



## **The Cyprus mandate and the imminent strategic shift that looms over the eastern Mediterranean church**

While we continue to enjoy ourselves with within the borders of the Church, mostly constituted of Africans and very sparse population of other races (if any), we must as a matter of urgency take a quick look into the prescriptions given by our Lord Jesus towards carrying the Gospel to the ends of the earth. This will give us the sense of urgency that is currently spiritually needed to drive the agenda to the unsaved, having the locals as our focal point.

Following the procession of the gospel from the originators, we can visibly see how the gospel has been driven organically through the inherent geographical endowments of the host countries with laser precision towards the recipient nations without any form of distraction. This has characterized the move of the gospel from Europe to Africa and to the Americas. A brief understudy of the strategies employed during the advance of this good news through the ages have shown that, even though the methods of transmission may differ, the goal of getting all men to hear the “words of this Life” (Acts 5:20) remains central.

Big credit to the leaders of the current church formation. At a time when there was nothing on ground, men of God rose up to the challenge and sought the face of the Lord in order to secure His leading and backing towards establishing what we currently have. This has been the bedrock of the church by the African decent since 2011 until now. As much as we must celebrate these men of God for giving significant parts of their educational lives for the advancement of the kingdom of God, it has become also most imminent that we must begin to audit the journey

with a view to administering the much needed change that has often characterized the advance of the agenda of God through the ages with a singular view, to get the gospel to all the world for a witness which will consequently trigger a much needed end from the sufferings that are looming over the nations.

The gospel as it has been handed to us (Africans) was powered by the benevolence from the Europeans. As a much more enlightened and arguably better economically positioned continent, they observed the African nations and concluded on serving love, compassion and communicating all forms of economic benevolence side by side the gospel. This has brought Africa to know God today. Characterized by organically entrenched zeal, we picked up the gospel and advanced it to the level of consecration and apostolic investment it has currently arrived at today.

Europeans and westerners may advance the gospel through communicating economic benevolence with great success to show for it over the years, however, if Africans (mostly considered as 3<sup>rd</sup> world nations) must carry the word (gospel) outside the continent through Europe or any other nations of the world, economic benevolence will certainly do little or nothing to drive the gospel through the ends of the earth. Africans must look inward and bring something more organic and unique to us out there. Only then would this zealous nations succeed to hand over this baton to the nations of the world.

We may not have the economic backing to endear nations to our gospel yet, but we have something that may not be common place in the Christian community as yet (consistency in tribulation, zeal and power). Yes Africa is at the center stage of the advance of the agenda of God in this church age and there is no dispute to that. The Cyrenaic who took our Lord Jesus' cross on the way to Golgotha, reflected the prophetic

destiny of the African church as we enter the closing stages of the agenda of God in our day. This means that no African Christian abroad today, has migrated in error. Somewhere along the lines, the gospel of the kingdom with power is meant to be administered to the host communities and the purposes of God as revealed through the mouths of His prophets over time has to be communicated. This understanding is needed in order to help the average African believer understand that beyond just enjoying ourselves through Sunday and other fellowship, there is a demand on us to remember that a local unbeliever is tied to your sojourn in the countries abroad (with Asia minor in view). This was the main challenge of the first foundation laid by the apostles just after the ascension of Jesus Christ. They locked themselves while enjoying the manifestations of the gifts of the Spirit, until persecution came along and placed a demand on them. This created the adjustment in Matthew 13 that birthed the new apostolic movement. It is also important to note here that, it was only after this foundation was laid, that the Christians were called first time, and the Holy Spirit spoke openly to them. We must both learn from the experiences of the early apostles, paying rapt attention to the endorsements of the Holy Spirit during these circumstances.

Paul's missionary journey helps us understand the demands of this incredible mission. This we will investigate as we journey in this brief article. This article will emphasize the need for methodical and strategic positioning for any Christian unit in Asia Minor. The success and establishment of such units will also require the laying of strong apostolic foundations with emphasis on unique Christian values which has characterized the church since its inception for more than two thousand years now.

The organization of this article will be delivered in the following sections every Tuesday until we can satisfy the urgency in the realm of the spirit.

- Brief historic antecedents between Christians and Muslims around Asia Minor.
- Problems facing the church currently
- Need for urgent strategic change; the place of the church.
- Chronological parallels in scriptures and prescriptions
- Proposals towards effective Evangelization and onward establishment of Local converts.