

Beginning Again in Christ (BAIC)

Statement of Faith

01/21/97

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

The Scriptures: We believe that "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God" by which we understand the whole Bible is inspired in that holy men of God were "moved by the Holy Spirit" to write the very words of God. We believe that this divine inspiration extends equally to all parts of the writings as appeared in the original manuscripts

The Godhead: We believe that the Godhead eternally exists in three persons: The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit - and that these three are one God; co-equal and co-existent.

Man: We believe that man was originally created in innocency and that he fell through and as a consequence of his sin, lost his spiritual life, becoming dead in trespasses and sins.

Christ's Advent: We believe that the eternal Son of God came into this world that He might manifest God to men, fulfill prophecy and become the Redeemer of a lost world. He was born of the virgin, conceived of the Holy Spirit, received a human body and a sinless human nature.

Salvation: We believe that, owing to the death through sin, no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless born again. This redemption has been accomplished solely by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who was made to be sin, dying in our stead. We believe that the new birth of the believer is an act of God the Spirit which enables the sinner dead in sins to come to faith in Christ.

The Holy Spirit: We believe that the Holy Spirit, the third person of the blessed Trinity, though omnipresent from all eternity, indwells every believer, and unites all Christ's own into one body. He is the source of all power and all acceptable worship and service.

The Church: We believe that God has ordained that through the local church the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to be spread and that it is the duty of every born-again one to seek out a local fellowship for the furtherance of the Gospel and his own edification.

We believe in the literal resurrection of the body, the everlasting blessedness of the saved and the everlasting punishment of the lost, that the supreme mission of God's people in this age is to preach the Gospel to every creature; and we believe in the second coming of Christ according to the Scriptures.

AFFIRMATIONS REGARDING PRISON MINISTRY

We believe the most effective and fruitful evangelistic and discipling ministry within prisons is that which is indigenous i.e. a ministry by inmates to other inmates.

Therefore, our in-prison ministry emphasizes training in evangelism and leadership.

We believe wholistic support is necessary in order to minister to the complex and unique set of needs of an ex-offenders.

Therefore we minister to physical, emotional, social, intellectual needs within a total spiritual ministry.

We believe the local church is the key ingredient for the wholistic support of ex-offenders.

Therefore we seek to recruit churches to actively involve themselves in release ministry

We believe a temporary buffer community is essential for the healthy adjustment of released ex-offenders.

Therefore we seek to establish half-way houses or otherwise assist in establishing corporate living arrangements

We believe many Christians have gifts for ministry both in prisons and in release assistance and should be helped to volunteer and use those gifts.

Therefore we recruit volunteers for all phases of our program

We believe that because so many in our prisons are black the concern and active participation of black Christians and churches in prison and release ministry is essential.

Therefore we especially seek churches in the black community to assist ex-offenders and black volunteers and board members

We believe that Christian ministry to released ex-offenders should be offered in all the communities from which they came or to which they desire to return.

Therefore we seek churches and volunteers from all the communities of the State.

We believe that specialized professional Christian counseling is needed by inmates anticipating release both prior to and for some time following their release.

Therefore we seek to establish pre-release and post-release counseling programs.