

BIBLE CHURCH MISSION

A Closer Look



Statement of Faith

We believe that our statement of faith provides the foundation for all that we do as a mission. As a result, we begin this view of the Bible Church Mission with a complete copy of our statement of faith. We as a mission have committed ourselves to this Biblical foundation for all that we do and teach. We trust that you will find this statement of faith an encouragement to you in your own spiritual life.

**Bible Church Mission
Box 424
Downey, CA 90241**

Statement of Faith

(1) The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writing, infallible and God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:20,21; Matthew 5:18; John 16:12,13).

(2) The Godhead

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections (Deuteronomy 6:4; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

(3) The Person and Work of Christ

a. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that he might reveal God and redeem sinful men (John 1:1,2, 14; Luke 1:35).

b. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for all mankind as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice, and that the sufficiency of this atoning sacrifice to accomplish the redemption and justification of all who trust in him is assured by his literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Romans 3:24,25; 4:25; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Timothy 4:10; Hebrews 2:9; 1 Peter 3-5, 2:24; and 2 Peter 2:1).

c. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our high priest, he fulfills the ministry of representative, intercessor, and advocate (Acts 1:9,10; Hebrews 9:24; 7:25; Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1,2).

(4) The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

a. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that he is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption (John 16:8-

11; 2 Corinthians 3:6; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13,14).

b. We believe that he is the divine teacher who guides believers into all truth; and, that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit (John 16:13; 1 John 2:20,27; Ephesians 5:18).

(5) The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and, that man is totally depraved, and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Genesis 1:26,27; Romans 3:22,23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3,12).

(6) Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins (Ephesians 2:8-10; John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18,19).

(7) The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers

a. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 8:1,38,39; 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; 1 Peter 1:5).

b. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word; which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (Romans 13:13,14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).

(8) The two Natures of the Believer

We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit; and, that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural (Romans 6:13; 8:12,13; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 3:5-9).

(9) Separation

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded of God (2 Timothy 3:1-5; Romans 12:1,2; 14:13; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John vv. 9-11; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1).

(10) Missions

We believe that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the gospel to all mankind (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:19,20).

(11) The Ministry and Spiritual Gifts

a. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all his gifts; and, that the gifts of evangelists, pastors, and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today; and, that speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established (1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:7-12).

b. We believe that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith, in accord with his own will, for the sick and afflicted (John 15:7; I John 5:14,15).

(12) The Church

a. We believe that the Church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of this present age (Ephesians 1:22,23; 5:25-27; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 11:2).

b. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27; 20:17; 28-32; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).

c. We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control (Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Romans 16:1,4; 1 Corinthians 3:9,16; 5:4-7; 13; 1 Peter 5:1-4).

d. We believe in the ordinances of believer's water baptism and the Lord's supper as scriptural means of testimony for the church age (Matthew

28:19,20; Acts 2:41,42; 18:8; I Corinthians 11:23-26).

(13) Dispensationalism

We believe that the Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense reveal divinely determined dispensations or rules of life which define man's responsibilities in successive ages. These dispensations are not ways of salvation, but rather divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to his purpose. Three of these—the age of law, the age of the church, and the age of the millennial kingdom—are the subjects of detailed revelation in Scripture (John 1:17; 1 Corinthians 9:17; 2 Corinthians 3:9-18; Galatians 3:13-25; Ephesians 1:10; 3:2-10; Colossians 1:24-25; Hebrews 7:19; Revelation 20:2-6).

(14) The Personality of Satan

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and, that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire (Job 1:6,7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:2-11; 25:41; Revelation 20:10).

(15) The Second Advent of Christ

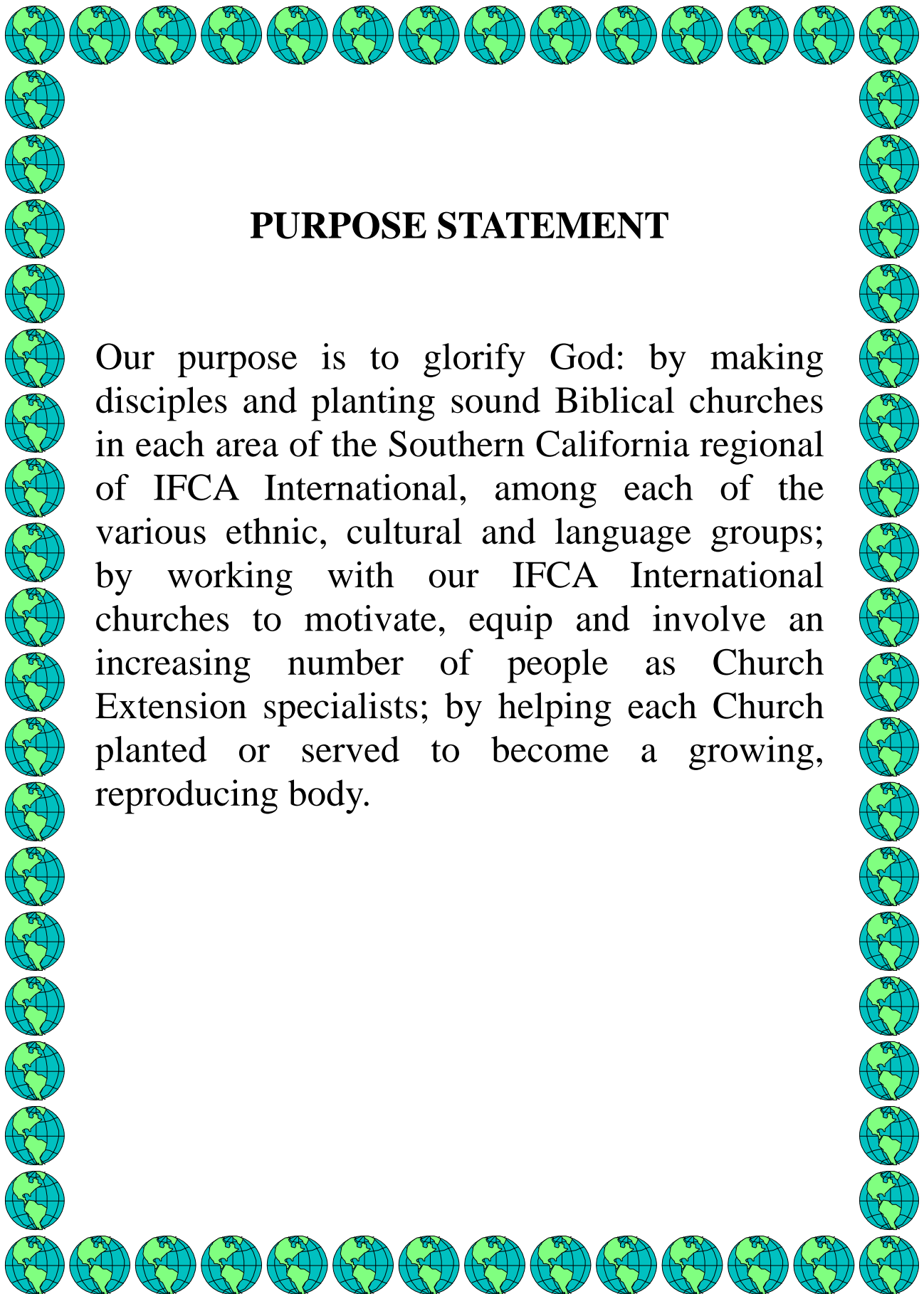
We believe in that “*Blessed Hope*,” the personal, imminent, pre-tribulation and pre-millennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for his redeemed ones; and in his subsequent return to earth, with his saints, to establish his millennial kingdom (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Zechariah 14:4-11; Revelation 19:11-16; 20:1-6; I Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9; Revelation 3:10).

(16) The Eternal State

a. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28,29; 11:25,26; Revelation 20:5,6,12,13).

b. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; Revelation 20:4-6; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; 3:21; I Thessalonians 4:16,17).

c. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment (Luke 16:19-26; Matthew 25:41-46; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude vv. 6,7; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20:11-15).



PURPOSE STATEMENT

Our purpose is to glorify God: by making disciples and planting sound Biblical churches in each area of the Southern California regional of IFCA International, among each of the various ethnic, cultural and language groups; by working with our IFCA International churches to motivate, equip and involve an increasing number of people as Church Extension specialists; by helping each Church planted or served to become a growing, reproducing body.

A Purpose Statement Consists of Two Parts

A statement of our purpose
A vision of our ministry

Our purpose: To glorify God - I Corinthians 10:31

Our vision of ministry:

1. to make disciples - Matthew 28:19-20
2. to plant sound Biblical churches - Acts 9:31
3. to motivate, equip and involve an increasing number of people as church extension specialists - Acts 11:19-22, Acts 20:4
4. to help each church planted or served to become a growing, reproducing body - Acts 16:1-5, Acts 19:10

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BIBLE CHURCH MISSION

Church Planting Strategy

Our primary purpose is to glorify God, by making disciples and planting churches.

we are to make it our lifestyle to glorify God in all that we say or do

I Corinthians 10:31

we are commanded to make disciples

Matthew 28:19-20

we desire to make disciples who are able to plant churches

Acts 14:21-23

Our vision must always be the next city or town.

Christ had a vision for the next towns

Mark 1:38-39

Paul had a vision for key cities

Acts 18:1, Romans 16:19-24

Our priority is people, not programs, land or buildings.

Christ saw people who had spiritual needs

Matthew 9:36-38

Paul had a concern for all people to hear

Acts 19:9-10

Our emphasis will be evangelism of the lost, not taking away members from existing Bible-believing churches.

our call is to preach the Gospel to every person

Mark 16:15

our vision must be for those who do not know Christ

Acts 26:17-19

Our love will reach people best in their own language and culture

our motivation must be the love of Christ
II Corinthians 5:14-15, John 13:34-35
our concern must be to share the Gospel in every language
Acts 2:7-8
our concern must be to understand and reach each culture
I Corinthians 9:19-23

Our ministry will use a variety of methods to start new churches

some churches start through street evangelism
Acts 2:1-41, Acts 17:17, 22-34
some churches start through one-to-one witness
Acts 18:1-3
some churches start through group Bible study
Acts 17:11-12

Our involvement will seek to include a sponsoring church or churches

the church at Jerusalem took the responsibility for Samaria
Acts 8:4-5, 14
the church at Jerusalem took responsibility for Antioch
Acts 11:19-23

Our concern will be to edify and equip the saints for ministry

the churches must be edified to multiply
Acts 9:31
all Christians must be equipped to minister properly
Ephesians 4:11-13

Our leadership must be committed to our Biblical convictions

we must be set for the defense of the gospel

Philippians 1:17

we must be holding forth the word of life

Philippians 2:16

we must be ever alert for false teachers or power hungry leaders

Acts 20:29-30

Our desire will be for each church planted or served to associate with the IFCA International

each church should be independent but not isolated

Acts 15:25-27

churches must minister to each other

Acts 11:27-30, Acts 18:27-28

Our commitment is to prayer, for church planting is spiritual warfare

Satan will do everything possible to hinder church planters

Acts 14:19, Acts 17:5, Acts 19:23-30

church planters are in a warfare that cannot be fought with earthly weapons

II Corinthians 10:3-5

church planting teams must be formed through prayer

Acts 13:1-3

church planters need prayer for making contacts

Acts 16:13

church planters need prayer to speak boldly

Ephesians 6:18-19

church planters need prayer that new Christians will be strengthened in the inner man and be grounded in love

Ephesians 3:14-21

church planters need prayer for wisdom in choosing early leaders

Acts 14:21-23