closest to your own home and you get the brick upon brick.

Anyhow, I discovered something that if an area was being used as a test area. To see if consumers would tolerate the presence of Playboy in the Safeway store. And I thank the Lord, have a letter in my file. And apparently after four weeks, the President or whatever he is in the western manager of Safeway stores in Fremont, California, apparently received enough responses that said the experiment is complete that consumers will not tolerate the presence of Playboy in the Safeway store. And it was removed from the 84 California Safeway store. Now, I say, I work for this. You see, most of you are too young to remember the time when this kind of trash was sold only in a store that was labeled to sell it.

Now we are having to clean up the places where, if we had spoken out 15 or 20 years ago, it would never come across, including the several other stores which happens to be the largest chain of family stores in this nation that propagates the horrendous gospel of pornography. Now, what do you do about it? I, for one, every chance I get. Well, I didn't tell you the rest of this story. I was so elated with my success at Safeway that I went next door to Thrifty.

I bought a Penthouse and a We Magazine. They were sitting next to the checkout counters.

Playboy, Play Girl, Penthouse, We and Forum. And I spent \$5, my husband's hard earned, and I took them home and I got on the telephone and I called the Thrifty Corporation in Los Angeles.

Now, I said, I would like to speak with Mr. Thrifty.

I spoke to Mr. Bill Gallow and I give you his name. If the Lord causes you to say, I want to enter lives to build, consider this the possibility. I talked with Mr. Gallow and he said, Mrs. Hepburn, what would you like to see it happen?

I said, Sir, I would like to see Hugh Hefner put in jail. I would like to see Penthouse burned to the ground. Buddy, is that a Duke Raptor? I would like to see men and women of moral courage in this country who will stand up and say, I will not sell that which is below my personal moral stand. And then I said, Mr. Gallow, would you go down to one of your stores, purchase the current edition of Penthouse, which I am holding here in my hand and call me back?

He said, that won't be necessary, Mrs. Hepburn, but I'd like to ask you this question. We spoke for almost half an hour. What would we say to people who came into our store? He said, you know what? There's over 2 million people that come in and out of our Thrifty drug stores in Los Angeles County alone every week, because I've never heard anything from them. He said, what would we say to people who come into our stores who ask for these magazines? I said, sir, you would say the same thing to them if they came in and asked for a dozen eggs or a fur coat. We don't carry them.

I hold here in my hand the 1981 Christmas issue of Playboy magazine. The walls are broken down and the gates are burned with fire. The contents of this magazine are more available to the young people of your community than the word of God. It says across this magazine [inaudible] Christmas issue.

My heart ached. The coming of Jesus Christ, the word of God made flesh, dwelling among us. And Hugh Hefner dares to put the name of my Lord and Savior on the cover of this magazine. But that was not all. And I would be embarrassed to show you this first section so I shall not. I will simply point out the things that has ignited within me a greater desire to build in this area where the wall is broken down almost more than anything else.

In this issue of Playboy, the celebration of Christmas, there are eight centerfold pages which are a blasphemous spoof on Christianity called Pray Boy. Lord, where are God's people?

I was at a free Church in Chico in November and in an opportunity which I prefer for a little talk back and questions and answers, I was speaking to this group of a few hundred women challenging them to do something. The title of a book that I wrote published by Scripture Press or Victor Books a couple of years ago called Why Doesn't Somebody Do Something? And I challenged the women and I received this letter, a note from a young mother in Chico, California at College town and she said I wrote, I went and did what you told us to do.

This is the letter she received dated December 22. Dear Mrs. Watson, Debbie Watson is her name. I appreciate your taking time to write and express your feelings about shopping sales, selling slavery magazines. And Weber, the manager of our Mangrove Store, relayed your sentiments to me after his phone conversation with you and your follow up letter reiterated the feelings you expressed to him.

I am pleased to tell that as a direct result of your letter we took immediate action on your complaint and pulled all Playboy and Penthouse magazines from our racks. This decision took place the same day your letter arrived in the office and shop and say in all of its stores will no longer sell these two magazines. I appreciate the positive comments you made about our store and its employees and I hope you will continue to be a shop and safe customer. Thanks again Mrs. Watkins, and he goes off to [inaudible 00:29:25]

I just don't believe for 1 minute that God intends that we should coexist with evil without standing burden in this evil day. You know what? I don't do what I do because I have anything at all but I'm going to somehow make 711 get rid of pornography or anything else. You know what? I do because I made a prayer, Lord I want to build. I want to be a builder. I don't want to cooperate nor contribute to the destruction. Lord I've said send me to build. Not just sit there on the sideline but do perhaps what Nehemiah did just act in obedience to his Commission.

And I could stand here tonight, I've loved to tell you some of the things that we need, some of the areas that need some building. For example, this week in Sacramento, I presume some of you are aware of the fact, I hope you are. Lots of your pastors have helped to make you aware that AB one is being considered in the California state legislature, which will make, if passed, homosexuality a protected minority to all intensive purposes in the state of California. We live in San Francisco and Minister at First Covenant Church about a four blocks from Castro Street. But its one thing to be aware of the destruction, but it is quite another to say, Lord, what would you have me to do? Now, I've already made some suggestions, I hope, about pornography, and that is that I simply have made it a matter of principle that I will not shop anyplace where these kinds of magazines are sold. I made that a matter of principle in my own life. That's one simple thing.

I repeat, I don't do it because I think that that person is going to completely rid that story pornography, which, by the way, believe it or not, this kind of thing is not. I do it out of obedience to Jesus Christ. Well, there are other things. One of the things that we need to do something about, is in fact, the problem of homosexuality. But what do I do? Well, let me tell you about a friend of mine who has done something.

Her name is Barbara Johnson. She's something else. Barbara Johnson lives right here in La Habra. Barbara, the mother of four sons, written a book of girls called Where Does a Mother Go to Resign. She is an incredible woman. Barbara has had a series of crises in her life that I don't have time to tell you about it. I've written about her in both of these books. Barbara had the devastating experience of having her two oldest sons, both killed in violent accidents. But she has told me that and including the stroke that her husband suffered while taking a group of high

school kids up into the San Bernardino Mountains on a retreat a few years ago, none of the craziest of her life compared to the finding out that son number three was gay.

Barbara has said, Lord, now help me. I have worked through the devastation in my own life, helped me to enter other lives to build. And so she put together a Ministry, which she calls Spatula Ministries. She's given it that name because she says with a wit that won't quit when people find out one of their loved ones is gay, you have to scrape them off the ceiling. And so she has named her Ministry Spatula Ministry.

Barbara is a builder. Barbara is one who says, Lord, thank you for what you have done in my life. But after a couple of years, it did not come easily. God is using her to Minister to families who are facing the devastation of Islam.

You see one of the other things that is so destructive is the fact that we get some stance of spiritual pride and we allow criticism of one another who is involved in the building process. A critical spirit is going to do us in and it does us in a variety of ways. Barbara said to me, Daisy, you ought to be in my Shittens if you think you want to draw criticism. I am criticized by people who say I shouldn't be doing this. I am criticized by.