

Calvary's Unique Calling P2

Casting Vision for Supporting Local and Global Missions through Supporting the Home Base

Thesis: We are a people who join Jesus on his mission in our spheres of influence together with others. We do that by partnering with others, by equipping and sending people, and by sowing resources into what the Lord is asking us to do. Through our relationships, we are called to pastor, serve, equip, resource, support, and pray for ministries and missionaries locally and globally. The Missions Council supports Calvary in fulfilling our calling to extend the kingdom of God in the earth.

Text: Acts 11:19-30; 13:1-3; 14:26–28, The Church at Antioch

Takeaways: At the end of the next few messages...

1. I want you **to get excited** about what the Lord is doing in and through Calvary Community Church.
2. I want you **to get clarity** regarding what the Lord is doing in and through Calvary Community Church.
3. I want you **to get inspired** to support what the Lord is doing in and through Calvary Community Church.

Scoreboard: What is our scoreboard?

We are not here to build our kingdom, to spread our brand, or to serve our own purposes.

We are here to extend the kingdom of God in earth by partnering with Jesus on his mission in our spheres of influence together with others. We are here to know God and to make him known. We are here to make a difference for the kingdom of God.

1. **Mark 1:14-15.** Gospel of the Kingdom of God.
2. **Matthew 9:35-38.** Words and works. Proclamation and demonstration.
3. **Matthew 28:18-28.** As you go, make disciples of all nations (ethnic groups).
4. **Acts 1:8.** Spheres of influence: home, state, nation, other nations.
5. **Illustration:** Church at Antioch.

Let's consider Antioch as a sending church and as a church which proclaimed and demonstrated the gospel of the kingdom of God.

Acts 11:19–30 (NIV84) 19 Now those who had been scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, telling the message only to Jews. 20 Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. 21 The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. 22 News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. 24 He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. 25 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. **The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.** 27 During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) 29 The disciples, each according to his ability, decided to provide help for the brothers living in Judea. 30 This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

Acts 13:1–3 (NIV84) 1 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. 2 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.

Acts 14:26–28 (NIV84) 26 From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. 27 **On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.** 28 And they stayed there a long time with the disciples.

The beginnings of the church in Antioch are traced in 11:19–26. Verses 19–21 depict the establishment of the church at Antioch and the beginnings of its Gentile outreach. Verses 22–24 deal with the endorsement of the Antioch witness by the Jerusalem church through the bridge-figure of Barnabas. Verses 25–26 show the increase of the mission among the Gentiles through the efforts of Paul. Finally, vv. 27–30 illustrate the unity of the entire Christian community through all this as exemplified in Antioch's offering for Jerusalem in a time of famine. (Polhill, John B. *Acts. Vol. 26. The New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992.)

“The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch” (Acts 11:26). Evidently the term was not originally used by Christians of themselves. They preferred terms like “believers, disciples, brothers.” The term (*Christianoi*) consists of the Greek word for Christ/Messiah (*Christos*) with the *Latin* ending *ianus*, meaning *belonging to, identified by*. (Polhill, John B. *Acts. Vol. 26. The New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992.)

The mission to the Gentiles is not new to this section of Acts. The “breakthrough” had already occurred in chaps. 8–11, with Philip’s witness to the solitary Ethiopian, the conversion of Cornelius and his household through Peter’s testimony, and the extensive evangelization of the Gentiles in their community by the Antioch church. Indeed, Paul and Barnabas had played a major role in Antioch’s witness to the Gentiles (11:26). **What is new to these chapters is that for the first time a local Christian church was led to see the need for a witness beyond them to the larger world and commissioned missionaries to carry out that task.** Prior to this, witness had been restricted more or less to their own locale or the larger environs of Judea and Samaria. **At this point the witness to the “ends of the earth” began** (cf. 1:8). (Polhill, John B. *Acts. Vol. 26. The New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992.)

The Antioch church was the first Christian congregation to witness to the Gentiles in its own city (11:19f.). It then became the first to send missionaries forth into the larger world. Judging from Acts, Antioch was the first church to catch the vision of “foreign missions.” (Polhill, John B. *Acts. Vol. 26. The New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992.)

13:2 The Spirit led the church in its mission. As throughout Acts, God took the initiative in every new development of the Christian witness; however, the church did its part. It fasted and prayed, seeking the divine leading in a mode of expectant devotion. The Spirit was not specific at this point, referring only to “the work to which I have called them.” The little word “work” (*ergon*) refers to Paul and Barnabas’s mission. (Polhill, John B. *Acts. Vol. 26. The New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992.)

13:3 The congregation responded in faith. It is not clear who laid hands on Paul and Barnabas, whether the other prophet-teachers, the elders of the church (who can only be assumed from the structure of the other churches in Acts), or the whole congregation. The gesture almost certainly was not an ordination. The gesture was more a symbol of the congregation’s endorsing the work of the two. They separated them for a task in which they would perform a witness on behalf of the whole church. In modern terms it was a commissioning service for the two missionaries. (Polhill, John B. *Acts. Vol. 26. The New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992.)

What gospel are you believing in and sharing?

Your paradigm or perspective of the gospel will shape your message and actions. Your understanding of the gospel will impact whether you see the gospel as only something to mentally agree with, as only something that touches one person, or as something that has the capacity to change the whole universe.

What is the gospel of Jesus and the Apostles? What was their message? How was it communicated? What is its sphere or scope?

1. **Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom.**
 - a. After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. *"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"* (Mark 1:14-15).
 - b. **Jesus preached the good news that the kingdom of God is near.**
 - i. There is a coming kingdom.
 - ii. There is a King.
 - iii. Kingdom means rule or reign.
 - iv. The kingdom of God is wherever God rules and reigns.
 - c. **What should our response be to the good news that there is a King and kingdom of God?**
 - i. **Repent:**
 1. To change one's mind and start heading in the opposite direction.
 2. We no longer live like we are god or are in charge of our lives. Thy kingdom come; my kingdom go.
 - ii. **Believe:**
 1. We put our faith in the one who is the King of the kingdom.
 2. To believe in the Biblical sense is to commit, not just give mental assent or agreement.
2. **Jesus both proclaimed and demonstrated the gospel of the kingdom.**
 - a. Matthew 4:19f
 - b. Matthew 9:35-38
 - c. Acts 2:22-24, 36
 - d. Acts 10:34-43
3. **Jesus called and commissioned his followers to proclaim and demonstrate the gospel of the kingdom.**
 - a. Matthew 10:1-8
 - b. Luke 9:1-2

- c. Luke 10:1-2
 - d. Acts 1:8
 - e. Acts 8:4-12 (Philip)
 - f. 1 Corinthians 2:1-4 (Paul)
 - g. 1 Thessalonians 1:5 (Paul)
 - h. Note: Not everyone I pray for gets healed. Not everyone I witness to gets saved. My job is to be obedient and to work out what Jesus is working in and through me (Philippians 2:12-13). Then, I leave the results to God.
4. **The good news of the kingdom of God is found in a person, the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- a. Jesus is anointed and appointed to meet the needs and condition of every person (Luke 4:18-19).
 - b. Jesus is anointed and appointed to redeem and reconcile the whole universe to God and to the purposes of God (Colossians 1:3-23).
5. **In order to see the kingdom of God, you must be born again** (John 3:3). So, we must proclaim how to become a believer in and a follower of Jesus Christ (Mark 1:14-15; John 1:12; Romans 3:23, 5:8, 6:33, 10:9-10, 13; Acts 2:21-39).

What has the Lord been doing in and through Calvary Community Church locally, nationally, and globally through the years? (Impact for the kingdom of God)

1. **Our calling has always been to serve God's purposes beyond ourselves, not just building a local church.**
 - a. We have resourced other pastors and churches through friendship, ministry, and mentoring. Other pastors have sought our counsel, prayer, and insights.
 - b. We participated in the **Whole and Healthy Children Initiative** by partnering with the vision of changing the trajectory of children for good by partnering with local schools (Hairgrove Elementary Partnership with Copperfield Church).
2. **By the grace of God, our vision has always included sharing what the Lord is doing in our midst with others.**
 - a. We want people to know God intimately, personally, and corporately.
 - b. We have given away what God is doing in us through Ministry Team Training, Spiritual Awakening Conferences, corporate prayer in our area and in the region, and the list goes on and on.
 - c. We celebrate the impact for the kingdom of God globally through relationships, ministries, missionaries, and mission trips.
3. **Through our different ministries, the Lord is using and empowering Calvary to reach, disciple, train, and transform people locally and globally.**

- a. We want to recognize and celebrate what we are doing together and the impact we are having locally and globally.
- b. **Missional giving and support.** Please remember that we are missional both through our church budget and through our missions giving. **Most of us are not aware that we are missional locally and globally through supporting our home base and regular budget.**
- c. **Pastoring 3 congregations at Calvary.** We are pastoring three congregations in this home base: Calvary, Children's Ministry (reaching the unreached), and Youth Ministry (reaching the unreached).
- d. **Hosting 3 congregations using our building:** Calvary, IPUL, Greater Works Int'l. On the weekend of Oct. 11 – 12, we saw how God uses our facilities and resources in an extraordinary way.

We are here to extend the kingdom of God in the earth, not to build our own kingdom. Let's look at what the Lord is doing through Calvary in the area of local, national, and international missions.

We are called to join Jesus on his mission locally and globally. We do that by partnering with others, by equipping and sending people, and by sowing resources into what the Lord is asking us to do.

1. **We have sowed what God has given to us in terms of experiences with God and resources of God into people who have gone on to pastor or plant churches in the Greater Houston area and the nations.**
 - a. Gateway Church in Hockley.
 - b. An inner-city church in the Montrose area.
 - c. Myanmar missions and church planting efforts in villages.
 - d. A Hispanic church in Waller.
2. **People who come to Calvary get infected with our DNA and are used by God as the Lord scatters them across Texas, the USA, and the World.**
 - a. People from Calvary have gone out with a contagion of the Spirit for small groups, Ministry Team Training, power ministry, intercession, intimacy with God, authentic community, and the gospel of the kingdom of God.
 - i. Chicago.
 - ii. Tulsa.
 - iii. Colorado Springs.
 - iv. Kansas City.
 - v. Latvia.
 - vi. China.
 - vii. Ukraine.

- viii. Nigeria.
 - ix. And many other places.
3. **We are a pioneering church which creates a wake for others to follow.**
- a. *1 Corinthians 11:1 (NIV84) Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.*
 - i. *1 Corinthians 11:1 (NKJV) Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.*
 - b. As a pioneering church, we help point out the ditches to avoid along the way and the practices and principles that have helped us to stay in step with the Lord in order to help others make this incredible journey with God.

What is the Lord doing in and through Calvary Community Church today in the area of missions?

Today, I want to introduce you to a few more people and organizations whom we partner with and support through our **Missions Council**.

Calvary's Missions Council: The Missions Council works with the Senior Pastor to support the missions ministry of Calvary by developing the missions budget, praying for our missionaries, and making prayerful decisions on the requests submitted to the council. Through the Missions budget, we support missionaries, organizations aligning with our vision, and trips to express kingdom ministry. Our missions ministry touches people locally, nationally, and internationally to express the gospel of the kingdom of God. **Members of the Missions Council** are Lynda Gilpin, Jeanne Hughes, Evelyn Owens, Magan Yarbrough, and Jeff McGee.

Through our relationships with ministries and missionaries, we are called to pastor, serve, equip, resource, and support ministries and missionaries locally and globally. The Missions Council supports Calvary in fulfilling our calling to extend the kingdom of God in the earth.

- 1. [Pastor Steve Meesks, Freshwater Int'l:](#)
 - a. Pastor Steve has been and continues to serve as a gatekeeper for Calvary and for other leaders and people.
 - b. He is a prophetic voice for the Lord to our generation.
 - c. Through his prophetic gifting and teaching, Pastor Steve seeks to equip pastors, churches, and business leaders to develop Kingdom character, authority, and effectiveness.

- d. His prophetic assignment is aimed at creating a ministry culture that releases prophetic impartation and establishes the incarnational presence of God with his people.
2. [Gene and Rene' Haub, FamilyLife Ministries](#):
 - a. They currently serve on the executive leadership team with [FamilyLife Ministries](#) in Orlando, Florida.
 - b. Their passion is to be used of God to strengthen marriages and families across our nation and around the world.
 - c. Their vision is to equip those families to be a beacon of hope as they reach out to other families in their neighborhoods, churches, and communities.
3. [Padre'](#): ministering to the 1%'ers.
4. [Rev. Mosy and Gloria Madugba, Ministers Prayer Network Int'l.](#)
 - a. Dr. Prof. Mosy Madugba is a lifelong friend and international coordinator of MPN, which is an apostolic and prophetic network impacting the nations through prayer, equipping, evangelism, and missions.
5. [Valson Abraham, India Gospel Outreach](#):
 - a. IGO is dedicated to planting a church in every postal code in India, the world's largest nation, and touching people of every caste in India.
6. [Kendon and Wendy Wheeler, New Life Children's Home, Guatemala](#):
 - a. New Life Advance International missionaries work alongside Guatemalan nationals in the areas of rescuing children at risk, preventing human trafficking, evangelism, discipleship and community transformation.
7. [Doug Stringer, Somebody Cares](#):
 - a. Somebody Cares is of the most impactful compassion evangelism and disaster relief ministries in the world.
 - b. Since 1981, Somebody Cares has been serving the hurting in Houston and beyond by uniting the Body of Christ to reach out as a tangible expression of God's love to them. They respond to the needs of individuals, partner with community ministries, coordinate prayer efforts, respond to disasters, and equip young leaders in order to help the community.
8. [Ana, Novo](#): ministering cross culturally in Europe.
9. [CareNet Pregnancy Center NW Houston](#):
 - a. Since 1991, Care Net Pregnancy Center has ministered to over 23,000 young women and their families. The ministry began by offering pregnancy testing and peer counseling, and has since added educational classes and ultrasound imaging. Today, Care Net offers more than 20 educational classes and has provided nearly 4,000 women life-saving ultrasounds.

10. [Pastor John Cung and Immanuel Calvary Church Missions, Myanmar:](#)
 - a. We have partnered with Pastor John and Esther Cung since 2008.
 - b. They are involved in raising up church planters, missionaries, and ministers to reach the unreached in Myanmar.
11. [Pastor David Biakkung, Yangon, Myanmar:](#) orphanage, school, Bible School:
 - a. **Father's House Children's Home** came online in 2008 in response to the Nargis Cyclone which left hundreds of children orphaned throughout Myanmar. Through their compassion in action ministry, they established a home that continues to care for children and raises them up as change agents throughout Myanmar.
 - b. **Mount Carmel School International (MSCI)**, and **Highway Private School**, were established in 2016 as long-term Mission Schools, for the purpose of spreading the Gospel among people who have never been reached.
 - c. **Myanmar Mission College:** to equip students from all over Myanmar to serve in reaching the 150 people groups in Myanmar.

Takeaways:

1. I want you **to get excited** about what the Lord is doing in and through Calvary Community Church.
2. I want you **to get clarity** regarding what the Lord is doing in and through Calvary Community Church.
3. I want you **to get inspired** to support what the Lord is doing in and through Calvary Community Church.

What is our scorecard?

1. Our scorecard isn't our church size or our budget numbers.
2. Our scorecard is experiencing God and helping people fall in love with God.
3. Our scorecard is joining with God and serving the purposes of God in the lives of others in communities and nations.
4. Our scorecard is joining Jesus on his mission in our spheres of influence together with others for the sake of the kingdom of God and the glory of God.
5. Our scorecard is this: Are we doing what the Lord has led us or asked us to do?

Ministry Time: