

# The Story of Barnabas

*Recently I was thunderstruck by the realization that for all of the significance of this ministry, in 37 years of pastoral ministry I'd never preached a sermon on Barnabas, and I'd never heard a sermon about Barnabas! So this prompted me to look further at Barnabas in the New Testament, and I'm so glad I did. Here is what I came up with.*

**Acts 7** concludes with the stoning of Stephen. Luke makes a point in **Acts 8:1** of noting that Saul was there consenting to Stephen's death. The Bible points out how Saul persecuted the church in Jerusalem, then received authorization to travel to Damascus and do the same there. It was on the road to Damascus that Jesus appeared to Saul and he was converted. Instead of persecuting the church, **Acts 9:20** records how Saul, now Paul, did go to the synagogues in Damascus, but instead of persecuting the Jews he proclaimed that Jesus is the Son of God.

After that, it was Barnabas who took Paul and introduced him to the Apostles (**9:26-27**). When Barnabas was sent to disciple the new believers in Antioch, Barnabas sought out Saul and brought him to Antioch (**11:25**) for a year. Barnabas and Saul were sent out together on Paul's first missionary journey (**13:2**). Later, in a dispute with Paul, Barnabas supported John Mark in further missionary work (**15:39**). We know that breach was fully healed. Barnabas worked with Paul again (**1 Cor:9:6**), and Mark did too (**Col. 4:43**).

What this means is, because of Barnabas Paul was introduced to the apostles and eventually wrote most of the letters in the New Testament, and because of Barnabas John Mark was restored and eventually wrote the Gospel that bears his name. **What would have happened if Barnabas had not done these things, had not been a son of encouragement (4:36)? We wouldn't have half of the New Testament!**

I'll bet there have been times when you have been a Barnabas to someone in a way that kept them going. I'll bet there have been times when someone else was a Barnabas to you in a way that kept you going. The Barnabas Ministry is not merely an extension of the ministry of the Gospel throughout Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (**1:8**). It is a ministry of encouragement that we all are called to extend to each other in the body of Christ (**Heb. 10:25**).

Bless you when you let the Lord use you as a Barnabas!  
 In His eternal love,  
 Pastor Dave

Pastor Dave  
 and Joanne



## OFFICERS

**DR. JOHN HOOD** Moderator  
**REV. HARRY KNOTTS** Secretary  
**REV. DAVID DAKE** Vice Moderator  
**REV. JONATHAN CHEATHAM** Treasurer

## ADVISORY BOARD

**STEVE EDLIN** Counseling Office Director  
**DR. MATT LEWIS** Asst. Prof. Practical Theology Ashland Theological Seminary  
**CYNTHIA G. WILSON** Exec. Dir., Malone Management Studies Malone University School of Business and Leadership  
**ROBERT K. YUND** Private Business Owner, Massillon Development Foundation, Massillon Community Improvement Corporation, Massillon Financial Planning and Supervision Commission

[Praise God! The OA Barnabas Ministry prayer network has grown to over 130 prayer warriors! More are always needed! To support those called by God through the Barnabas Ministry, you can donate online at \[www.ccccohio.org\]\(http://www.ccccohio.org\), or make a check out to OA Barnabas Ministry and mail to: First Congregational Church, 114 Church St., Lodi, OH 44254. Thank you, and God bless you!](#)



**Thank you for your prayers!** In response to the prayers from the November Barnabas Ministry update, the Northeast Ohio Division of the Salvation Army officially requested 4,000 copies of Gingerboy's Search for Christmas to distribute to an estimated 10,000 children through all its 36 corps this Christmas!

Another important update - due to full-time member care now provided in Nepal, the Kimberly's are being reassigned where the need does exist. Pray for that! Also, pray for Pastor Dave as he helps TEAM recruit more Timothy Network Volunteers! TEAM also has a need for a full time Member Care Co-ordinator on the mission field. If you anyone who has a heart for pastoral care and being a full-time missionary, please have them contact Pastor Dave for more information.

Every dollar given to the OA Barnabas Ministry preserves three to four dollars on the mission field and also supports pastors in the US! The Ohio Association is a 501(c)3 organization; all donations are tax deductible.

# PRAY FOR CHUCK



*Here is a picture of Chuck Nelson preaching at The Cross in inner city Erie, PA. Chuck is a 4C's church planter, and was the speaker at the fall meeting of the Ohio Association. In response to my request to write about the ministry, Chuck sent the following:*

The Cross | Erie meets downtown at a music venue. This has given us great opportunities to engage the art scene of Erie as well as being close to the local colleges. One of the most notable demographics that we are serving are those that are impoverished. While the downtown is bustling with commerce and entertainment, it's all commuters, those that live in our zip code have a median income of \$10,182.

Today was not untypical of a Sunday at The Cross. A young couple came to the church and seemed to connect well. They had been to shows at the venue before and were looking for a church after his mother had passed recently. The desire to find a church wasn't the only thing that came from his mother passing, it gave him the courage to give up his opiate addiction, he is two weeks clean. The girlfriend been clean since her arrest in June. A homeless young couple trying to piece together their lives and looking to our little faith community to get them started. A long lunch after, a couple applications filled out online, and a contact given at the temp agency to take a step in the right direction. Afterwards, my wife picked up a child in the church for the evening, she had spent a week with us while her mom was in detox a couple weeks ago, the mom is having a tough weekend so we gave her the night off. She's trying to piece it together in a motel and trying to find honest work after an adulthood of dancing.

Sinners, drunkards, whores... We've been drawing them all in with the love of God and attempting to point them towards a life in Christ led by the Spirit. Dave had visited a couple weeks ago and walked the block with me, the battle spills out between the human services and local businesses, but at the core of the battle it is spiritual, a broken nature that we hope to see God restore. There are a few things you could pray for in our ministry, we are starting Celebrate Recovery in partnership with another church in January, pray for those efforts. Give praise to God that we have had partners join us that allow for me to no longer be bi-vocational. Pray that my wife and I do not lose sight of our hope amidst our experiences.

In Christ,  
Chuck

# THE CROSS

The Conservative Congregational Christian Conference has an ambitious vision that half of its churches would be new church starts by 2020. The Cross is just one of them. Pray for the Gospel to continue to be proclaimed and unleashed through this ministry!

*Member care makes a difference!*

