



## **REVISITING OUR ANTIOCH CHURCH VISION 2013**

This morning, I wish to speak about the Vision and Mission of our Church. In doing this, I wish to revisit our Antioch Church Vision. In 1996, FGA KL embraced the Antioch Church Vision following prophetic words spoken to the church over the years that it would be an “Antioch Church.” The “Antioch Church” refers to the church at Antioch described in the Book of Acts (Chapters 11 and 13).

### **THE ANTIOCH CHURCH**

It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians (Acts 11:26). Antioch was very similar to our city of Kuala Lumpur today. It was the metropolis of Syria, and afterwards became the capital of the Roman province in Asia. It was a commercial center, a vile and wicked city, with gross immorality and ritual prostitution as part of its temple worship. Being a busy port and a center for luxury and culture, it attracted all kinds of people and was a cosmopolitan city. However, Antioch was also the home of a large Jewish community

Yet within this setting, we read of a growing church that turned their world upside-down with people from all walks of life, responding to the gospel message by the thousands daily. The Antioch Church was committed to spreading the gospel. It was its top priority. The ordinary Christians spread the message as their top priority (Acts 11;19,20). The result was “a great number believed and turned to the Lord,” (Acts 11:21). The leaders kept evangelism as their top priority (Acts



11:23,24). The result was “a great number were brought to the Lord, “ (Acts 11:24); and “great numbers were taught,” (Acts 11:26). The church as a whole made evangelism its top priority (Acts 13:1-5). The result was that the “word of the Lord spread throughout the region,” (Acts 13:49). Definitely, this would be a church anyone would like to emulate.

It was a church that was full of the Holy Spirit (Acts 11:21), led by the Holy Spirit (Acts 11:23,24) and guided by the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:2,5). As a result, it was

- (1) a growing church (Acts 11:24-25;12:24) because it was filled with the Spirit of witness;
- (2) a disciple-making church (Acts 11:26) because it was filled with the Spirit of knowledge, understanding and wisdom, teaching them to be disciples of Jesus Christ;
- (3) a praying church (Acts 13:1-3) because it was filled with the Spirit of grace and supplication;
- (4) a giving church (Acts 11:27-30) because it was filled with the Spirit of love and compassion;
- (5) a sending church (Acts 13:1-5) because it was filled with the Spirit of worldwide witness.



## **THE ANTIOCH CHURCH AND THE FGA ACRONYM**

In 1996, we captured the essence of the Antioch Church and formulated our vision and mission in the form of an FGA Acronym:

**Fruitful in Missions, Evangelism, and Good Works**

**Grounded in God's Word and Love, and**

**Abounding in Thanksgiving and Prayer,**

**all in the Power of the Holy Spirit.**

Now 17 years later, we find not many people know or articulate the Antioch Church Vision well. So the Oversight felt that it was necessary to revise and reframe the Antioch Church Vision so that it is clear, concise and communicable to everyone. We have moved away from the FGA acronym to three simple and direct statements. Our aim is to reaffirm the Antioch Church Vision to you and introduce it to you in the new format:

### **Vision Statement**

A Spirit-filled Church that makes Christ known to all peoples

### **Mission Statement**

To evangelize and make disciples across Generations and People groups

### **Tagline**

GO, MAKE DISCIPLES!

Our FGA Website will carry these statements from now on.