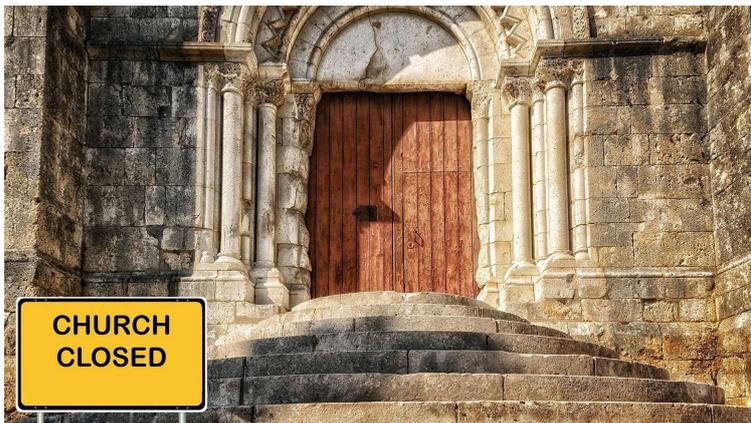
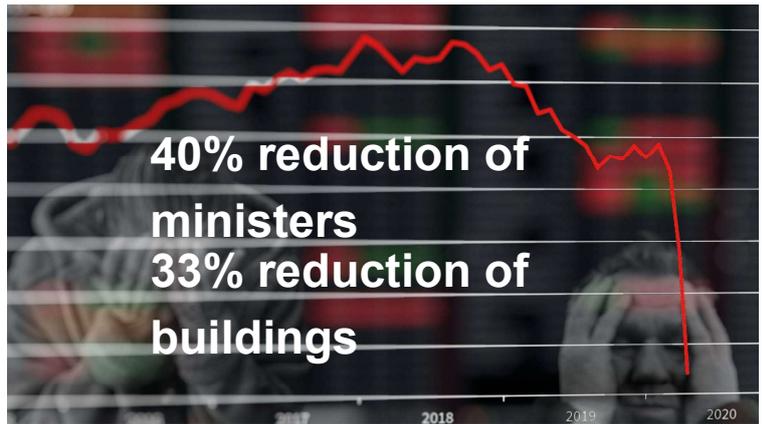




## Message



‘...while I was in the citadel of Susa, Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.’ (Neh. 1:1-2)

God disciplines His people to mature us



‘...God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.’ (Heb. 12:10-11)

God disciplines His people to mature us



'Then I said: 'Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments... 'Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying,...

but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.'" (Neh. 1:5, 8-9)

God is ready to restore His people

'Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.' (Revelation 3:19-20)

God is ready to restore His people

'I know I distressed you greatly with my letter. Although I felt awful at the time, I don't feel at all bad now that I see how it turned out. The letter upset you, but only for a while. Now I'm glad—not that you were upset, but that you were jarred into turning things around...

You let the distress bring you to God, not drive you from him. The result was all gain, no loss.

Distress that drives us to God does that. It turns us around. It gets us back in the way of salvation. We never regret that kind of pain...

But those who let distress drive them away from God are full of regrets, end up on a deathbed of regrets.

And now, isn't it wonderful all the ways in which this distress has goaded you closer to God?

You're more alive, more concerned, more sensitive, more reverent, more human, more passionate, more responsible. Looked at from any angle, you've come out of this with purity of heart. And that is what I was hoping for in the first place when I wrote the letter.'  
(2 Cor. 7:8-12 MSG)

'Then I said: 'Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God...I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself...have committed against you...We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.'" (Neh. 1:5-6)

Repentance proceeds Restoration

"We seek to invite, encourage and enable people of all ages to follow Jesus Christ" (Purpose)

Repentance proceeds Restoration

"We're a family of all sorts of people, journeying in community..." (Family)

Repentance proceeds Restoration

"Meeting with God in a personal and life-changing way." (Meet)

Repentance proceeds Restoration

Repentance precedes Restoration

God disciplines His people to mature us  
God is ready to restore His people

*Nehemiah 1:1-11*



**MP-151 *For I'm building  
a people of power***

