



Warm greetings from the INSIGHT office at the beautiful Stony Glen Campus to you and your family! We're delighted to hear of your interest in the INSIGHT program - an Intensive Study of Integrated Global History and Theology! Fall 2011 will begin our tenth year of the INSIGHT Program at the U.S. Center for World Mission (USCWM) campus and our fourth year of classes at the Stony Glen Campus. The INSIGHT program is very unique, intense, and yet refreshing.

Enclosed is some preliminary information that will help introduce INSIGHT to you and your parents. If you have any questions, you may call our office on Monday through Friday from 3:00 to 5:00 EST, and I'll be glad to discuss the INSIGHT program with you. You may also reach me by email using the address below. I'd be glad to talk things over with you in the coming weeks.

The application process is as follows:

- A. Complete the enclosed application by May 2, 2011. The Stony Glen Campus only offers INSIGHT at the **certificate level** from the US Center for World Mission.
- B. INSIGHT will contact you to arrange a brief interview (either phone or in-person) after we have received all of your application materials.
- C. You will be notified of an INSIGHT acceptance decision within 3 weeks of your interview. THEN:

Certificate students – Sign and return the certificate agreement and other forms which will be sent with your acceptance packet.

If you have any questions about the INSIGHT Program or your application, please do not hesitate to call us at (440) 298-1336 or email us at stonyglensight@yahoo.com.

We look forward to receiving your application!

Sincerely,

Marisa Lapish
Program Director
INSIGHT, Stony Glen Campus

Application Checklist

Your application is not considered complete until the INSIGHT office has received all of the following:

- \$35 non-refundable application fee, payable to:
Following Christ International by May 2, 2011
(Application fee increases to \$50 after May 2nd)

- Official transcripts from high school, college and any postsecondary education (may be sent directly from the school)

- Application

- 2 essays (see Section VIII)

- Pastor, Teacher/Mentor, Personal references

- SAT or ACT scores or test registration

All application materials should be sent to:

**INSIGHT Admissions
Stony Glen Campus
5300 West Loveland Road
Madison, OH 44057**

INSIGHT Application 2010-11

Stony Glen Campus

Non-refundable Application Fee: \$35 Application Deadline: June 15, 2011

(After May 2, 2011, application fee increases to \$50)

(Check or money order can be made payable to Following Christ International)

Attach photo here

I. General Information

I am interested in being a full-time residential student living on campus. Yes No

Name: _____
First Middle Last Preferred Name

Address: _____
Street City State Zip Country

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ Birth date: ___/___/___ Sex: Male Female Age: _____

Marital status: Single Engaged Married Separated Widowed Divorced Divorced/remarried

Children: Yes No Birthplace: _____ Citizenship*: _____

**Non-U.S. citizens may be eligible for acceptance as certificate students on a case-by-case basis. Application to INSIGHT should be made 9-12 months in advance of the start of the semester.*

If you've lived abroad, how many years in which countries? _____

Are you or your family affiliated with a NGO? Which one? _____

Do you intend to have a car on campus? _____yes _____no

II. Education *Please have your school(s) send an official high school and any college transcripts to INSIGHT.*

1. High School: _____ Year graduated: _____ GPA: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Have you been homeschooled? No Yes, which grade levels _____

2. College: _____ Dates attended: _____ GPA: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Degrees/major: _____

3. Degrees, certificates, other training: _____

4. SAT or ACT Scores:

SAT I: Critical Reading _____ Math _____ Writing _____

ACT Composite _____ English _____ Math _____ Reading _____ Science _____

If you have registered for or plan to retake the SAT/ACT, please tell us your test date: _____

III. Work Experience

Please list your work history.

IV. Ministry and Missions Experience

Please list your ministry and/or missions experience.

V. Special Needs

Do you require accommodations for a disability or other condition during INSIGHT?

Yes: _____ No: _____ If yes, please explain: _____

VI. About You

Please briefly answer these questions in an open and honest manner, to help us get to know you.

1. Describe your experience of coming to faith in and following Jesus.

2. Describe where you are at now in your journey with God.

3. How did you hear about INSIGHT and what about it most interests you?

4. How many books have you read in the last year? _____ List your favorite books:

5. List the activities of a typical week for you (other than school):

6. List the following, including at least one academic and one social each:

My Strengths

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

My Weaknesses

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

7. What are your career interests?

8. Are there hobbies, work, or other things you hope to have time to do while you are taking INSIGHT?

VII. Personal History

The questions in this section are of a personal nature. Please answer them truthfully. The purpose of this section is not to make a judgment on your character, but to raise awareness for program staff of any issues that may resurface during INSIGHT. Only necessary program staff will have access to this information, unless it needs to be disclosed to protect your or another person's safety. You may be asked to clarify or elaborate on your responses in the application interview.

With the past two years in mind, if you have been involved in any of the following areas, please tell us about your activity and where you currently stand in regard to the issue(s). Please leave them blank if they do not apply.

- alcohol/drug use
- pornography
- gang activity
- premarital sex
- eating disorders
- depression/suicidal thoughts
- trouble with law enforcement
- suspension or expulsion from school
- the occult (including witchcraft, psychics, astrology, or Satanic worship)
- cults
- cutting or other self-inflicted harm
- rebellion from parents or other authority figures

Note: The intensive academic rigor of the program should be taken into consideration if you are working through a serious issue prior to INSIGHT. INSIGHT strives to support students' growth, and that involves helping prospective students determine if INSIGHT is a good fit. INSIGHT staff is happy to talk and pray with you about your personal situation.

VIII. Essays

Please answer BOTH of the following 2 questions. Each response should be 1-2 pages handwritten or double-spaced type.

1. How have your family and your experiences shaped the person you are today and the person you are becoming?

2. Please choose ONE of the following questions to answer to help us understand how you approach and analyze a given topic. We are looking for clarity of thought and well-reasoned support for your point.

a) In Romans Paul talks about submission to authority. When, if ever, is it permissible as a Christian to rebel against authority? Why or why not?

b) Define culture and identify some of the major aspects of culture that change and some that stay the same across different cultures. Provide examples from at least 3 distinct cultures.

c) America is a religiously and philosophically diverse country. Identify 3 of the larger belief systems, and discuss why these belief systems are popular in the United States. Include the significant ways in which these systems are different and how they succeed despite their differences.

IX. References

List a pastor, a teacher, and a personal reference who know you well and can objectively evaluate your character and aptitude for this program. Please send the enclosed reference forms to each with a stamped envelope addressed to:

**INSIGHT
Stony Glen Campus
5300 West Loveland Road
Madison, OH 44057**

1. **Pastor Reference** (*a youth pastor or spiritual director is acceptable*)

Name: _____

Church: _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____

2. **Teacher/Mentor Reference** (*other than parent if home schooled*)

Name: _____

School: _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____

3. **Personal Reference**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____

X. Behavior Guidelines *(please sign)*

1. The INSIGHT Facility

The INSIGHT room(s) will have posted hours when students may occupy them and when they are to be locked, as well as study-only hours. Students will share responsibilities in keeping the INSIGHT facility, grounds, and rooms clean as part of their required work practicum. Students must abide by all other posted rules about the INSIGHT facility and INSIGHT room books. The replacement cost for missing INSIGHT room books will be split among all students at the end of each semester.

2. Curfew

On school nights, residential students are required to be on campus and in their rooms by 11:00 PM. All commuter students must leave campus by this time. On Friday and Saturday nights, students must be back on campus at 1:00 a.m. Students must notify the Program Director if they will be off-campus for the weekend.

3. Safety

No swimming or canoeing is permitted on the lake or in the waterfalls on campus. Students must sign an agreement to follow all Stony Glen Camp facility rules while on campus upon acceptance into the program.

4. Male-Female Relationships

INSIGHT encourages a wholesome environment of men and women interacting, yet recognizes the impact of student dating relationships on class dynamics. Therefore, the following guidelines have been adopted: a) Students or friends may not be in the cabins of students of the opposite sex. b) Dating is not permitted. Students who enter the program with a long-standing boyfriend/girlfriend relationship are not expected to break up but are expected to fully join in the social environment of the group. If students are attracted to and develop feelings for one another during the program, they are asked to exercise self-control and wait until the end of INSIGHT to disclose their feelings. c) Students are encouraged to associate in mixed-gender groups and to avoid fostering exclusive male-female relationships while in the program. On campus, a student may spend time together with a person of the opposite sex only in public settings and is expected to avoid romantic behaviors and isolating themselves from others. Off campus or in secluded places on campus, a male and a female must have at least one other person with them at all times. d) Mixed-gender wrestling, play fighting, massages, and other sexually suggestive touching is prohibited.

5. Entertainment

Discretion is expected in entertainment choices, such as the selection of venues, movies, video/computer games, television programs, books, music, and social dancing. Gambling and the possession and/or viewing of pornography are not permitted. Students are expected to manage their time wisely and avoid excesses in personal entertainment.

6. Apparel & Personal Expression

The guideline for apparel is to “err on the side of modesty” in choice of clothing. No bikinis are allowed, and no pajamas are permitted at class meetings. Students may be required to remove piercings, cover tattoos, and abide by conservative or culturally appropriate standards of dress for field trips.

7. Respect

Students are expected to show appropriate respect for people and for property, including field trip locations and campus facilities. Students must abide by the Stony Glen Campus facility rules. If they are unsure about what is permissible, students must ask the Program Director. Campus visitors must have the permission of the Program Director to stay for a limited and specified time frame.

8. Tobacco, Alcohol, Drugs and Major Offenses

Students may not consume or be in possession of alcohol, nonprescription drugs, or tobacco, regardless of age. Gambling and the possession and/or viewing of pornography are not permitted.

9. Aggressive Behavior Students may not physically fight, strike, physically intimidate or assault another person or be involved in self-abusive behaviors.

I have read and agree to honor and abide by the INSIGHT Behavior Guidelines stated above. INSIGHT staff reserves the right to determine the severity of the offense and its punishment. My failure to abide by these guidelines may involve disciplinary action and/or expulsion from the program.

Printed Name of Student

Signature

Date

XI. Interview

Once INSIGHT has received all of your application materials, you will be contacted to schedule an interview with program staff. The interview gives INSIGHT staff an opportunity to get to know you before making a final decision regarding acceptance/non-acceptance. You can expect questions related to your academic, personal, and spiritual life, and an opportunity to ask us questions.

Best way to reach me to schedule my interview: _____

Best day(s) & time(s) for me on weekdays: _____

Feel free to contact INSIGHT prior to your interview with questions about the program and admissions:
(440) 298-1336 (Office hours: Monday – Friday, 3:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.)
stonygleninsight@yahoo.com

XII. Signatures

Applicant's Signature

I attest that the essays in this application are my own work, and that all information on the application is, to the best of my knowledge, correct.

Printed name

Signature

Date

Parent's Signature (required for applicants under 18)

I affirm that I am aware of, and approve of, my child's application to the INSIGHT program.

Printed name

Signature

Date

All application materials should be sent to:
(Checks should be made payable to *Following Christ International*)

**INSIGHT Admissions
Stony Glen Campus
5300 West Loveland Road
Madison, OH 44057**

Following Christ International admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin and endows them with all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students in the organization. They do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, and school-administered programs.

INSIGHT Pastoral Reference

Intensive Study of Integrated Global History and Theology

5300 West Loveland Road, Madison OH, 44057

stonygleninsight@yahoo.com <http://www.uscwm.org/insight>

(440) 298-1336

Applicant: *Please fill out this top section and give the form to your pastor with a stamped envelope addressed to:*

**INSIGHT Admissions
Stony Glen Campus
5300 West Loveland Road
Madison, OH 44057**

Applicant's Name: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Check One:

I waive I do not waive my access to this reference.

Applicant's
Signature _____ Date _____

Pastor:

The applicant is applying for the INSIGHT program, a two-semester program designed for lower division college students by the U.S. Center for World Mission. This one-year program includes intensive study of Bible, history, anthropology, world religions and science. The INSIGHT program consists of about five hours of independent study and 100 pages of reading each day, facilitated Socratic discussions, and context lectures and field trips on specific topics.

We are looking for students who are able to think critically, motivated to work independently and have a serious interest in becoming a World Christian. With this in mind, please answer the following questions as specifically as possible. You are welcome to answer the questions on a separate sheet.

Pastor's Name (please print) _____

Position _____

Address _____

Daytime Phone (____) _____ - _____ Evening Phone (____) _____ - _____

E-mail _____

May INSIGHT program staff contact you regarding your reference? ____ Yes ____ No

1. How well do you know the applicant? How long and in what context?

2. Describe how the applicant has been involved in service, leadership, or has otherwise demonstrated initiative.

3. What is your observation of the applicant's commitment to biblical principles in his or her lifestyle?

4. How does he or she respond to authority?

5. Please discuss the maturity of the applicant, socially and academically, and evaluate his or her suitability for an environment requiring self-discipline and serious study.

6. On a scale of 1 (low) -10 (high), please rate your impression of the applicant's:

_____ seriousness about his or her spirituality (exhibits integrity, a submitted heart, desire for God)

_____ concern for the lost (locally and/or globally)
_____ intellectual interest (deep thinker, enjoys intellectual discussions)

7. Are there any additional comments you would like to make about the applicant?

Pastor's Signature

I recommend this applicant: _____ with no reservations _____ with some reservation
_____ I do not recommend this applicant.

Signature

Date

*****Please return this reference in enclosed envelope to the INSIGHT Admissions Office (Stony Glen Campus) by May 2, 2011.***

INSIGHT Teacher/Mentor Reference

Intensive Study of Integrated Global History and Theology

5300 West Loveland Road, Madison OH, 44057

stonygleninsight@yahoo.com <http://www.uscwm.org/insight>

(440) 298-1336

Applicant: *Please fill out this top section and give the form to a teacher/mentor or professor (other than your parent if home educated) in an academic subject along with a stamped envelope addressed to:*

**INSIGHT Admissions
Stony Glen Campus
5300 West Loveland Road
Madison, OH 44057**

Applicant's Name: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Check One:

I waive I do not waive my access to this reference.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Teacher:

The applicant is applying for the INSIGHT program, a two-semester program designed for lower division college students by the U.S. Center for World Mission. This one-year program includes intensive study of Bible, history, anthropology, world religions and science. The INSIGHT program consists of about five hours of independent study and 100 pages of reading each day, Socratic discussions, and context lectures and field trips on specific topics.

We are looking for students who are able to think critically, motivated to work independently and have a serious interest in developing an intellectually resilient worldview. With this in mind, please answer the following questions as specifically as possible. You are welcome to answer the questions on a separate sheet.

Teacher's Name (please print) _____

Position/School _____

Address _____

Daytime Phone (____) _____ - _____ Evening Phone (____) _____ - _____

E-mail _____

May Insight program staff contact you regarding your reference? ____ Yes ____ No

1. How well do you know the applicant? How long and in what context?

2. Describe how the applicant has been involved in service, leadership, or otherwise demonstrated initiative.

3. Based on your observations and interactions with the applicant, what are your impressions of his or her character?

4. How does he or she respond to authority?

5. Please discuss the maturity of the applicant, socially and academically, and evaluate his or her suitability for an environment requiring self-discipline and intensive study.

6. Please rate this applicant in academic promise, compared with other students at this stage in their studies.

Below Average	Average	Above Average	High	Unusual	Outstanding	Exceptional
Lowest 40%	Middle 20%	Upper 30%		Highest 10%		

___ I have had inadequate opportunity to observe.

7. Are there any additional comments you would like to make about the applicant?

Teacher/Mentor Signature

I recommend this applicant: _____ with no reservations _____ with some reservation
_____ I do not recommend this applicant.

Signature

Date

****Please return this reference in enclosed envelope to the INSIGHT Admissions Office (Stony Glen Campus) by May 2, 2011.**

INSIGHT Personal Reference

Intensive Study of Integrated Global History and Theology

5300 West Loveland Road, Madison OH, 44057

stonygleninsight@yahoo.com <http://www.uscwm.org/insight>

(440) 298-1336

Applicant: *Please fill out this top section and give the form to the person you have chosen as your personal reference with a stamped envelope addressed to:*

**INSIGHT Admissions
Stony Glen Campus
5300 West Loveland Road
Madison, OH 44057**

Applicant's Name: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Check One:

I waive I do not waive my access to this reference.

Applicant's

Signature _____ Date _____

Reference:

The applicant is applying for the INSIGHT program, a two-semester program designed for lower division college students by the U.S. Center for World Mission. This one-year program includes intensive study of Bible, history, anthropology, world religions and science. The INSIGHT program consists of about five hours of independent study and 100 pages of reading each day, facilitated Socratic discussions, and context lectures and field trips on specific topics.

We are looking for students who are able to think critically, motivated to work independently and have a serious interest in becoming a World Christian. With this in mind, please answer the following questions as specifically as possible. You are welcome to answer the questions on a separate sheet.

Reference Name (please print) _____

Relationship to Applicant _____

Address _____

Daytime Phone (____) _____ - _____ Evening Phone (____) _____ - _____

E-mail _____

May INSIGHT program staff contact you regarding your reference? _____ Yes _____ No

1. How well do you know the applicant? How long and in what context?

2. Describe how the applicant has been involved in service, leadership, or has otherwise demonstrated initiative.

3. What is your observation of the applicant's commitment to moral principles in his or her lifestyle?

4. Please discuss the maturity of the applicant, socially and academically, and evaluate his or her suitability for an environment requiring self-discipline and intensive study.

5. Are there any additional comments you would like to make about the applicant?

6. On a scale of 1 (low) -10 (high), please rate your impression of the applicant's:

_____ seriousness about his or her spirituality (exhibits integrity, a submitted heart, desire for God)

_____ concern for the lost (locally and/or globally)

_____ intellectual interest (deep thinker, enjoys intellectual discussions)

Personal Reference's Signature

I recommend this applicant: _____ with no reservations _____ with some reservation

_____ I do not recommend this applicant.

Signature

Date

*****Please return this reference in enclosed envelope to the INSIGHT Admissions office (Stony Glen Campus) by May 2, 2011.***

TRANSCRIPT REQUEST FORM

Please send **one sealed official copy** of my transcript to:

**INSIGHT Admissions
Stony Glen Campus
5300 West Loveland Road
Madison, OH 44057**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Social Security # _____

Birthday _____

I last attended _____: Term _____ Year _____

Signature _____ Date _____

TRANSCRIPT REQUEST FORM

Please send **one sealed official copy** of my transcript to:

**INSIGHT Admissions
Stony Glen Campus
5300 West Loveland Road
Madison, OH 44057**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Social Security # _____

Birthday _____

I last attended _____: Term _____ Year _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Following Christ International

Statement of Faith

1. God the King and the Holy Trinity

WE BELIEVE that God is the Eternal¹ King². He is an infinite,³ unchangeable⁴ Spirit,⁵ perfect⁶ in holiness,⁷ wisdom,⁸ goodness,⁹ justice,¹⁰ power¹¹ and love.¹² From all eternity¹³ He exists as the One¹⁴ Living¹⁵ and True¹⁶ God in three persons¹⁷ of one substance,¹⁸ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,¹⁹ equal in power and glory.²⁰

¹Deuteronomy 33:27; Romans 1:20; ²Psalms 95:3; Isaiah 43:15; ³Psalms 147:5; Job 11:7-9; ⁴James 1:17; ⁵John 4:24; ⁶Matthew 5:48; ⁷Isaiah 6:3; ¹Peter 115-16; ⁸Psalms 104:24; Proverbs 2:6; Isaiah 28:29; ⁹Exodus 33:19; ¹⁰Psalms 63:2; ¹¹Psalms 31:19; ¹⁰Psalms 33:5; ¹²Psalms 89:14; Isaiah 30:18; ¹¹Exodus 15:6; ¹²John 4:8; ¹³Isaiah 43:13; ¹⁴Isaiah 45:5; ¹Corinthians 8:4; ¹⁵Psalms 42:2; ¹⁶Psalms 84:2; ¹⁶Jeremiah 10:10; ¹⁷John 1:18; ¹⁸John 10:30; ¹⁹John 14:9; ²⁰John 14:16-17; ²¹John 14:26; ²²John 15:26; ²³2 Corinthians 3:17-18; ²⁴John 1:1; ²⁵John 1:14; ²⁶2 Corinthians 3:17; ²⁷Matthew 28:19-20; ²⁸2 Corinthians 13:14; ²⁹Revelation 1:4; ³⁰Revelation 5:13; ³¹Ephesians 3:14-21

2. God the King: The Creator and Ruler of All Things

WE BELIEVE that God's kingdom is everlasting.²¹ From His throne,²² through His Son, His eternal Word,²³ God created,²⁴ upholds²⁵ and governs²⁶ all that exists:²⁷ the heavenly places,²⁸ the angelic hosts,²⁹ the universe,³⁰ the earth,³¹ every living thing³² and mankind.³³ God created all things very good.³⁴

²¹Psalms 45:6; ²²Psalms 145:13; ²³Daniel 4:3; ²⁴Psalms 93:1-2; ²⁵John 1:1-3; ²⁶1 Corinthians 8:6; ²⁷Colossians 1:15-16; ²⁸Hebrews 1:1-2; ²⁹Genesis 1:1; ³⁰Psalms 95:3-5; ³¹Colossians 1:17; ³²Hebrews 1:3; ³³Psalms 103:19; ³⁴Psalms 104:24-29; ³⁵Psalms 96:4-6; ³⁶Psalms 89:11; ³⁷Psalms 103:20-21; **1.**

God the King and the Holy Trinity

WE BELIEVE that God is the Eternal¹ King². He is an infinite,³ unchangeable⁴ Spirit,⁵ perfect⁶ in holiness,⁷ wisdom,⁸ goodness,⁹ justice,¹⁰ power¹¹ and love.¹² From all eternity¹³ He exists as the One¹⁴ Living¹⁵ and True¹⁶ God in three persons¹⁷ of one substance,¹⁸ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,¹⁹ equal in power and glory.²⁰

¹Deuteronomy 33:27; Romans 1:20; ²Psalms 95:3; Isaiah 43:15; ³Psalms 147:5; Job 11:7-9; ⁴James 1:17; ⁵John 4:24; ⁶Matthew 5:48; ⁷Isaiah 6:3; ¹Peter 115-16; ⁸Psalms 104:24; Proverbs 2:6; Isaiah 28:29; ⁹Exodus 33:19; ¹⁰Psalms 63:2; ¹¹Psalms 31:19; ¹⁰Psalms 33:5; ¹²Psalms 89:14; Isaiah 30:18; ¹¹Exodus 15:6; ¹²John 4:8; ¹³Isaiah 43:13; ¹⁴Isaiah 45:5; ¹Corinthians 8:4; ¹⁵Psalms 42:2; ¹⁶Psalms 84:2; ¹⁶Jeremiah 10:10; ¹⁷John 1:18; ¹⁸John 10:30; ¹⁹John 14:9; ²⁰John 14:16-17; ²¹John 14:26; ²²John 15:26; ²³2 Corinthians 3:17-18; ²⁴John 1:1; ²⁵John 1:14; ²⁶2 Corinthians 3:17; ²⁷Matthew 28:19-20; ²⁸2 Corinthians 13:14; ²⁹Revelation 1:4; ³⁰Revelation 5:13; ³¹Ephesians 3:14-21

2. God the King: The Creator and Ruler of All Things

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²¹Psalms 45:6; ²²Psalms 145:13; ²³Daniel 4:3; ²⁴Psalms 93:1-2; ²⁵John 1:1-3; ²⁶1 Corinthians 8:6; ²⁷Colossians 1:15-16; ²⁸Hebrews 1:1-2; ²⁹Genesis 1:1; ³⁰Psalms 95:3-5; ³¹Colossians 1:17; ³²Hebrews 1:3; ³³Psalms 103:19; ³⁴Psalms 104:24-29; ³⁵Psalms 96:4-6; ³⁶Psalms 89:11; ³⁷Psalms 103:20-21;

³⁰Colossians 1:16-17; ³¹Psalms 104:5; ³²Psalms 103:22; ³³Psalms 22:28; Psalm 47:8; ³⁴Genesis 1:31

3. Counterfeit Kingdom: Satan and Demonic Hosts

WE BELIEVE that Satan, originally a great, good angel, rebelled against God, taking a host of angels with him.³⁵ He was cast out of God's presence and, as a usurper of God's rule, established a counter-kingdom of darkness³⁶ and evil on the earth.³⁷

³⁵Revelation 12:7-9; ³⁶2 Corinthians 11:14; Colossians 1:13-14; Ephesians 6:12; ³⁷Mark 3:22-26; Ephesians 2:1-2; 1 John 5:19

4. The Kingdom in the Creation of Man, the Fall and The Doctrine of Original Sin

WE BELIEVE that God created mankind in His own image, male and female,³⁸ for relationship with Himself and to govern the earth.³⁹ Under the temptation of Satan,⁴⁰ our original parents fell from grace,⁴¹ bringing sin,⁴² sickness⁴³ and God's judgment of death to the earth.⁴⁴ Through the fall, Satan and his demonic hosts gained access to God's good creation.⁴⁵ Creation now experiences the consequences and effects of Adam's original sin.⁴⁶ Human beings are born in sin,⁴⁷ subject to God's judgment of death⁴⁸ and captive to Satan's kingdom of darkness.⁴⁹

³⁸Genesis 1:26-27; ³⁹Genesis 1:26; ⁴⁰Genesis 3:1; Revelation 12:9; ⁴¹Genesis 3:8; Romans 1:21; Romans 5:16; ⁴²Romans 5:12; ⁴³John 5:14; ⁴⁴1 Corinthians 15:22; ⁴⁵John 8:44; 1 John 5:19; ⁴⁶Romans 8:20-23; ⁴⁷Psalms 51:5; ⁴⁸Ezekiel 18:4; Romans 2:5; Romans 2:12; Hebrews 9:27; ⁴⁹Galatians 1:3-5; Galatians 4:8-9; Colossians 1:13

5. God's Providence, Kingdom Law and Covenants

WE BELIEVE that God did not abandon His rule over the earth⁵⁰ which He continues to uphold by His providence.⁵¹ In order to bring redemption, God established covenants⁵² which revealed His grace to sinful people.⁵³ In the covenant with Abraham, God bound Himself to His people Israel, promising to deliver them from bondage to sin and Satan and to bless all the nations through them.⁵⁴

⁵⁰Psalms 24:1; Psalm 96:10; ⁵¹Isaiah 40:22; Hebrews 1:3; ⁵²Romans 9:4; ⁵³Ephesians 2:12; ⁵⁴Genesis 17:3-8; Genesis 12:2-3; Genesis 15:4-6; Romans 4:3-5; Romans 4:16; Romans 4:20-25; Galatians 3:6-9; Galatians 3:13-14

WE BELIEVE that as King, God later redeemed His people by His mighty acts from bondage in Egypt⁵⁵ and established His covenant through Moses, revealing His perfect will and our obligation to fulfill it.⁵⁶ The law's purpose is to order our fallen race⁵⁷ and to make us conscious of our moral responsibility.⁵⁸ By the work of God's Spirit,⁵⁹ it convicts us of our sin⁶⁰ and God's righteous judgment against us⁶¹ and brings us to Christ alone for salvation.⁶²

⁵⁵Exodus 15:3-18; ⁵⁶Exodus 19:3-6; Exodus 24:3-4; Exodus 24:7; Romans 8:3-4; Romans 8:12-14; ⁵⁷Deuteronomy 5:1-3; Deuteronomy 30:15-18; Galatians 3:23-25; ⁵⁸Psalms 25:8-10; Romans 7:7; ⁵⁹John 15:26; John 16:8-11; 2 Corinthians 3:14-17; ⁶⁰Romans 7:13; Galatians 3:19; Galatians 3:21-22; ⁶¹Romans 2:1-11; ⁶²Galatians 3:24; Philippians 3:8-9

WE BELIEVE that when Israel rejected God's rule over her as King,⁶³ God established the monarchy in Israel⁶⁴ and made an unconditional covenant with David,⁶⁵ promising that his heir would restore God's kingdom reign over His people as Messiah forever.⁶⁶

⁶³1 Samuel 8:6-8; ⁶⁴1 Samuel 8:21-22; 1 Samuel 9:15-16; 1 Samuel 10:1; 1 Samuel 10:24; ⁶⁵2 Samuel 7:11b-16; Psalm 89:34-37; ⁶⁶Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 11:1-5; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Ezekiel 34:23

6. Christ the Mediator and Eternal King

WE BELIEVE that in the fullness of time,⁶⁷ God honored His covenants with Israel and His prophetic promises of salvation⁶⁸ by sending His Son,⁶⁹ Jesus, into the world.⁷⁰ Conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary,⁷¹ as fully God and fully man in one person,⁷² He is humanity as God intended us to be.⁷³ Jesus was anointed as God's Messiah and empowered by the Holy Spirit,⁷⁴ inaugurating God's kingdom reign on earth,⁷⁵ overpowering the reign of Satan by resisting temptation,⁷⁶ preaching the good news of salvation,⁷⁷ healing the sick,⁷⁸ casting out demons⁷⁹ and raising the dead.⁸⁰ Gathering His disciples,⁸¹ He reconstituted God's people⁸² as His Church⁸³ to be the instrument of His kingdom.⁸⁴ After dying for the sins of the world,⁸⁵ Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day,⁸⁶ fulfilling the covenant of blessing given to Abraham.⁸⁷ In His sinless, perfect life⁸⁸ Jesus met the demands of the law⁸⁹ and in His atoning death on the cross⁹⁰ He took God's judgment for sin⁹¹ which we deserve as law-breakers.⁹² By His death on the cross He also disarmed the demonic powers.⁹³ The covenant with David was fulfilled in Jesus' birth from David's house,⁹⁴ His Messianic ministry,⁹⁵ His glorious resurrection from the dead,⁹⁶ His ascent into heaven and His present rule at the right hand of the Father.⁹⁷ As God's Son and David's heir,⁹⁸ He is the eternal Messiah-King,⁹⁹ advancing God's reign throughout every generation and throughout the whole earth today.¹⁰⁰

⁶⁷Mark 1:15; ⁶⁸Galatians 4:4; ⁶⁸Romans 1:2-4; ⁶⁹John 1:14; ⁷⁰John 1:17-18; ⁷¹Luke 1:30-35, ⁷²John 1:14; ⁷³Philippians 2:5-7; ⁷³Romans 5:19; ⁷⁴1 Corinthians 15:22; ⁷⁵1 Peter 2:22, ⁷⁶2 Corinthians 5:21; ⁷⁷Romans 8:29; ⁷⁸Luke 3:21-22; ⁷⁹Luke 4:16-21; ⁸⁰Mark 1:14-15; ⁸¹Luke 11:20; ⁸²Luke 17:20-21; ⁸³Luke 4:1-13; ⁸⁴Luke 4:43; ⁸⁵Luke 4:40; ⁸⁶Luke 4:41; ⁸⁷Luke 7:14-17; ⁸⁸Mark 1:16-17; ⁸⁹Mark 3:13-15; ⁹⁰Matthew 16:18; ⁹¹Luke 9:1-2; ⁹²Luke 10:1-17; ⁹³John 1:29; ⁹⁴John 6:51; ⁹⁵John 4:9-10; ⁹⁶Mark 8:31; ⁹⁷1 Corinthians 15:3-5; ⁹⁸Galatians 3:13-14; ⁹⁹Acts 3:14-15; ¹⁰⁰Hebrews 4:15; ¹⁰¹Romans 5:18-19; ¹⁰²1 Peter 2:24; ¹⁰³Galatians 3:13; ¹⁰⁴2 Corinthians 5:21; ¹⁰⁵Romans 1:18; ¹⁰⁶Romans 1:32; ¹⁰⁷Romans 2:12; ¹⁰⁸2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; ¹⁰⁹Colossians 2:13-15; ¹¹⁰Matthew 1:1; ¹¹¹Luke 1:68-72; ¹¹²Luke 2:10-11; ¹¹³Matthew 9:27; ¹¹⁴Acts 2:24-28; ¹¹⁵Acts 2:29-36; ¹¹⁶Romans 1:1-4; ¹¹⁷Hebrews 1:1-3; ¹¹⁸1 Corinthians 15:24-26; ¹¹⁹Ephesians 1:19-23; ¹²⁰Revelation 5:5

7. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Church at Pentecost in power,¹⁰¹ baptizing believers into the Body of Christ¹⁰² and releasing the gifts of the Spirit to them.¹⁰³ The Spirit brings the permanent indwelling presence of God to us¹⁰⁴ for spiritual worship,¹⁰⁵ personal sanctification,¹⁰⁶ building up the Church,¹⁰⁷ gifting us for ministry,¹⁰⁸ and driving back the kingdom of Satan by the evangelization of the world¹⁰⁹ through proclaiming the word of Jesus¹¹⁰ and doing the works of Jesus.¹¹¹

¹⁰¹Acts 1:8; ¹⁰²Acts 2:1-4; ¹⁰³1 Corinthians 12:13; ¹⁰⁴1 Corinthians 12:4-7; ¹⁰⁵John 14:16-17; ¹⁰⁶Romans 12:1; ¹⁰⁷Ephesians 5:18-20; ¹⁰⁸Romans 8:3-4; ¹⁰⁹1 Corinthians 14:12; ¹¹⁰1 Corinthians 14:26; ¹¹¹Romans 12:4-6; ¹¹²Luke 11:20; ¹¹³1 John 3:8b; ¹¹⁴Ephesians 6:10-20; ¹¹⁵John 14:12-13; ¹¹⁶Romans 15:18-19; ¹¹⁷1 Corinthians 4:20

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Jesus Christ¹¹² and that He is our abiding Helper,¹¹³ Teacher,¹¹⁴ and Guide.¹¹⁵ We believe in the filling or the empowering of the Holy Spirit,¹¹⁶ often a conscious experience,¹¹⁷ for ministry today.¹¹⁸ We believe in the present ministry of the Spirit¹¹⁹ and in the exercise of all of the biblical gifts of the Spirit.¹²⁰ We practice the laying on of hands for the empowering of the Spirit,¹²¹ for healing,¹²² and for recognition and empowering of those whom God has ordained to lead and serve the Church.¹²³

¹¹²Romans 8:9-10; ¹¹³John 16:7; ¹¹⁴John 14:26; ¹¹⁵John 16:13-15; Romans 8:14; ¹¹⁶Luke 24:49; Acts 4:31; ¹¹⁷Acts 8:18-19; Acts 19:1-2; ¹¹⁸1 Corinthians 2:4-5; 2 Corinthians 4:7; 2 Corinthians 6:4-7; ¹¹⁹Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:15-17; ¹²⁰1 Corinthians 12:7-11; 1 Corinthians 14:1; 1 Corinthians 14:5; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21; ¹²¹Acts 8:14-17; Acts 19:6; ¹²²Mark 1:41; Luke 6:18b-19; Mark 16:18; ¹²³Acts 13:1-3; 1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6

8. The Sufficiency of Scripture

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit inspired the human authors of Holy Scripture¹²⁴ so that the Bible is without error¹²⁵ in the original manuscripts. We receive the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments¹²⁶ as our final, absolute authority, the only infallible rule of faith¹²⁷ and practice.¹²⁸

¹²⁴2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13; John 14:26; ¹²⁵Psalm 19:7-9; Psalm 119:30; Psalm 119:43; Psalm 119:89; Matthew 5:17-18; John 3:34; John 10:35; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Revelation 22:6; ¹²⁶Luke 24:44; 2 Peter 3:15-16; Revelation 22:18-19; ¹²⁷Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 24:35; ¹²⁸Matthew 7:21; Matthew 7:24; Luke 1:38; James 1:22-25

9. The Power of the Gospel Over the Kingdom of Darkness

WE BELIEVE that the whole world is under the domination of Satan¹²⁹ and that all people are sinners by nature¹³⁰ and choice.¹³¹ All people therefore are under God's just judgment.¹³² Through the preaching of the Good News of Jesus and the Kingdom of God¹³³ and the work of the Holy Spirit,¹³⁴ God regenerates,¹³⁵ justifies,¹³⁶ adopts¹³⁷ and sanctifies¹³⁸ through Jesus by the Spirit¹³⁹ all who repent of their sins¹⁴⁰ and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord¹⁴¹ and Saviour.¹⁴² By this they are released from Satan's domain and enter into God's kingdom reign.¹⁴³

¹²⁹Luke 4:5-7; 1 John 5:19; ¹³⁰1 Corinthians 15:22; Ephesians 2:1-3; ¹³¹Romans 1:21-23; Romans 1:32; ¹³²Romans 1:18; Romans 2:5; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Ephesians 5:6; ¹³³Mark 1:14-15; Acts 8:12; Acts 28:31; Ephesians 5:5; ¹³⁴John 16:7-11; ¹³⁵John 3:5-8; 1 Peter 1:23; ¹³⁶Romans 5:1-2; Romans 5:9; ¹³⁷Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6; ¹³⁸Ephesians 5:25; Hebrews 13:12; ¹³⁹1 Peter 1:1-2; ¹⁴⁰Acts 2:38; ¹⁴¹Romans 10:9; ¹⁴²1 John 4:13-15; ¹⁴³Colossians 1:13-14; Philippians 3:20

10. The Church: Instrument of the Kingdom

WE BELIEVE in the one,¹⁴⁴ holy,¹⁴⁵ universal Church.¹⁴⁶ All who repent of their sins and confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit¹⁴⁷ and form the living Body of Christ,¹⁴⁸ of which He is the head¹⁴⁹ and of which we are all members.¹⁵⁰

¹⁴⁴John 17:20-21; Ephesians 4:3-6; ¹⁴⁵1 Corinthians 3:16-17; ¹⁴⁶Matthew 16:17-18; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Ephesians 2:18-19; 1 Peter 2:9-10; ¹⁴⁷Titus 3:4-7; ¹⁴⁸Romans 12:4-5; ¹⁴⁹Ephesians 1:22; Ephesians 5:23; ¹⁵⁰1 Corinthians 12:27

11. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

WE BELIEVE that Jesus Christ committed two ordinances to the Church: water baptism¹⁵¹ and the Lord's Supper.¹⁵² Both are available to all believers.

¹⁵¹Matthew 28:19-20; ¹⁵²1 Corinthians 10:14-17; 11:23-26

12. The Kingdom of God and the Final Judgment

WE BELIEVE that God's kingdom has come in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ,¹⁵³ that it continues to come in the ministry of the Spirit through the Church,¹⁵⁴ and that it will be consummated in the glorious, visible and triumphant appearing of Christ¹⁵⁵ - His return to the earth as King.¹⁵⁶ After Christ returns to reign,¹⁵⁷ He will bring about the final defeat of Satan and all of his minions and works,¹⁵⁸ the resurrection of the dead,¹⁵⁹ the

final judgment¹⁶⁰ and the eternal blessing of the righteous and eternal conscious punishment of the wicked.¹⁶¹ Finally, God will be all in all¹⁶² and His kingdom, His rule and reign,¹⁶³ will be fulfilled in the new heavens and the new earth,¹⁶⁴ recreated by His mighty power, in which righteousness dwells¹⁶⁵ and in which He will forever be worshipped.¹⁶⁶

¹⁵³Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 4:23; Matthew 12:28; ¹⁵⁴Matthew 6:10; Matthew 10:7-8; Matthew 24:14; Mark 13:11; John 15:26-27; Romans 14:17-18; ¹⁵⁵Mark 13:26; Acts 1:9-11; 2 Thessalonians 2:8; ¹⁵⁶Revelation 19:11-16; ¹⁵⁷Matthew 25:31-32; 1 Corinthians 15:23-25; ¹⁵⁸Revelation 20:10; ¹⁵⁹1 Corinthians 15:51-52; ¹⁶⁰John 5:28-30; Revelation 20:11-15; ¹⁶¹Matthew 25:31-46; ¹⁶²1 Corinthians 15:24-28; ¹⁶³1 Timothy 6:13-16; ¹⁶⁴2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:5; ¹⁶⁵Revelation 21:27; ¹⁶⁶1 Timothy 1:17; Revelation 7:9-12

If you desire further information regarding our theological position e-mail (info@vineyardusa.org) to request the paper entitled "Association of Vineyard Churches Theological and Philosophical Statement".

*Following Christ International
Core Values*

THE LAUSANNE COVENANT

INTRODUCTION

We, members of the Church of Jesus Christ, from more than 150 nations, participants in the International Congress on World Evangelization at Lausanne, praise God for his great salvation and rejoice in the fellowship he has given us with himself and with each other. We are deeply stirred by what God is doing in our day, moved to penitence by our failures and challenged by the unfinished task of evangelization. We believe the Gospel is God's good news for the whole world, and we are determined by his grace to obey Christ's commission to proclaim it to all mankind and to make disciples of every nation. We desire, therefore, to affirm our faith and our resolve, and to make public our covenant.

1. 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. He has been calling out from the world a people for himself, and sending his people back into the world to be his servants and his witnesses, for the extension of his kingdom, the building up of Christ's body, and the glory of his name. We confess with shame that we have often denied our calling and failed in our mission, by becoming conformed to the world or by withdrawing from it. Yet we rejoice that even when borne by earthen vessels the gospel is still a precious treasure. To the task of making that treasure known in the power of the Holy Spirit we desire to dedicate ourselves anew.

(Isa. 40:28; Matt. 28:19; Eph. 1:11; Acts 15:14; John 17:6, 18; Eph 4:12; 1

Cor. 5:10; Rom. 12:2; II Cor. 4:7)

2. 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 message of the Bible is addressed to all men and women. For God's revelation in Christ and in Scripture is unchangeable. Through it the Holy Spirit still speaks today. He illumines the minds of God's people in every culture to perceive its truth freshly through their own eyes and thus discloses to the whole Church ever more of the many-colored wisdom of God.

(II Tim. 3:16; II Pet. 1:21; John 10:35; Isa. 55:11; 1 Cor. 1:21; Rom. 1:16, Matt. 5:17,18; Jude 3; Eph. 1:17,18; 3:10,18)

3. THE UNIQUENESS AND UNIVERSALITY OF CHRIST

We affirm that there is only one Saviour and only one gospel, although there is a wide diversity of evangelistic approaches. We recognise that everyone has some knowledge of God through his general revelation in nature. But we deny that this can save, for people suppress the truth by their unrighteousness. We also reject as derogatory to Christ and the gospel every kind of syncretism and dialogue which implies that Christ speaks equally through all religions and ideologies. Jesus Christ, being himself the only God-man, who gave himself as the only ransom for sinners, is the only mediator between God and people. There is no other name by which we must be saved. All men and women are perishing because of sin, but God loves everyone, not wishing that any should perish but that all should repent. Yet those who reject Christ repudiate the joy of salvation and condemn themselves to eternal separation from God. To proclaim Jesus as "the Saviour of the world" is not to affirm that all people are either automatically

or ultimately saved, still less to affirm that all religions offer salvation in Christ. Rather it is to proclaim God's love for a world of sinners and to invite everyone to respond to him as Saviour and Lord in the wholehearted personal commitment of repentance and faith. Jesus Christ has been exalted above every other name; we long for the day when every knee shall bow to him and every tongue shall confess him Lord.

(Gal. 1:6-9; Rom. 1:18-32; I Tim. 2:5,6; Acts 4:12; John 3:16-19; II Pet. 3:9; II Thess. 1:7-9; John 4:42; Matt. 11:28; Eph. 1:20,21; Phil. 2:9-11)

4. 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. Our Christian presence in the world is indispensable to evangelism, and so is that kind of dialogue whose purpose is to listen sensitively in order to understand. But evangelism itself is the proclamation of the historical, biblical Christ as Saviour and Lord, with a view to persuading people to come to him personally and so be reconciled to God. In issuing the gospel invitation we have no liberty to conceal the cost of discipleship. Jesus still calls all who would follow him to deny themselves, take up their cross, and identify themselves with his new community. The results of evangelism include obedience to Christ, incorporation into his Church and responsible service in the world.

(I Cor. 15:3,4; Acts 2: 32-39; John 20:21; I Cor. 1:23; II Cor. 4:5; 5:11,20; Luke 14:25-33; Mark 8:34; Acts 2:40,47; Mark 10:43-45)

5. CHRISTIAN SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

We affirm that God is both the Creator and the Judge of all people. We therefore should share his concern for justice and reconciliation throughout human society

and for the liberation of men and women from every kind of oppression. Because men and women are made in the image of God, every person, regardless of race, religion, colour, culture, class, sex or age, has an intrinsic dignity because of which he or she should be respected and served, not exploited. Here too we express penitence both for our neglect and for having sometimes regarded evangelism and social concern as mutually exclusive. Although reconciliation with other people is not reconciliation with God, nor is social action evangelism, nor is political liberation salvation, nevertheless we affirm that evangelism and socio-political involvement are both part of our Christian duty. For both are necessary expressions of our doctrines of God and man, our love for our neighbour and our obedience to Jesus Christ. The message of salvation implies also a message of judgment upon every form of alienation, oppression and discrimination, and we should not be afraid to denounce evil and injustice wherever they exist. When people receive Christ they are born again into his kingdom and must seek not only to exhibit but also to spread its righteousness in the midst of an unrighteous world. The salvation we claim should be transforming us in the totality of our personal and social responsibilities. Faith without works is dead.

(Acts 17:26,31; Gen. 18:25; Isa. 1:17; Psa. 45:7; Gen. 1:26,27; Jas. 3:9; Lev. 19:18; Luke 6:27,35; Jas. 2:14-26; Joh. 3:3,5; Matt. 5:20; 6:33; II Cor. 3:18; Jas. 2:20)

6. 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. We need to break out of our ecclesiastical ghettos and permeate non-Christian society. In the Church's mission of sacrificial service evangelism is primary. World evangelization requires the whole Church to take the whole gospel to the whole world. The Church is at the very centre of God's cosmic purpose and is his appointed means of spreading the gospel. But a church which

preaches the cross must itself be marked by the cross. It becomes a stumbling block to evangelism when it betrays the gospel or lacks a living faith in God, a genuine love for people, or scrupulous honesty in all things including promotion and finance. The church is the community of God's people rather than an institution, and must not be identified with any particular culture, social or political system, or human ideology.

(John 17:18; 20:21; Matt. 28:19,20; Acts 1:8; 20:27; Eph. 1:9,10; 3:9-11; Gal. 6:14,17; II Cor. 6:3,4; II Tim. 2:19-21; Phil. 1:27)

7. COOPERATION IN EVANGELISM

We affirm that the Church's visible unity in truth is God's purpose. Evangelism also summons us to unity, because our oneness strengthens our witness, just as our disunity undermines our gospel of reconciliation. We recognize, however, that organisational unity may take many forms and does not necessarily forward evangelism. Yet we who share the same biblical faith should be closely united in fellowship, work and witness. We confess that our testimony has sometimes been marred by a sinful individualism and needless duplication. We pledge ourselves to seek a deeper unity in truth, worship, holiness and mission. We urge the development of regional and functional cooperation for the furtherance of the Church's mission, for strategic planning, for mutual encouragement, and for the sharing of resources and experience.

(John 17:21,23; Eph. 4:3,4; John 13:35; Phil. 1:27; John 17:11-23)

8. 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 evangelise belongs to the whole body of Christ. All churches should therefore be asking God and themselves what they should be doing both

to reach their own area and to send missionaries to other parts of the world. A reevaluation of our missionary responsibility and role should be continuous. Thus a growing partnership of churches will develop and the universal character of Christ's Church will be more clearly exhibited. We also thank God for agencies which labor in Bible translation, theological education, the mass media, Christian literature, evangelism, missions, church renewal and other specialist fields. They too should engage in constant self-examination to evaluate their effectiveness as part of the Church's mission.

(Rom. 1:8; Phil. 1:5; 4:15; Acts 13:1-3, I Thess. 1:6-8)

9. THE URGENCY OF THE EVANGELISTIC TASK

More than 2,700 million people, which is more than two-thirds of all humanity, have yet to be evangelised. We are ashamed that so many have been neglected; it is a standing rebuke to us and to the whole Church. There is now, however, in many parts of the world an unprecedented receptivity to the Lord Jesus Christ. We are convinced that this is the time for churches and para-church agencies to pray earnestly for the salvation of the unreached and to launch new efforts to achieve world evangelization. A reduction of foreign missionaries and money in an evangelised country may sometimes be necessary to facilitate the national church's growth in self-reliance and to release resources for unevangelised areas. Missionaries should flow ever more freely from and to all six continents in a spirit of humble service. The goal should be, by all available means and at the earliest possible time, that every person will have the opportunity to hear, understand, and to receive the good news. We cannot hope to attain this goal without sacrifice. All of us are shocked by the poverty of millions and disturbed by the injustices which cause it. Those of us who live in affluent circumstances accept our duty to develop a simple life-style in order to contribute more generously to both relief and evangelism.

(John 9:4; Matt. 9:35-38; Rom. 9:1-3; I Cor. 9:19-23; Mark 16:15; Isa. 58:6,7;

Jas. 1:27; 2:1-9; Matt. 25:31-46; Acts 2:44,45; 4:34,35)

10. EVANGELISM AND CULTURE

The development of strategies for world evangelization calls for imaginative pioneering methods. Under God, the result will be the rise of churches deeply rooted in Christ and closely related to their culture. Culture must always be tested and judged by Scripture. Because men and women are God's creatures, some of their culture is rich in beauty and goodness. Because they are fallen, all of it is tainted with sin and some of it is demonic. The gospel does not presuppose the superiority of any culture to another, but evaluates all cultures according to its own criteria of truth and righteousness, and insists on moral absolutes in every culture. Missions have all too frequently exported with the gospel an alien culture and churches have sometimes been in bondage to culture rather than to Scripture. Christ's evangelists must humbly seek to empty themselves of all but their personal authenticity in order to become the servants of others, and churches must seek to transform and enrich culture, all for the glory of God.

(Mark 7:8,9,13; Gen. 4:21,22; I Cor. 9:19-23; Phil. 2:5-7; II Cor. 4:5)

11. EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP

We confess that we have sometimes pursued church growth at the expense of church depth, and divorced evangelism from Christian nurture. We also acknowledge that some of our missions have been too slow to equip and encourage national leaders to assume their rightful responsibilities. Yet we are committed to indigenous principles, and long that every church will have national leaders who manifest a Christian style of leadership in terms not of domination but of service. We recognise that there is a great need to improve theological education, especially for church leaders. In every nation and culture there should be an effective training programme for pastors and laity in doctrine, discipleship, evangelism, nurture and service. Such training programmes should not rely on

any stereotyped methodology but should be developed by creative local initiatives according to biblical standards.

(Col. 1:27,28; Acts 14:23; Tit. 1:5,9; Mark 10:42-45; Eph. 4:11,12)

12. 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. We know our need to equip ourselves with God's armour and to fight this battle with the spiritual weapons of truth and prayer. For we detect the activity of our enemy, not only in false ideologies outside the Church, but also inside it in false gospels which twist Scripture and put people in the place of God. We need both watchfulness and discernment to safeguard the biblical gospel. We acknowledge that we ourselves are not immune to worldliness of thoughts and action, that is, to a surrender to secularism. For example, although careful studies of church growth, both numerical and spiritual, are right and valuable, we have sometimes neglected them. At other times, desirous to ensure a response to the gospel, we have compromised our message, manipulated our hearers through pressure techniques, and become unduly preoccupied with statistics or even dishonest in our use of them. All this is worldly. The Church must be in the world; the world must not be in the Church.

(Eph. 6:12; II Cor. 4:3,4; Eph. 6:11,13-18; II Cor. 10:3-5; I John 2:18-26; 4:1-3; Gal. 1:6-9; II Cor. 2:17; 4:2; John 17:15)

13. 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. We therefore pray for the leaders of nations and call upon them to guarantee freedom of thought and

conscience, and freedom to practise and propagate religion in accordance with the will of God and as set forth in The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We also express our deep concern for all who have been unjustly imprisoned, and especially for those who are suffering for their testimony to the Lord Jesus. We promise to pray and work for their freedom. At the same time we refuse to be intimidated by their fate. God helping us, we too will seek to stand against injustice and to remain faithful to the gospel, whatever the cost. We do not forget the warnings of Jesus that persecution is inevitable.

(I Tim. 1:1-4, Acts 4:19; 5:29; Col. 3:24; Heb. 13:1-3; Luke 4:18; Gal. 5:11; 6:12; Matt. 5:10-12; John 15:18-21)

14. 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. A church that is not a missionary church is contradicting itself and quenching the Spirit. Worldwide evangelization will become a realistic possibility only when the Spirit renews the Church in truth and wisdom, faith, holiness, love and power. We therefore call upon all Christians to pray for such a visitation of the sovereign Spirit of God that all his fruit may appear in all his people and that all his gifts may enrich the body of Christ. Only then will the whole church become a fit instrument in his hands, that the whole earth may hear his voice.

(I Cor. 2:4; John 15:26;27; 16:8-11; I Cor. 12:3; John 3:6-8; II Cor. 3:18; John 7:37-39; I Thess. 5:19; Acts 1:8; Psa. 85:4-7; 67:1-3; Gal. 5:22,23; I Cor. 12:4-31; Rom. 12:3-8)

15. 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. We believe that the interim period between Christ's ascension and return is to be filled with the mission of the people of God, who have no liberty to stop before the end. We also remember his warning that false Christs and false prophets will arise as precursors of the final Antichrist. We therefore reject as a proud, self-confident dream the notion that people can ever build a utopia on earth. Our Christian confidence is that God will perfect his kingdom, and we look forward with eager anticipation to that day, and to the new heaven and earth in which righteousness will dwell and God will reign forever. Meanwhile, we rededicate ourselves to the service of Christ and of people in joyful submission to his authority over the whole of our lives.

(Mark 14:62; Heb. 9:28; Mark 13:10; Acts 1:8-11; Matt. 28:20; Mark 13:21-23; John 2:18; 4:1-3; Luke 12:32; Rev. 21:1-5; II Pet. 3:13; Matt. 28:18)

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!