

# Hope For the Children of Haiti Statement of Faith

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### Article One: The Bible

We believe that the Bible, consisting of sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament, was given by God through Divine inspiration and is the Word of God (*Ex. 20:1; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21; 1Thess. 2:13*).

We believe that it is inerrant and constitutes the only perfect rule and final authority in all matters pertaining to Christian faith and practice (Ps.18:30; Ps. 119:160; Prov. 30:5-6; Jn. 17:17).

### Article Two: The Godhead

We believe there is only one living God, perfect, infinite, and eternal (*Gen. 1:1; Deut. 33:27; Is. 40:13-14; Psalm 90:2; Matt. 5:48*).

Who is unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, love and truth (*Num. 23:19; Lev. 11:44; Mal. 3:6; 1 Tim. 1:17; Isaiah 6:3; Psalm 33:11; Ps. 145:8-9; Ex. 34:6-7; John 3:16*).

Who is the creator, preserver, and ruler of the universe (*Is. 44:24; Heb. 11:3; Neh. 9:6 Psalm 103:19; Eph. 1:11; Rev. 4:11*).

God is a Trinity existing eternally in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. These three persons are one in nature and completely equal, each fully possessing the same divine nature or essence (*Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor 13:14; 1 Peter 1:1-2; John 15:26*).

### Article Three: Man

#### a.) Creation

We believe that men and women were created by God as His image-bearers and as morally responsible creatures and that the purpose of their creation was to glorify God (*Gen. 1:26-27; Ps. 8:3-6; Acts 17:24-28; Ro 2:14-15*).

#### b.) In the State of Sin

We believe that the original sin of Adam is inherited by all mankind, so that all are contaminated by sin, guilt and subject to death (physical and spiritual). (*Gen. 2:16-17; Job 14:1,4; Ps. 51:5; 1 Co 15:22; Eph 2:3*).

#### c.) The Consequences of Sin

We believe that sin produces physical and spiritual death, alienation from God, together with many other acts and attitudes destructive of human life and relationships (*Gen 6:5; Ro 6:23; Ro 8:7-8*).

## **Article Four: Jesus Christ**

### **a.) Preexistent**

We believe that Jesus Christ, the unique Son of God, and second person of the Trinity, was not in his divine nature a creature of time, but was coequal with the Father from all eternity (*Is 9:6; Mic 5:2; Jn 1:1-3; Jn 6:38 Rev 22:12, 13, 16*).

### **b.) Virgin Birth**

We believe that Jesus Christ was supernaturally conceived by the Holy Spirit, apart from a human father, and born of the Virgin Mary (*Isa 7:14; Mt 1:18-25; Lk 1:26-38*).

### **c.) Sinless**

We believe He was born without a sinful nature, and though truly tempted, committed no sin. As the sinless Lamb of God he could offer himself as an unblemished sacrifice to God (*Lk 1:35; Jn 14:30-31; 2 Co 5:21; Heb 4:15; Heb 7:26-28; 1 Pe 1:18-19*).

### **d.) Deity and Humanity**

We believe Jesus Christ was both completely divine and completely human as expressed in scripture (*Isa 9:6; Mk 1:2-3; Php 2:5-7; Rev 22:13; Mt 28:18; Col 1:17; Jn 10:29-31; Col 2:9*).

We believe He assumed a true human nature; becoming acquainted with all human needs. Consequently, all mankind may benefit from His intercessory redemptive work. (*Isa 53:3-5; Mt 4:1-2; Lk 2:52; Jn 1:14; Jn 4:5-6; Heb 2:14; Heb 2:17-18; Heb 4:15*).

### **e.) Death/Resurrection/Ascension**

We believe that Christ was crucified in the place of sinful man, becoming the object of God's wrath. By this He purchased salvation for all believers. Through His resurrection from the dead, God demonstrated that Christ had defeated sin, death and the Devil. The risen Christ, enthroned at the right hand of God, is now directing the church in its earthly mission with heavenly authority (*Isa 53:4-5; Mk 10:33-34; Mk 10:45; Ro 3:25; Ro 5:10; 2 Co 5:18-19; Lk 24:36-39; Ac 1:1-2; Ac 1:9-11; Ac 2:32-33; Ro 1:2-4; 1 Co 15:17,20; Php 2:9-11; Heb 4:14; Rev 1:5*).

## **Article Five: The Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity (*Mt. 28:19; 2 Co 13:14; 1 Pe 1:1-2*)

His principal ministry is to convict the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment (*Jn 16: 8-11*);

To regenerate and sanctify those who repent of their sins and exercise faith in Christ (*Jn 3:3-8; Titus 3:5; 1 Pe 1:1-3*);

To instruct, comfort and guide God's children (*Jn 14:16-18, 26; 16:13*);

To empower them for life and service (*Ro 8:2; Acts 1:8; Eph 3:16*).

## **Article Six: Salvation**

We believe that a new relationship to God is established through repentance and saving faith in Jesus Christ. True repentance involves an acknowledgement of sin, remorse for it, and a determination to turn from it. True saving faith involves a commitment to the whole person of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior in response to the free gift of salvation (*2 Ch 7:14; Pr 28:13; Isa 55:6-7; Lk 24:47-48; Ro 3:28; Ro 5:1; Eph 2:8-9; Heb 11:6; 1Jn 1:9*).

We believe that the believer, though guilty of sin, nevertheless is declared righteous because of his faith in Jesus Christ alone. The righteousness of Christ is imputed to the sinner by faith and he receives a complete pardon for his sin and a cleansing of his guilt. (*Ro 3:23-24; Ro 5:1; Tit 3:5,7; 1 Co 6:11; Gal 2:16*).

## **Article Seven: The Church**

We believe that the Church is universal and that it is manifested locally through communities of Christ's followers, meeting together as the "Bride of Christ" (*Ro 12:4-5; 1Co12:12-13; Eph 2:19-20; Eph 4:15-16; Eph 5:23; Rev 21:2*).

The mission of the Church is accomplished through evangelism, missions, acts of benevolence and social compassion, discipleship training and Christian nurture. Through these varied activities the kingdom of God is extended both in the world and in the hearts of believers (*Mt 28:18-20; Lk 24:45-49; Ro 12:6-8; Gal 6:10; Heb 13:1-3, 16; 1 Pe 4:9-11*).

## **Article Eight: Last Things**

We believe that Christ will return at God's appointed time. On that day there will be a resurrection from the dead, both the saved and the lost. At that time everyone will be judged by Christ for the deeds done in the body whether good or bad. Those who are redeemed will enter into eternal life and the lost into eternal damnation (*Job 19:25-27; Ecc 12:14; Isa 26:19; Mt 8:11-12; Mt 12:36-37; Mt 25:31-32; Jn 5:28:29; 2 Cor 5:10; 2 Ti 4:8; 1 Jn 2:28; 1 Jn 3:2-3; Rev 2:23; 16:15; 20:13*).