

godsend – learning for mission

Bible study resources

Unit 16. Church?

“A perspective on Acts 11.19–30” based on Michael Moynagh, Church for Every Context (SCM Press, 2012), p. 9.

The founding of the Antioch church can be seen as a classic example of a new Christian community.

The Jerusalem church responded by sending Barnabas to investigate, to guide and encourage the new church, and no doubt to bring it under the supervision of the Jerusalem community.

The oversight was done with sensitivity.

Barnabas appears to have stayed in Jerusalem after the persecution and was trusted by the twelve apostles. But he was also from Cyprus (Acts 4.36) and so shared an affinity with those birthing the new church (Acts 11.19).

His name, “Son of Encouragement” (Acts 4.36), reflected the spirit in which the accountability was exercised—a lesson for inherited churches today.

The Antioch church reciprocated with similar generosity. When famine hit Judea, they sent Barnabas and Paul to Jerusalem with a financial gift (Acts 11.27–30).

There was mutual commitment.