

Family

Antioch sent Paul on mission

This item is fourth in a series on the apostle Paul. The first looked at Paul's early life. The second saw Paul as a young rabbi in Jerusalem, persecuting Christians and then converted to Christianity. Third, we looked at his life between conversion and beginning to minister at Antioch.

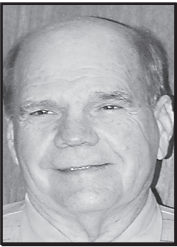
Today we discuss how Paul worked with Barnabas in the church at Antioch, in Syria. Barnabas and Paul had been there for about a year. In the church, there were people from many back-grounds and lands (Acts 13:1). The church grew in number and believers were first called Chris-tians in Antioch.

As the church worshipped, prayed and fasted, the Holy Spirit revealed to them the message God would have them to receive: "Now separate to me Barnabas and Saul for the work which I have called them" (Acts 13:2). The church in Antioch released them from their responsibilities and commissioned them to carry the gospel through-out the known world. This was a giant step forward for the church. In a sense, this may be said to mark the launching of Christian world mission.

Paul and Barnabas decided to take along as helper a young man named John Mark (Barnabas' nephew — Colossians 4:10). This is the same Mark who later wrote the Gospel of Mark.

Scholars usually divide Paul's missionary travels into three jour-neys, plus his voyage to Rome as a prisoner. The first journey began at Antioch. They traveled through Cyprus, crossed over to Asia Minor, traveled into the mountain of Pisidia, and turned eastward to the cities of Lycaonia. Then they re-traced their steps back to Antioch, a journey of more than 1,200 miles which took about three years. The account of this first missionary journey is recorded in Acts 13:1 through 14:26.

About halfway through, John Mark left them, going back to Jerusalem (Acts 13:13). It's not known why he left; perhaps he felt it was too dangerous. Whatev-er the reason, Mark left and Paul strongly resented his leaving. This desertion caused serious problems



Wes Barnett

• From the Pulpit

between Paul and Barnabas later on.

But Paul and Barnabas took their lives in their own hands and con-tinued on. To them, it was enough to know that all people needed to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As we try to picture Paul and Barnabas and understand what they did as they came to a town, it is natural to think they arrived as important visitors. But in reality, they entered a town quietly, as un-noticed as any two strangers who come into any town on any day.

The first things they did were find lodging and look for jobs. They earned their own way wher-ever they went. Remember, Paul had studied to be a rabbi, but he also had a trade. He knew how to make tents, and would seek em-ployment with a tentmaker in the town (Acts 18:3).

When the Sabbath came, they would stop working like other Jews and go to the synagogue. They would hear Psalms and prayers and listen to the scripture reading. After this, the presiding elder might ask if anyone had a word to speak. Paul had his op-portunity. He would rise and be-gin to speak. The audience would recognize that he was a rabbi. He would take the passage that had been read, and soon move on to Jewish history; that led up to the announcement that the Messiah hoped for by their ancestors and promised by the prophets had come. Then Paul would follow with the story of Jesus, his crucifixion, and his resurrection. A good example of Paul's sermons can be found in Acts 13:15-48.

We can imagine that the week after the service, it was the talk of the town. Paul was always willing to talk about the Lord at work or in the evening. The next Sabbath, the synagogue would be crowded, not only with Jews but Gentiles also. And Paul would preach that

salvation was free to all people.

As we read of Paul's travels, we see he en-counterred many dan-gers and trials (2 Cor-inthians 11:23-28), but wherever he traveled, Christian churches were started. Paul truly carried out the last instructions given by Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20: "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teach-ing them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Next month, we will trace Paul's second missionary journey and examine some of the dangers and difficulties he encountered along the way.

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Pops program to raise spirits

HAYS — The Hays Symphony Guild and the Fort Hays State Uni-versity Department of Music will present their annual benefit con-cert, "Holiday Pops," at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, in the Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center on campus.

Appearing will be the sympho-ny; Dr. Joe Perniciaro, assistant professor of music; the Barber-shop singers; the Fort Hays Sing-ers; and Bradley J. Dawson, assis-tant professor of music.

Admission will be \$10 for adults, \$6 for senior citizens and students, and free for children under 12.

Tickets are available at the Memorial Union Student Service Center, Midwest Music, Hays Walmart, the Department of Mu-sic, any Hays Symphony Guild board member, or at the door.

Deaths

Theresa C. Solko

Theresa C. Solko, 72, McCook, Neb., mother of Jean Solko, Col-by, died Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009, at McCook Community Hospital.

She was born Dec. 9, 1936, in Indianola, Neb., the daughter of Charles and Caroline (Kircher) Kennedy. Raised on a farm near Indianola, she attended the Red Willow schools, graduating in 1954.

On Nov. 24, 1962, she married Richard Solko at St. Catherine's Catholic Church in Indianola. They farmed south of Herndon until 1998, when she moved to Willow Ridge Retirement Center in McCook.

She was a homemaker, as well as serving as a secretary/bookkeeper at the Red Willow County Court-house for eight years. She was a member of St. Mary Assumption Catholic Church in Herndon. Her hobbies were reading, watching television, her children and grand-children, and visiting.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$4.56
Corn (bushel)	\$3.46
Milo (hundredweight)	\$5.51
Soybeans (bushel)	\$9.29

Corrections

The caption for the Santa's Workshop photo on Page 1 of the Wednesday, Nov. 18, *Colby Free Press* incorrectly identified Ash-ley Mosier as Shelly Mosier. This was due to an editing error.

☆☆☆☆
The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

A drunk driver ruined something precious. Amber Apodaca.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.




Photo by Michael Hutton

U.S. Department of Transportation

Ad Council


Senior Center

The Senior Progress Center will have a Thanksgiving party at 11 a.m. Tuesday, and a Thanksgiv-ing brunch at 11 a.m. Wednesday. The center will close at noon on Wednesday. No meals or trans-portation Thursday or Friday. The center reopens Monday, Nov. 30.

Activities for the week: **Monday:** 10:30 a.m., Skip Bo game. **Tues-day:** 10 a.m., exercise; 11 a.m., Thanksgiving party. **Wednesday:** 11 a.m., Thanksgiving brunch; center closes at noon. **Thursday:** closed. **Friday:** closed.

Menus for the week: **Monday:** wiener and sauerkraut, mashed po-tatoes, corn, pears. **Tuesday:** tur-key slice, sweet potatoes, cranber-ry salad, roll, pumpkin dessert or bars. **Wednesday:** cook's choice entree, hash-brown casserole, green beans, mandarin oranges. **Thursday, Friday:** closed.


The Thomas County Nutri-tion Center invites anyone 60 and older and guests to lunch Monday through Friday.



Meadow Lake Golf Course & Lounge

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Prairie Senior Living Complex
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HAPPY THANKSGIVING

In Family Tradition, City Limits will be Closed Thanksgiving Day!

From our family to yours, we wish you and your loved ones a safe and happy holiday!!



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CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY!

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November 21, 2009



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