

“AGENTS OF CHANGE IN COMPASSION AND CARE”

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*“...you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; and you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, the Restorer of streets to Dwell in.” **Isaiah 58:12***

Introduction

A number of years ago, I was asked to visit a nation in the Pacific Rim and speak to their military about nation building. It was an exciting moment to be able to address several thousand soldiers about the need for their involvement in building their nation on the right principles. What excited me most was the fact that they knew I was a minister of the gospel and they were not bothered by the fact that I would be building my case for nation building upon the principles of God’s Holy Word.

This ministry visit allowed me to examine the historical basis for nation building from a biblical point of view. It also allowed me to talk about how one could alter or change the conditions in which they now live if they were willing to become an agent of change. It also gave me the opportunity to be very transparent about the failures of the church in not recognizing its role in becoming agents of change for compassion and care. This message today will deal with some of these more salient issues surrounding the subject of change in these areas stated.

- I. An overview of the rulership of King Uzziah.**
- II. The emerging role of the prophet Isaiah as an agent of change.**
- III. What is expected of change?**
- IV. Obstacles that agents of change face.**
- V. What God has determined to do.**
- VI. God’s manner and method.**

In his book, The Church in the Power of the Spirit, Jurgen Moltmann says, “fellowship with the crucified Jesus is practiced where Christians in solidarity enter the brotherhood of those who, in their society, are visibly living in the shadow of the cross: the poor, the handicapped, the people society has rejected, the prisoners and the persecuted.”

He goes on to say, “fellowship with the crucified one cannot be lived in any other way than in fellowship with the least of the brethren of the Son of Man” (Matthew 25:40).

Through His agent of change, God spoke to the nation of Israel and told them exactly what they were to do. You see, far too many today are claiming they just don’t

know what to do. But God still gives us a clearly spoken word with an easily visible path wherein to walk. To Israel, God said, you are to do four important things and with these four we will close.

1. Share you bread
2. Care for the poor
3. Cover the naked
4. Love your own people