

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

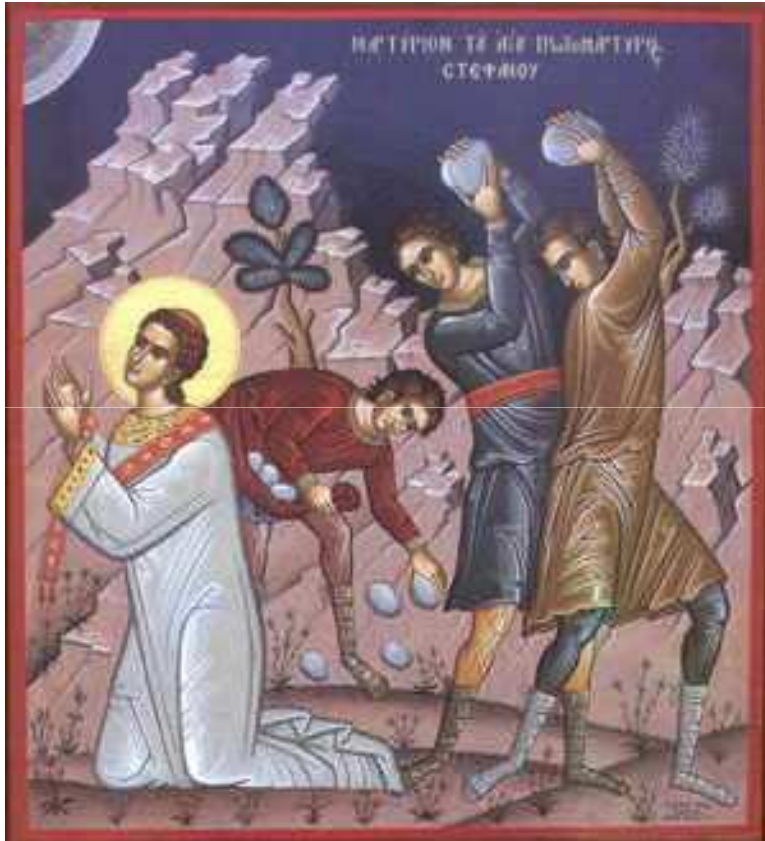


Iranian Church in Liverpool

- 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



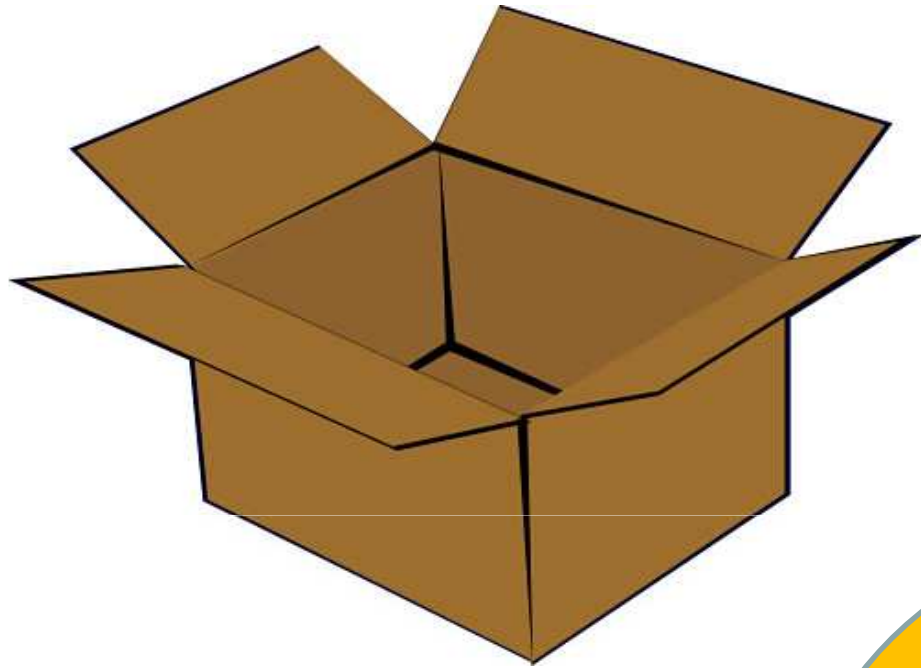
**Stoning of Saint Stephen
Byzantine Icon**

- 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

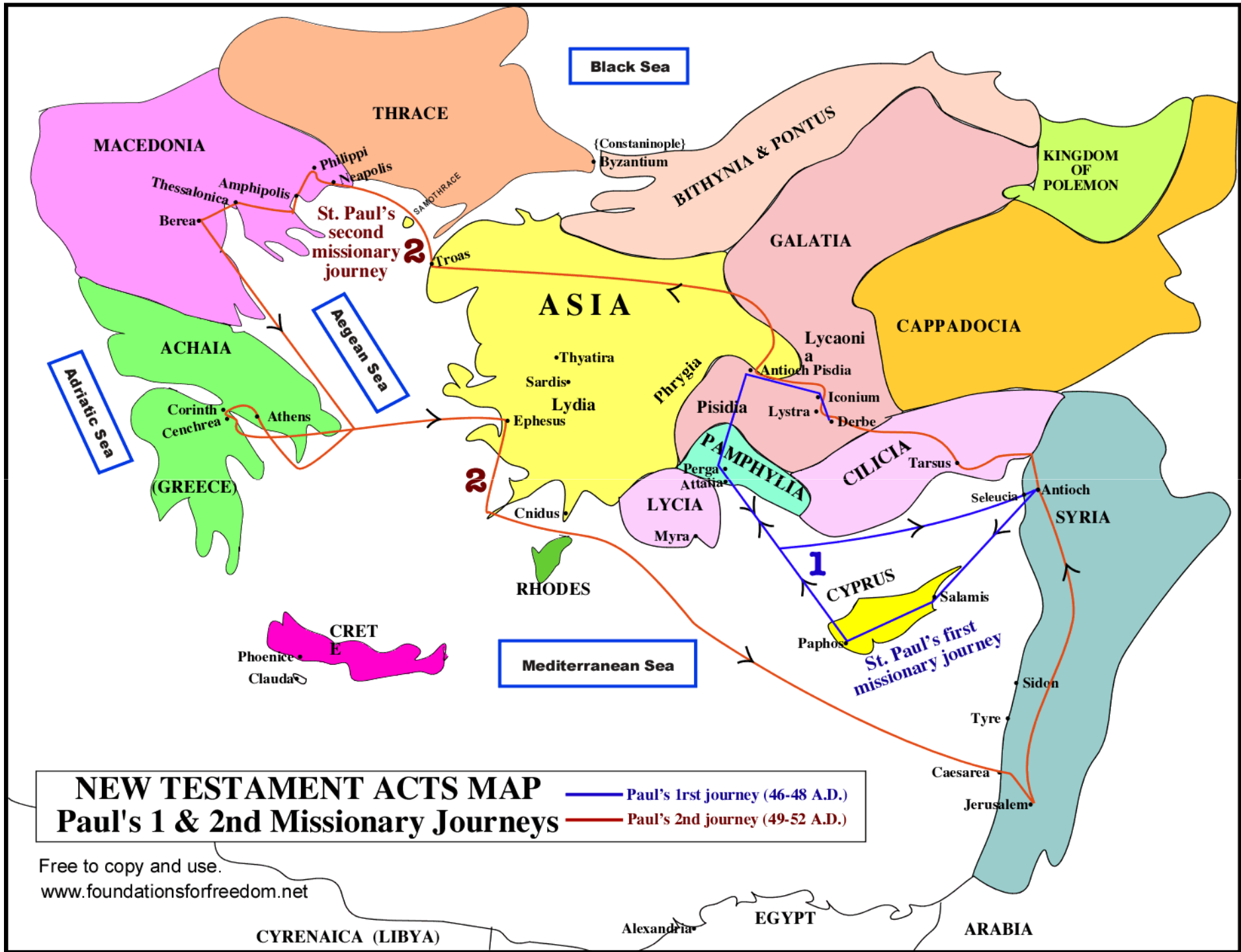
Saul fell to the ground, heard a voice calling him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me”. After fasting for 3 days, his sight was restored.

- Saul had a literal U Turn in direction.



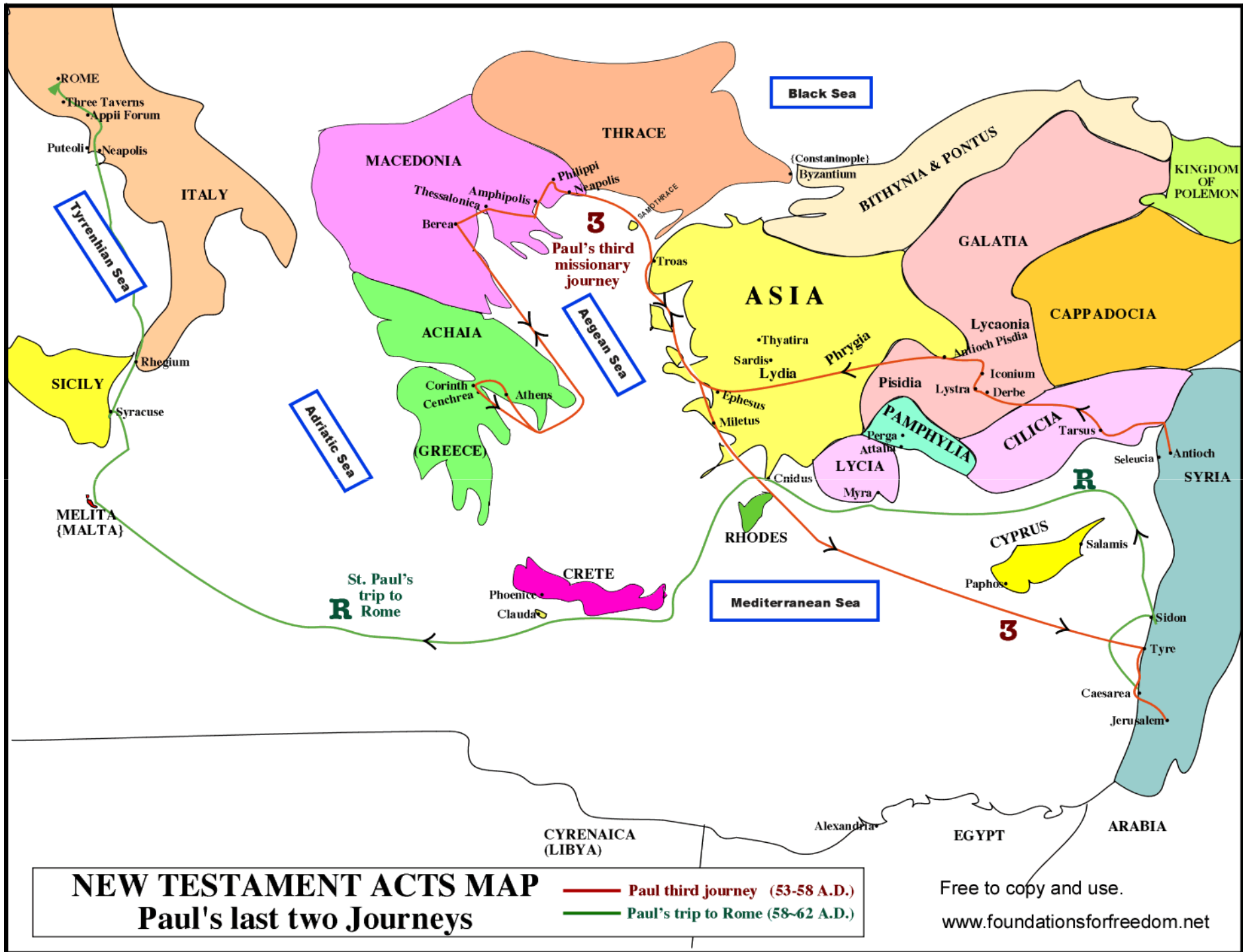
Ananias restoring Paul's sight

- 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



•ROME
 •Three Taverns
 •Appii Forum

Puteoli Neapolis

Tyrrhenian Sea

ITALY

SICILY

Rhodium

Syracuse

MELITA (MALTA)

MACEDONIA

Thessalonica

Amphipolis

Berea

Philippi

Neapolis

3 Paul's third missionary journey

Aegean Sea

THRACE

Troas

ASIA

Thyatira

Sardis

Lydia

Ephesus

Miletus

RHODES

CRETE

Phoenice
 Claudia

Mediterranean Sea

Black Sea

BITHYNIA & PONTUS

GALATIA

CAPPADOCIA

Lycaonia

Antioch Pisidia

Lystra

Iconium

Derbe

PAMPHYLIA

Pisidia

Perga

Attala

LYCIA

Myra

CILICIA

Tarsus

Seleucia

Antioch

SYRIA

CYPRUS

Paphos

Salamis

ARABIA

Sidon

Tyre

Caesarea

Jerusalem

CYRENAICA (LIBYA)

Alexandria

EGYPT

NEW TESTAMENT ACTS MAP
Paul's last two Journeys

— Paul third journey (53-58 A.D.)
 — Paul's trip to Rome (58-62 A.D.)

Free to copy and use.
[www.FOUNDATIONSforfreedom.net](http://wwwFOUNDATIONSforfreedom.net)

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).



Anna Letwaast

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.

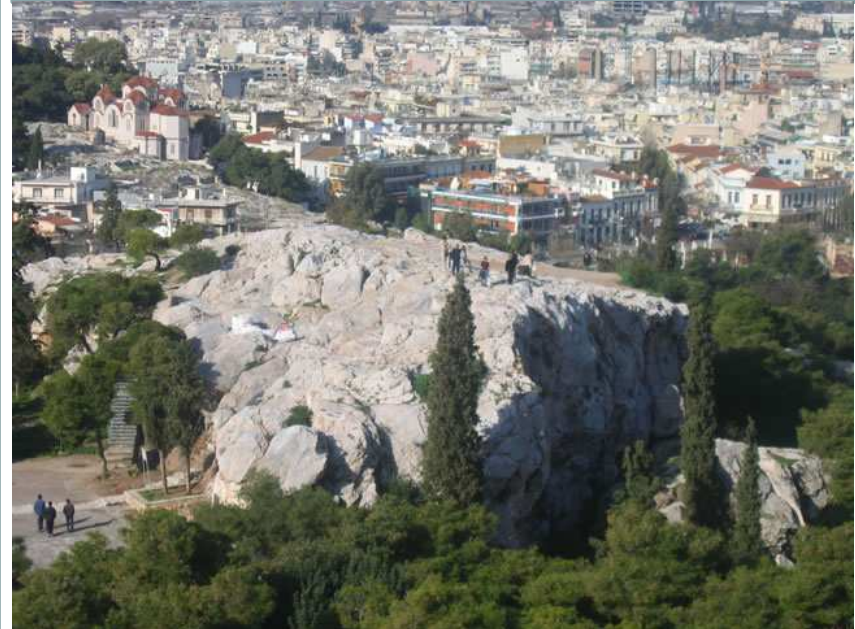
2 Incidents in Focus

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**

Bildmontage LKA NRW, 02/08

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

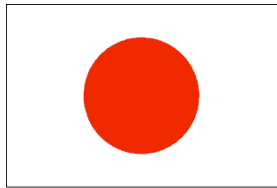


* Togo

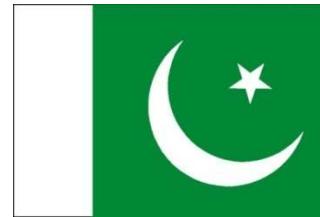


*Large Muslim Minorities in Countries' Population

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”

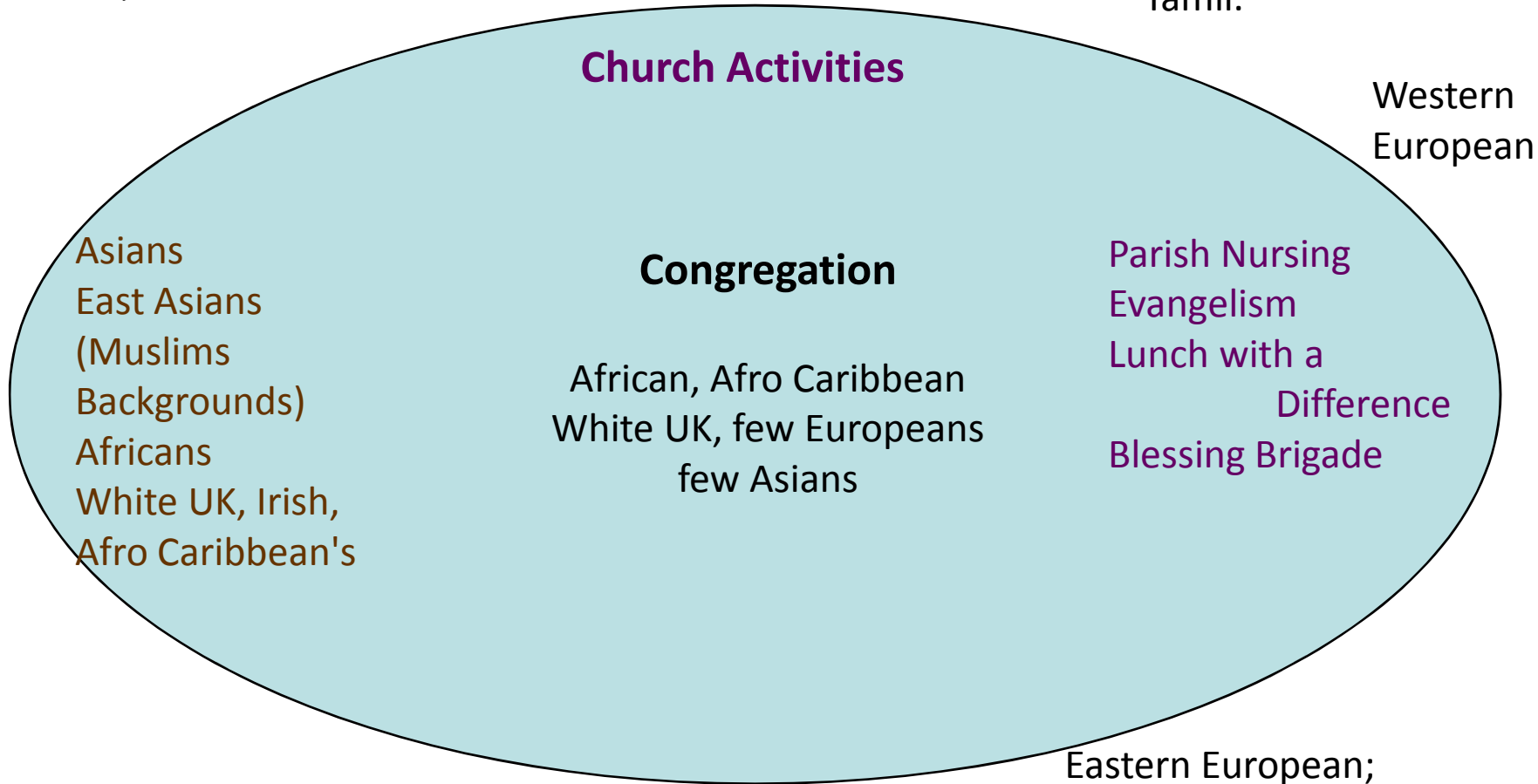
Source Operation World, 6th Edition, www.paternoster-publishing.com

Wider Community Ethnic Mix

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

White UK,
Irish.

Asian; Gujarati,
Hindi, Pakistani,
Tamil.



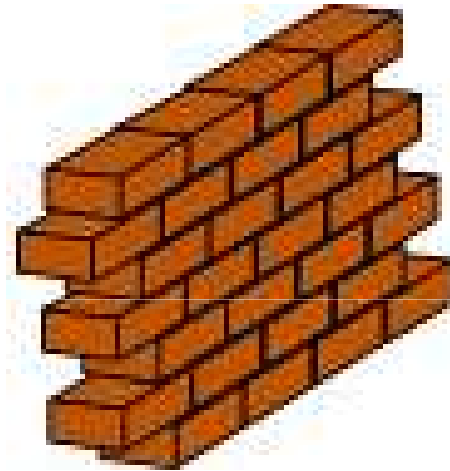
African; Somali, Kenyan,
Nigerian,
Ugandan, Ghanaian, etc

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.



my life as a refugee
a warm evocative film about Karim, a young Afghan man living in London



Coming out of a Box or Comfort Zone



Self



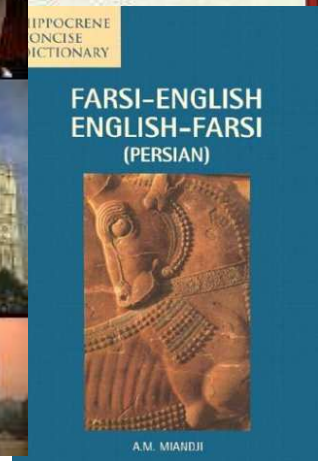
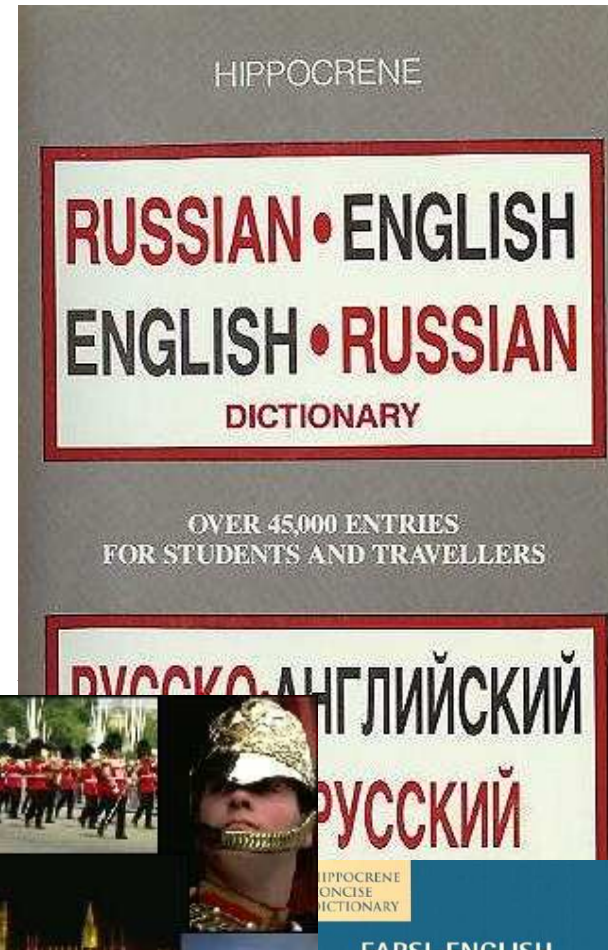
- We have to choose to come out of a mental box – Acts 15:1 – 35. (Debate over whether Gentiles should be circumcised or not)
- Serving Jesus wholeheartedly as the example of Saint Paul.
- Recognise that we come from a strong culture.
- Take an interest and respect different cultures.

- 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.