**Elder Berry Ross August 13, 2017**

**The Antioch Church Is Worthy Of Emulation**

**Acts 11:19-30**

**Key truth:** The great commission is a command to make disciples not merely converts.

1. Antioch, a church built God’s way:

 A. The church of God does not stand-alone.

 B. The power of God must accompany His church.

 C. The power of God is manifested through His Spirit.

2. The obedient work of some the disciples produced the first

 Gentile church.

 A. Our mind must be focused on the mission.

 B. Walking with a Christ-like heart makes the

 mission possible.

 C. We must be determined to see all people come to faith in

 Jesus Christ.

 D. Our mission of making disciples should be exhibited in our

 communities transformation.

3. The introduction of a new way of giving:

 A. Sacrificial giving is accomplished only with a new heart and a

 new mind.

 B. The introduction of Co-operative giving.

 1. They all contributed financially to the mission.

4. The importance of a mission driven church:

 A. Trustworthy leaders are identified.

 B. Trustworthy leaders are empowered.

 C. Trustworthy leaders are mobilized.

**Taking it Beyond the Walls:** Bountiful mission possibilities await us here at Beyond the Walls, with the hand of God working in our midst let everyone of us according to our ability continue our commitment to kingdom building.

**Food For Thought**

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

The church at Antioch is arguably one of the most influential churches, and we do not know their names. What we do know is men from Cyprus and Cyrene interacted with the Hellenist (or Greek-speaking Gentiles) they met. The ordinary actions of these men led to the extraordinary spread of the gospel to the known world. They were so effective because “the Lord’s hand was with them.” In the Bible “the Lord’s hand” expresses God’s power

Growing up, what did you think about church? How does this thinking influence you now?

Describe church in one word. Do you think someone outside the church would agree or disagree with your choice?

Based on what you know about the Book of Acts, in what ways is our church accurately reflecting what God’s Word says it should be?

Why did Barnabas go get Saul? What does this teach us about the ministry of making disciples?

As those who belong to Christ, what are some of the most important characteristics we should possess? Read 1 Peter 3:8-9 for a few examples