



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Medical Doctor Called through National Representative

JANUARY 25, 2018

Pastor David Andersen / PO Box 2020, Chesterfield, VA 23832 / David.Andersen@capitolcom.org

Acts 16:6-10 *“And they passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; 7) and when they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; 8) and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. 9) And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a certain man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’ 10) And when he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.” (NASB)*

“LUKE’S INTEREST EXTENDED BEYOND THE MEDICAL PROFESSION. HE SPECIFICALLY FELT HIMSELF INCLUDED IN THE CALL TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE MACEDONIANS. WHEN LUKE REVEALS HIS PRESENCE WITH PAUL IN TROAS, HE WAS ALREADY A CHRISTIAN WORKER PERSONALLY COMMITTED TO THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL. THIS IS EVIDENT FROM HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE SERVICE BY THE RIVER (ACTS 16:13).”

D. EDMOND HIEBERT

Does the Lord ever direct His people by closing the doors to well laid plans? Who is the newest member of Paul’s Mission Team added in Troas? Why does the author of Acts never mention himself? Would Paul add someone to his team who had not already proven himself in ministry? How does God use the continual pleading of the Macedonian to call Luke?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- FEBRUARY 1: ACTS 16:11-15 **WOMEN WERE THE FIRST EUROPEANS GIVEN THE GOSPEL**
- FEBRUARY 8: ACTS 16:16-24 **PERSECUTION FOR FREEING A SLAVE GIRL FROM HER DEMON**

Paul’s excitement over this second missionary trip with the opportunity to “go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing,” (Acts 15:36) would have been dashed on the rocks of disappointment as “Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark” (15:37). When Paul insisted on not including the defector who had left the team and had immediately rejected his leadership, “the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another,” (15:39) and Paul necessarily chose Silas and departed with the blessing of the church. But he never again got to see the king, Sergius Paulus, whom he had led to Christ and whose name he joyfully carried with him for the rest of his life to remind him of his commission (9:15). Soon, any of Paul’s disappointment would have been overcome with exhilarating joy as he discovered young Timothy in the very city where earlier he had been stoned, drug around, and left for dead. Our passage reminds us that there were other places that Paul tried to go after strengthening the churches he had planted, but he was clearly stopped as he was carefully guided by his Savior.

“A MAN’S HEART PLANS HIS WAY,
BUT THE LORD DIRECTS HIS STEPS.”
PROVERBS 16:9

I. THE HARNESS OF LEADERSHIP ACTS 16:6-8
Paul was a strong leader whom the Lord had already greatly used in overthrowing the works based worship of the Jews in Damascus to the degree that they could not overcome the truth he presented and therefore had to resort to violence and tried to kill him in the very first capital where he witnessed for Christ. The same had occurred in Jerusalem where he had been a distinguished member of the Congress of Israel (Sanhedrin) and again the church came to his rescue and helped him escape his persecutors and return to his home town, Tarsus, the capital of Cilicia. He had been so effective there that

BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30 AM –PRAYER MEETING – GAB 6TH FLOOR SPEAKER’S CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB 6TH FLOOR SPEAKER’S CONFERENCE ROOM

Virginia

God's Strategy Points to the Imperial Capital

Barnabas was convinced that his leadership was necessary to maintain unity in exalting Christ and it was in that capital that they first carried the name “*Christian*” and became a testimony and a lighthouse to the world. There Barnabas and Saul taught the first seminary for a year (Acts 11:26), and when they were called to be the first missionaries, there were already three other pastors who had been trained and were able to continue the leadership of that great church. As missionaries, Barnabas and Saul with John Mark were granted their greatest desire on Cyprus when they arrive at the capital and the king is converted. Instantly, a shipping hub of the Mediterranean becomes a lighthouse for the Gospel to the entire Roman Empire. Perga is the only disappointment as John Mark deserts the team and their witness is compromised. But they are rewarded with more converts than they can count in the capitals of Pisidian Antioch and Iconium and Lystra, though Paul is stoned. Even Derbe is filled with “*many disciples*.” So there would have been great rejoicing at the return of Paul to these rapidly multiplying bastions of belief in Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. But then suddenly this experienced and successful mission team leader, who is training Timothy as his son in the faith, is stopped from his plans and changed in his direction until he arrives in Troas, a port city, providing opportunity to sail in every direction.

**“THE STEPS OF A GOOD MAN ARE ORDERED BY THE LORD,
AND HE DELIGHTS IN HIS WAY.”**
PSALM 37:23

II. THE HEART OF LEADERSHIP **ACTS 16:9**

Little does Paul know who the Lord has prepared and ready for leadership on his team who is there in Troas. As the entire team specifically awaits direction, they have probably prayed and asked the Lord to show them the path, but that is not the current emphasis. Instead it is upon the supernatural direction given to Paul that

motivates his entire team and constitutes their calling into the next capitals. Literally, “*There appeared to Paul a vision during the night, a certain Macedonian man persistently standing and continually pleading with him and incessantly saying, ‘Come over into Macedonia and help us!’*” Is there anything that captures your heart more than a continual cry for help?

**“SINCE HE INCLUDED HIMSELF AS ONE WHO WAS TO
PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE MACEDONIANS (AC 16:10),
IT IS OBVIOUS THAT HE WAS MORE THAN
AN ATTENDING PHYSICIAN.”**
EVERETT HARRISON

III. THE HUMILITY OF LEADERSHIP **ACTS 16:10**

Paul, as the leader of the mission team, humbly presents his vision in order to listen to his team and acquire unity in direction. Literally, “*When he saw the vision, immediately we sought to go forth into Macedonia, concluding together that God had summoned us to evangelize them.*” Notice that they all embraced the vision while “*concluding together.*” Luke, the author of this book of Acts, never uses his name, but humbly introduces himself with the pronoun “*we.*” How would a writer demonstrate the greatest humility in presenting precisely how Paul was directed to his city and chose to include him in the privileged few who had the opportunity to be on his mission team while giving God all the glory? He shows how God precisely directed Paul, specifically to his city, and gives the precise words that God used to grip his heart and summon him into his specific ministry to the Macedonians. The Governor, Theophilus, to whom this letter is addressed, would have understood. Luke may have been trained in the top medical school in Tarsus and known Paul at that time, or possibly, since he was known to have been from Syrian Antioch, he probably had already been trained by Paul.

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Do you see your setbacks, diversions or failure to achieve your plans as reason for complaint or direction from God?
- 2) Are you willing to respond to the call to help others eternally by giving them the good news of the Gospel?
- 3) Is yours a humble leadership involving conclusion together, self denial and giving God all the glory?