

Introduction

Welcome to CCC. We are a church that is convinced that God is real, the Bible is true and Jesus is alive. You are welcome here from any spiritual background as you seek the reality of God, but we are forthright and unashamed that we have met the living God and want everyone to know that they are invited to meet him too!

And this is the basis of our Vision Initiative called reach One More. If you missed last week, let me encourage you to watch that video on our youtube channel, cccomaha. We unfolded the idea that 2 years ago the elders began a process of seeking God for our next chapter of our vision for the church. It took a long time, but we are ready to go after what Jesus called us to do and what the early church modeled for us in Acts.

So we are doing two things in this series – We are hitting five highlight moments in the book of Acts that changed the trajectory of the world, and we are matching it up with our vision for reaching one more at CCC. In order to help you on your journey, we have developed these reach one more guides. Can I have the team come forward to **pass these out?** If you don't have one, raise your hand and I'll have them sent around.

Bring these to church every week for five weeks – and if you already lost one, it's OK, we will give you another – just raise your hand. We are dreaming dreams in three categories that match the outline of the book of Acts from Acts 1:8 – here, there and everywhere. Here, we are each identifying ONE person who is in our relational circle that does not know Jesus and praying for them every day to come to faith. 3000 people praying for 3000 people. And we have training for people who want to **reach one More** – Allison Dykhouse and her team will train you how to share your faith beginning Wednesday evening... so sign up at CCComaha.info

And we are going to be for elevating our generosity for people HERE, THERE and EVERYWHERE. This is not about funding, it is about God and people. This is both about what God seeks to do IN us to grow us in evangelism and discipleship and what God is doing THROUGH us. This week and next week are about EVERYWHERE. Next week, we welcome a guest speaker John Stumbo, president of the Christian and Missionary Alliance! He is a walking miracle and an authority on taking the gospel EVERWHERE, so don't miss it!

In here, you have five spots for message notes, five devotions, a QR code for your community groups and we are praying through the book of Acts all month – one chapter a day – and when we see something cool we are praying “do it again God, do it again” – tomorrow, for example is acts 8 – my favorite chapter. So read it and imagine why it might be my favorite and pray “do it again LORD” ... then 9, then 10.

For today, we are in Acts 13 – the church of Antioch. So turn in your Bible to Acts 13 and in your guide to p. 33. And we are going to look at the most important church in the New Testament that nobody ever thinks about. The church of Antioch.

When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from^[a] Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark.¹ Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul.

So let me point out a few key things about this church. First, they were multiethnic. Did you see that? Look at this.

- Barnabus – we learn in other passages he come from an island named cyprus in the middle of the Mediterranean **MAP**
- Simeon called Niger – which means “black” – probably was an African dude – a brother of a darker hue
- Lucius of Cyrene – This is an ancient word for Libya – so another African brother
- Manaen – had been brought up with Herod – which will be a great story in heaven – but for now, Manaen is from Northern Israel
- And of course you have Saul from Tarsus – Turkey or Asia Minor
- So, five dudes from five locations. A beautiful multiethnic mix.

Did you know that right now, we have a Hispanic church meeting in the chapel? And a Nepali Bhutanese church across the parkinglot in the porch? And their kids integrate in our kids ministry? And later this afternoon, we will have a Sudanese service and a Hmong service. Plus we have the deaf ministry integrated in this room. That’s six languages in one location. I don’t know of another church in our city that preaches the gospel in six languages on Sunday! The more we do this, the more we look like heaven. And we have room for one more, Amen? Do it again Lord! Do it again!

OK, but this is the big deal of the morning... I hope you don’t miss this moment that is THE gamechanger of the book of ACTS. **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 So after they had fasted and prayed, **they placed their hands on them and sent them off.**

And they went on the first every missionary Journey **MAP**. First to Barnabus’ home island of Cyprus, then in a loop inland and back to Antioch.

This is the very. First. Time. That missionaries are set apart. There is this sense that something over there matters so much that it is worth our best and our brightest. What is it? Unreached people. People who matter to God that have never heard the gospel. This megachurch says – people THERE matter HERE – just like our t-shirts. They matter so much that we are not sending leftovers, we are sending our biggest encourager and our best teacher to go to people who have never heard.

You need to know that there are still billions in this world who have not heard the name Jesus. Billions who have been waiting 2000 years for ONE tribe to send someone to their people and let them know the best news ever. 7,400 people groups are still considered unreached. And get this. For every hundred dollars given to Christian organizations, less than two pennies goes to reach these billions of people. In fact, **Americans have spent more money buying Halloween costumes for their pets than the amount given to the unreached.** – Claude Hickman – thetravelingteam.org/stats

And it has been the passion of this church and this denomination to say “not on my watch”! We will send people to the hardest and darkest places in the world where all the odds are stacked against us.

Because, if JESUS really did die for our sins, everybody needs to know! If Jesus really did raise from the dead, everybody needs to know! We can’t keep this to ourselves and we can’t keep it in Antioch. WE must reach one more HERE, THERE and EVERYWHERE. And guys, this has been the DNA of CCC for a hundred years. We are outrageously generous. And we will sacrifice here to put missionaries there. And we are not sending any leftover slouches. We are sending the best and the brightest.

Which brings me to a very proud moment. Because we are partnering with one of the very best in the whole CMA. The elders prayed for over a year for the right partner for CCC missions. We proactively looked all over the world and talked to all of the strategists... but then God sat me next to lunch with Krisy. She told me her story and her vision and I knew instantly that this is the answer to our prayer.

Now, we need to speak cryptically this morning because of cultural sensitivities... but this is super cool stuff. Turn in your guide to p. 20 and it will give you an idea of what we are doing that we can’t say on the internet. In the mean time, I want you to meet a woman who, with her husband will not just be our international workers and our friends, but heroes of the faith in a place we are calling **GREEN CITY**. She has grown up on the mission field, speaks multiple languages, has been a professional international worker for 30 years and is one of the very best missiologists I have ever met. Please give it up for our new Hero Krisy!

Krisy

- Introduction to Krisy
- Introduction to Balikpapan initiative
- We will have to use veiled language due to sensitivities
- Mark will come back up and invite people to evening presentation and lead in prayer for Krisy and Eric

Guys – when it comes to everywhere, we will be investing in dozens of projects, but this one is the big mama. I want you to know and trust our workers. And I want you to pray for them because the work they do is profound and spiritual and needs supernatural energy, not just natural. They just took a flying leap to move to a new city and they need our prayer power. Are you in?

Second thing to talk about today is church planting. We have planted 9 churches in this area in the past 17 years, but right now, due to Covid Realities, online services and hybrid attendance, we just have room to reach one more here in this building. We could reach another 800 people and still not be overfull.

So instead of planting another church where we have a church on every corner, how about we plant a church in a city that has a church on no corner. How about we reach populations where there is less than 1% chance that you are Christian? And as we thought about it, we have a bunch of partnerships that are ready to plant churches. Places like Green City, El Dorado, Gold Kingdom, Highlands and two others that we don’t even have codenames for... we have workers or nationals that are ready to plant. So lets do! Lets provide funding for scholarships, short term teams, money to start buildings, buy properties or fund planters for a couple of years. And lets not plant one church, lets plant 27 by 2027. You guys in for that?

Resources

So, it is going to take some resources to make this happen. And I promised I'd teach unashamedly on resources and money each of our five weeks. And it is all outlined in your guide in your hands. If you want more details, any of our elders or executive staff would love to talk more. But for all of us, we will be surrendering to Jesus opening up our hands and asking what HE wants us to give.

Because of this initiative I had a person in my congregation ask me "Mark, so, when thinking about money, how much, like in percentages, should I consider my money to be God's?" I am SO glad you asked. In percentages, the answer is 100%. It is ALL God's money. In fact, this is a saying around here. "It's all God's anyways." Say that together. It's all God's anyways.

Now, this mindset flips the script. Instead of asking "How much of my money should I give to God?" We are asking "How much of God's money should I keep for me?" It just acknowledges that God gave you your smarts, your gifts, your education, your location in the USA... and the reason you have what you have is that God has blessed you. It is all God's anyway.

Low Income

So, some people have asked, what if I am in a tough economic situation now? What if I am single mom? If I am mega in debt from college? If I am a Christ Community Resident?

I know this world well. Because when Kelle and I were married, we were one step below Christ Community resident poor. And we stayed there 8 years. And I remember that there was a moment our first week of marriage. We were talking about writing a tithe check to church. It was only about \$29. It would not have been 'make or break' for the church budget. AND, we did not have enough savings to pay the rent at the end of the month... let alone food or gas. And we were depending on Kelle getting calls each day for Substitute teaching jobs. So we prayed. And god said 'do ya trust me?'

And Kelle got called every single day that month. And sometimes, I'd be surprised in getting paid to speak somewhere, and sometimes Kelle's parents would buy us groceries. And every month we gave our 10% and didn't know how it would end... we lived well below the poverty level and somehow God provided.

This was our essential question: Will we give to God first and live off of the leftovers or spend what we want and give God the leftovers? We chose to give to God FIRST, like the Bible teaches, and then let him fill in the blanks. We learned the lesson of 'give us this day our daily bread.' And found that God provides.

Low income friends – you need to know that your faithfulness at the dollar level that you are faithful is an inspiration to the wealthier folks. AND the Bible says alot about this. Jesus celebrates the woman with two coins who gave all she had. The Apostle Paul commended the churches in Macedonia who gave out of their poverty. These stories are a model for all of us – when we see how generous those who have little can be!

Percentage Giving Is it 10%? What does the Bible say?" Ok, so Biblically, you can go Old Testament or New Testament. The **Old Testament has three tithes** – And I have some full messages on this. The priestly tithe – 10%, the feast tithe 10% and an every third year give to the poor of 10%. PLUS! You have

offerings of bulls and pigeons and such PLUS! You leave the edges of your fields for the poor to just eat from the gleanings. If you are totaling that up, you are in the 30-35% range.

But the NEW Testament does not repeat this. It doesn't repeal it, but it does not command it. Mostly it just assumes it. HOWEVER, the New Testament words that are used related to giving are not superficial. They are "Generous, Joyful, and Sacrificial." And that, in my mind is the best marker... it is not a percent value, it is a matter of the heart. Ask yourself when you look at your giving "Am I generous?" If you want to be like Jesus – you are generous. That is when we most reflect the heart of God. He was so generous he gave his son for us. So how about you? If someone read your debit card spending list, would they say "wow... generous!"?

Joyful – Is it joyful? God doesn't want resentful givers. If you are mad about your giving, keep your money! God love a joyful giver... technically a hilarious giver. When you look back on your life, you will be most glad for the money you gave to stuff that lasts eternally.

Sacrificial – Ask yourself the question "What am I sacrificing?" What am I NOT doing or having so that I might give more? If you have not considered giving an amount to reach one more that is MORE than possible for you, then you have not yet hit the Sacrificial level. Generous, Joyful, Sacrificial.

What does the Bible say about wealth?

In 1 Timothy 6, the Apostle Paul talks to "Those who are rich in the present age". Now, let me tell you this, most of us in this room are rich by world standards. Most of us are in the top 5% of WORLD income.

One of the indicators of this is STUFF. Most of us in this country don't just have income, we have ASSETS. We have STUFF. Have you ever thought about stewarding your stuff for God? Every appreciated asset we have is a blessing from God. It is a part of our river of giving. When we sell a business, sell a home, or a stock, any appreciation of that item is God's provision in our life. Many have never thought of this. In fact, there is a box on our commitment card that says stored resources. WE ALL have stored resources we can better steward. A teenager may sell a piece of electronic, a college student might sell a piece of jewelry, someone else a car, someone else might give from a retirement account.

But I am going to go a step deeper. Because some of you are holding on to assets and you are keeping them as a safety blanket and giving them to CCC or the Great Commission Fund in your will. That is a good plan, but I have a better one. "DO your giving while you are living so you are knowing where it is going."

- It is a lot more fun to watch your giving at work than to die with it
- You never know how leadership will turn over during that time – give to leaders you trust now, not institutions that you hope won't change
- Investing now multiplies spiritually – if you have 10 years til death, you can put that money to work in the harvest fields of people's lives growing and paying dividends spiritually today.

So if God has provided you an inheritance or the sale of a business or you have had a great sales year or your stocks are up... and you ever wondered "God, why did you bless me so much?" Think that your finances are a river and not a lake. You are blessed to be a blessing. God has entrusted you with finances so that you can fund things close to his heart like reaching least reached people.

KIDS – One last thing. And I debated whether to raise this, but if we are going to take the gospel everywhere, we need people to go. And in my experience, it is not as difficult to inspire a young person to give their life for the gospel as it is to ask parents to encourage their kids to go when it is time. I am praying that God will raise up one person from CCC for GREEN CITY. Would you pray that with me? God has given us his life and his spirit and our kids. Even our kids are on loan from God... a blessing to be shared with the world. It all belongs to God. Income, Assets, and even our kids.

Jen and Nick Cohorst are in our congregation and, know what it means to hold on loosely to give their lives and resources to Jesus.. Here is their story. [Jen and Nick Cohorst](#)

Commitment Night

So, that is what we are asking you to do. Just come to Jesus and ask him what to give. He knows your heart, your finances, your bills and more. He will guide you! If you are super all in and know what God wants for you in this campaign, I want you to **circle November 10 – Friday – 5:30-8** - on your calendar. It is an advance commitment night. It is going to be super fun and deeply meaningful.

We are going to have a fellowship time in the Atrium with Biaggis appetizers and mocktails. Then we will head to prayer stations around the church to pray for the vision. And then we will worship and bring our commitment cards – these cards have two keys on them. The first is your “REACH ONE MORE” person. Who is the one person you are committed to reaching out to?

The last box is your TOTAL commitment – income resources, stored resources, your current giving plus your additional Reach One More giving. And if you are ready by November 10, this will be a special experience for us all – a moment of dedication and surrender and prayer and spiritual power!

If you need **until Sunday November 19**, that is cool too. We will do it together as a church. But if you want to join the elders, the staff, the men of God, the hunger prayer team and the pacesetters of CCC in making your commitment first, you are invited! Come on November 10 at 5:30

Pray