

How to Guarantee Success

Two stories in the Old Testament have a great deal to say about our work as Christians here at Columbus Avenue. Most all of you are familiar with one of them. In Genesis 11, the story of the building of the tower of Babel is found. The people had determined to build a tower to heaven and this fact greatly displeased God. In Genesis 11:6, God makes a very profound statement concerning their work:

“If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.”

We all know God “confused” their language, making it impossible for them to communicate with each other. God recognized communication and cooperation as keys to their success.

When people fail to communicate, cooperation wanes and cooperation is impossible. If you want to throw another “C” word in the mix, congregating, coming together, is also key. Getting together to do the work that needs to be done will help bring about success.

In Nehemiah 4, Nehemiah is heading up the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem in spite of some healthy opposition from a couple of guys named Sanballat and Tobiah. Beginning in verse 4, Nehemiah says:

“When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from these heaps of rubble – burned as they are?” Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, “What are they building – if even a fox climbed up on it, he would break down their wall to stones!”

Nehemiah prayed: “Hear us, O our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders.”

Then Nehemiah makes the statement that tells us a lot about how we should handle modern-day nay-sayers:

“So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.”

Nehemiah found the key to success. The people had “congregated” – come together, and they were already cooperating and communicating, but confidence gained from their trust in God and a conscious determination to succeed guaranteed their success. The same is true of us here at Columbus Avenue. Congregating, communicating, cooperating, being confident and having a conscious determination to succeed will guarantee success in anything we endeavor.