

RETURN, REBUILD, RESTORE

Summit Christian Athletics September Devotional #2



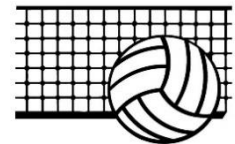
EZRA 2:1, 64-70

Now these are the people of the province who came back from the captivity, of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away to Babylon, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, everyone to his own city...

The whole assembly together was forty-two thousand three hundred and sixty, besides their male and female servants, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred and thirty-seven; and they had two hundred men and women singers. Their horses were seven hundred and thirty-six, their mules two hundred and forty-five, their camels four hundred and thirty-five, and their donkeys six thousand seven hundred and twenty.

Some of the heads of the fathers' houses, when they came to the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem, offered freely for the house of God, to erect it in its place: According to their ability, they gave to the treasury for the work sixty-one thousand gold drachmas, five thousand minas of silver, and one hundred priestly garments.

So the priests and the Levites, some of the people, the singers, the gatekeepers, and the Nethinim, dwelt in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.



INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION

Players & Coaches: Use this space to write down a prayerful reflection on how this scripture applies to your team

TEAM REFLECTION

1. Tony Bennett, a Christian basketball coach for the University of Virginia, says a favorite African proverb of his is this... "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." What can we learn from this group's effort in Ezra 2 to return as a unit, and not as individuals?

2. Verse 69 says that they gave to rebuild the house of God "according to their ability." What happens to a team when only the ones with the most ability give effort? What would you say to a teammate who thinks they can't contribute to the team's success?

3. In contrast, what happens when a player thinks they can win a game by themselves? What does this say about trusting your teammates?

