

"Gossiping the Gospel"

Acts 11:19-21

Series: "Church in Antioch: The Church God Can Use"

HOW MANY CAME TO CHRIST/CHURCH BECAUSE OF EVANGELISTIC CRUSADE??

HOW MANY CAME BECAUSE OF CHRISTIAN MEDIA - RADIO OR T.V.?

HOW MANY CAME BECAUSE OF WITNESS OF FAMILY/PARENTS OR FRIENDS?

how to get new people / reach out with the love of God in Christ

CHURCH SHOULD BE A MATERNITY WARD WHERE WE HEAR CRIES OF NEWBORNS

# 1 Reason People DO NOT COME - THEY ARE NOT INVITED  
TO THOSE NOT FAMILIAR WITH CHURCH - LIKE MOST - AN EXCLUSIVE CLUB  
strange customs, rituals, unfamiliar people, procedures

85% all come to Christ / BECAUSE SOMEONE THEY KNEW INVITED THEM  
PERSONAL INVITATION BY FAR THE MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD OF GROWTH

95% all Christians - HAVE NEVER LEAD ANYONE TO CHRIST  
WILL ETERNITY BE ONE OF REGRET - FOR ALL THOSE WE HAVE NEGLECTED?

HOW DOES A CHURCH DO IT? - see Book of Acts / WONDERFUL STORY  
BIRTH, GROWTH, MISSION, STRUGGLE, VICTORY OF CHURCH OF JESUS

ONE CHURCH GREATLY USED OF GOD - ANTIOCH // STUDY IT AS A MODEL

"The Church that God Can Use" - TO GIVE AWAY HIS BLESSING

2 MAIN APOSTLES FOCUSED ON IN ACTS - Peter and Paul  
Peter - Apostle to Jews // Paul - Apostle to the Gentiles

THIS CHAPTER IS AFTER FOCUS ON PETER / BEFORE FOCUS ON PAUL

FOCUS - HOLY SPIRIT USING "LAY" PEOPLE / UNNAMED AND UNKNOWN

ONE BEGGAR TELLING ANOTHER BEGGAR WHERE TO FIND FOOD

MICHAEL GREEN "One of the greatest tragedies in the ossifying Western church is that people do not, by and large, talk about Jesus. That is extremely foolish. Jesus is the supremely attractive One. If we exclude from our conversation the only real winner that we have, we are of all people the most to be pitied. If a church seriously wants to evangelize, my advice would not be to hire a famous preacher; it would be to open the mouths of the people in the pews. Everyone has a story to tell, the story of God's dealing with the soul. Everyone can invite a friend to a meeting. Everyone

can say what a difference Jesus has made. It is not difficult. It springs naturally to many who have recently discovered the beauty of Jesus for themselves."

## 1. Transforming Truths

### a. Greatest Event in History: Resurrection of Jesus

TRANSFORMED PETER FROM FRIGHTENED DENIAL TO FEARLESS PROCLAMATION

Acts 2:24 God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

Changed over 1000 years of TRADITIONAL SABBATH WORSHIP  
instituting "The Lord's Day" - Sunday / 1st Day of the Week

MORE THAN A DAY TO WATCH SPORTS - GO BEACH - OUT FOR BREAKFAST  
DAY TO HONOR THE SAVIOR AND WORSHIP HIM ACCEPTABLY

THOSE AT ANTIOCH WERE CALLED CHRISTIANS - not call themselves people noticed their  
lives had new center - new focus - new life

### b. Greatest Need of Humanity: Presence of Jesus

LITTLE BOY WENT W/ PARENTS TO COUNTY FAIR  
GOT HANDFUL OF TICKETS RAN OFF - ONE RIDE TO ANOTHER  
HAVING A GREAT TIME - IN TRUTH HE WAS REALLY LOST!!  
CONDITION THE WORLD IS IN WITHOUT CHRIST

DISCIPLES WERE FULLY DEPENDENT ON THE PRESENCE OF JESUS  
LIKE BOY REALLY NEEDED HIS PARENTS  
Matthew 28:20 I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Acts 1:4 "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about..in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

DID NOT WAIT TO HIT BIG ONE IN VEGAS  
WAIT TO GET A BETTER MEDICAL COVERAGE  
WAIT TO GET A DEGREE IN THEOLOGY  
WAIT TO GET LEGAL PERMISSION SO AS NOT TO BE PERSECUTED

THEY NEED TO WAIT FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT'S FILLING -REST WORKS OUT  
MADE SUCH IMPACT ON THEIR LIVES - PEOPLE THOUGHT WERE DRUNK

Acts 3:19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

WE RECEIVE HIS PRESENCE THROUGH HIS WORD AND PRAYER

STRONG CONNECTION IN ACTS & HISTORY - PRAYER & PROCLAMATION  
CHURCH THAT PRAYS IS CHURCH WHERE PROCLAMATION CHANGES LIVES

INDIAN CHRISTIAN "We have to present to the world a living Christ, fresh, always life giving and nourishing...Christianity is life in the Spirit and it can only be experienced in the loving, forgiving, sharing, and liberating fellowship."

REASON GOD COULD BUILD CHURCH IN THESSALONICA IN JUST 3 WEEKS  
1 Thessalonians 1:5 because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction.

c. Only Way to God: The Person of Jesus

Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

ROMAN WORLD HAD RELIGIOUS PLURALISM -NEED FOR TOLERANCE & RESPECT

DID NOT CHANGE BOTTOM LINE THAT JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY

LETTER FROM OUR MISSIONARY JADIE LEE

Held Christian Education workshop at "evangelical" church  
GOT INTO BIG TROUBLE - DARING TO SAY CHILDREN NEED TO BE SAVED  
DARING TO SAY JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY OF SALVATION

CHARLES SWINDOL "Jesus - Jesus' person and work, Jesus' love for sinners, Jesus' perfect life and sacrificial death, Jesus' resurrection and offer of forgiveness. Stay on the issue of Christ when witnessing. Not the church or denominations or religion or theological differences or doctrinal questions. Speak precisely of Jesus, the Savior."

Acts 5:31 God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.

WE NEED TO BE GRIPPED BY THE FACT THAT HELL IS AS REAL AS HILO  
FILLED WITH NICE PEOPLE, MORAL PEOPLE, RELIGIOUS PEOPLE  
ONLY WAY OUT IS JESUS - TRUSTING FULLY IN HIM FOR SALVATION

d. Highest Authority in Universe: Lordship of Jesus

Acts 2:36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

JEWISH LEADERS WERE ANGERED BY HEALING OF MAN AT THE TEMPLE

Acts 4:18-20 Then they called (PETER & JOHN) in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. {19} But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. {20} For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

#### MOST POWERFUL RULERS WERE JUST PAWNS IN GOD'S SOVEREIGN HAND

Acts 4:27-30 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. {28} They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. {29} Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. {30} Stretch out your • hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

Acts 10:36 PETER WAS telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

UNLESS HE IS LORD OF ALL IN YOUR LIFE HE IS NOT LORD AT ALL

Colossians 1:17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

## 2. Obvious Opportunities

NOT A MATTER OF NOTHING TO DO FOR HIM - EVERYTHING IS FOR HIM

THIS IS HIS WORLD

WORLD NOT SOMETHING TO HIDE FROM - WORLD IS UNDER CHRIST'S RULE

BILLY GRAHAM "The evangelistic harvest is always urgent. The destiny of men and nations is always being decided. Every generation is strategic. We are not responsible for the past generation, and we cannot bear full responsibility for the next; but we do have our generation. God will hold us responsible as to how well we fulfill our responsibilities to this age and take advantage of our opportunities."

a. At Once CALL TO SALVATION WAS A CALL TO SERVICE

AFTER LUKE TELLS US 3000 ARE SAVED - WE READ

Acts 2:42-45 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

SHARING THE WORD WAS A REFLEX - UNSTOPPABLE IMPULSE

AFTER MAN AT TEMPLE GATE WAS HEALED BY JESUS

Acts 3:8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

THIS HEALERS WERE NOT SOPHISTICATED

Acts 4:13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

IF WE REALLY HAVE THE GOOD NEWS IT WILL CONTROL US  
WE WILL BE MAJORING ON IT - ALWAYS COME BACK TO IT  
JESUS WILL CONTROL AND CONSUME EVERY QUARTER OF OUR LIVES

NO MATTER HOW HALTINGLY OR SHYLY -WE WILL GIVE HIM GLORY & PRAISE

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL REACHED HER ENTIRE VILLAGE

John 4:39 Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did."

THE MAN BORN BLIND SAW MORE THAN THE PHARISEES

John 9:25 "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

b. All Times SAW ALL OF LIFE AS GOD'S TIME FOR THEM

v. 19 Now those who had been scattered by the persecution... WERE telling the message...(20) went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord • Jesus.

THE GOSPEL SPREAD BOTH GEOGRAPHICALLY AND CULTURALLY

Antioch - over 1/2 million diverse peoples  
Jews, Greeks, Romans, Persians, Chinese, and Indians

Acts 1:8 you will be my witnesses BE HIS WITNESSES - 24 / 7 PLAN

WOULD BE MUCH EASIER IF HE SAID "do my witnessing"

DAVID WINTER "Eloquent speeches, visual aids, films, seminars, and discussion groups are, after all, no substitute for the daily, unspectacular witness of the rank and file Christian. If that witness is consistent and open, then no improvement in tactics and strategy will better it as a means of winning people for Christ. If it is not, then no evangelistic program, no matter how ambitious or sophisticated, will make the slightest impact. That is the lesson we have been slow to learn."

RARELY MEET UGANDAN CHRISTIAN WHO DOES NOT GIVE TESTIMONY

"Hello, my name is Peter, and I love Jesus...or I am saved..."

CHRISTIAN IN SRI LANKA LEADING 100's of Buddhists to CHRIST

EVERY YEAR THROUGH HIS PERSONAL TESTIMONY OF FAITH IN HIM

Acts 8:1-4 a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria...{4} Those who had been scattered preached the • word wherever they went.

PRAISE GOD THE APOSTLES STOOD FIRM AND FEARLESS - MARKED MEN  
CHRISTIANS LOST THEIR HOMES BUT DID NOT LEAVE THEIR TESTIMONY

THE WIND JUST BLEW THE FLAME HIGHER

WORD TRANSLATED "scattered" = SCATTERED SEED

IN COSMOPOLITAN CITY OF ANTIOCH - POPULATION 500,000  
JEWS AND GENTILES HAD EQUAL LEGAL STANDING - UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY  
{20} 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.

SIMPLE CHRISTIANS WERE NOT INTIMIDATED BY BIG SOPHISTICATED CITY  
WORD OF GOD WAS ON THEIR LIPS / HAND OF GOD WAS ON THEIR LIVES

2 Tim 4:2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season

OUT OF SEASON - TO US PERHAPS - BUT NEVER TO GOD

FRIEND JOHN SVENDSEN AND I DOUBLE-DATED HIGH SCHOOL DANCE  
BAND TOOK A BREAK - ASKED OUR DATES TO EXCUSE US  
WENT UP ON STAGE AND BEGAN PREACHING ABOUT JESUS  
PULLED OFF STAGE BY HIGH SCHOOL COACH

"You guys can't do that here, tomorrow (Sunday) is your day"  
SATURDAY IS JUST AS MUCH JESUS' DAY AS SUNDAY!!

### 3. Success Story

#### a. Person of Christ

Acts 11:20 telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus.

STARRING ACTOR IN BOOK OF ACTS - Risen Lord Jesus

Acts 1:1 In my former book, (GOSPEL OF LUKE)...I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to  
teach NOW HE CONTINUES

PRESENT IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
FILLS AND EMPOWERS THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH

"The Acts of the Exalted Lord Jesus Christ in the Power of the Holy Spirit at Work in and through  
the Apostolic Church"

TOO LONG?? THE BOOK OF ACTS - ACTS!

Acts 1:8 you will be my witnesses

MICHAEL GREEN "Jesus is almost unmentionable in some churches... But this is a great mistake, a mistake those early evangelists of Antioch did not make. You see, they were shameless enthusiasts for Jesus...When a church becomes open to speak about Jesus, then things happen"

#### IN HIS BETRAYAL PETER WAS SILENT - NO CANNOT SHUT HIM UP

Acts 2:22 "Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.

Acts 2:36 "let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

Acts 3:6 "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."

Acts 3:13 The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus

#### b. Promise of Christ PETER TOOK JESUS AT HIS WORD

John 12:32 But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself."

Acts 1:8 you will receive power...to the ends of the earth."

#### JESUS COMMANDED SAUL OF TARSUS

Acts 26:16 'Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you. {17} I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them {18} to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive • forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

#### HE TESTIFIED TO THE TRUTH OF CHRIST'S PROMISE

2 Corinthians 2:14 thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.

#### EVANGELIST LEIGHTON FORD done evangelistic work across USA

w/ his brother in law - Billy Graham

Interviewed hundreds of non-Xtians - "why don't go to church?"

- 1) They have not met a person they would call a true Xtian
- 2) They have never known a church that shows it really cares

#### BIGGEST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CHURCH AT ANTIOCH AND TODAY'S CHURCH EVERY MEMBER KNEW THEY WERE A MINISTER / SERVANT OF JESUS

EVANGELISM WAS SPONTANEOUS CHATTER - natural, continuous, joyful

COUPLE CENTURIES AGO Captain Vancouver brought gift to Kamehameha  
FEW CATTLE AND SEEDLINGS OF KEAWE PLANT  
WAS NOT LONG BEFORE CATTLE AND KEAWE TREES OVERRAN MUCH OF ISLAND  
had to ask a man named Parker pull cattle together into a Ranch

MAY JESUS SPREAD ACROSS HAWAII LIKE CATTLE AND KEAWE  
person to person - town to town - district to district

### c. Proof of Christ

JESUS - NOT PETER AND JOHN - HEALED THE MAN AT THE TEMPLE GATE

Acts 3:16 By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to • him, as you can all see.

Acts 11:17 So if God gave them (THE GENTILES) the same gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God?"

Acts 2:41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Acts 4:4 But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.

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

Acts 11:24 a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

Acts 11:26 So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people.

Acts 17:2-4 As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, {3} explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ," he said. {4} Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and not a few prominent women.

JOHN STOTT "I have observed again and again, in different parts of the world, that the impact of a university mission for Christ varies according to the degree of contact which Christian students have with non-Christians. When, as so often has happened, Christians have withdrawn into a kind of closed, evangelical, monastic community, then, however good the organization and publicity, the impact of the mission is negligible. But when Christian students take their full part in university



life, and are known and respected in the university, then their friends come to the mission and are receptive to the message"

THIS IS SAME FOR A CHURCH IN A COMMUNITY - WILL HAILI REACH HILO?

d. Permanence of Christ MORE THAN JUST A PASSING TREND

Philippians 2:9-11 God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, {10} that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, {11} and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

IN ETERNITY WE WILL BEHOLD THIS GLORIOUS VISION

Revelation 7:9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb.

LITTLE GIRL ASKED FATHER WHY FIREMEN STAYED IN FIRE HOUSE  
POLISHING THEIR ENGINES

ANSWER "they do that to get ready for the next call"

HOPE THIS MESSAGE ON GOSSIPING GOSPEL IS NOT JUST MORE POLISHING  
whole world is on fire - alarm was sounded 2000 yrs. ago