

OUT OF A BOX – BEING **MULTICULTURAL**

**Dominic Joannou - Work in mental health services
with asylum seekers and Black Minority Ethnic
communities in Harrow**

**Acknowledgements: Enabling Christians to Serve
Refugees**

Andrew Brandon – CWEST

STRUCTURE – AIMS

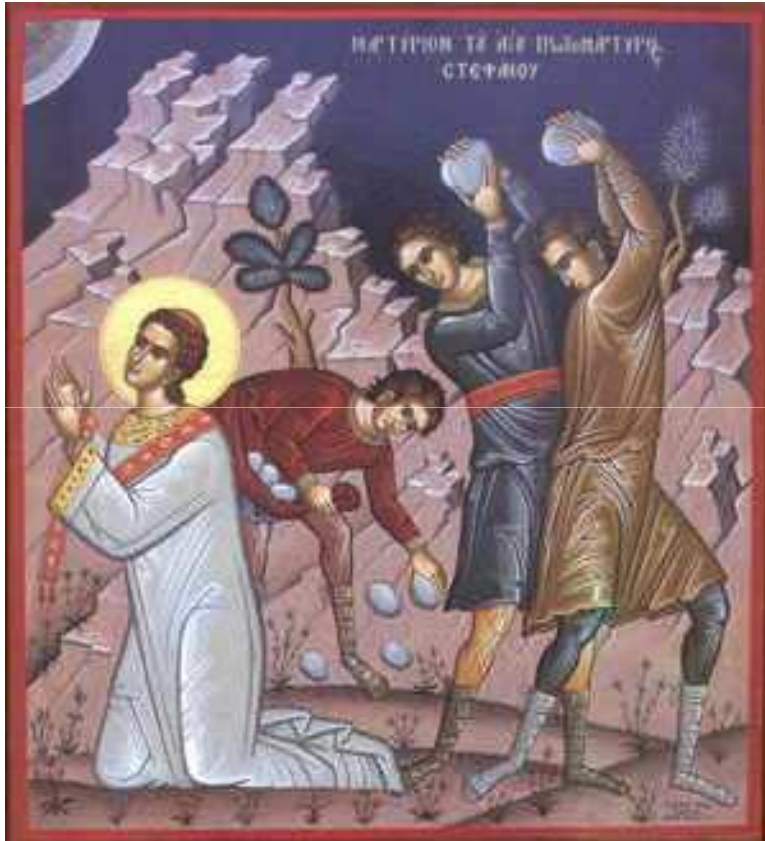


Iranian Church in Liverpool

- Study the life of Saint Paul with a focus on the multi cultural aspects.
- Story telling part of other cultures.
- Summarising scriptures – not reading because of lack of time.
- Relate this to our church.
- Relate this to

The Beginning

Acts 7:55 – 8:4



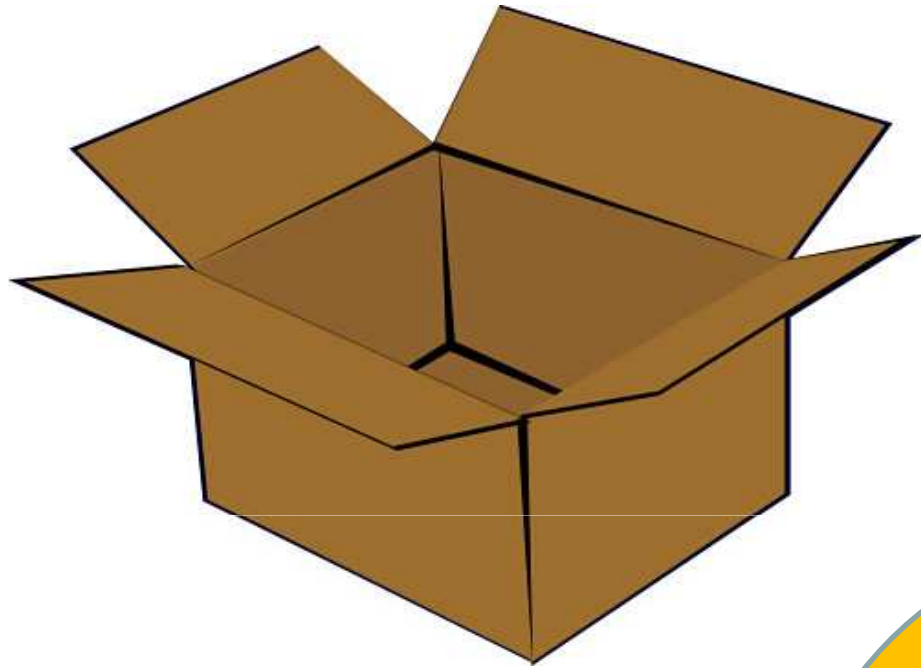
Stoning of Saint Stephen
Byzantine Icon

- Acts 7:55 – 8:4.
- Pharisee (Ultra Orthodox Jewish).
- Educated.
- Violent man, approved the death of Stephen and went from home to home imprisoning followers of the way.

- **Profile:**
- Roman Citizen.
- Raised in Tarsus.
- Taught by Gamaliel.
- Spoke Hebrew, and probably spoke Greek, Aramaic, and Latin.
- Pharisee
- Date of Birth unknown
- **Philippians 3:4 – 9 and Acts 22:3 - 5**
- **(Paul describes his background)**



Roman Gate of Tarsus



- Wanted to purify Judaism to bring it back to an original form by destroying “the Way” within Judaism.

Because we live in a multi cultural society, many people are not interested in multi culturalism

Change of Direction - Coming out of the Box



Saul's Conversion

- Acts 9:3 – 9, 9:18 – 20

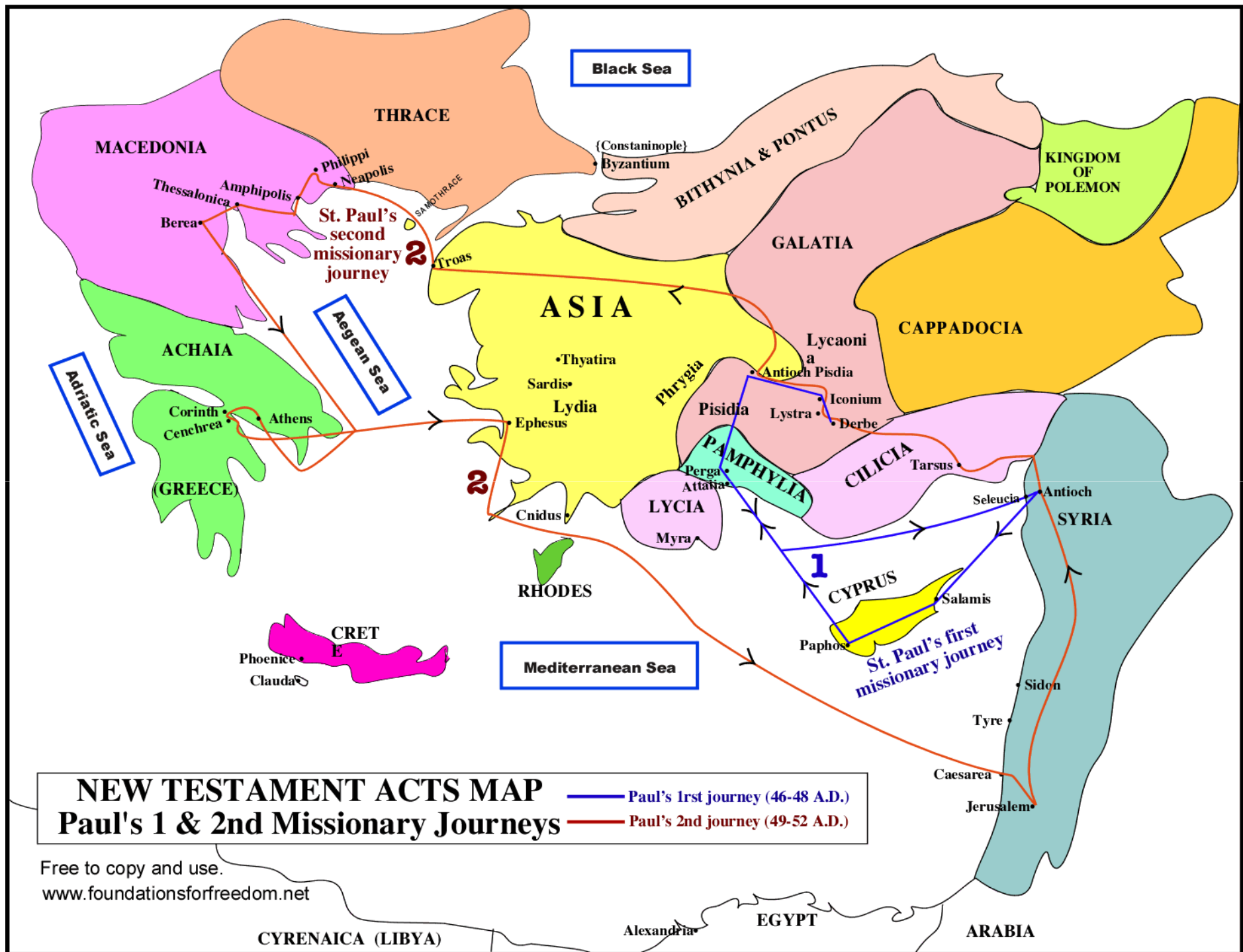
Saul fell to the ground, heard a voice calling him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me”. After fasting for 3 days, his sight was restored.

- Saul had a literal U Turn in direction.



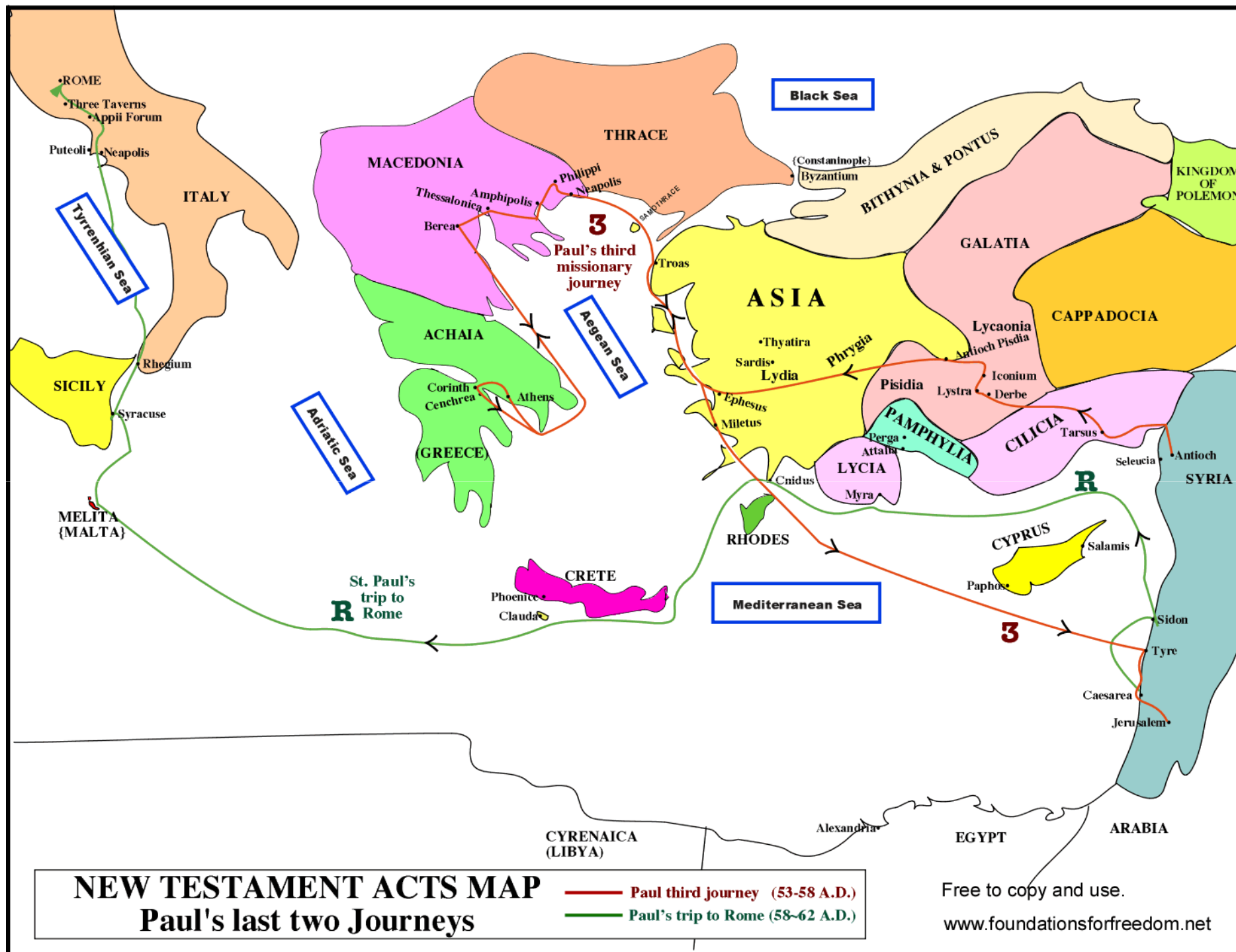
Ananias restoring Paul's sight

- His ministry was first started by preaching to the Jews by often preaching in the synagogues first. Acts 26:17 – 20, to preach the message to the Jew and Gentile.
- The next stage of his life was to come out of his comfort zone – box with preaching to the Gentiles.
- 21st Century Application is that we have in steps with our own individual walk with Jesus and also as a church.
- Our walk with Jesus would probably take us out of our comfort zones.



Paul's Journey

- 1st Journey
 - Acts 13:2 – 14:28
 - April AD 48 –
September AD 49
 - 1 year
- 2nd Journey
 - Acts 15:36 – 18:22
 - April AD 50 -
September AD 52
 - 2 years



Paul's Journey

- 3rd Journey
- Acts 18:23 – 21:16
- Spring 53 – May 57
- 4 Years
- Journey to Rome and imprisonment
- Acts 21:26 – 28:29
- May 57 – February 60
- 3 Years

Paul would have been

- Wiped, flogged severely – Acts 16:23 – 24 (Philippi, Macedonia).
- Had stones thrown at him – Acts 14:19. (Lystra, Turkey).
- Death threats and plots – Acts 9:23 - 25, 23:12 – 22. (Jerusalem).
- Mobs rioting against him – Acts 19:23 – 41 (Ephesus, Turkey).
- Accused, imprisoned – Acts 25:7 – 26:32, 28:11 – 30 (Caesarea, Israel).
- Probably beheaded in Rome circa AD 60 -67 in the reign of Nero.

Some of the cultures that Paul would have probably encountered on his Journeys



- Galatians
- Acts 18:23
- Galatians were Celts, defeated by Greeks around 280 BC
- Allowed to settle in Central Turkey after their defeat.



Areopagus in Athens

- Greek .
- Acts 17:16 – 34, 19:23 – 41.
- Civilization.
- Philosophy, Science, Art.
- Turkey or Anatolian peoples were being Hellenized – Acts 14:12 – 13. (Also adoption of Greek alphabet).



Lycian Tombs

- Lycaonian cities of Lystra, and Derbe.
- Acts 14:6 – 28.
- Dialect of Greek or more probably a language of Turkey before modern day Turkish.
- Malta.
- Acts 28:1 – 10.
- Dialect of Sicilian.
- Independent municipal status within the Roman Empire.



Saint Paul's Bay in Malta

Roman Legionnaires



Roman

- Acts 28:11 – 30.
- Largest Empire made up of many nations and peoples.
- Wealth, power, civilization, culture, science, art, law.
- Latin started as a language centred around Rome, which came to dominate all of Italy and language of Empire and later Church.

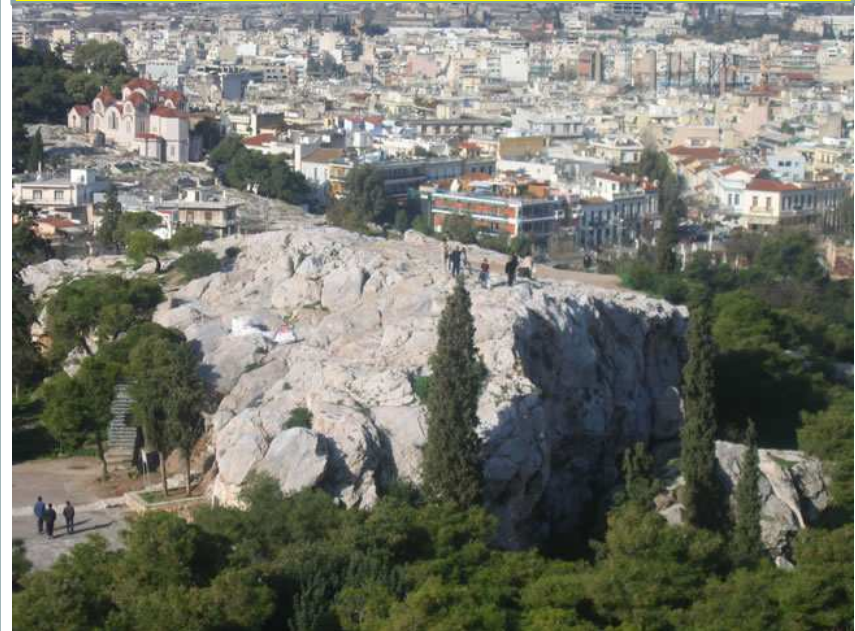
2 Incidents in Focus

Paul and Barnabas in Church Council of Jerusalem after 1st Journey

- **Acts 15:6 – 35.**
- Many of those present were in the boxes of Judaism which they had to come out of.
- Paul, Barnabas and Peter as advocates for complete change to reach the Gentiles.
- Original position was that a Gentile had to be circumcised first before becoming a Christian
- As part of us coming out of our boxes would probably involve advocating change in a church context.

Areopagus in Athens

- Paul being able to make a bridge for the Gospel message to his Athenian Greek (Gentile) audience.
- We may have to do the same if we going to make bridges into other cultures.





**A reconstruction of
The face of Saint
Paul**

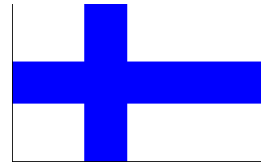
Paul's view on himself being multicultural

- **1 Corinthians 9:19 – 23.**
 - **Paul had become ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN.**
 - **We have to be the same.**
- (1Co 9:19) Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.
 - (1Co 9:20) To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.
 - (1Co 9:21) To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law.
 - (1Co 9:22) To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.
 - (1Co 9:23) I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

Look at Ourselves and Our Probable Boxes



Flags of Nationalities in the Congregation – Nations where there is a “Christian” Majority



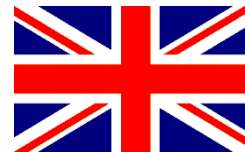
* Ghana



* Nigeria

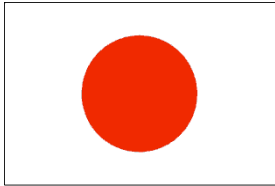


* Togo

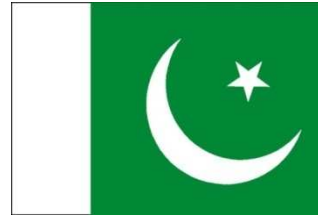


*Large Muslim
Minorities in
Countries' Population

Flags of Nationalities in the Congregation – Nations where there is a “Christian” Minorities (often very small)



Japan
1.5%



Pakistan
2.3%



Sierra Leone
11.7%

% of population in each country that is “Christian”

Source **Operation World**, 6th Edition, www.paternoster-publishing.com

Wider Community Ethnic Mix

Middle Eastern; Afghani,
Iranians, Arabs, North Africans,
Kurds, Turks.

White UK,
Irish.

Asian; Gujarati,
Hindi, Pakistani,
Tamil.

Western
European

Church Activities

Congregation

African, Afro Caribbean
White UK, few Europeans
few Asians

Parish Nursing
Evangelism
Lunch with a
Difference
Blessing Brigade

Asians
East Asians
(Muslims
Backgrounds)
Africans
White UK, Irish,
Afro Caribbean's

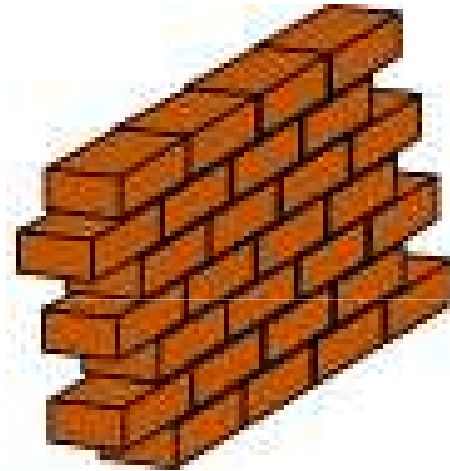
African; Somali, Kenyan,
Nigerian,
Ugandan, Ghanaian, etc

Afro
Caribbean

Eastern European;
Russians, Poles,
Romanians,
Romani, Albanians,
etc

Them and Us Situation

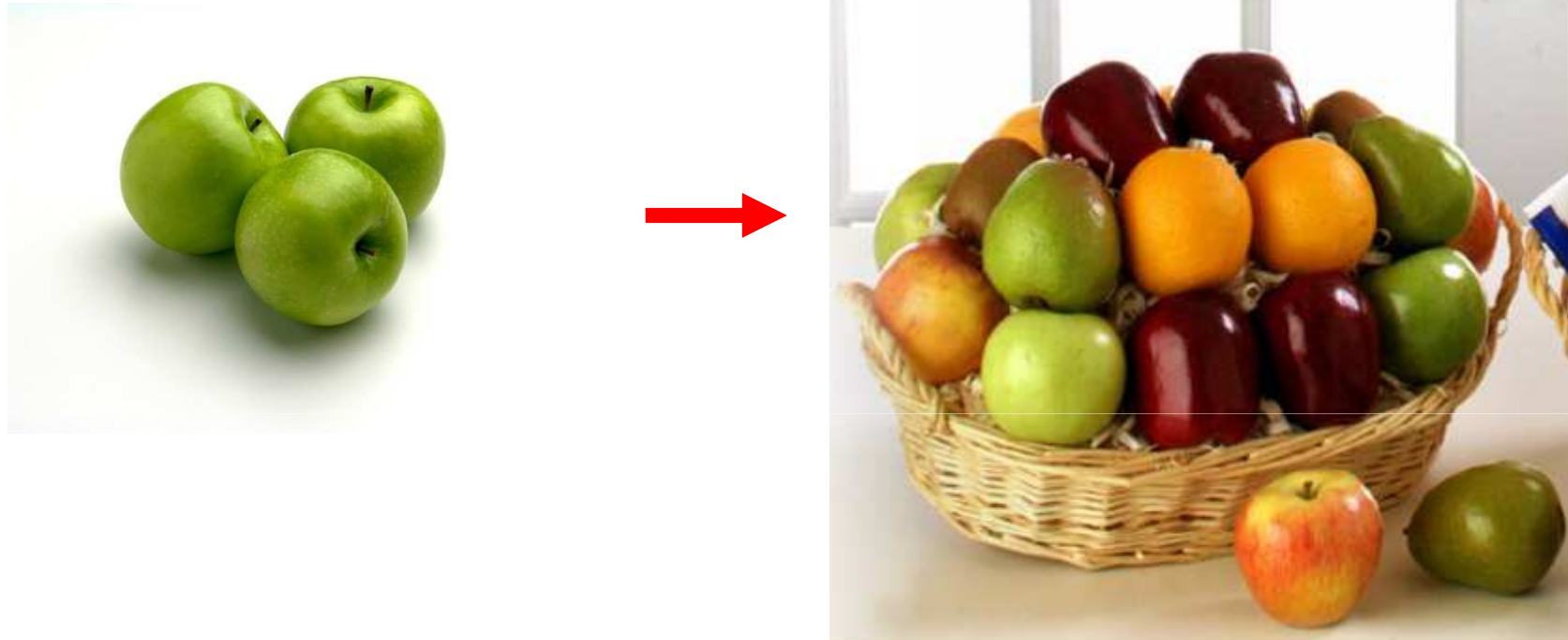
**The
Communities
Of Burnt Oak**



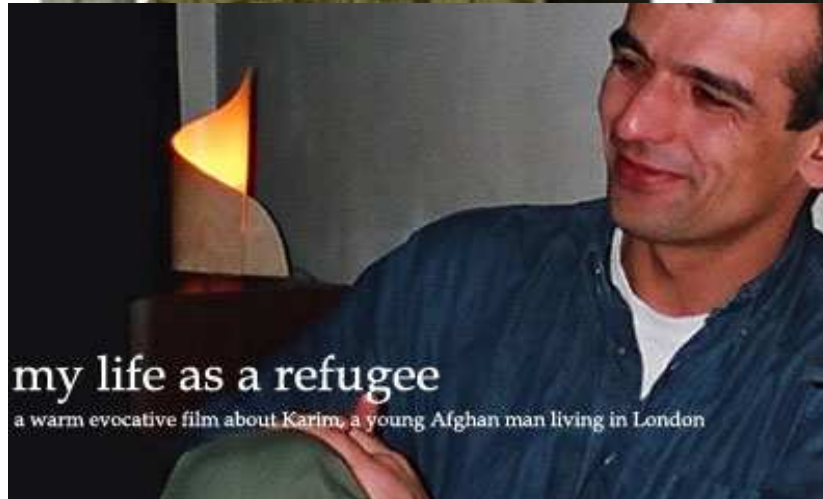
**The Church
Community
In Burnt Oak**

*A cultural wall that separates
Us all*

Concept of Addition rather than multiplication for Church growth



The Early Church growth with Gentiles from different races coming into a Jewish Church is concept of addition.



Coming out of a Box or Comfort Zone



Self



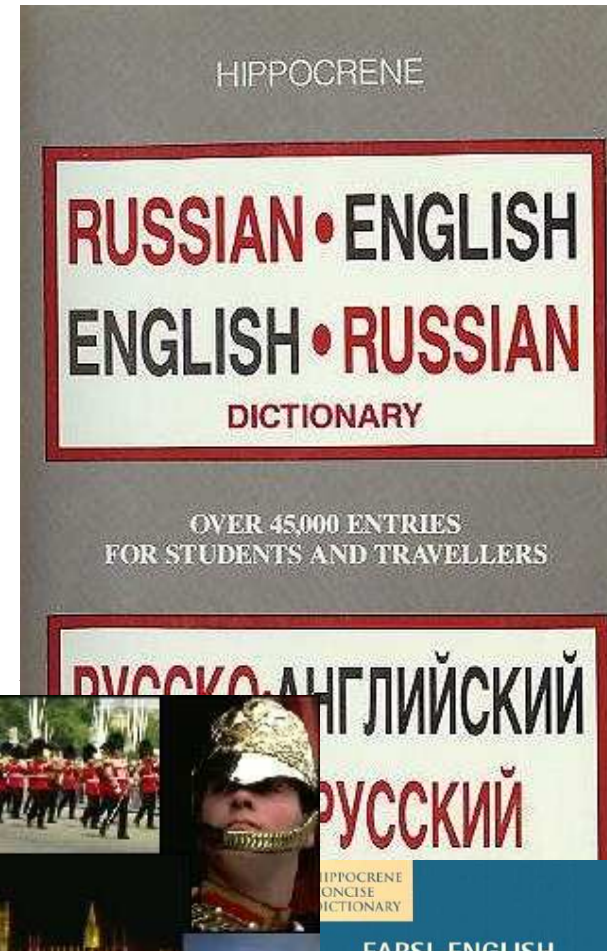
- We have to choose to come out of a mental box – Acts 15:1 – 35. (Debate over whether Gentiles should be circumcised or not)
- Serving Jesus wholeheartedly as the example of Saint Paul.
- Recognise that we come from a strong culture.
- Take an interest and respect different cultures.

- Love of people.
- Offer friendship to your neighbours who may be from different cultures.
- Offering hospitality.
- Work towards meeting people's practical needs.
- Be open minded.
- Listening, observing, and learning from other people's culture.



Adopting a Culture

- Studying a country or people.
- Learning a different language.
- Working towards community Cohesion.
- Evangelism.



FINALLY



- It is GOD who sees the inside of our hearts.
- If you feel you are in a cultural box it would be your choice as to whether stay in or come out of the cultural box.