

PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY AND THE APOSTOLIC COUNCIL

Key verse 13:47 “For this is what the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’”

The church in Antioch was chosen by God to serve the world mission and thus take the next step according to Acts 1:8. When the Holy Spirit set apart Barnabas and Saul for the missionary work among the Gentiles, they obeyed, prayed, fasted, laid hands on them, and sent them off.

The apostles went first to Cyprus. In Antioch, Paul preached from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ. Many followed the apostles, while others asked them to preach again on the next Sabbath. When the Jews became jealous because of the large crowd and resisted and blasphemed, Paul and Barnabas announced that they would turn to the Gentiles. Their testimony in verse 47 reads: “For this is what the Lord has commanded us: I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.” Through the testimonies of Paul and Barnabas, the door of faith was opened among the Gentiles, as reported in Acts 14:27. “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.” Despite the opposition, Paul did not despair. His spiritual identity and resurrection spirit enabled him to proclaim the saving gospel among the Gentiles, regardless of the situation. Those who possess spiritual identity and the resurrection spirit can receive God's ability to turn all apparent obstacles that lie before us into steppingstones.

The Gentiles were in darkness because they did not have the light of the gospel and the knowledge of the true God. God created them in his image. But because of sin and ignorance, they are lost. However, God has a burning heart for their salvation. Paul is called to be a light to the Gentiles, to shine as a light into this darkness and to bring the saving message of the gospel. We too are therefore called to be a living testimony of faith, hope, and love and to bring God's light into dark situations in life.

We are very grateful to God that we can celebrate the GLEF together with Msn. James' house church for the education and mobilization of the next generation. God has made his house church with the precious children Lydia, Vera, Samuel, and Daniel the light of the Gentiles in Turkey and in the M-world. God opened the door of faith in the hearts of Jakob and Leo and even uses them as precious co-workers for the translation of the Bible into Turkish.

God works through student shepherds Samuel Abraham Chang and Josua Elsholz. He has made them the light of the medical students according to John 10:11 and the Bonn students according to John 21:15, and opened the door of faith to Mustafa, Hargun, Ali, Tuna, Jürgen, and Rahman.

I was a pagan and lived in darkness and in the sins of unbelief, fatalism, and lust. I grew up in a poor family environment and strove to improve my living conditions and find meaning in life through achievements and good work. But when I realized that all my efforts were in vain

before death, I became depressed and paralyzed and lived only according to the desires of my flesh.

God had mercy on me and led me to Bible study through my shepherdess. John 3:16 shone into my life, opening the door of faith. Jesus died on the cross, forgave me all my sins, and made me a new creation. I personally accepted Jesus as my Savior and received new eternal life. God called me to devote my entire life as a campus shepherd and missionary for World Campus Mission, according to Mark 6:37a, "You give them something to eat!" He graciously accepted my decision and opened the door of faith to my family members and students. My mother served Buddha for over 30 years as a faithful Buddhist. God intervened in her life and led her to repentance and baptism. She brought all her Buddhist textbooks and CDs to the pastor and began to live as a child of God and a witness of Jesus. Through her testimony, God opened the door of faith to several women. My father followed the teachings of Confucius. But God was gracious to him and opened the door of faith to him, leading him to conversion and faith in Jesus at the end of his life.

God's heart burned for the law students. He opened the door of faith to Sh. Warmherz through Romans 13:13.14 and made him a light to the law students. The law and economics students appear very confident and capable on the outside. But under the pressure of competition and performance-oriented thinking, they live selfishly and egotistically. God made our house church a light of the law and economics students. He gave us the promise, according to Isaiah 56:7, to transform the law school into a house of prayer and to establish a believing chancellor and blessed us with Lydia and Josua as faithful prayer warriors.

A law student, Meltem, is preparing for her exam. As a child, she experienced her parents' divorce, her half-brother's beatings, and contempt for her appearance as a mixed-race child. Her goal is to become a just lawyer for people who are treated unfairly. However, she realized that she was merely an incapable and weak being when it came to making a difference in the world, and she lost the motivation to study. She cried out inwardly in despair but received the desire to know God. Although she did not know God, our God was gracious and led her to His Word. Through Genesis 1:31, she received God's absolute verdict, "It was very good!" and through Mark 11:22, she received the power to believe in God and learn faith that moves mountains. She received the desire to read God's Word daily and often wrote me a verse from the Bible, which encouraged her. A light from the gospel sparkled in her heart and the door of faith was opened to her. I repent that I was disobedient and irresponsible in my high calling to bring salvation as a light to law students. This year, God gave me Revelation 12:11: "They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death." I decide to faithfully form a prayer circle in the law school during this lecture-free period with the identity of being a light to the campus students and to lead 12 law students to the Word of God. May God make every house church and each one of us a light for students in 1,700 universities in Europe and open the door of faith for students in Bonn, in Europe, and throughout the M world.

One word: A light for students in the Juridicum, in Germany, and throughout the M world!