

Statement of

FAITH

We believe the 66 books of the Bible to be inspired by God, and that they were written by the prophets and apostles under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The Bible is the complete truth and without error; it will allow no one to change it in any manner.

The Bible clearly describes God's plan of redemption for man. The Bible is the highest standard of our faith, life and service. We are opposed to all those who deny the Bible as the Word of God; we are opposed to the view that the Bible is out of date; we are opposed to the view that the Bible has error; and we are opposed to those who believe only in selective sections of the Bible. In interpreting Scripture, one ought to consult the traditions of orthodox belief left by the church throughout her history. We are opposed to interpreting Scripture by one's own will, or by subjective spiritualization.

We believe in the only one true God, the eternally self-existing triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit who are the same in substance, equal in honor and glory, each having different personalities and each having different functional roles in the work of redemption; the Father plans salvation, the Son accomplished salvation, and the Holy Spirit implements salvation.

We believe that Jesus Christ is God's only begotten Son. In his perfect humanity he was tempted, though without sin. He allowed himself to be crucified on the Cross of his own will and there he shed his precious Blood in order to redeem those who believe in him from sin and death. He rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and sat at the right hand of God the Father from whom he received the promise of the Holy Spirit, which he gives to all who believe in him. In the last day, Christ shall come again to judge the world.

Anyone who repents, confessing his or her sins, and believes in Jesus as the Son of God, that he was crucified on the Cross for our sins, and that he rose again on the third day for the remission of our sins and for receiving the Holy Spirit, shall be saved through being born again. For by grace are we saved through faith; we are justified by faith; we receive the Holy Spirit through faith; and we become the sons of God through faith.

We believe that God will preserve His children in Christ to the end, and we also believe that Christians should firmly believe in the truth to the end. We are opposed to all who take specific phenomenon or personal experience as the objective criterion for being saved.

We are opposed to the belief that one can sin because he is under grace. We are opposed to the idea that one needs to be saved again and again. We are also opposed to the belief that we can be saved by keeping the law.

We believe that the Holy Spirit illuminates a person, causing him to know sin and repent, to know the truth, and to believe in Christ and so experience being born again unto salvation. The Holy Spirit leads believers into the

In response to government and Three-Self Patriotic Movement claims that the house churches in China are "evil cults," a few years ago we drafted a statement of faith, to set forth our beliefs in order to help clear up the confusion created by misinformation about our beliefs and practices. In this first issue of *Back to Jerusalem* we would like to re-issue the following summary of what we believe:

truth, and helps us to love and obey Christ, thereby bearing abundant fruit of life. The Holy Spirit gives all kinds of power and manifests the mighty acts of God through signs and miracles.

We do not believe in the cessation of signs and miracles or the termination of the gifts of the Holy Spirit after the apostolic period.

The church is composed of all whom God has called together in Christ Jesus. Christ is the head of the church, and the church is the Body of Christ. The church is both local and universal; the universal church is composed of all churches of orthodox faith currently existing in all parts of the earth and all the saints throughout history.

The administration of the church should be conducted according to principles laid down in the Scriptures. Its spiritual ministry should not be directed or controlled by secular powers. We are opposed to the unity of church and state or the intermingling of the church and political power.

The mission of the church is: proclamation of the Gospel, teaching and pastoring the believers, training and sending them, and defending the truth by refuting heresies and bringing them to the correct path. All believers are priests, and they all have the authority and responsibility to preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

We are opposed to the expansion of the church by relying on political power, whether domestic or international. We are opposed to the church taking part in any activities that seek to destroy the unity of the peoples or the unification of the Chinese state.

The saints in Christ shall reign for a thousand years. Christ shall sit on His throne and judge all nations and people. All the dead shall be raised again and they shall stand before the judgment seat. All those names not written in the Book of Life shall be cast into the lake of fire, and heaven and earth will all be consumed by fire.

Those whose names are written in the Book of Life shall enter into the New Jerusalem and be with God forever. We believe that as believers wait for the Second Coming of Christ, they should be diligent doing the work of the Lord, preaching the Word of Life, shining for the Lord on earth, and bearing abundant fruit in word, deed, faith, love and holiness. Those who do these things shall receive all kinds of reward.

As to the interpretation of whether Christ will come before or after the tribulation, we acknowledge that there are different views among different church groups. We cannot hold an absolutist view. The responsibility of Christians is to be alert and be prepared to welcome the Second Coming of Christ.

May the Lord bless the unity of the house churches in China! May the Lord bless China, the Chinese peoples, and the Chinese church! May praise and glory be unto our triune God. Amen!