

# FLAME

August 2006

## Acts 13:1-3

“In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.”

- Established leadership that believed in emerging leadership.

- A context of theological reflection that allowed the Holy Spirit and the continuing ministry of Jesus Christ to be increasingly exegeted.

- A church that intentionally reflected the fullest expression of the body of Christ.

- An organization that God blessed with a mandate to multiply itself.

# Wittenberg University in Germany

- Fast forward 1500 years
- Martin Luther—brilliant scholar

## Luther's Influence--1514-1517

- Luther won over the entire faculty at Wittenberg to the tenets of the Reformation

## Luther's Influence—1517

- When Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the door of the church at Wittenberg he was not a lone voice, but a united faculty speaking.

## Luther's Influence—1520-1560

- 16,000 students matriculated at Wittenberg and were shaped by the tenets of the German Reformation

## SO WHAT?

- God cares about communities that are organized to serve His redemptive mandate whether they are...
  - Local churches
  - Fellowships of churches
  - Educational institutions like a seminary

- Look at Antioch and Wittenberg and see what challenge we can give our attention to at the halfway mark of the first decade in this new millennium.

- Our churches are literally the largest in the world, but we live in a world that is described as follows...

- “There is no lighthouse keeper. There is no lighthouse. There is no dry land. There are only people living on rafts made from their own imaginations. And there is no sea.”

John Dominic Crossan,  
Catholic University of America

- “I don’t believe in truth. I believe in style.”

Hugh Grant,  
British film actor

# **Tsunamis & Hurricanes Create Tragedy & Opportunity**

- Antioch faced theological & missional challenges. They rose up to critique the exclusiveness of Jerusalem and expanded the boundary of the Gospel for the first time intentionally.

- Wittenberg faced theological and organizational challenges. It stands as a prime mover in an era when religion had atrophied and the church had long forgotten what it meant to say it seemed good to the Spirit and us.

- When (AGTS) is described may it be said:
  - There were prophets and teachers at (AGTS).
  - While (AGTS) was worshipping the Lord and fasting the Holy Spirit said...
  - After (AGTS) had fasted and prayed they placed their hands on the graduates and sent them off.