

The Tidings

Antioch Baptist Church

Serving God and our Community since 1776

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Calling Us Out

In recent months we have been looking at a scriptural Vision Statement that is the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:18-20 and a Mission Statement: "Know, Grow, Go." The last two months we've looked at the Know and Grow parts of this Mission Statement. Now we will consider "Go." Verse eighteen tells us that all authority on heaven and earth has been given to Christ and because of his authority, commands us to go and make disciples. Although the phrase may be better read, "as you go, make disciples," the verb being "to make" it is clear that faith by its very definition is not just an intellectual exercise but a physical one as well. There may be hesitancy in doing what the Lord asks us to do, either because we don't want to or don't think that we can, but this concluding verse tells us that we do not go alone. Christ is ever with us.

Let's look at this "going" in a different way. When we hear the word go what comes to mind is the idea of being *sent*, but what if "going" is not about *sending* but rather *calling*? Another series of events in earlier Matthew 14 brings this into focus. Jesus teaches the crowd and he had his disciples to look for food and found a kid's lunch. Jesus blesses and breaks the bread and fish feeding five thousand men and who knows how many women and children. The scraps filled twelve large baskets. Jesus goes away to pray to the Father, the crowd leaves, and the disciples go across the Sea of Galilee in a boat.

It is now the middle of the night. Jesus had not yet come. A storm was upon them and they were three or four miles from shore. Then they see Jesus walking to them on the sea coming near the boat and they were afraid, some thought he may be a ghost. Jesus tells the disciples that it is truly him and they shouldn't be afraid. Peter then says, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." Peter does something extraordinary, he in speaking to the Lord asks the Lord to command him, to order his steps. Those steps would bring him out of the boat and on to the water. Would we have the faith to ask the Lord to command us and then follow the command?

Jesus commands Peter to "Come." Peter got out of the boat and walked on water and came to Jesus. Jesus did not *send* Peter he *called* Peter. He *called* Peter to come and meet him where he already was. Peter's response was to "go." Go out of the boat, out of the place of safety to an uncertain place and future, but where Jesus is. "Going" is responding to Christ's invitation to meet him in the world and future that seems scary and uncertain, but where Jesus already is working. "Going" is about our response to Christ *calling* us out beyond ourselves. Out past the waves of uncertainty and the deep waters of doubt. The future and the world can seem so uncertain, yet Christ is there *calling*, *calling* us to walk with him on the water, into the world, and toward an uncertain future. We know he is there. We know he is *calling*. How will you and I respond? Will we go? The water, the world, and the future are waiting.

Blessings, Pastor Greg Sault

SENIORS



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Happy Birthday to everyone celebrating in the month of NOVEMBER: Kylee Forstner(1), Kitty Perkinson(9), Samantha Gathright(10), Zack Gartrell(11), Naomi Johns(11), Raymond Moore(13), Claude Evans(20), Carolyn Burton(22), Thomas Putze(25), Kyle Shobe(27), Thomas Boggs(30)

(If your birthday has been inadvertently left off the birthday list or entered incorrectly, please contact the Church Office.)

WMU – WOMEN’S MISSIONARY UNION

WATCHWORD: “My dear friends, stand firm and don’t be shaken. Always keep busy working for the Lord. You know that everything you do for him is worthwhile” (1 Cor. 15:58, CEV)

OUR MISSION: to inform and inspire Christians to influence their world for Christ

There is a wonderful article in the November Missions Mosaic magazine entitled “Tending God’s Church – Planting the love of Jesus deep within the heart of New Orleans”. This story is about George and Joy Ross and their six children ministering to the people in New Orleans. George says that ministering to the people who call The Big Easy home is anything but easy. “New Orleans is a spiritually hard city. A history of spiritualism, generational religion, poverty, and crime are only a few of the difficulties one encounters on a daily basis.” George and Joy ask for our prayers as they serve as church planters in the daily grind of lostness and darkness. Ask God to guard their homes and lives as they seek to bring hope and healing through the gospel to New Orleans.

Reminder: Don’t forget to fill your shoebox(s) for Operation Christmas Child. The goal this year is 300. This is our October and November mission project.

December 1-8 we will be observing Week of Prayer for International Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Our goal is \$1700.00 We will also have a guest speaker on December 1, Mrs. Sally Cline, a retired foreign missionary. Several of us have heard her and you will not want to miss her.

“The Lord is good and His love endures forever.” Psalm 100:5

Joyce Adams, Reporting for WMU

Happy Thanksgiving

Legend says that the Pilgrims placed five grains of corn beside each plate on Thanksgiving Day so they wouldn’t forget the hardships they had endured. Perhaps each kernel has a special significance.

- This day I give thanks for my family.
- I give thanks today for my extended family and friends, including my church.
- I give thanks this day for our country, for the faith-filled people who came here seeking a better life, and for those who continue to protect and defend it.
- Today I give thanks for all those little blessings that I take for granted.
- And I give thanks this day for Christ who loves me and died for my sins.

“Enter the Temple gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and praise Him.”
Psalms 100:4

