

# Sermon Series: Acts: The Church on Fire

## Acts 6: 1-7      *Filling the Gaps in Ministry*

**\*Disciples do ministry. Disciples grow because of discipleship**

=>The Maginot Line in France during WW2 showed the danger of having a gap in a plan.

### **I. The Problem: A Gap in the Ministry**

- A. A complaint: Hellenist vs Hebrews
- B. Growth caused gaps in the ministry =>paper people showing the problem with growth
- C. The temptation of distraction
- D. Disciples do ministry. Disciples grow because of discipleship

### **II. The Solution: Fill the Gap**

- A. Choice: Stay vs Expand
- B. "Full number" of disciples brought in
- C. Choose 7 men
  - 1. Good repute ("being witnessed to")
  - 2. Full of the Spirit (spiritual)
  - 3. Full of wisdom (practical)
  - 4. 7 men
    - a. Stephen: A man full of faith and the Holy Spirit
    - b. Philip: Chapters 8 and 21:8
    - c. Prochorus
    - d. Nicanor
    - e. Timon
    - f. Pramenas
    - g. Nicolaus
- D. Pleas'd the gathering
- E. Apostles laid hands on them
  - 1. Ministry created into an office
  - 2. Layperson and an administrator
  - 3. Defined as "service, ministry"; "deacon" but never call themselves deacons

### **III. The Result: The Disciples are Multiplied**

- A. Word of God increased
- B. Disciples multiplied
- C. More lives were changed for eternity
- D. Disciples do ministry. Disciples grow because of discipleship

### **IV. Live It Out**

- A. Do you see gaps in ministry?
- B. What are you doing to prepare yourself for ministry/service?
- C. What are you doing to prepare others for ministry/service/

### **V. =>Prime a water pump to get the water running**