

Strengthening Hands

Revitalisation of the church is the sovereign work of God through the Holy Spirit for the Glory of our Lord Jesus. In His grace, we are incorporated into this divine enterprise. Nehemiah was selected to co-lead a post-exilic revival of Judah but he wasn't given a pre-written blueprint from heaven: he had to go out at night and gain intelligence and then devise an appropriate plan for reaching the visionary end result. This session considers practical steps in devising a framework for church progress to achieve biblical ends.

Jim Crooks is a pastor of an independent church in Perth, Scotland. After graduating in business studies in 1981, Jim went on to work in financial and administrative roles before entering further and higher education as an Assistant Principal. He became Principal of a college in Northern Ireland in 2004 and successfully led three colleges to a merger in 2007. He became Principal of a similar college in Scotland and led four colleges to merger in 2012. For three years after his retirement from secular employment in 2012, Jim was a lecturer and coordinator of part-time provision at Tilsley College, a small theological college in Scotland. In addition to his pastoral ministry, Jim also teaches and preaches in Scotland and elsewhere in Europe. He works with the Church Strengthening Initiative, supporting churches and their leadership teams to make change, and is a trustee for Echoes International, a mission support agency supporting mission workers across the globe. Jim was widowed in 2012 but has married Laura in December 2017. He is a father of one grown son and a grandfather of two boys.

I. Vision in Nehemiah

A. How was the Vision derived?

B. How did the Vision help?

II. Implementing the Vision

A. Communicating the Vision

B. Translating Vision to Action

C. Be prepared for opposition

D. Executing the Vision

Suggested Readings:

Nehemiah, Rebuilt and Rebuilding (Living Word Bible Studies) [Kathleen B. Nielson](#),
Presbyterian and Reformed

Men of Character: Nehemiah Gene A Getz, B&H Publishing Group

<https://www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/ten-leadership-lessons-from-nehemiah/>