

THE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS MESSENGER

January 24, 2010

The Church At Antioch Of Syria--1

There are two churches spoken of more than any others in the book of Acts. The one is very obvious and it is the church at Jerusalem. The other is perhaps not quite so obvious. Acts 11:19-20 says, **“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.”** The “Hellenists” spoken of in verse 20 were Greek-speaking non-Jews. After some of the men of Cyprus had heard the gospel and obeyed it they determined to do what had been done for them. They began to spread the gospel message and eventually arrived at Antioch in Syria. In so doing, they planted the seed for what would become an extraordinarily strong and thriving church. Pay special care that you do not confuse Antioch of Syria with Antioch of Pisidia. In Antioch of Pisidia Paul and Barnabas enjoyed a very receptive audience initially. However, jealous Jews were able to contradict the things they taught and stir up the crowd against them (Acts 13). The church at Antioch of Syria became a bastion for the truth and would remain such throughout the entirety of Acts.

Beginning in Acts 11:19 the focus slowly shifts for much of the remainder of the book away from the church at Jerusalem and the work it was doing to the church at Antioch in Syria and the work it was doing. Acts 11:25-26 says, **“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.”** This church seems to have become the “home” church for Paul and Barnabas. Not only did they worship with them for a full year, they evidently came back to this congregation (Acts 13:1-3) after delivering their generous gift to the needy brethren down in Jerusalem who were going to struggle due to the great famine that had been prophesied by Agabus. While we are not sure where Barnabas went after his evangelistic journey with Mark to Cyprus and beyond (Acts 15:39), we do know that it was to the church at Antioch in Syria that Paul always returned (Acts 14:26; 18:22-23) save his last evangelistic trip when he was arrested and did not have that opportunity (Acts 21:10ff).

Over the next few weeks we will be examining this congregation in detail and I would encourage you to read ahead and study it for yourself. If the Lord wills, the following is the order in which I intend to go:

January 31--Acts 11:27-30 (A very generous, caring, and giving congregation)

February 7--Acts 13:1-2 (A very dedicated congregation)

February 14--Acts 13:3 (A very prayerful congregation)
February 21--Acts 14:26-27 (A very interested and involved congregation)
February 28--Acts 15:31 (A very eager congregation to please the Lord)
March 7--Acts 15:32-35 (A very well taught congregation)

I hope that at the end of our examination of this church we will all be able to see that following their example will lead to one very **strong** congregation. Theirs is a strength that we can continue to develop and build upon here at University Heights. Indeed, to truly be a congregation that the Lord can be proud of and find useful, we must!

-Adam-

I Could Use Some Help!

Designing and formatting *is not* a strong suit of mine. As I seek to redesign the back page of this bulletin, I could use the help of any members who excel at that sort of thing. My goal is to be able to include more information for the congregation (sermon info., adult class info., etc.) as well as inserting a weekly Bible reading plan which was a great suggestion by some of our members. At the same time, I don't want to lose too much article space. If you feel like you could help me with that, I'd appreciate it!

In Need of Prayers	Information
<p>Jim Edwards and Esmeralda Agustin are struggling spiritually. Let's encourage them and let them know that we are concerned.</p> <p>Shannon Gilbert, the wife of a coworker of Troy Antle, has been diagnosed with breast cancer. She had surgery this past Thursday. We should have an update today.</p> <p>Rachel Knollman will have her gall bladder removed on the 29th. Her cancer treatments have necessarily been postponed due to that surgery.</p> <p>David Day and his wife have been deployed to Iraq.</p> <p>Remember Michelle Oxendine, Ron Catchen, Chuck McDavitt, and David Blakeman.</p>	<p>Rachel Crawford's aunt, Gail Stein, has been diagnosed with breast cancer. She is going to do chemo and radiation before surgery.</p> <p>Their informational meeting will be today at 5 p.m. Please make your plans to attend.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">University Height Church of Christ 445 Columbia Avenue Lexington, Ky 40508 859-255-6257 www.uheightschurch.com</p>