

Next Generation IMPACT Statement of Faith

THE PURPOSE OF GOD

We affirm our belief in the one eternal God, Creator and Lord of the world, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who governs all things according to the purpose of His will.

THE AUTHORITY AND POWER OF THE BIBLE

We affirm the divine inspiration, truthfulness and authority of both Old and New Testament Scriptures in their entirety as the only written word of God, without error in all that it affirms, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. We also affirm the power of God's Word to accomplish his purpose of salvation.

THE UNIQUENESS AND UNIVERSALITY OF CHRIST

We affirm that there is only one Savior and only one Gospel, although there is a wide diversity of evangelistic approaches.

THE NATURE OF EVANGELISM

To evangelize is to spread the good news that Jesus Christ died for our sins and was raised from the dead according to the Scriptures, and that, as the reigning Lord, He now offers the forgiveness of sins and the liberating gifts of the Spirit to all who repent and believe. We affirm that God is both the Creator and the Judge of all men.

THE CHURCH AND EVANGELISM

We affirm that Christ sends his redeemed people into the world as the Father sent him, and that this calls for a similar deep and costly penetration of the world.

COOPERATION IN EVANGELISM

We affirm that the Church's visible unity in truth is God's purpose.

CHURCHES IN EVANGELISTIC PARTNERSHIP

We rejoice that a new missionary era has dawned. The dominant role of western missions is fast disappearing. God is raising up from the younger churches a great new resource for world evangelization, and is thus demonstrating that the responsibility to evangelize belongs to the whole body of Christ.

THE URGENCY OF THE EVANGELISTIC TASK

The goal should be, by all available means and at the earliest possible time, that every person will have the opportunity to hear, to understand, and to receive the good news.

EVANGELISM AND CULTURE

The development of strategies for world evangelization calls for imaginative pioneering methods.

EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP

We recognize that there is a great need to improve theological education, especially for church leaders.

SPIRITUAL CONFLICT

We believe that we are engaged in constant spiritual warfare with the principalities and powers of evil, who are seeking to overthrow the Church and frustrate its task of world evangelization.

FREEDOM AND PERSECUTION

It is the God-appointed duty of every government to secure conditions of peace, justice and liberty in which the Church may obey God, serve the Lord Jesus Christ, and preach the Gospel without interference.

THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Father sent His Spirit to bear witness to his Son; without His witness ours is futile. Conviction of sin, faith in Christ, new birth, and Christian growth are all His work. Further, the Holy Spirit is a missionary spirit; thus evangelism should arise spontaneously from a Spirit-filled church.

THE RETURN OF CHRIST

We believe that Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly, in power and glory, to consummate His salvation and His judgment. This promise of His coming is a further spur to our evangelism, for we remember His words that the Gospel must first be preached to all nations.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, in the light of this our faith and our resolve, we enter into a solemn covenant with God and with each other, to pray, to plan and to work together for the evangelization of the whole world. We call upon others to join us. May God help us by His grace, and for His glory, to be faithful to this our covenant! Amen, Alleluia!