

The Church in Antioch

1

After Peter and John were released from prison, Jewish leaders began looking for ways to stop the Christians from spreading the Good News. They stoned Stephen because he told them that they had killed the Son of God. After that, they began to persecute all the believers in Jerusalem. They killed many, and put many others in jail.

**2**

Many believers fled from Jerusalem because of the great persecution, and they went to live in other cities. Some went very far away, to Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch. Everywhere they went they preached the Good News of Jesus.

**3**

Some believers from Cyprus and Cyrene went to Antioch. There they began to tell the Gentiles about Jesus. God was with them, and many Gentiles accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

**4**

The leaders of the church in Jerusalem heard what was happening in Antioch, and they sent Barnabas to help. Barnabas was a good man. He had great faith in Jesus, and he was filled with the Holy Spirit. Immediately he saw the wonders that God was doing. He was full of joy and excitement. So he encouraged the other believers to continue serving the Lord. Barnabas also helped many people receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

