

“Christian Missions”

Pastor Kent Groethe

The book of Acts is the story of missions in the early church.

The Focus on Missions: The Person of Jesus Christ.

“Who are you [Paul asked]? “I am Jesus of Nazareth.”

The Goal of Missions:

“I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.”

Acts 26:17b-18

The Geography of Missions.

“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” Acts 1-8

Paul was converted and then called by God to travel the Roman empire as a missionary “to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 13

The Cost of Missions:

“The crowd listened to Paul...then raised their voices and shouted, ‘Rid the earth of him!’ . . .” Acts 22:22

The Frustration of Missions:

“Leave Jerusalem...because they will not accept your testimony about me.” Acts 22:18

The Teamwork of Missions: *“God has helped me to this very day.”*

Acts 26:22

Ananias Brought Paul into Salvation.

Barnabas, Silas, Timothy and many more co-workers.

The History of Missions:

Reformation – Evangelism to the Baptized

Lutheran German and Scandinavia Pietists (1600 and 1700s)

19th Century individuals – e.g., Hudson Taylor

Around 2000, for the first time, there were more missionaries from non-Western countries than Europe and North America

Today the church is bigger than ever

700 million Christians in Africa?

100 million believers in China

Dreams of Jesus happening to tens of thousands of Muslims

We are called to missions – to share Christ with those who do not yet know him. As a church we should balance our ministry to the three geographical areas from Acts 1. As individuals, we live in a mission field.