

# ***WHY I CREATED ONEVOICEHUB***

Why the church does not need to keep  
starting from scratch

*"Write the vision and make it plain on tablets,  
that he may run who reads it."*

**HABAKKUK 2:2**

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## INTRODUCTION

# ***BEFORE WE BEGIN***

I have sat in the meeting. You probably have too.

The board is gathered. The year ahead is on the agenda. Someone says, "We need a new idea." And everyone in the room nods, because we all feel it. The community around us is hurting, and we want to reach it.

So we go looking for something new.

I have come to believe, with everything in me, that we are looking in the wrong place.

## ***THE CHURCH DOES NOT NEED TO KEEP STARTING FROM SCRATCH. THE IDEAS WE NEED ARE ALREADY HERE.***

What we need is to package what we already do, and to share the ideas God has already placed in His people. Somewhere in the world, right now, a church, or one faithful person, is already doing the very thing you are praying about. And they are doing it exceptionally well. A soup kitchen in one city. A prayer walk in another. A health course that has changed a whole street. A Bible study that meets in a café and never runs out of chairs.

We just cannot see each other's work.

My name is Owen Anderson. I have served my local church as a first elder, an elder and a Sabbath School leader. I have served as a mission executive. Today I am a company director. For most of my working life I have been a programme manager and a senior project manager, and my job has been to take a solution and make it work everywhere it needs to work, for people I will never meet.

Somewhere along the way, those two worlds met. This little book is what happened when they did.

It follows a man who faced a broken wall and a people who had lost heart. His name was Nehemiah. He was not a priest or a prophet. He was a servant in a king's court who had learned how to get things done. And he rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem in fifty-two days.

I want to show you how he did it. And I want to show you why I believe God is asking us to do something very similar today.

# THE CYCLE WE KEEP REPEATING

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*"The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire." So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.*

NEHEMIAH 1:3-4

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The church has often spoken about equipping the members to do ministry. And we mean it.

The programmes are rolled out. The launch is wonderful. The hall is full, the training is inspiring, and the initial reception is great. People go home fired up.

And then, as time goes on, the message fades. Life gets busy. We all fall back into our usual routine.

Then the Holy Spirit moves on us again. He reminds us of our commission. We look out into our communities and we see the needs. Homelessness. Illness. Loneliness. Mental health. Families at breaking point. And our hearts break, the way Nehemiah's did.

We want to act. But we are starting from nothing again.

The education we received in the training course has long been forgotten. The paperwork is somewhere that cannot be found. The expert who had us flying has moved on.

And so we search for a new idea. And the cycle continues.

**That is the gap OneVoiceHub is built to close.**

## A MEMORY PROBLEM

There is a sobering verse in the book of Judges. After Joshua's generation had died, Scripture says "another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel" (Judges 2:10).

Did not know the work. One generation saw miracles. The next could not remember them.

What I have seen too often in the church is this:

- The training happened, but nobody can find the notes.
- The programme worked, but it left with the person who ran it.
- The need is still there, but we are starting again from a blank page.

We do not have an idea problem. We have a memory problem.

Nehemiah wept. But notice what he did next. He did not stay in the weeping. He prayed, and then he started to plan. His burden became a blueprint.

Yours can too.

## **WHAT DO THESE STONES MEAN?**

God knew His people would forget. So He gave them a way to remember.

When Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground, God told Joshua to have twelve men each take a stone from the middle of the riverbed and set them up where they camped. Why? "That this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?'" (Joshua 4:6).

And the answer was to be told, not assumed: the waters were cut off before the ark of the LORD. "These stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever" (Joshua 4:7).

The stones did not hold the miracle. They held the story, so the next generation could ask and be told.

And it was the very next generation, the one in Judges 2:10, that forgot. The stones were still standing. What had stopped was the telling.

A written programme is a memorial stone. It stands in the place where God did something, so that when someone new arrives and asks, "What happened here?", there is an answer.

#### THE PRINCIPLE

***THE CHURCH DOES NOT HAVE AN IDEA PROBLEM. IT HAS A MEMORY PROBLEM.***

#### REFLECT

1. Think of something your church ran that really worked. Could you run it again next month from what is written down?
2. Where does that knowledge live today: in a folder, or in a person?
3. Which need in your community breaks your heart the way the broken wall broke Nehemiah's?

#### PRAY

*Lord, break my heart for what breaks Yours. Show me the needs on my own street. And where we have forgotten the work You have already done among us, help us remember, and help us write it down. Amen.*

#### TRY THIS WEEK

Name one thing your church did well in the last five years. Then find the person who knows how it was done, and ask them to tell you.

# WHAT EVERY GLOBAL ORGANISATION ALREADY KNOWS

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*"If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it."*

NEHEMIAH 2:5

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When the king asked Nehemiah what he wanted, Nehemiah had an answer ready. He knew where he was going, how long it would take, which letters he needed and where the timber would come from. He had a plan before he had permission.

That is a project manager.

I know, because that has been my working life. As a programme manager, I have had to build a team quickly, understand the solution, and then find a way to deploy it across data centres, branches, offices and people. Sometimes the distribution is automated. Sometimes the solution is delivered by hand, one person to another.

But to reach a global customer base, one thing never changes. You write it down.

Roadmaps. Procedures. Checklists. So that whether someone is in London, in Hong Kong or in India, they can follow the same steps and arrive at the same objective.

## THE BAG YOU OPEN IN DUBAI

Think about the most ordinary example on earth. Walk into a McDonald's in Glasgow and order a Big Mac and fries. Now fly to Dubai and do the same. When you open the bag, you are not surprised.

That is not an accident. Someone decided that the experience mattered enough to write down, train, check and repeat, in every country, in every language, every single day.

If a burger chain can deliver its product with that kind of consistency across the globe, what could the church do with the most important message the world has ever heard?

## GOD INVENTED THE CHECKLIST

Long before any of us, Moses was wearing himself out. His father-in-law Jethro watched him judge the people from morning until evening and said, "The thing that you do is not good... this thing is too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself" (Exodus 18:17–18).

Jethro's answer was a system. "Show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do" (Exodus 18:20). Pass it on. Train others. Make it repeatable.

Structure does not quench the Spirit. It carries His work further than any one person can. "Let all things be done decently and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:40).

The briefing, the direction, the straw man plan, the templates. They give the person on the ground a clear view of what we are trying to achieve. The checklists and the reviews make sure we achieve it.

A plan written down is a gift to someone you will never meet.

### THE PRINCIPLE

***IF IT ONLY WORKS WHEN YOU ARE IN THE ROOM, IT IS NOT FINISHED YET.***

### REFLECT

1. If you stepped away from your ministry tomorrow, what would the next person need to carry it on?
2. Where have you been doing Moses' job alone, when a written plan could share the load?
3. What does "the same objective" look like for your ministry, wherever it is run?

### PRAY

Father, thank You for the gifts of order and wisdom. Give me the humility of Moses to accept good counsel, and the clarity of Nehemiah to plan well. Let what I build outlast me. Amen.

### TRY THIS WEEK

Take one thing you do in ministry and write a simple checklist for it. Five to ten steps. Then hand it to someone else and ask what is missing.

# ONE WALL, MANY DOORSTEPS

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*Beyond the Horse Gate the priests made repairs, each in front of his own house.*

NEHEMIAH 3:28

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Nehemiah 3 is one of those chapters most of us skim. It is a long list of names. But read it slowly and you will find the genius of the whole project.

Every family built the section in front of their own house.

One wall. One plan. One objective. But the goldsmiths built here, the perfumers built there, the priests by the Horse Gate, and Shallum with his daughters by the Valley Gate. Each group knew their own ground. Each group cared about their own doorstep. And the whole wall went up together.

## SAME MESSAGE, LOCAL MENU

Go back to that McDonald's for a moment. Yes, the Big Mac is the same. But look at the menu board, and you will see it changes from country to country. The company adapts to enhance the experience for the local context. The core stays. The local flavour is welcome.

We can do the same in ministry. In fact, we always have.

When Jesus taught, He taught from a local context. "Behold, a sower went out to sow" (Matthew 13:3). He spoke of a king who came in and saw a guest "who did not have on a wedding garment" (Matthew 22:11). He told of a younger son who said, "Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me" (Luke 15:12), a request that would have shocked every listener in the room.

When you understand the context of those stories, the meaning is amplified. And the reason we still draw from them two thousand years later is that we can understand the context then, and faithful preachers and teachers help us see how it applies now.

Paul understood this. "I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22). When the early church sent its letter to the Gentile believers, it did not ask them to become Jewish first. It asked for "no greater burden than these necessary things" (Acts 15:28).

Adaptation is not a compromise of the message. It is how the message has always travelled.

## HOW ONEVOICEHUB BUILDS THIS IN

That is why every programme copied from OneVoiceHub starts with the same first task: **revise the costs, roles and processes for our church.**

Your hall is not their hall. Your budget is not their budget. Your language, your town and your people are yours. The plan gives you the wall. You build the part in front of your own house.

### THE PRINCIPLE

***SAME WALL. YOUR DOORSTEP.***

### REFLECT

1. What is the one thing about your community that any plan would have to take into account?
2. Which parts of a programme must never change, and which parts should always change?
3. Which parable speaks most clearly into your town today, and why?

### PRAY

*Jesus, You met people where they were: at the well, in the field, at the table. Help us to do the same. Keep the message unchanged in our hands, and let it take the shape of our own streets. Amen.*

### TRY THIS WEEK

Walk the streets around your church. Write down three things you notice that a church or a person in another country would need to know before running anything there.

# WHO ONEVOICEHUB IS FOR

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*So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.*

NEHEMIAH 4:6

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Nehemiah could not build the wall alone. Neither can you. And here is the good news: you were never meant to.

"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1 Peter 4:10). Each one. Not only the pastor. Not only the director. Each one.

So who is OneVoiceHub for? It is for anyone who carries something that could help a person or a local church share the good news of Jesus with their community.

## FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH

For the member who started a walking group that now has twenty people in it. For the elder with a visiting rota that finally works. For the prayer ministry leader, the health ministries leader, the evangelism leader, the personal ministries leader. For the youth leader, the Pathfinder director, the children's team, the community services volunteer who knows exactly how to run a winter warm space. And for the person who would rather serve quietly, and only needs to see the one role they could take on.

You did not think of it as a programme. You just did it. But someone on the other side of the world is praying for exactly what you know.

## FOR MISSION AND CONFERENCE LEADERS

For the leader with a vision for a whole field and churches of every size to carry it. Instead of a pack sent out and never heard of again, you can offer a starting point, then see how each church shaped it and what happened when they ran it. One vision, carried out in a hundred different halls.

## FOR THE AUTHOR, THE YOUTUBER, THE SPEAKER AND THE HEALTH EXPERT

This is the part I am most excited about.

If you have written a book, a church, or one person with a few friends, can turn it into a study group. If you have a YouTube series, a church can gather people to watch it together and talk it through. If you give seminars, a local team can run your series in a town you will never visit. If you have a lifestyle programme, trained volunteers can bring it to their own neighbours.

A platform can give you views. OneVoiceHub gives you something different: a church, or a person, that actually runs it. A team, a date, a room and people in it. Your work, delivered face to face, by people who will still be there next week.

"Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house" (Matthew 5:15).

## AND FOR THE IDEA NOT YET TRIED

Before Nehemiah laid a single stone, he rode out at night to see the wall. "I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem" (Nehemiah 2:12).

Maybe you have something God has put in your heart, and you have never run it. That counts too. Write it down. Someone may be ready to build it with you.

### THE PRINCIPLE

***YOUR IDEA WAS NEVER MEANT TO STAY IN YOUR TOWN.***

### REFLECT

1. What gift, skill or piece of work do you carry that you have never thought of as shareable?
2. Who in your church has done something well that the wider church should know about?
3. What has God put in your heart that you have not yet told anyone?

## **PRAY**

Lord, thank You for the gifts You have placed in Your church. Give us a mind to work. Take what is in my hands and my heart, and put it on a lampstand where it can give light. Amen.

## **TRY THIS WEEK**

Write one sentence describing something you could share: what it is, who it is for, and what it does for a community. That sentence is the start of a programme.

# ***THE VOICES THAT STOP THE WALL***

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*"I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?"*

NEHEMIAH 6:3

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Every wall worth building attracts opposition. Nehemiah had Sanballat and Tobiah. Tobiah mocked the builders: "Whatever they build, if even a fox goes up on it, he will break down their stone wall" (Nehemiah 4:3).

The voices that stop our work today are usually quieter. Often they are our own. Let me name a few, because a voice you can name is a voice you can answer.

## **"IT WON'T WORK HERE"**

You may be right, if it stays exactly as it is. It was never meant to. Every copy is adapted before it is run. You are not taking someone else's programme. You are taking their experience and building your own section of the wall.

## **"WHO AM I TO SHARE?"**

"For who has despised the day of small things?" (Zechariah 4:10). You do not need a title. On OneVoiceHub, church titles describe where you serve. They do not decide what you may do. You join because someone already there introduces you and stands behind you. Nobody grades your work. People and churches decide what to run.

## **"IT ISN'T READY YET"**

Then keep it unpublished until it is. Write it as a draft. Open it to your own team first. Publish it to the Hub only when you are ready. Perfection is not the entry fee. Honesty is. Tell the next church or person what you would do differently, and you have given them something no manual ever could.

## "SOMEONE WILL TAKE MY WORK"

Your material stays yours. If it comes from your book or your series, say so, and point people to it. What we ask is simple: share, don't sell. A programme on the Hub is something to run, not an advert.

## "WE HAVE ALWAYS DONE IT THIS WAY"

Maybe. And maybe the way you have always done it is exactly what another church, or another person, needs. Or maybe someone, somewhere, has found a better way. Either way, "as iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend" (Proverbs 27:17).

Nehemiah's enemies did not stop him with a no. They tried to stop him with a meeting. "Come, let us meet together," they said (Nehemiah 6:2). And he said: I am doing a great work. I cannot come down.

### THE PRINCIPLE

***THE GREATEST THREAT TO GOOD WORK IS RARELY A NO. IT IS A DISTRACTION.***

### REFLECT

1. Which of these voices do you hear most often? Which is really your own?
2. What is one thing you would do differently next time, that another church or person would be grateful to know?
3. What meeting, habit or worry is keeping you from the wall right now?

### PRAY

God of Nehemiah, when the voices come, give me the courage to keep building. Quiet my fears, silence my excuses, and keep my hands on the great work You have given me. Amen.

### TRY THIS WEEK

Write down the voice that stops you most. Beside it, write your answer. Then share both with one person you trust.

# YOUR PART IN THE WORK

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*So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days. And it happened, when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God.*

NEHEMIAH 6:15-16

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Fifty-two days. A wall that had lain in ruins for generations, finished in less than two months. Not because one man was brilliant, but because a whole people built together from a shared plan, each in front of their own house.

And when the nations saw it, they knew this work was done by God.

That is what I long to see in the church. Not necessarily a new idea. The work God is already doing among us, made visible, passed on and multiplied.

## HOW IT WORKS

- 1 Write it up.** The tasks, the roles, the shopping list, and what you would do differently.
- 2 Publish it to the Hub.** Once your team has looked it over, any church or person on the Hub can find it.
- 3 A church or a person makes it their own.** They take a copy and revise the costs, roles and processes for their setting.
- 4 They record how it went.** You see where your work has been run, and the next church, or the next person, learns from both of you.

This is what Paul described to Timothy: "the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2). Four generations in one verse. That is how the gospel has always moved.

## WHY NOW

There has rarely been a better moment to write things down.

The world church has set itself the largest coordinated mission effort in living memory. OneVoice27 was voted at Annual Council in 2025, launched globally in September 2026, and is building towards a united proclamation in September 2027. It ties large-scale media to what local congregations actually do, so that interest raised online and on air lands with a real church down the road.

Church leadership has been plain that this is one voice in timing and theme, not one script. It is decentralised in approach and contextualised wherever it is carried out. Which leaves every local church, and every member, with the same practical question: **so what do we actually run, and who is going to do it?**

That is exactly the gap OneVoiceHub is built for. In the year the church is asking every member to take part, nobody needs to start from a blank sheet of paper. One church or person writes up what they ran. Another shapes it to its own hall, budget and language. The same wall, built in front of a hundred thousand doorsteps.

And it does not end in 2027. The programmes a church runs come round every year, even if the people running them change. September 2027 will teach the church an enormous amount. Written down in one place, it will still be there in 2029, if Jesus has not come before then, for the next holiday club and the next person running it.

OneVoiceHub is an independent ministry built to support this work. It is not an official product of the initiative and does not speak for it.

## PICTURE THIS

A small church on the other side of the world. Twenty-five members. A new leader who has never run anything like this before. She searches the Hub and finds what you wrote down. The tasks. The roles. The budget. The honest note about what went wrong the first time.

She changes the costs to her own currency. She finds her own volunteers, including a quiet member who saw a role on the list and realised, for the first time, that there was something she could do. She opens the doors.

And people in her town hear about Jesus, face to face, from a church down the road.

You will probably never meet her. But you built that section of the wall with her.

That is why OneVoiceHub exists. Not to broadcast. To equip. The gospel is heard best when a local church lives it in front of its own community. Our Lord's commission has not changed: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations... and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19–20).

The wall is broken. The plan is ready. The people have a mind to work.

## **LET US RISE UP AND BUILD.**

Nehemiah 2:18

### **THE PRINCIPLE**

**WRITE IT DOWN. PASS IT ON. LET GOD MULTIPLY IT.**

### **REFLECT**

1. If your church's best work were written down and shared, who might it reach?
2. Who taught you what you know? Who are you teaching?
3. What would "finished" look like for the wall God has given you?

### **PRAY**

Lord of the harvest, thank You for every church, every member and every gift You have placed among us. Let the work of our hands be passed on faithfully, and let the world see that this work was done by You. Amen.

### **TRY THIS WEEK**

Choose the one thing from this book you would share first. Then come and see how the Hub works.

ONEVOICEHUB

# ***COME AND SEE IT FOR YOURSELF***

Join a walkthrough session. I will show you how a programme is written up, shared and made your own, and I would love to hear what you would bring.

**Attend a walkthrough session**

[tidycal.com/owenanderson/onevoicehub-walkthrough](https://tidycal.com/owenanderson/onevoicehub-walkthrough)

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Owen Anderson has served his local church as a first elder, an elder and a Sabbath School leader, and has served as a mission executive. He is a company director. His working life has been spent as a programme manager and senior project manager, building teams and delivering solutions that people in different countries can follow to the same result.

## ABOUT ONEVOICEHUB



OneVoiceHub is a shared home for ministry programmes. A church writes up something that worked, publishes it, and any other church or person can take a copy and make it their own. To see where it is up to, visit [onevoicehub.com](https://onevoicehub.com).

In support of **ONEVOICE27**  
MISSION FOR ALL

OneVoiceHub is an independent ministry. Its development is funded personally by Owen Anderson. It is not owned by any church body, it is not an official product of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and it does not speak for one.

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