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*Acts 11:19-30**The Church in Antioch*

<sup>19</sup>Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. <sup>22</sup>News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. <sup>23</sup>When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. <sup>24</sup>He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. <sup>25</sup>Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, <sup>26</sup>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. <sup>27</sup>During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. <sup>28</sup>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.) <sup>29</sup>The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea. <sup>30</sup>This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

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**Church Planting: This Again?**  
**Discussion Questions**

1. What do you think about FPC's recent focus on and efforts toward becoming a church that plants churches? Excited? Concerned? Why?
  2. Read Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 2:42-47 and Acts 11:19-30. What do you find interesting about the relationship between "making disciples" and "planting churches"?
  3. FPC has directly planted 20-22 churches in its history and can claim an indirect role in 22 additional plants in the last 5 years. What is your reaction to this? Do you agree or disagree with Pastor Jim's assertion that FPC has an "apostolic call" to continue the church planting movement that began when we began in 1839?
  4. Do you believe FPC's best days are ahead of us -- or behind us? Why do you feel that way?
  5. What do you think of the Tim Keller idea that established churches need to wrestle with this question: "Are we going to rejoice in the new people that the Kingdom has gained through a new church plant -- or are we going to bemoan the situation and resent the people we lost to it?"
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If you would like to discuss the subject of prayer further with Pastor Jim, feel free to email him at [jbirchfield@fpchouston.org](mailto:jbirchfield@fpchouston.org)

In addition, here is a fabulous article on church planting:  
*Why Plant Churches?* By Tim Keller