**THE IDENTITY AND PURPOSE OF CHURCH ALIVE**

**Acts 11:19-30; 13:1-4a**

**Introduction- I was laying I a hospital bed in Victoria Canada. I heard the Lord speak to me with that internal audible voice. “Church Alive is not like other churches in your region. I have specifically called you to be a church raising up leaders and releasing them into My calling upon their lives. You are an Antioch Church… a church with a womb.”**

**Then, I saw a vision of a forest filled with trees. The Lord asked me, “What do you see?” I said, “A forest filled with trees.” He said, “what else do you see?” I said, “I suppose it is filled with animals and creatures.” There was a pregnant pause… He said to me “It is filled with lumber for houses, beautiful furniture, potential for so many things. Now, what do you see when you look at Church Alive?”**

**I began to see in my mind as many of you as I could remember. He began to remind me and show me who and what many of you are in His kingdom. We have a church filled with 75-80% leaders and intercessors. He is gathering people in to be equipped and encouraged. Then, He wants us to anoint and send out at the Holy spirit’s direction. Some of you will minister here in Northwest Arkansas and come back regularly for more equipping and encouragement. Others will be sent out on a more permanent basis returning occasionally to report, fellowship, and get re-charged. When I came to Northwest Arkansas in 2001, this was my assignment. I have attempted to do it in another location without acceptance or success. The Holy Spirit made it clear to me; I was to do it again right here.**

**\*What is an Antioch Church? A little historical background…**

**I. They had a leadership team that met regularly to fast, pray, and seek God’s direction for the church. These are their defining characteristics.**

 **A. Praying: Corporate and 5-6 other organized prayer times each week [Acts 15:16-17]**

 **B. Reaching [those who are lost, saved and hungry to grow, those God sends to get equipped]**

 **C. Teaching [equipping with knowledge and application… going and doing]**

 **D. Giving as a lifestyle: local church, missionaries, as Holy Spirit directs**

 **E. Sending at the Holy Spirit’s direction**

 **F. Resource Center: raising people up and releasing them to other ministries, etc.**

**II. What is the application of this church at Antioch and Church Alive?**

 **A. We are like a teaching hospital…**

 **B. We have in our midst an apostle, prophets, pastors, and teachers. We need some evangelist [office]**

**C. We are a five-fold ministry with a womb: we help people get born-again, build biblical foundations, grow up, and be released into their calling.**

**D. We are home base for many in the future**

**III. What does the future hold? Matthew 25:24-29 “You cannot please God by not investing.” He is into ROI.**

 **A. Raising up very intentionally the next generations**

 **B. Currently:**

 **1. Prophetic round table led by Ron Wood and Shelley Rockwell**

 **2. Individual discipleship groups/individuals with many involved…**

 **3. Equipping school and one day seminars… Tony and Missaha Nichols, Ron Wood,**

 **4. XO Marriage couple counseling led by Chris and Jess Sentry**

 **5. Biblical finances using Dave Ramsey’s material led by Chris and Jess Senty**

 **6. Missions ventures: two/three times each year led by Joey and Paige Smith and Tony Nichols**

 **C. Regular increase in our missions giving and going**

 **D. Planting new home groups and churches**

 **E. Sending out missionaries at God’s direction**

 **\*Testimony: 33 graduates from John Brown… 18 were sent to the mission field**

**Conclusion- This is what a kingdom focused church looks like. This is our assignment at Church Alive going forward. I will take this a far as I know how and turn it over to the next generations.**