**Missions Weekend: The Church of the Future**

**(Acts 11: 19-26)**

**Pastor Jim Yost**

Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. The Lord’s hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. (Acts 11:19-26)

# Introduction

The church of Antioch is the perfect example of ‘The Church of the Future’. The church of Antioch is one that is super-cultural. It is a church that paints a picture of a church that can happen in any era, in any language, with any ethnic group. It is also known as the New Testament Church, the church of the future. Well, what then, is a New Testament Church?

# A New Testament Church is one that is PERSECUTED.

Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch (Acts 11:19a)

We can be persecuted for two things. One, because we’ve done something foolish, or we can be persecuted, or rather, opposed for our love and passion of Jesus Christ. The church of the future is one that CANNOT stop talking about Jesus Christ.

“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,” (2 Timothy 3:12)

* Persecution comes when there is radical commitment.
* The result of persecution = souls saved!
* Persecution gives us a unique opportunity to glorify God.

# A New Testament Church is one that is a WITNESSING CHURCH

Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. The Lord’s hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. (Acts 11:20-21)

EVERYONE is an evangelist. The church of the future is one that IS a witness. Being a witness does not need to be boring and mundane. BE CREATIVE! Witnessing should not be a phenomenal event for us who believe. Rather, it should be an everyday event. It is not for those who are great in speaking or who have top of the class speaking ability. It really only points to those who want to share about Jesus wherever they go!

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

We are given the Holy Spirit to have power from high, to be witnesses and preach Jesus to the watching world. When you have the Holy Spirit, YOU become a witness!

* Cell groups should be expected to evangelize.
* Have the Holy Spirit, have a witness!

# A New Testament Church is one that PROMOTES the Lord Jesus Christ.

News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. (Acts 11:22-23)

The church of the future follows CLOSELY where Jesus goes. If Jesus works outside the walls of the church, THAT IS where the church goes. People may find their community outside of the church; a sense of belonging that they cannot confide in within the church. What then do we do? Well, instead of bringing them to church, we bring the church TO them! Everyone can be used by God. The church of the future is one who acknowledges this. Faithful husbands, strong and able wives, even business people can be used by God. Businessmen giving their businesses over to God. The business thus becoming the church, with the employees becoming the disciples.

When our focus is on promoting Jesus and not on the doctrine or the experience, we know that His works are not confined to the four walls of the church. Where He goes, we go. The church becomes a city; a city where its sole purpose is to promote Jesus. When that happens, many people come to faith.

* When the Lord Jesus is promoted, it did not bother the disciples if God was working. All they cared about was their evangelism, preaching the gospel and the good news to those they meet.
* When Jesus is promoted, people RESPOND.
* The City Church - God’s chosen instrument for finishing the task.

# The New Testament Church is one that teaches the word in such a way that it TRANSFORMS PEOPLE to look like Jesus!

Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. (Acts 11:25-26)

Paul and Barnabas taught the gospel in such a way that people started to become like Jesus. It is not about head knowledge, but a life transformation that made them look like Jesus. That happens when we teach the gospel and the great commission that calls us to obey.

* The goal of teaching the Bible is that it changes behaviour and the world sees and looks at Jesus.
* As believers and followers of Christ, we should all have OBEDIENCE BASED DISCIPLESHIP.

- Discipleship is a commandment. NOT an option! We are called to walk and journey with people, sharing the gospel with the world, in obedience of His commandment for discipleship.

* Experiencing Jesus is the goal of a cell community. No one should be left out when it comes to having an encounter with Jesus.

# The New Testament Church is one that was led by the Holy Spirit through PROPHECY.

During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea. This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul. (Acts 11:27-30)

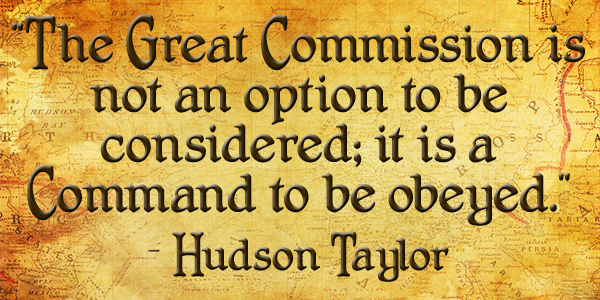
The early church was one that listened to the Spirit and mobilized by it. God works beyond the things we see. Beyond the news channels we watch and the newspapers we read. We need to obey and mobilize quickly. The church of the future is one that OBEYS and MOVES quickly when the Spirit tells them to.

* They mobilized quickly. Where the Spirit told them to go, they did just that. They were confident in their faith, and moved where the Lord told them to. When God wants you to move, to mobilize, YOU DO IT!
* They had both the Word and the Spirit.
* The Spirit led them by prophecy.

There is a price to pay for following Christ. Are you willing to pay that price? Are you so passionate, so red-hot for Jesus that there is opposition? When you love somebody, you cannot stop talking about them. Similarly, when you love Jesus, you CANNOT STOP talking about Him. Are you so into Him that you are promoting Him and ONLY Him? Are you running with Jesus wherever He goes?

Don’t be comfortable where you are at. Missions is not voluntary. It is MANDATORY!

Sermon summary contributed by Phoebe Leong.

Prayer points contributed by Chrisandra.



Description: /data/data/com.infraware.PolarisOfficeStdForTablet/files/.polaris_temp/image20.jpegSERMON: The Church of the Future

**Pray:**

* We, Christians will allow the Holy Spirit to lead us in all areas of our lives.
* Christians to not get too comfortable but to take things to the next level and be on fire for Jesus.
* Cell groups in DUMC to make a difference and bring the Gospel and worship in places of darkness.
* God to break any form of intimidation, fear and worry in us about reaching out and bragging about Jesus.
* Forgiveness for holding back Jesus.
* Christians to understand that mission is not voluntary but mandatory.

***The Lord’s hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. (Acts 11:21)***

Description: /data/data/com.infraware.PolarisOfficeStdForTablet/files/.polaris_temp/image22.jpeg**MINISTRIES & EVENTS: W2W Encounter Weekend (26 – 28 November)**

*A group of women seeking God will have their weekend getaway in Kampar, Perak.*

**Pray:**

* The Speakers and facilitators to know the heart of God for this Encounter Weekend.
* Preparation of everyone’s roles and responsibilities.
* Smooth logistic arrangements
* Preparation of all the participants’ hearts and an encounter with God.
* Hygiene of the hotel to ensure the pink of health of all candidates.
* God’s anointing upon the speakers and facilitators as they conduct the sessions.

***“In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.” (1 Timothy 3:11)***

Description: /data/data/com.infraware.PolarisOfficeStdForTablet/files/.polaris_temp/image23.pngMALAYSIA MY NATION: Pirates and Kidnapping in Malaysia

*Abduction in Malaysia by pirates has been an issue in this nation. The Abu Sayyaf militant group has been notorious when they started a spree of tourist kidnappings in the early 2000’s. With Strait of Malacca, Lahad Datu and Sabah Waters being the few hot spots, the increasing patrols had slowly decreased the cases and it is more prominent in the areas of Sabah Waters and Lahad Datu. The most recent case happened less than a week ago on 6th November 2017 when a German man was reported kidnapped while his girlfriend was shot dead when gunmen stormed their yatch off Sabah Waters in Tambisan, Lahad Datu.*

**Pray:**

* God’s intervention in this matter and a stop to all abductions by the military group of Abu Sayyaf.
* Protection of the people in East Malaysia and of all who are physically there.
* Repentance of the culprits for killing and hurting the innocents.
* Stability of the economy and decent job opportunities in Philippine.
* Divine appointment between Jesus and Abu Sayyaf.
* Peace be upon family members of the victims and deceased.
* Wisdom to the authorities to capture the kidnappers.

***“The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knows those who trust in Him.” (Nahum 1:7)***

* **A TRANSFORMED WORLD: The New President of America**

*Donald Trump has won in the recent election, making him the future President of the United States of America.*

**Pray:**

* Trump to receive godly wisdom and for God to mold him into discovering a gentler, humbler and more conciliatory tone.
* Trump to be surrounded by godly, humble and wise advisors.
* Protection over Trump of any plot and strategies against him.
* God’s blessings upon Trump and his team and to grant him the gifts of humility, grace, wisdom, revelation, favour and presidential authority.
* The nation of United States to be united and have faith that the new president will take lead and do God’s will.

***Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.” (John 18:36)***