

## **The Church at Antioch Anniversary Sunday 2012**

### **Introduction:**

- Today we are celebrating our 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary as a church.
  - It has been a pleasure to be part of the planning, planting and ongoing ministries since the 1989.
    - Some background stories
- I have always admired the Church at Antioch
  - Even though the early church was born in Jerusalem, the Church at Antioch was the catalyst and model for the gospel to be proclaimed to the uttermost parts of the earth.
  - This morning I want to focus on three main components of ministry found at the Church at Antioch and tell how Christ Covenant is emulating these elements into the life of our church.

### **T/S:**

- The first is Intentional Discipleship

### **I. Intentional Discipleship:**

- Acts 11 tells us that *because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen* that Christians from the Jerusalem Church fled to eastward to the island of Cyprus and north to Syria. (Acts 11.19)
  - **Map?**
- They came into the city of Antioch *and began speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus*. The Bible tells us that *the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord*. (Acts 11.20-21)
  - In an attempt to make sure everything was on the “up and up” the leadership in the church at Jerusalem sent a young leader by the name of Barnabas to Antioch to check things out. (Acts 11.22)

- *When he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord. (Acts 11.23)*
- Now, Barnabas knew that he needed some help if he was going to teach and train all of these new believers.
  - *So he left for Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch. (Acts 11.25-26)*
- Intentional Discipleship is at the core of the ministry of the church.

Prior to His ascension Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Mt. 28.19-20)

- This is known as the Great Commission – what the church should be doing.

- At Christ Covenant:
  - *Slide with all the ministries*
  - Nursery
  - Sunday School
  - Covenant Kids
  - Noble Youth
  - Next Step
  - Covenant Men
  - Adelpia Ladies
  - Ladies Bible Studies
  - Small Group Bible Studies
  - Family Group Classes
  - Doctrine Classes
  - Leadership Training

*We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. (Col. 1.28)*

T/S:

- In addition to Intentional Discipleship the Church at Antioch showed “Racial Generosity”

## II. **Racial Generosity:**

*Now at this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them named Agabus stood up and began to indicate by the Spirit that there would certainly be a great famine all over the world. And this took place in the reign of Claudius. And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send a contribution for the relief of the brethren living in Judea. And this they did, sending it in charge of Barnabas and Saul to the elders. (Acts 11.27-30)*

- CCC Mercy Projects
  - Special emphasis on Easter Mercy Baskets

## III. **Mission Mindset:**

*While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. (Acts 13.2-3)*

- As mentioned previously, the Church at Antioch was the catalyst and model for the gospel to be proclaimed to the uttermost parts of the earth.
  - GCA logo
  - Great Commission Alliance is making a visible difference by providing quality education to the next generation, equipping future indigenous leaders, empathizing with those in need, and escorting teams of volunteers to join us in our mission.

Highlight each point one at a time:

- providing quality education to the next generation
- equipping future indigenous leaders

- empathizing with those in need
- escorting teams of volunteers to join us in our mission.

➤ Gala Logo – how they can help

Summary: