

Schedule of Meeting Times:

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM
 Study Sunday 10:00 AM
 Worship Sunday Morn 11:00 AM
 Worship Sunday Eve 5:00 PM
Singing every 2nd Sunday evening
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

Preacher / bulletin editor:

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"...when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord,"

—Acts 11:23

**Servants during December:**

Songleader: Dwight (1), Stanley (8),
 Larry (15), Dwight (22), Stanley (29)

Reading: Stanley

Announcements: Larry

Table: Mike M, Marty, Stanley

Wednesday Lesson: Larry (4), Stanley
 (11), Kris (18), Larry (25)

Area Meetings:

Tri-Cities, Dec 8-11, Dan Kingsley

Hays Mill church of Christ

21705 Hays Mill Road
 Elkmont, AL 35620

The Bible . Examiner

"Examine everything carefully..." 1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

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How the church came to Antioch

By Robert F. Turner

Men of Cyprus and Cyrene, (members of the church scattered by persecution) came to Antioch and "spoke unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus. ...A great number believed, and turned unto the Lord."

The church in Jerusalem sent Barnabas to Antioch, "Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord." Through his work, "much people was added unto the Lord."

Later, Paul came to work with Barnabas, and "they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."

In these passages (Acts 11:19-26) we learn (1) the word of the Lord was preached, (2) people believed, (3) and turned unto the Lord; (4) they cleaved unto the Lord, and (5) others were

added unto the Lord. And these people were called "the church" "disciples" and "Christians." The discerning person sees in these verses how the church came to Antioch, and how it comes to any other place on earth.

The Seed is the Word of God

The kingdom (church) is the fruit of seed sown in honest hearts, Lk 8:11. Truth, and only truth, can produce the church of Christ. Conversely, the complete unadulterated Truth can produce only the church of Christ. Surely it is obvious that I refer to the true church of the Lord, and not to a party of people who may wear the name, Church of Christ. The true church consists of people who cleave unto the Lord, not of people who cleave unto a church building, or to other people (reread Acts 11:19-26).

How May the Church STAY in Antioch?


We have seen that its existence depends upon the TRUTH, and PEOPLE DEDICATED TO THE TRUTH. Now the truth will remain true, without any help from us. 1 Peter 1:25 says it will endure forever. But people are far less constant—they “depart from the faith,” 1 Tim 4:1. Note: depart from the faith, not from other people.

The only way we can keep Christ’s church in Antioch or any other place, is to keep people dedicated to truth. (And that takes a fair job of keeping, in the light of competition. As a rule, the majority is dedicated to preachers, friends, buildings, and to “the way we’ve been doing it.”)

No Man Can Save the Church

The church already has a savior, Jesus Christ. He is willing and able to save all who come to Him. But we can exhort one another; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine, 2 Tim 4:2ff. We can do as did Barnabas—“exhorted them all that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord,” Acts 11:23. In this way we may “keep” the church in Antioch, Elkmont, or any other place. And mark it well, this is the only way it can be kept.

Let Jesus Christ save YOU, and YOU will be a member of His true church.

—via **Plain Talk**, Vol 1 No 3, January 1964. 

Local church membership

By Roger M. Hendricks

Mr. Hendricks preached in Colorado when I was a young man, and was a great influence on me and my thinking—I miss him, and look forward to seeing him again when the time is right.

Must each Christian be a member of a local congregation? Like so many questions, this one cannot be properly answered either yes or no without considering existing circumstances. The reason for this is that the essentialness of local church membership is contingent upon two important factors: (1) being where other Christians are and (2) their

walking according to truth in their congregational practices. I would certainly deny that one is obligated to be a member of a local church when such is impossible due to there being no others with whom he could unite or when those who compose the church are engaged in unauthorized congregational activities. But granting these two conditions, membership is essential!

The local church of Christ is a relationship (fellowship) between individuals. This fellowship is designed for those who are partakers

of the common salvation, dedicated to the common service of God, subjects of the common authority of Jesus Christ, and renderers of common worship. In view of man’s gregarious nature it seems only natural that God would make provision for Christians to enjoy fellowship (mutual, active participation in common interest) in the fulfillment of their work and worship. The Lord has made such provision in His Word. The local church is the result of that provision. If God gave the local church, membership is necessary. There can be no church without members thereof. There can be no members thereof without membership therein.


Those who are to oversee the churches of Christ (elders, pastors, or bishops) are often mentioned in the New Testament: e.g., Acts 11:30; 14:23; 15:23; 20:17. Their duties are discussed: e.g. Acts 20:28-31; 1 Pet 5:1-9. These scriptures set forth the fact that elders function in the local church. For them to guide and oversee there must be someone or something or both for them to oversee. This oversight, then demands a local church, which demands members, which demands

membership.

Christians are to be, not only a part of, but, to some extent, amenable to a local church. This is seen in the responsibility of local church discipline. The Lord expects of us purity of life and teaching, Gal 1:6-9; 5:19-23. He also demands that the congregation exercise corrective discipline in cases of impurity, 2 Thess 3:6,14; Rom 16:17,18; 1 Cor 5. Local church discipline demands a local church and a local church demands membership.

The example of the early disciples indicates that Christians are to be members of local congregations. When Paul went to Jerusalem, he “assayed to join himself to the disciples” and eventually “was with them,” Acts 9:26-28. In Antioch he and Barnabas “assembled themselves with” the church over a period of one year, Acts 11:25,26. They were “in the church that was at Antioch,” Acts 13:1. In fact, when Paul and others found no local church in existence, upon the conversion of souls, they established one, Acts 18:27; Rom 16:1ff.

Are you a faithful member of the local body of the Lord’s church?

—via **The Exhorter**, March 19, 2000. 

Remember in Prayer

Marie is dealing with chronic illness; **Mike B and his family** continue to deal with his cancer. **Mark Horton** may begin radiation treatment for prostate cancer in January. Pray also for **Barbara; Betty;**

Carolyn; Hazel; Joshua V; Kathy M; Faye; and **the Pollard Family**. Please pray for the local jailors and inmates. And remember to pray for the safety, wisdom, and most particularly the salvation, of our nation’s leaders. 