

FIFTY TWO

DAYS OF PRAYER



Linda Haist, MECO's Canadian Director, describes how MECO's new Fifty Two Days of Prayer vigil came into being.

Prayer has always been at the heart of MECO's ministry and is something that has priority over everything we do - and difficult times have a way of bringing us to our knees.

This was evident last February when MECO's six National Directors met with Stuart Plowman, MECO's Executive Director. During the first day of meetings, we reviewed a draft of the international budget for the coming year. It was clear that unless major changes were made, MECO would face a serious deficit in the coming year. We not only sought the Lord's wisdom as we reviewed the budget but set aside time that night for intercessory prayer.

The next morning, Stuart led a devotional based on the first chapter of Nehemiah which describes how God's servant began praying when he learned that Jerusalem's wall had been destroyed. During his devotional, Stuart said, "Nehemiah had it the right way around. The time that he devoted to prayer was not wasted. In the midst of his prayer time plans fell into place for him to rebuild the wall. Nehemiah acknowledged who God is. He identified with the sinfulness of God's people. He also prayed back God's promises to Him." Stuart continued, "I would like to follow the example of Nehemiah."

Keith Bateman, MECO's US Director and I were asked to produce a prayer

initiative for us as a mission. As we prayed and sought wisdom from the Lord about this, I was drawn back to Stuart's devotional. I was reminded from Nehemiah 6:15 that Jerusalem's walls were rebuilt in 52 days. Pondering that, I caught the vision for a Fifty Two Days of Prayer vigil - a day for each week of our fiscal year.

"It is exciting to know that we are all praying together."

Although the Fifty Two Days of Prayer vigil was initially planned for MECO members, it seemed appropriate to invite our prayer partners around the world to join us. People participating with us have said it is "exciting to know that we are all praying together". One person wrote: "Many thanks for organising this. Awesome! May God speak to us! Amen!"

What will the outcome be? Only time will tell but I take heart in knowing that the same God who heard Nehemiah's prayers has been listening to ours. m

Action!

Will you help us keep prayer a priority? For more information about how you and your church can be involved in praying with us, visit to www.aboutmeco.org/pray