# <u>Our Statement of faith</u>



### Bible:

•We believe in the absolute authority of the Holy Scriptures. •We believe the original manuscripts were given by inspiration of God and were without error. •We believe the God who gave His word to man has taken upon Himself the responsibility for its preservation (Psalms 12:6-7). •We believe the incorruptible word of God which cannot pass away is available to the English speaking world in the Authorized King James Version. •This Bible is our final authority in all matters.

# God:

We believe in one God eternally existent as the Father, the Word(The Son, Jesus Christ), and the Holy Ghost.
We believe God to be the creator and sustainer of all things, visible and invisible.
We believe the universe and all that is therein to be held together by the word of His power.
We believe the Lord Jesus Christ to be God manifest in the flesh, virgin born, without sin, crucified, risen and coming again to receive His church, then returning to establish His kingdom.

#### Salvation:

We believe salvation is available to all men by grace through faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ, apart from human works or merit of any kind.
We believe the saved child of God is eternally secure in the Lord Jesus Christ, and is sealed, taught, and comforted by the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption.
We believe salvation makes one a member of the body of Christ and the members of this body should gather together in a local church where they may minister one to another.

### **Testimony**:

•We believe it is the responsibility of every believer to proclaim the saving gospel to all men by personal testimony and by giving of their means to finance the missionary efforts of the church.

# Unsaved:

•We believe all men rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ will spend eternity in the conscious torment of a literal lake of fire, while those receiving the Lord Jesus Christ will spend eternity in the glorious presence of God.

# Character:

•We believe all saved men should be separate from the outward and inner ways of this world, being holy in mind and body. •We believe, however, that righteousness does not come by keeping of laws and commandments but by an inner change of heart. •We therefore place emphasis on the inner condition, trusting the outward appearance to follow accordingly.

#### Water Baptism:

•We believe that water baptism is a public testimony made by the saved Christian and plays no part in salvation or making one a member of the church.

#### **Body of Believers**:

We believe in the priesthood of all believers and decry any fashion of exalting one member of the body of Christ, or one gift of the Spirit above another.
We believe that the church is a body of which Jesus is the head.
Thus it is not a democracy to be run by the will of its members but is to conduct its temporal as well as its spiritual business in strict accordance to the word of God. "

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# Youth, Power Tools, & Mr. Jōb

(Though not part of statement of faith, this does present our youth outreach vision)

"They're not listening to us!" We adults often accuse the youth of not listening to us, not respecting us, not even wanting to learn about the real world we adults experience daily. You and I have all voiced these words or heard them voiced... Our rock-bottom plea to the clouds, "It's no use trying to get the minds of our youth on the true track!" A good first step might be, to write on a piece of paper these accusations. Then pray asking God to show you how to attack these accusations and frustrations, with scripture's guarantees. (Yes, I did say, 'guarantees'). Next, review your list of accusations, carefully, because the youth are silently saying the very same things about the adults. The path to victory, has to do with the tiny word, 'all', that yields Atomic Bomb power.

One of my favorite Bible guarantees, uses the 'all' word twice. "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.*" 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:16,17.

Briefly, the 'throughly furnished unto all good works', refers to reaching the hearts and minds of youth with God's love, peace, and purpose. That's our first guarantee we start with. The 'All scripture' includes the Old Testament book of Job. (pronounced Jōb.) Adults, burdened for youth, must be fully convinced that ALL scripture is to be used in reaching youth, and everyone, in God's harvest field around us.

You'll glean great blessings, as your daily Bible reading carries you through the thoughts and experiences of Job, by seeing that his thoughts, pain, and loneliness are the very things in the minds of our boys and girls. As an example, Job says, "Behold, I cry out of wrong, but I am not heard: I cry aloud, but there is no judgment. He hath fenced up my way that I cannot pass, and he hath set darkness in my paths. He hath stripped me of my glory, and taken the crown from my head. He hath destroyed me on every side, and I am gone: and mine hope hath he removed like a tree." Job 19:7-10.

And then, can you feel the loneliness of Job compounded by the accusations of his three so-called friends? Even his own wife tells Job, there's no way to fix all this... just curse God and die. In these actions toward Job, we can easily see the parallels in the lives of youth. You might think of one of the 'friends' as being called Technology – whether empty communication networking of girls, or the going-nowhere video games flooding the lives of boys.

Along with the guarantees of scripture, God has given us a Teacher; God the Holy Spirit, to help us internalize God's precious word. Look for our 'all' word in the guaranteed power of the Holy Spirit. "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." Ephesians 3:20 Now there's a REAL power tool for us... no batteries needed !

Do you see? God has already given us power tools for reaching youth and we've hardly started.

Share a couple of Job's frustrated lonely statements with a young person near you. And then show them the guarantee in Romans 8:37, *"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."* WOW! Scripture is just packed with power tools for us to use! Now back up a few verses and share them with that hungry heart, focusing on the Victory on Calvary; for each of us, by Jesus Christ.