



# RE NO VATE.

OUR PAST DOES NOT DEFINE OUR FUTURE.

NEXT STEPS FOR GROWTH

# WEL CO ME

Welcome to our “Renovate” series and Next Steps for Growth booklet. During this series we are surveying the book of Nehemiah and taking a look at how our past doesn’t have to define our future. Whatever we have been through can be used by God to shape our future and point us to His dreams for our life. Those areas of pain and brokenness we have experienced become the preparation and positioning God uses to bring about His peace and prosperity (Shalom). The journey through this series will help each of us find new levels of healing as God’s unconditional love flows from our heads to our hearts, and through our hands.

The content of this booklet is designed as a follow-up to the Sunday messages at Overflow—with practical insights and exercises to help us grow into new levels of freedom in our daily living and leadership in our community. Throughout the series you will be also be called to pray over our 10-year dream as a church community and ask God what role your life has to play in this vision.



# BEYOND THE HORIZON

## OVERFLOW CHURCH'S 10-YEAR DREAM

**In ten years we want to be able to say that:**

Overflow Church has changed the Southwest Michigan story from divided to united. From a river separating, to a bridge uniting. Jesus' love has overflowed the boundaries of race, class, and geography, bringing people together in ways that have transformed our community. The lack of leadership and deep divide in our community is now overflowing with leaders filled with Jesus' love. The next generation is no longer detached and withering, they are instead connected and flourishing. Overflow is a leadership magnet that continually multiplies bridge building leaders into our community and into our world, saturating every sector of society. Churches and Mosaic-style ministries are being multiplied throughout the world with Overflow serving as a launching pad. Our region knows Overflow loves Jesus and loves them, and while they may not agree with our beliefs, they know our community is better because we are here. As a result of our growth and impact we have had the opportunity to pour into the next generation of leaders from all over the world. These young leaders see unity and the relevance of the church and have been awakened to reimagine the church in their generation. We have helped rebuild the bridges in our region and poured into bridge building leaders throughout the world renewing their passion for Jesus and His Kingdom.

We are praying for breakthroughs and blessings through this series. May God light the fire once again!

Shalom,  
Pastors Brian & Cindy Bennett

# WEEKLY NEXT STEPS FOR GROWTH

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION INSIGHTS AND EXERCISES

- “Drive By Prayer”** \_\_\_\_\_ 5  
Highlighted in the message on 10/6/19
- “Pitching the Dream”** \_\_\_\_\_ 7  
Highlighted in the message on 10/13/19
- “Stronger Together”** \_\_\_\_\_ 9  
Highlighted in the message on 10/20/19
- “Overcoming Obstacles”** \_\_\_\_\_ 11  
Highlighted in the message on 10/27/19
- “Faith @ Work”** \_\_\_\_\_ 12  
Highlighted in the message on 11/3/19
- “Blueprints for Revival”** \_\_\_\_\_ 13  
Highlighted in the message on 11/10/19
- “Circles of Purpose”** \_\_\_\_\_ 14  
Highlighted in the message on 11/17/19
- “Celebration”** \_\_\_\_\_ 15  
Highlighted in the message on 11/24/19

## DRIVE BY PRAYER

This week we heard about the burden that God gave Nehemiah for the brokenness in his community. He prayed, he fasted, and God gave birth to a new vision for restoration. Prayer is the starting point and this week we will take the time to either drive our immediate community or walk through your own neighborhood and pray. Ask God to let you see what He wants you to see and feel what He wants you to feel.

Below is a “drive by prayer” route for those with transportation to see more of our community. If you choose to prayer walk your neighborhood then choose a route that you wouldn’t normally walk that takes 40-60 minutes.

### **Drive By Prayer Route (Benton Harbor/St. Joseph)**

- Leave Overflow
  - 300 East Napier, Benton Harbor
- Lake Michigan College on Napier
  - 2755 East Napier Ave, Benton Harbor
- Berrien Homes on Crystal Ave
  - 1901 Council Dr., Benton Harbor
- House of David on Britain Ave
  - 1210 East Britain Ave, Benton Harbor
- Mosaic CCDA
  - 38 West Wall Street, Benton Harbor
- Benton Harbor High School on Empire
  - 870 Colfax Ave, Benton Harbor
- Berrien County Court House on Main
  - 811 Port Street, Saint Joseph
- Edgewater Area and Jean Klock Park (North M-63)
  - Jean Klock Boulevard, Benton Harbor
- St. Joseph High School
  - 2521 Stadium Drive, Saint Joseph
- Lake Land Hospital Neighborhood
  - 1234 Napier Ave, Saint Joseph
- Berrien Hills Country Club (and then head home)
  - 690 West Napier, Benton Harbor

# DRIVE BY PRAYER

## Drive By Prayer (or Prayer Walk) Devotional

### Read and Reflect on Daniel 9:1-11:1

- 9:3-- Daniel turned to God to set His face towards God with Confession
- 10:2-- Daniel committed to deny self while seeking God in prayer & fasting
- 10:12-- Daniel was heard as a result of his heart, humility, & persistence
- 10:13-14-- Daniel was engaged in Spiritual Warfare for his City/Region
- 10:15-17-- Daniel understood who he was not and where his strength came from
- 10:18-19-- Daniel received grace and mercy to take the stand and see it through
- 10:20-- God came to strengthen Daniel & to let him know the fight was His!






## PITCHING THE DREAM

**Step 2:** Read over the dream and vision and pull out the following four key components:

1. Component 1: The basic name of your dream (it should fit on a t-shirt)
2. Component 2: The problem you believe your dream will solve
3. Component 3: Your dream to solve the problem
4. Component 4: The key benefit your dream provides

**Step 3:** Memorize the four components and practice pitching your dream in 60 seconds or less.

**Step 4:** Pray over your dream and ask God to open up a door for you to share this with at least one other person this week.





## STRONGER TOGETHER

In Nehemiah 3 we see Nehemiah mobilize his community around a common vision and dream. Nehemiah built on the strengths and talents of his community as each person participated in their neighborhood. The phrase “next to” is used over and over in Nehemiah 3 as neighbors work together to rebuild their community.

Sometimes we are not even aware of the strengths in our own neighborhood and network. Every person has gifts and strengths to contribute. This week we will use an exercise developed by **Asset Based Community Development** (abcd) workers. It is designed for you to ask people in the community about their strengths. The instructions are as follows:

The goal is to identify what people care about, their motivation to act, and what they have to contribute, not to determine just what they have opinions about (“Someone ought to....”)

Hint: To build stronger relationships and trust, whenever possible, if you are not a resident of the neighborhood talk to people that you have been introduced to by a resident of the neighborhood.

To be effective, use the principles of Learning Conversations:

- Ask questions, do not give answers
- Ask “What can you contribute?” not “What do you need?”
- Invite next steps, ask people to become involved




## STRONGER TOGETHER

To grow the circle, always ask “Who else do you know that I should speak to?” Here are some questions that can be asked during a Learning Conversation:

- What two gifts, talents, or skills do you have that make you a valuable family member and friend? What 2 skills make you especially good at your paid or volunteer work?
- What talent do you have that not many people know about?
- What is something that you love to do so much that you get lost in it for hours without getting bored?
- What are 2-3 of your favorite hobbies?
- What gifts, capacities, and skills are you willing to contribute?
- What do you care about? (Issues and concerns you want to work on?)
- Concerns? What should we do about those concerns?
- What associations and institutions do you have strong relationships with?
- What would your possible roles be?
- Who else do you know we should contact?

\*Resource by: H.Daniels Consulting: [www.hdanielsduncanconsulting.org](http://www.hdanielsduncanconsulting.org)



## OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

We all face obstacles in life. Learning to work through those obstacles, and difficult seasons, allows us to grow with God and turn obstacles into opportunities. Nehemiah 4 shows us some of the obstacles (and opposition) Nehemiah faced and how he overcame them. The ABC Zone of Life is an exercise this week that was introduced to me years ago by a mentor and has helped me overcome obstacles in my life. I pray that as you work through this you find the encouragement to overcome any obstacles in your life.—Brian Bennett

### The ABC Zone of Life

#### A ZONE

#### B ZONE

#### C ZONE

- **The A-Zone: “The Dream of Greatness” (Beginnings)**
  - Your Story: What is your dream and passion?
  - Check God’s Story: Genesis 37:1-11; Jeremiah 29:11
- **The B-Zone: “Life Happens” (Difficulty)**
  - Your Story: What challenges has life brought your way?
  - Check God’s Story: Genesis 37:12-41:36; Romans 5:4
- **The C-Zone: “Season of Success” (Arrival)**
  - Your Story: How will you utilize your success to help others?
  - Check God’s Story: Genesis 41:37-45; Ephesians 2:10
- **How to work through your “B-Zone”:**
  - Choose whose plan you really want to follow (Proverbs 3:5-6)
  - Choose to change your mindset (Romans 12:2)
  - Choose to let your circumstances develop you as a person (James 1:2-3)
  - Let the B-Zone push you closer to God (Genesis 39:21,23; 41:16)
  - Surround yourself with wise counselors (Proverbs 15:22)

## FAITH AT WORK

Every work place (or school if you are a student) has strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. In Nehemiah 5, Nehemiah clearly recognized that employers in his community were exploiting workers. There were glaring weaknesses that had to be called out and worked on. Take the time this week to do what is known as a “SWOT” analysis on your place of work or school. What can you build on, work on, and do with this to make it a better place for our community?

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESS
OPPORTUNITY	THREATS





## CIRCLES OF PURPOSE

Who is in your circle? Jesus changes our living circles giving us new community and new purpose. Read Luke 5:27-32 and 2 Corinthians 5:12-21 today and record your thoughts below:

- How is God speaking to you today through these verses?

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- What are you going to do about it?

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- How can Overflow/we help?

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### **Taking it a step further...**

- Who are the top 10 people you spend time with (don't include your immediate household)?
- Does your circle have people in it that are similar to those Jesus spent time with?
- Is there diversity in your circle (age, ethnicity, class, etc.)?
- What purpose defines your circles?
- Are there any changes you need to make to develop your circle to have more community and purpose?



# CELEBRATION

This week is a week of thanksgiving! In Nehemiah 12-13 there was a great revival and thanksgiving and God renovated and restored their community. This week we are going to celebrate all that God is doing in this “renovate” journey.

What are some things for which you are thankful?

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What are some things you can celebrate from this past week, month, or year?

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What if you threw a thanksgiving celebration in the days or weeks ahead -not a celebration of the holiday, but another celebration to thank God and your circle for His goodness? With whom would you celebrate?

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If you host a celebration party be sure to let us know. Send a picture and tell us how it went, [info@overflowchurch.org](mailto:info@overflowchurch.org). We would love to celebrate it with you and share with our church family.



**OVERFLOW**  
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