

Life Group Notes

Sunday 25th September 2022

Speaker: Sean Green

Title: Vision Sunday

Passage: Acts 11-12

Read Acts 11v19-21 & Acts 12v25-13v3

The church in Antioch was started by believing Jews preaching to people who were like themselves. It wasn't until believers from Cyprus came that Gentiles were reached. Barnabas and Saul (Apostle to the Gentiles) teach the church for a year before taking an offering from the church in Antioch to the church in Jerusalem. They return with John Mark to Antioch which now has a diverse leadership (gifting, culture, ethnicity). Soon the Spirit commissions the church to send Barnabas and Saul on a missionary journey. Three observations on the Antioch church:

Their local mission crossed cultures (eventually): Initially they only reached those like themselves, but eventually they reached Gentiles. Much like RFC, which has reached mainly middle class white and black people, we now need to reach those not like us.

Their leadership was diverse: both in gifting (prophets teachers, apostles), culture and ethnicity, presumably reflecting Antioch. RFC is also tracking this with the proposed elders and deacons: Tope – Deacon, God's Big Story; Emem – Deacon, Sunday Livestream; Giles – deacon, Comets; Janine – deacon, Outreach; Clayton – Elder; Becky – deacon, Beyond; Blessing – Elder, Tom – deacon, Sunday Ops

Biblical qualifications: Elders: 1Tim 3v1-7; Titus 1v5-9; 1Pet 5v2-4 . Deacons: 1Tim 3v8-13; Acts 6v3. We propose setting them apart by the laying on of hands on Sunday 20 Nov.

We also have a young man from another church serving us for a year, David De Bruin.

Their concern was also for those beyond: They provided famine relief for the church in Jerusalem and commissioned Barnabas and Saul for mission beyond Antioch. RFC has a company of 'Beyonders' who are being joined by family Rogers when they leave for the Middle East this Nov.

Suggested questions:

1. Why is local mission that crosses culture's so hard? What answers does the Gospel provide to overcome these difficulties?
2. Why is diverse leadership difficult? What answers does the Gospel provide to overcome these difficulties?
3. Who of the Beyonders are you praying / supporting?