

A Church That Matters

Acts 11:21-26

A CHURCH THAT ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO COME (Acts 11:21-26)

“When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord.” Acts 11:23

“They said to Him, “Rabbi” (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), “where are You staying?”³⁹ He said to them, “Come and see.” John 1:38-39

“And Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” John 1:46

Antioch became an inviting church because of the model of one man: Barnabas

“A good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith.” Acts 11:24

“And a great many people were added to the Lord.” Acts 11:24

“So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch.” Acts 11:25-26

A CHURCH THAT EMPOWERED BELIEVERS TO GO (Acts 13:1-3)

“² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”³ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.” Acts 13:2-3

Our church is supporting **3,057** missionary units in varying ministry categories. In addition, **3,758** Southern Baptist chaplains.

Those missionaries have worked effectively in 2020 establishing **552** new congregations and brought ‘back to life’ and into the SBC **297** congregations.

We must have churches who pray for their missionaries and for the harvest.

We pray because the need is so great.

Jesus said, “The harvest truly *is* great, but the laborers *are* few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” (Luke 10:2)

We pray because the work is so tough.

“Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul *and* dragged *him* out of the city, supposing him to be dead.” Acts 14:19

We pray because it’s easy to be selfish.

A CHURCH THAT ENVISIONS A GOSPEL FOR ALL PEOPLE (Acts 15:1-3)

“Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question. So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers.” Acts 15:2-3

The Gospel is Good News, not good advice.

The Gospel is Good News because He did something for us we could not do for ourselves.

“All we have is nothing; all we need is need.”