

Sunday Gathering Liturgy

We Are Sent, Acts 13:1-4a -
Bradley Bell

July 25, 2021

Genesis 25-36: Learning to
Limp

Call to Worship - Galatians 4:3-7

Today is a great joy for us as a church, as we are commissioning one of our families, the Criglers, to serve in Grenada. However, our desire today isn't just to make much of the Criglers, but to make much of Jesus Christ, who calls ALL of us to live as sent ones wherever we are. Since today will be the Criglers last Sunday Gathering for a long time, they have chosen today's songs from among their favorites, and later in our gathering they will serve communion one last time. Even though it is bittersweet to send those we love to places faraway, we do this remembering these words from Galatians 4:

In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. Galatians 4:3-7

With the Spirit of God's Son now sent into our hearts, let's declare this together:

Abba!
Father!
Because of you
We send out
And we sing out

Amen!

On Christ The Solid Rock

Jesus Strong And Kind

I Have To Believe

Commissioning - Acts 13:1-3

Good morning, my name is Robbie and I am the pastor of sending here at Antioch. This morning, we have the special privilege of commissioning the Crigler family. Antioch Kids and volunteers, hang on for a few more minutes before we dismiss you to your classes, we want you to be here and experience this moment in the life of our church. We pray that perhaps someday we will also send a number of you to proclaim Jesus among the nations.

Jason and Kari, will you join me up on stage?

It's hard to imagine anyone more integral to the body of a church than the Criglers have been to Antioch. Their long years of service have been well documented over the past few months as they have transitioned out of various roles, but they have been at Antioch since the very beginning and have served as deaconess of mercy and pastor of worship besides wearing many other hats. It's also hard to imagine anyone more beloved than they are by Antioch. And this morning we are sending them out as "distributed members," that is, missionaries who will have an ongoing, reciprocal relationship with our church.

Jason and Kari, will you share a little bit about where you are going and what you will be doing?

Can you tell us about the journey you guys have been on to get to this point, on the cusp of heading overseas?

How can we pray for you as you go?

Before we continue, we have a special guest with us this morning: our Grenadian brother in Christ named Alvin who the Criglers will be serving with...

At this time I'd like to ask Steve and Cheryl Hammil to join us on stage. Steve and Cheryl will serve as the advocates for the Criglers. If you are unsure what the Hammils will be doing as advocates, they will serve as the primary point of relationship between the church and the Criglers. In spite of all our good intentions in the commissioning this morning, the busyness of life and the distance between us will inevitably pull Antioch and the Criglers away. The Hammils are taking on the responsibility of making sure that doesn't happen, and will be commissioned alongside the Criglers in this important task.

Criglers, it's now time for the formal part of our commissioning. Just as in a marriage, the relationship between sending church and missionary requires a commitment with some weight behind it to make it work. So, as in a wedding, we will now take our vows. These vows are also written on a physical copy of our sending covenant, which will be signed by myself, the Hammils, and the Criglers.

Antioch members, please stand as we affirm our covenant to the Criglers. Our responsibilities include:

- 1) Praying for the Criglers and the people they serve in Sunday Gatherings, Family Groups, Missionary Care Team, and our households.
- 2) Overseeing and cultivating the effectiveness of an Advocate for the Criglers, who are the Hammils.
- 3) Providing care visits to the Criglers with the goal of one per term.
- 4) Being available as Pastors and Advocates to provide care and counsel for the Criglers.
- 5) Providing logistical support and opportunities for the Criglers to report during stateside visits.
- 6) Providing the ongoing financial support to the Criglers agreed upon prior to commissioning.

Church, if we commit ourselves to these responsibilities, let us say this together, "With God's help, we do." You may be seated.

Criglers, please remain standing as you affirm your covenant to the church. Your responsibilities include:

- 1) Recognizing and relating to Antioch as having a significant, ongoing place at the table in your life.
- 2) Continuing to participate in the life of Antioch through relationships, prayer, and giving of resources.
- 3) Responding in a timely manner to communication from your Advocate and the Pastors.
- 4) Sending monthly updates for the sake of ongoing relationship and prayer.
- 5) Maintaining open and honest communication with your Advocate.
- 6) Spending 1/3 of your stateside visits in Louisville in order to participate at Antioch.

Jason and Kari, if you commit yourself to these responsibilities, say, "With God's help, we do."

Now, if you and your family would stand in the center aisle. Church, we invite you to participate in the commissioning prayer for the Criglers. Please gather around them and lay hands on them. Jason Hunsucker will be praying over them.

Sermon - Acts 13:1-4a

Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Jesus Paid It All

Let The Nations Be Glad

Announcements & Benediction - John 20:21

Thank you for joining us in today's gathering! We hope that you have experienced the welcome of Jesus. You may be seated as we give a few next steps from today's gathering.

Giving - First, we will be passing our giving baskets at this time. Church, it's your sacrificial giving that allows us to do things like support the work of the Criglers. If you're a member of Antioch we ask you to give cheerfully. If you're a visitor we ask you fill out a visitor card from the basket and give it to one of us at the end of the gathering. And if you're not a Christian, we're not asking for your money—this gathering is our gift to you!

Family Groups - Also, this gathering is only one part of the life of Antioch. We would love to have you in one of our small groups that we call Family Groups, which meet in our homes. There is more info at the visitor entrance and on our website, but better yet talk to one of us.

9 AM classes - Next Sunday is part three of a four-week class titled "Theology of Work and Money" led by pastor Jason.

Nerdyoch Interest Meeting - There has always been a nerdy thread at Antioch, so...calling all NERDS! If you consider yourself a nerd, or just like nerdy things like gaming, fantasy, comics, scifi, legos—yes that means you Trekkies, larpers, and people who "nerd out" over some particular thing (which is all of us), immediately following today's gathering we will have a brief Nerdyoch interest meeting. You may say to yourself, "Why are we doing that? We shouldn't be doing that." My response is, you're already doing nerdy things (reading fantasy, watching films, playing games)—so why wouldn't we use that through the lens of the gospel to grow in our relationships and reach out to people who literally feel like they have been excommunicated from the church?! Let's do it! For more info see Josiah Wallis.

Commissioning Sunday - Commissioning Sunday isn't over yet—also immediately following the gathering we would like to invite you to sign the Crigler's Antioch Flint print. And also join us here this evening for a special reception for the Criglers. Dinner will be at 5:30 and a program will follow.

We begin each gathering with a call to worship and we end with a benediction, which is a reminder that we have been blessed to be a blessing. If you would like to receive this benediction, I invite you to open your hands before you.

Church, as the Father sent Jesus, even so he is sending you. May you go pointing people to the summit of Mount Calvary.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Let's say this together: We are sent.
