

MISSIONS IS

CP

CHURCH PLANTING



**28 DAY DEVOTION &
PRAYER GUIDE**



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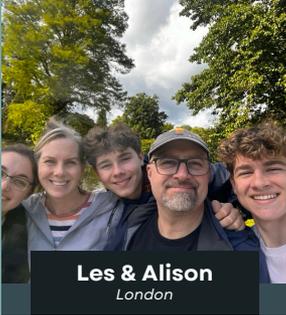
Devotions on Paul's Church Planting Missionary Journeys *“Missions is Church Planting”*

These devotions are designed for a twofold purpose. First, to be used in your personal devotional and prayer time. Second, to be used by your family to pray together.

These devotions follow Paul's three missionary journeys. They will help you to see the larger story of the book of Acts and to see that, biblically, missions is always church planting.



Our Acts 1:8 Partners



Les & Alison
London



R & M
Middle East



Abu John & Umm John
Middle East



Jeff & Rachel
Brazil



Mason & Sarah Morgan
Travel Team



Jamie & Jessica
New York



MISSIONS IS CHURCH PLANTING

VISION

1

Believe Missions is Church Planting

2

Connect more deeply with
Acts 1:8 Partners

3

Commit to all that God has for us



July 14

Day 1



Passage

Read Acts 13:1-3—The call to church-planting missions.

Devotion

The church at Antioch was a global church with elders from Cyprus, Ethiopia, Libya, Tarsus, and Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit spoke to the elders of the church to set apart Barnabas and Saul to the missionary/church planting work to which God was calling them. The church elders laid hands on them and sent them out. It is out of churches that God calls people to cross-cultural missions. And it is churches who send people out.

Pray

We are thankful for the IMB as a cooperative expression of support for missionaries. But the church is central in missions. Pray for Acts 1:8 partners Jeff Brawner and Sarah Morgan Willett who were called out and sent out by Wynne Baptist.





July 15

Day 2



Passage

Read Acts 13:4-12—Church planting and spiritual warfare.

Devotion

Paul's first stop in his missionary journeys was Cyprus. He and Barnabas crossed the island preaching the gospel. When they reached the far side of Cyprus they had the opportunity to share the gospel with the governor Sergius Paulus. They were opposed in the gospel encounter by satanic opposition from a magician named Elymus. Paul faced this spiritual warfare head on and called on the Lord to blind Elymus. Sergius Paulus was saved and another church was planted in Cyprus.

Pray

Pray for our Acts 1:8 partners R and M and the spiritual warfare they are facing right now in training church planters. Ask the Lord to give them spiritual strength and encouragement.





July 16

Day 3



Passage

Read Acts 13:13-52—Church planting among the Gentiles.

Devotion

Paul sailed from Cyprus and walked the long journey from Perga to Pisidian Antioch. When Paul arrived in Pisidian Antioch, he went into the synagogue to share the gospel. The next week a large crowd turned out to hear Paul. The Jews were jealous and stirred up persecution, but a large number of Gentiles joyfully responded to the gospel and a church was planted.

Pray

Give thanks for our Acts 1:8 partner, Les, who walked long journeys into remote areas in a North African country to share the gospel and train new believers which resulted in a church planting movement with over 250,000 baptized believers and thousands of churches planted. That movement is now spreading to three other surrounding countries.





July 17

Day 4

Passage

Read Acts 14:1-7—Church planting in a divided city.

Devotion

At Iconium, Paul shared the gospel in the synagogue and marketplace. A good number of Jews and Gentiles believed, but the unbelieving Jews stirred up unbelieving Gentiles against the new believers and the new church. Paul remained a long time preaching and doing signs and wonders. The city was divided between those who joined the Jews in their opposition and those who supported Paul and Barnabas. When the opposition plan to mistreat and stone Paul and Barnabas erupted, they left for the next stop.

Pray

Pray for our Acts 1:8 partner, Abu John, who labors in a divided city in which Christians are a minority and there are many who oppose the gospel.





July 18

Day 5



Passage

Read Act 14:8-20a—Church planting in persecution.

Devotion

In Lystra, Paul healed a crippled man. The people confused Paul and Barnabas for Greek gods. Paul replied to their confusion by proclaiming the gospel. Opposing Jews from Antioch and Iconium stirred up the crowd to take Paul out of the city and stone him until they supposed he was dead. But when the new church in Lystra gathered around Paul, he rose and boldly walked back into the city. Boldness goes hand in hand with church planting.

Pray

Pray for our Acts 1:8 partners, R and M, and the persecution those they train face. Pray that the Lord will give them boldness.





July 19

Day 6

Passage

Read Acts 14:20b-21a—Church planting in good ground.

Devotion

Paul next went to Derbe. Little is written about his stay there, but the little that is said, says a lot. When the gospel is sown, some falls on hard ground, some on thorny ground, some on shallow ground, and some on good ground that produces much fruit. At Derbe Paul found much good ground as “many disciples” were made and multiple house churches planted.

Pray

Pray for Acts 1:8 partners, Jamie and Jessica Naramore, as they plan to go to Queens, New York City and plant churches among the many Arabic speakers there. Pray that they find much good soil.





July 20

Day 7



Passage

Read Acts 14:20b-21a—Church planting in good ground.

Devotion

Paul left Derbe to visit the churches in Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch in Pisidia to encourage the new churches in the face of opposition and persecution to be steadfast and bold in the Lord. He appointed elders to lead the churches. He pointed them to the grace and faithfulness of the Lord. New churches always need someone to come alongside of them and strengthen their spiritual health and growth.

Pray

Pray for Bro. Matt as he trains church planters for the Arkansas State Baptist Convention.





July 21

Day 8



Passage

Read Acts 14:24-28—Reporting to the church.

Devotion

Paul and Barnabas traveled back to the church in Antioch, their sending church. For a long period of time they reported to the gathered church all that God had done during their missionary journey, how the Lord had opened the door for the gospel to go to the Gentiles, and about the churches planted.

Pray

Pray that as our Acts 1:8 partners report to us during our Missions is Church Planting Conference, that our relationship with them will deepen and our support of them will increase.





July 22

Day 9

Passage

Read Acts 14:24-28—Reporting to the church.

Devotion

The Jerusalem Council was a turning point in the spread of the gospel. Some from a strict Jewish background contended that Gentiles had to add circumcision to trusting Christ in order to be saved. At the Jerusalem Council, Peter spoke about what God was doing among the Gentiles. Then Paul shared how God was saving Gentiles. Under the leadership of James, the council decided that the gospel of Jesus was for everyone everywhere. They sent a letter to the churches Paul had planted to encourage and strengthen them.

Pray

Pray for R and M and the number who have come into the light of Christ.





July 23

Day 10

Passage

Read Acts 15:38-16:10—The importance of hearing the Holy Spirit in church planting.

Devotion

In Acts 15:41 Paul and Barnabas had a disagreement over John Mark and parted ways. Human disagreements cannot thwart God’s plan for the nations. Paul took Silas on his second missionary journey. They revisited the churches in Antioch, Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe where they pick up Timothy. Paul planned to go into the province of Asia next, but two times the Holy Spirit forbade him. Then Paul had a dream with a Macedonian asking, “Come over here and help us.” Perceiving it to be of the Lord, he headed westward to Macedonia.

Pray

Pray that as a church we will be spiritually attuned to hear and follow the Holy Spirit where He leads us.





July 24

Day 11



Passage

Read Acts 16:11-40—Planting churches in Philippi.

Devotion

When Paul arrived in Philippi there was no synagogue, so on the Sabbath Paul went to the riverside where the Jews would gather for prayer. Lydia and her household were saved and baptized. A church was planted from her “oikos.” (Okios = friends and families) After casting a demon out of a young woman who was harassing them, Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown in prison. Their God-honoring and Jesus-exalting response to the difficult situation led to planting another house church with the Philippian jailer when his household believed.

Pray

Pray for our Acts 1:8 partner, Abu John, as he trains church planting leaders in his Middle-East country.





July 25

Day 12



Passage

Read Acts 17:1-9—Church planting in Thessalonica.

Devotion

Sharing the gospel often stirs up opposition. At Thessalonica, Paul preached in the synagogue and some Jews, Greeks, and leading women of the city believed, but some rose up in opposition because of jealousy and stirred up persecution. Paul and Silas had to leave the city, but they left a healthy church behind.

Pray

Pray for those whom R and M have trained who now meet in homes and study the Bible, especially those who are in danger of deportation. They are hungry to grow in their understanding of the Bible and to grow in their relationship with Jesus.





July 26

Day 13



Passage

Read Acts 17:10-15—Church planting at Berea.

Devotion

When Paul came to Berea he found much good soil. The people there eagerly received the Word and searched the Scriptures to see if the gospel of Jesus, which Paul was proclaiming, was true. Many believed and house churches were planted. The jealous Jews from Thessalonica came to Berea to stir up trouble. The new believers urged Paul to leave. He left Silas and Timothy in Berea to strengthen the new churches as he traveled to Athens.

Pray

Thank God in prayer for the good soil our Acts 1:8 partners, Jeff and Rachel Brawner, found in their recent trip to Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay. Pray that they will continue to find much good soil there.





July 27

Day 14



Passage

Read Acts 17:16-34—Contextualizing the Gospel in Athens.

Devotion

When Paul arrived in Athens, his heart was grieved because of the great idolatry of the city. He shared the gospel in the synagogues and marketplace. After an invitation by the Greek philosophers on Mars Hill, Paul contextualizes the gospel. Paul pointed to God who created all things and works among the nations for their good and His glory. He proclaimed that Jesus is the only way of salvation. Some scoffed at him, others wanted to hear more, and others believed.

Pray

Pray for our Acts 1:8 partner, Les, who lives in London, contextualizing and sharing the gospel in a secular and multicultural city with the goal of planting house churches.





July 28

Day 15



Passage

Read Acts 18:1-17—Church planting in Corinth.

Devotion

Paul traveled to Corinth, a city known for its wealth and unrestrained sexual sin. There he found a receptiveness among the Gentiles. Responding to an assuring dream from the Lord, he stayed in Corinth for a year and a half teaching the word. Many believed and many house churches were planted. Aquila and Priscilla joined Paul's missionary team along with Silas, Luke, and Timothy.

Pray

Pray for our Acts 1:8 partners, Les and Alison, and for the elite team of men who have been involved in church planting movements in different parts of the world. Pray for their team to grow as they respond to train multiple church planting movements.





July 29

Day 16



Passage

Read Acts 18:18-22—Returning to the church at Antioch.

Prayer Guide

Paul returned to his sending church in Antioch. He stayed some time sharing with them all that the Lord was doing in saving Gentiles and in churches being planted. It was important to Paul to stay in close contact with the church at Antioch and encourage them as his partnering church.

Pray

Pray that we will be encouraged to deeper engagement by the reports of our Acts 1:8 partners at the Missions is Church Planting conference.





July 30

Day 17



Passage

Read Acts 18:23–Paul embarks on his third missionary journey.

Devotion

He first revisited the churches he had planted in Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe. He strengthened the teaching of the Word and appointed elder leaders. Paul did not just plant churches and leave them on their own. He invested much time in training because healthy churches are reproducing churches.

Pray

Give thanks to God in prayer that all of our Acts 1:8 partners are involved in training to expand the planting of churches.





July 31

Day 18

Passage

Read Acts 18:24-28—Making disciples that make disciples.

Devotion

Aquila and Priscilla traveled with Paul toward Antioch to revisit the Antioch church. Along the way, Paul was discipling them. On the way, Paul drops off Aquila and Priscilla in Ephesus to begin the work there. In Ephesus they encounter Apollos, a powerful preacher of the baptism of John the Baptist. Aquila and Priscilla took Apollos aside, led him to the knowledge of Jesus and disciplined him. They were disciples making disciples. Apollos became a powerful preacher of Jesus.

Pray

Pray that our church vision will deepen in our hearts and in our commitment, “Making Multiplying Disciples from Wynne to the World.”





August 1

Day 19



Passage

Read Acts 19:1-10—Church planting and God’s timing.

Devotion

On Paul’s second missionary journey, the Holy Spirit would not let Paul enter the province of Asia. Now on his third missionary journey he goes into Asia for a most fruitful ministry. The timing of the Lord is always perfect. Hearing and obeying the Lord is essential in missions and church planting. At Ephesus, Paul leads those who had known only of the baptism of John the Baptist to Jesus and churches were planted. Paul then uses a public hall to proclaim the gospel and teach the Word for two years.

Pray

Pray that, as a church, we will be sensitive to the Lord’s leading and obedient to the doors He opens for the expansion of the kingdom and the planting of churches in different parts of the world.





August 2

Day 20



Passage

Read and meditate on Acts 19:10–The beginning of a church planting movement.

Devotion

As Paul taught in the public hall for two years, something remarkable happened. All of Asia heard the gospel and churches were planted. People from all over the province heard Paul and returned to their cities, shared the gospel, and planted churches including the other six churches Jesus addressed in Revelation 2-3; Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. A church was also planted in Colossae. All of these churches planted other churches in their areas, so all Asia heard the gospel.

Pray

Pray for new church planters who were trained In Brazil by Jeff Brawner, that are now training church planters In several countries In Africa and southeast Asia. Pray church planting movements start.





August 3

Day 21



Passage

Read Acts 19:11-20—Church planting requires breaking with old beliefs.

Devotion

The seven sons of Sceva tried to counterfeit Paul's miracles by commanding a demon to come out of a man in the name of Jesus. Their false faith was exposed as a man possessed with a demon beat them and stripped off their clothes. This caused the fear of the Lord among the new believers, and they confessed and repented of the pagan magic arts they had practiced. They brought their magic arts book, valued at more than \$5 million dollars, to be burned. It was an open break with their past beliefs. As a result, the Word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail in the life of the Ephesian church.

Pray

Pray for our Acts 1:8 partners, R and M, and the five new discipleship groups they have started. Pray for the former Muslim believers as they make decisive breaks with their old beliefs and grow in their new life in Jesus.





August 4

Day 22



Passage

Read Acts 19:21-20:1–Opposition to the church planter.

Devotion

Whenever there is a movement of God, there is a counter move by the enemy. Remarkable expansion of the gospel and planting of churches were taking place in Ephesus and Asia. Now a silversmith, whose business is making items for the worship of one of the false gods in Ephesus, stirs up opposition to Paul. It turned into a riot by the unbelievers. Paul had already planned to return to Macedonia and Greece. He leaves so the new churches can have peace and continue to grow and increase. Before leaving he calls the leaders of the churches and encourages them through the Word, challenging them in expanding the church.

Pray

Pray for our Acts 1:8 partner, Abu John, and the political, spiritual, and financial challenges his training work continually grapples with.





August 5

Day 23



Passage

Read Acts 20:2-4—Paul revisits the churches planted in Macedonia and Greece.

Devotion

Paul needs to visit and encourage the churches started in Macedonia and Greece on his second journey. Paul gathered some of the leaders from the churches out of these areas. They met Paul in Troas for a time of deeper training and encouragement. Paul knew that his time of ministry was coming to an end so he was preparing these new leaders to take over the work from him. It is always important to stay in close contact with those with whom we are partnered.

Pray

Pray that Wynne Baptist will increase in our encouragement, support, prayers, and involvement with our Acts 1:8 partners.





August 6

Day 24



Passage

Read Acts 20:5-12—Training leaders.

Devotion

Paul meets the church leaders at Troas and spends seven days training them. Training leaders and church planting go hand in hand. Paul was always multiplying himself by training leaders. The training was so intense that on the last night he taught until midnight and a young man fell asleep and died. Paul raised him and continued to teach until daybreak. The leaders were greatly encouraged.

Pray

Pray for our Acts 1:8 partner, Jeff Brawner, as he multiplies himself by training leaders who are now training other leaders and planting churches in different parts of the world.





August 7

Day 25



Passage

Read Acts 20:13-27—Paul’s church planting testimony to the Ephesian elders.

Devotion

Arriving at Miletus Paul sends for the elders from Ephesus. He gives the testimony of his ministry among them. His recounting of his church planting work among them highlighted:

1. He taught them the Word publicly at the public hall he used during the three years he was in Ephesus.
 2. He taught the Word, house to house, to the many house churches that were planted throughout Ephesus.
 3. He was compelled by the Holy Spirit to go to Jerusalem knowing that he would be imprisoned and face many difficulties.
 4. He taught them the whole counsel of God.
-

Pray

Pray that we will be much encouraged by the testimonies of what the Lord is doing through the ministries our Acts 1:8 partners will share with us during our Missions is Church Planting Conference.





August 8

Day 26



Passage

Read Acts 20:28-38—Paul’s charge to the elders from Ephesus.

Devotion

After recounting his church planting work in Ephesus, he charges the elders he has raised up and trained to:

1. Give careful oversight to the church.
 2. Commit to the importance of the church because it is God’s church purchased by the blood of Jesus.
 3. Be alert and guard the church from false prophets and false teaching.
 4. To depend on God and the word of His grace.
-

Pray

Pray for the great responsibilities that our Acts 1:8 partners R and M and Abu John, have for the spiritual care of those who have come to Christ from Muslim backgrounds.





August 9

Day 27

Passage

Missions as Church Planting never ends.

Prayer Guide

Paul not only revisited the churches he had planted, but he wrote letters to them that are the epistles in our Bible. He wrote some of the letters to encourage, some to instruct, and some to correct. He wrote some epistles while on his missionary journeys. He wrote some while he was in prison. Mostly he wrote to churches, but he did write to Timothy and Titus about raising up leaders in the churches and how to strengthen the churches in the truth. For Paul, his love for the churches and the planting of churches never ended.

Pray

Pray that we will see with greater clarity the importance of staying in close contact, encouraging, and praying for our Acts 1:8 partners.





August 10

Day 28



Missions as Church Planting never ends.

Pray

Pray for our Missions is Church Planting Conference that kicks off tomorrow. Ask the Lord to:

1. Deepen our relationships with our Acts 1:8 partners.
2. Lead us in increasing our support for our Acts 1:8 partners.
3. Expand our vision of Making Disciples from Wynne to the World.
4. Lead more of our church family to be involved in short-term mission trips to work with our Acts 1:8 partners.
5. Call people out of Wynne Baptist to be full-time missionaries.



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