

THE GENEROSITY OF GOD'S LOVE

A PARTIAL STUDY

IN ACTS 13:1-8, 13-14

& ACTS 15:37-41

Message by

Cheong Seng Gee

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THE GENEROSITY OF GOD'S LOVE

1. YOUNG AND SMALL CHURCH

(ACTS 13:1-3)

2. BATTLES & SETBACKS

(ACTS 13:1-3.13-14)

3. SPIRITUAL FATHERING

(ACTS 15:36 VS 2 TIM 4:11)



1. YOUNG AND SMALL **CHURCH (V.1-3)**

A young and small church:

- **Antioch** (Acts 11)
- A Gentile church run by non-Jerusalem leaders
- The 5 men : **Manaen** who grew up with **Herod Antipas**, **Barnabas** (Acts 4:36), Simeon the Black, Lucius of Cyrene and Paul



1. YOUNG AND SMALL CHURCH

Acts 13:2-3 (NIV)

2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

3 So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.



1. YOUNG AND SMALL CHURCH (V.1-3)

Giving the best (v.1-3):

- Sending out of Paul & Barnabas
- SSMC early days,
 - 1984 (Damansara Utama Preaching Point => DUMC)
 - 1985 (Subang Preaching Point => SMC)
 - Tremendous growth in the 1990s



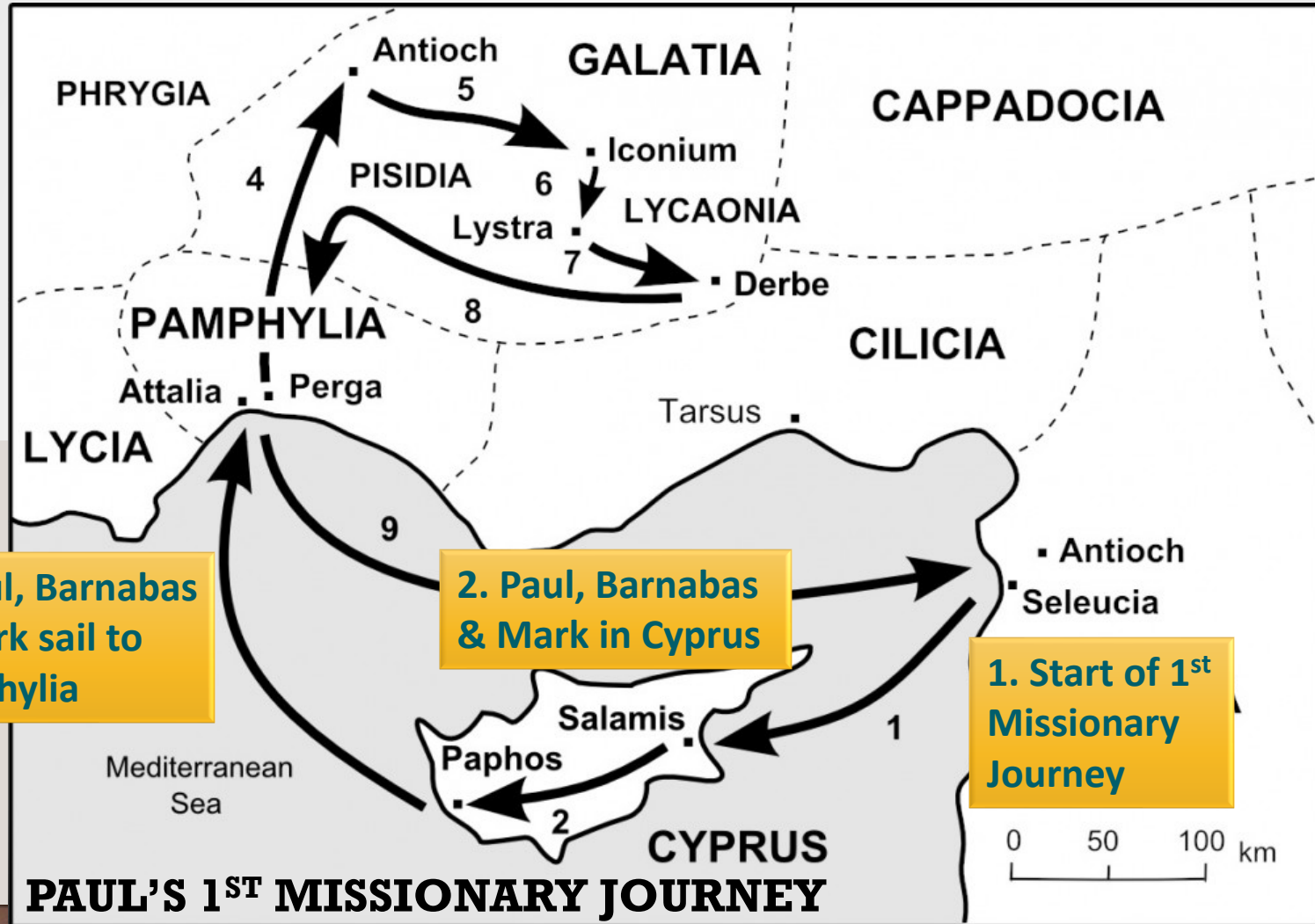
1. YOUNG AND SMALL CHURCH (V.1-3)

- **Acts 11:27-30**

27 During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that **a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world.** (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) 29 **The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea.** 30 **This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.**



2. BATTLES & SETBACKS (V.13-14)



2. BATTLES & SETBACKS (V.13-14)

Spiritual Battle at Paphos (Acts 13:6-12)

6 They traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, 7 who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God.

8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith.



2. BATTLES & SETBACKS (V.13-14)

Spiritual Battle at Paphos (v.6-12)

- Sergius Paulus, Bar-Jesus (Elymas)
- **Paphos** a city of immorality and spiritual darkness

Setback - Desertion (v.12)

- **John Mark**, left them and returned to Jerusalem
- They ***moved on*** from Perga to Antioch Pisidia (v. 13)
- “God’s work done in God’s way will never lack God’s supply” (Hudson Taylor)
- The HMVC project – differing perspectives



3. SPIRITUAL FATHERING

(ACTS 15:36 VS 2 TIM 4:11)

Believing in and standing up for ...

- Barnabas contended with Paul
- Acts 15:39 & Col 4:10
- Breakup - 2 mission trips instead –
(1.) Syria & Cilicia and (2.) Cyprus

Spiritual fathering

- John Mark's journey :
Acts 13:12 & Acts 15:39 to Col 4:10 & 2 Tim 4:11



**Blessings
on
Father's
day**

NUMBERS 6:24



3. SPIRITUAL FATHERING

(ACTS 15:36 VS 2 TIM 4:11)

Colossians 4:10 (NIV)

My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.)

2 Timothy 4:11 (NIV)

Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.



3. SPIRITUAL FATHERING

(ACTS 15:36 VS 2 TIM 4:11)

- 1 Cor 4:15-17

15 Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus **I became your father through the gospel.**

16 Therefore I urge you to **imitate me.**

17 **For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love,** who is faithful in the Lord.

He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.



3. SPIRITUAL FATHERING

(ACTS 15:36 VS 2 TIM 4:11)

- John 15:14-15

14 You are My friends if you do what I command.

15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from My Father I have made known to you.



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Spiritual fathering

- John Mark's journey : Acts 13:12 & Acts 15:39 to Col 4:10 & 2 Tim 4:11
- **Mark's Gospel** and **Church at Alexandria**
- Fathers not guides/paidagogos, 1 Cor 4:15
- Paul and Timothy –
“my beloved and faithful son” 1 Cor 4:17



3. SPIRITUAL FATHERING

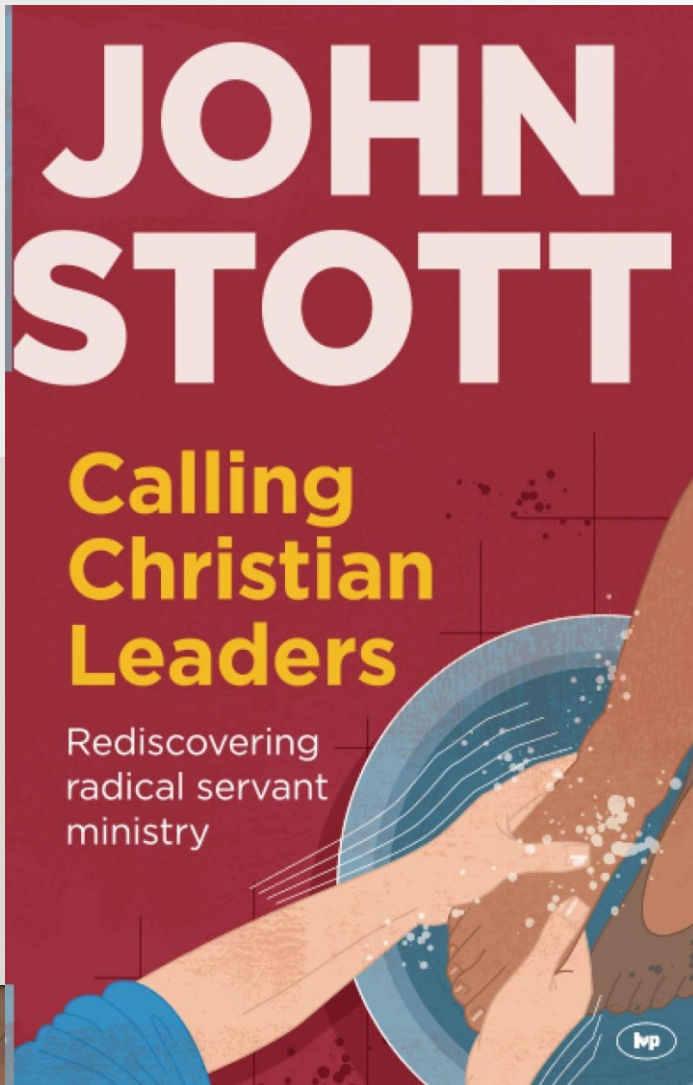
(15:36 VS 2 TIM 4:11)

- *Reflections*
- *Abba (or Daddy)*
- “Fathers” to us for a season. Motivated by **love**.
Fathers thru the gospel
- Friendship & mentoring, **Jn 15 and mentor-father story**



3. SPIRITUAL FATHERING

(15:36 VS 2 TIM 4:11)



“Christian leaders especially pastors should be fathers in Christ”



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- *Amma or Spiritual Mothers, 1 Thes 2:7*



3. SPIRITUAL FATHERING

(15:36 VS 2 TIM 4:11)

- *Amma or Spiritual Mothers,*

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8

7 Instead, we were like young children among you.

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, 8 so we cared for you.

Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.



3. SPIRITUAL FATHERING

(15:36 VS 2 TIM 4:11)

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- **Amma or Spiritual Mothers, 1 Thes 2:7**
- Mother Superior as in the orders or Abbess in abbeys
- **The Marcus Rashford story**



3. SPIRITUAL FATHERING

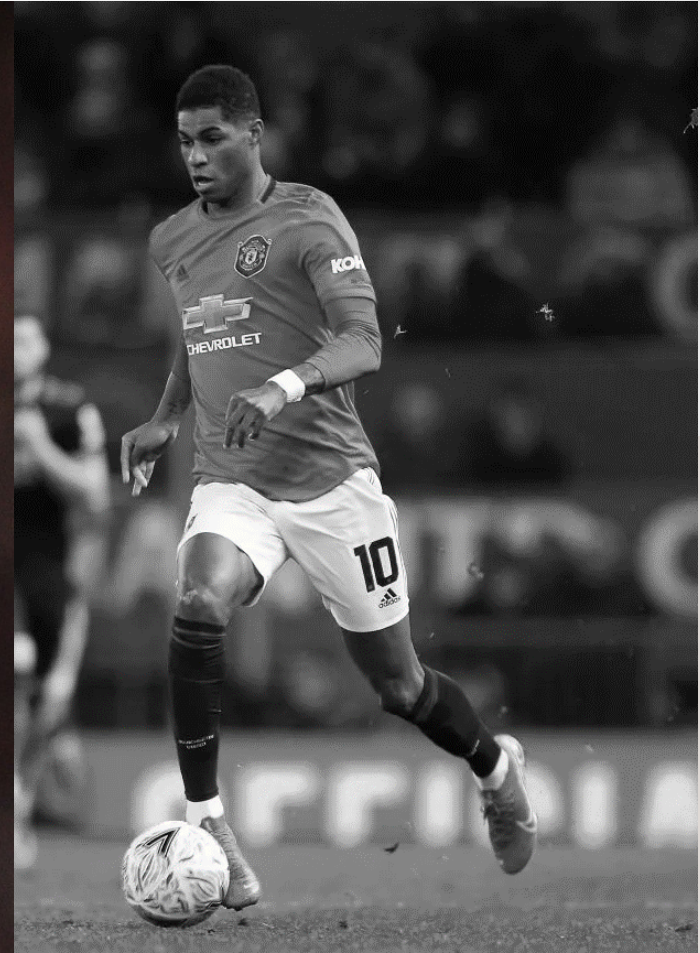
• The Marcus Rashford story

> Aided FareShare to feed over three million vulnerable people.

> Launched Christmas Box Campaign for the homeless in Manchester.

> Raised £20m to help feed millions of children.

> Learned sign language to judge school competition.



3. SPIRITUAL FATHERING

- The Marcus Rashford story

'I know what it feels like to be hungry. I'm well aware that my friends invited me round to reassure their parents that I was eating. That was my community.'
Marcus Rashford, footballer

Red Box THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES



3. SPIRITUAL FATHERING

- The Marcus Rashford story



THE
VOICE

**Marcus
Rashford helps
out at food
charity with
his mother,
after free
school meals
rejection**



CONCLUSION

- Giving despite being small or young or poor, the Antioch Church
- Battles and setbacks in life but we move on, His work, His resources and His supply
- Spiritual fathering and restoration glorifies God and the church e.g. John Mark and Timothy



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God's work done in His
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J. Hudson Taylor



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A mess into a message,
A test into a testimony,
A trial into a triumph,
A victim into a victor.

GOD IS GOOD...
All the time!

-Amen



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