



#### **Antioch:**

- 1) 1 of 3 Great Cities in the Roman Empire (Rome, Alexandria, Antioch)
- 2) Large Cosmopolitan City: 500,000 people
- 3) Melting pot of culture: Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Persians
- 4) Famous for its deliberate pursuit of entertainment and pleasure ("Las Vegas of its Day").
- 5) In this significant city, a flourishing church is planted, and it is characterized as a **sending** church.

#### **Acts 11:19-30:**

Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord.

The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they **sent** Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius). So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to **send** relief to the brothers living in Judea. And they did so, **sending** it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

**Acts 13:1-5:**

Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 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." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and **sent** them off. So, being **sent out** by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God...

**Like the church in Antioch, Redeemer is called to be a sending church.**

1. What does it mean to be a sending church?
2. Why are we to be a sending church?

**First: What does it mean to be a sending church?**

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**1. A sending church is the opposite of being a settled church.**

Pentecost -> Jerusalem -> Antioch  
(Revival) (Scattered) (Sent)

In God's sovereign and mysterious ways, God sends his people elsewhere for the movement of the gospel.

“Settled” vs “Sent”

God’s people are not to live in “settledness” but “sentness”.

**First: What does it mean to be a sending church?**

1. A sending church is the opposite of being a settled church.

**2. A sending church desires everyone everywhere to experience the gospel of grace.**

**The City of Antioch:**

a. Walls both inside and outside

b. Known to have 18 different sections/quarters within the city

c. Walls both inside and outside the city to protect not just from outsiders but from one another.

When the gospel comes to this city, Christians cross the walls to share the gospel with people different from them, grow in discipleship together and worship together, thus forming an ethnically diverse church!

a. First called “Christians” there (Acts 11:26)

b. Leaders whose names reflect 3 different continents and 4 different ethnic groups: “Barnabas, Simeon, Lucius (Cyrene), Manaen (friend of Herod the Tetrarch), Saul (Paul)” (Acts 13:1)

**Takeaway:**

As a sending church, we desire everyone everywhere to experience the gospel of grace:

a. In our church

b. In our city

c. In our world

**First: What does it mean to be a sending church?**

1. A sending church is the opposite of being a settled church.
2. A sending church desires everyone everywhere to experience the gospel of grace.
- 3. A sending church is eager to bless, train, and give away.**

**A sending church is eager to BLESS:**

Acts 11:27-29: Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius). So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea.

**A sending church is eager to TRAIN:**

Acts 11:25-26: So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

**A sending church is eager to GIVE AWAY:**

Acts 13:2-3: 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." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

History shows that the church in Antioch was a hotbed for leaders.

1st Century: Barnabas, Paul, Luke (who is from Antioch)

2nd Century: St. Ignatius, Theodoret

3rd and 4th Century: Lucian, Theodore, Chrystostom

In this sending church, why were there so many leaders?

Maybe it's because they were always sending. Maybe it's because they were living out the principle of growing by giving away, and God blessed them by faithfully raising up more leaders. Maybe because potential and existing leaders were attracted to this ministry that was committed to being a sending church that was eager to bless, train, and give away.

**Like the church in Antioch, Redeemer is called to be a sending church.**

1. What does it mean to be a sending church?

**2. Why are we to be a sending church?**

**Because God is a Sender who in love sent his own Son to us!**

Acts 11:22: The Church in Jerusalem sends Barnabas to Antioch

Acts 11:30: The Church in Antioch sends funds to the church in Jerusalem

Acts 13:3: The church leaders in Antioch commission and sends Paul and Barnabas to be missionaries.

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

- 1 John 4:9

As we close:

1. As we pray and send our summer mission teams, how might God be calling you to engage, both now and in the future?

2. Pray that you would not live out of “settledness” but “sentness.” Pray this also for our church!

3. Pray that we as a church would be eager to bless, train and give away.



# BARRIO LOGAN TOKYO, JAPAN

## July 28-31

- Highest # of children per capita & median age of 27, making it SD Youngest urban area.
- Partner with Servant Church to reach Barrio Logan through VBS
- 12 students, 5 volunteers

## Prayer

- Jesus to be known
- Deeper faith for team

## July 24 - August 4

- Largest unreached city
- Partner with Grace Harbor Church to reach its borough through Kid's English Camp & English Conversation Cafe
- 15 team members

## Prayer

- Connect people to the church
- Heart of humility and service