

VISION 1:8

Vision Samaria

TEXT: Acts 1:8

INTRODUCTION:

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

VISION JERUSALEM

GOD WANTS US TO DISCIPLE MORE PEOPLE THROUGH OUR JERUSALEM MINISTRIES' CENTER OF HOPE.

VISION JUDEA

THE LORD IS LEADING US TO EXPAND OUR READINESS TO MINISTER IN OUR JUDEA AND BEYOND THROUGH DISASTER RELIEF.

Today – **VISION SAMARIA**

When Jesus commanded us to be witnesses to Samaria, He was not only telling us to go further than Jerusalem and Judea, He was commanding us to go to people who are like us, yet different. That is what Samaria was to the Jews.

That is what the United States and Canada is to us. People are like us. They are North Americans. But in many ways they are different. Sometimes a different language, often a different culture, almost always different values and perspective. **One thing however is the same every time. They need Jesus!**

- I. THREE OUT OF FOUR PEOPLE LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA DO NOT HAVE A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST.**

A. America is lost.

1. Even in the South 64% of the people do not know Christ.
2. In the Midwest 75% are lost.
3. In the Northeast 82% have not met the Savior.
4. In the West 87% are on the broad road that leads to destruction.

B. Canada is more so!

1. In Canada 90% would go to hell if they died today.
2. 259 MILLION PEOPLE in the United States and Canada are without Christ!

II. THE KEY TO EVANGELIZING THE U.S. AND CANADA IS CHURCH PLANTING.

- A. While winning any number of souls is of eternal importance, the planting of a church multiplies evangelism many fold.
- B. This was the strategy of the early church as they sent Paul out to cities where he preached the gospel and then started a church among the converts.
- C. New churches, on average, win and baptize 3 times as many people as established churches.

III. OUR NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD HAS RECENTLY DEVELOPED A STRATEGY BASED UPON THESE REALITIES.

It is called **THE SEND STRATEGY.**

The strategy is partnering with churches and missionaries to send teams into each of the five regions of our Samaria for the purpose of planting a church or strengthening one that is newly planted.

The strategy also calls for churches sending teams to one of 26 strategic cities where lostness predominates.

IV. GOD'S VISION FOR SABC IN SAMARIA IS TO JOIN THIS STRATEGY FOR THE PLANTING OF CHURCHES IN OUR OWN COUNTRY AND IN CANADA.

- A. Already, we are planning a Samaria Mission Trip for 2012.
- B. The Youth are planning to go on mission in Canada next summer.

CONCLUSION:

You may be asking, how do we do all of this? How does this work?

1. First, it works because it is God's design. Acts 1:8.
2. Let me give you a simple picture of how it works at SABC.

The inner workings of our church are like the meshing of gears in a watch.

So picture these gears as St. Andrew Baptist Church

The main gear, the one that drives all the others is the General Fund. This is where we should all be giving our tithes. This is the fund that keeps the physical door open, the lights on, the staff paid, the building clean, discipleship ministries for children, youth, and adults, and virtually everything we call church. Folks, if this one does not run, none of them run.

To the main gear of the general fund we add the Global Outreach Fund. This is where we provide specific funding for all the ministries from Jerusalem to Judea to Samaria to the End of the Earth. This is the funding for the Benevolence Ministry, Medical Clinic, Sheltering Tree, Disaster Relief, Mission trips to the U.S. and overseas. (Now on mission trips, participants pay all or most of their way on these trips, but these funds go toward the expenses of doing the ministry projects.

Building Fund. Our most recent Building project was the Student Center and Kid Zone. Our next is The Center of Hope Building.

3. Now, you ask, "Which of these is missions?" The answer is "All of them!"
 - a. General Fund – 11% off the top goes to Cooperative Program Missions. Nearly half of that goes straight to the IMB for support of international missions. Another nearly 25% goes to North American missions, 10% to Bay County missions, over 10% to SBC seminaries to train pastors and missionaries. Then the rest goes to the basic support of our making disciples through this local church – adults, youth, children, preschoolers.
 - b. Global Outreach – all of this is missions, from across the street to around the world.
 - c. Building Fund – This is missions too. What we just did was missions in our own Jerusalem to youth and children, and we are reaching more of them than ever

before. What we are about to build is missions to the local community through our Jerusalem Mission Ministries.

4. So how does it all work together.
 - a. We give our tithe to the general fund, our basic fund for ministry and missions, because this one drives the other two. The other two cannot stand alone. This is the main gear of the mother ship.
 - b. Then, as God blesses, we commit to give to Global Outreach because our giving to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and Ends of the Earth is one part of being a witness of Jesus Christ.
 - c. Then, again according to the blessing of God, we give to the Building Fund to refurbish the property we have been given to expand our Jerusalem Mission Ministries.

And all of us need to be praying and asking the Lord, "How can I be a part of your great enterprise through St. Andrew Baptist Church?"

1. Lord, I want to begin to obey you by the giving of my tithe to you through your storehouse, the church.
2. Lord, show me what you would allow me to give directly to our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, Ends of the Earth Mission Ministries through Global Outreach.
3. Lord, show me what you would provide for me to give to refurbish and equip these buildings You have so graciously provided for us to use to minister to our own Jerusalem. Lord, I want to be a part of that investment for eternity, so show me, Lord.