## The Way

A RADICAL NEW TEACHING
From 1st Century Israel



Oakham BAPTIST CHURCH

**EP 6.1** 

The Way of the Church

Outside the walls Acts Ch 8:2-8



28th April





On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. <sup>2</sup>Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. <sup>3</sup> But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.

<sup>1</sup>And Saul approved of their killing him.





Came of paralyse there we have a superior church

<sup>4</sup>Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. <sup>5</sup> Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. <sup>6</sup> When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. <sup>7</sup> For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralysed or lame were healed. 8 So there was great joy in that city.



#### **Acts 1:8**

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8 and Acts 8:1 go hand in hand





Persecution was the catalyst to get the early believers out of the comfort zone of Jerusalem and ultimately expand the church





### Who is Saul?





## Philip in Samaria





## 'And there was great joy in the city'





# The church as a national movement





Quiz

1. How many Christians are there projected to be in the world by mid 2024?

A. 2.6 billion

or

B. 3.4 billion



Quiz

Answer: A 2.6 billion

From 2020- mid 2024, the world's population is expected to grow from more that 7.84 billion people to more than 8.11 billion, a 0.87% growth trend,

The number of Christians worldwide is expected to climb from more than 2.52 billion to 2.63 billion- a 1.08% growth (Life way research- BRN)



2. How large is the Christian population projected to be by 2050?

Is it projected to top?
A. 4.3 billion
or
B. 3 billion



Answer: B 3 billion

Quiz



3. Throughout history, how many Christians have been Martyred?

A. 40 million
Or
B. 70 million



Answer: B 70 million (csgc)



4. How many Christians were martyred for their faith in the last year?

A. 2598

or

B. 4998



Answer: B 4,998 (Open Doors UK)

One main perpetrator is growing violence in sub- Saharan Arica. The region accounts for 90% of the total believers martyred for their faith worldwide, with the highest number of Christians killed in Nigeria (4,118)



5. Open Doors have a World Watch list in which they rank the top 50 countries where Christians face the most extreme persecution

Who do you think are the top 5 countries on this list?

List A.

1. North Korea

2. Somalia

3. Libya

4. Eritrea

5. Yemen

List B.

1. North Korea

2. Iran

3. Eritrea

4. Libya

5. Syria



#### **Answer: A**

- 1. North Korea
- 2. Somalia
- 3. Libya
- 4. Eritrea
- 5. Yemen



6. In 1900 more than half of the world (54%) didn't have access to the gospel, what do you think the statistic is now?

A. 27.8%

Or

B. 35.4%

Quiz



Answer: A 27.8% (BRN)



7. In 1900 227 languages had New Testament translations. What do you think the number is projected to reach this year?

A. 1,800 Or B. 2,400



Answer: B. 2,400

By 2050 it projected to have doubled to 4,200!
(BRN)



8. What two areas of the world are growing the fastest in Christianity?

Quiz



#### **Answer: Asia and Africa (BRN)**

- Asia is home to more that 415 million
   Christians and growing at a rate of 2.11%
- Africa is home to 734 million Christians and faith is growing at 2.64%.
  - At the turn of the 20th Century Africa was home to less than 10 million Christians.
  - By 2000, the Christian population has exploded to more that 383 million.
  - In 2020 more Christians lived in Africa that any other region of the world



## Mainland China





Iran





## The National Church





## The Local Church





## Response

- 1. Courage to scatter the seed of the gospel
- 2. Supporting the local Church projects?
- 3. Short term or long term missions?
- 4. Praying for the international/national church

