

ANDREW & SHAWN
CANAVAN



Church-planting in
IRELAND



14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

Romans 10:14-15

God has called Shawn and I to return to Ireland as second-generation missionaries, for the purpose of declaring the good news of the Gospel and establishing local, New-Testament, Baptist Churches.

These are exciting times for Gospel work in Ireland! A great and effectual door is opening, and a harvest truly awaits if God-called laborers will heed the call, and diligently, faithfully labor in the work. Please take a moment to consider the great need of Ireland, and how God has prepared us to serve in this great work.

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The image is a vertical composition of three distinct natural scenes. The top scene shows a stone monument, possibly a Celtic cross or a standing stone, silhouetted against a bright orange and yellow sunset sky. The sun is positioned directly behind the monument, creating a lens flare effect. The middle scene depicts a rolling green hill covered in tall, golden-brown grass, with a distant coastline and sea visible under a cloudy sky. The bottom scene is a misty forest with tall, thin trees, where sunlight filters through the canopy, creating a soft, ethereal glow. The text 'Ireland' is written in a large, dark green, stylized serif font across the middle of the top scene. The ampersand '&' is in a smaller, white, serif font, centered between the top and middle scenes. The text 'THE GOSPEL' is in a large, white, serif font, centered across the bottom scene.

Ireland

&

THE GOSPEL

Historical Time-line

OF TRUE CHRISTIANITY IN IRELAND

AD 476

ROME FALLS

Ireland, the edge of the known world became a haven for precious biblical and extra-biblical manuscripts. Monastic settlements developed to preserve and propagate Scripture, Ireland briefly become a sender of Christian missionaries.

AD 450-500

PATRICK OF IRELAND

Patrick returns to Celtic Ireland preaching the simple Gospel. Despite immense opposition, through Patrick's ministry and others who followed, whole parts of Ireland were transformed with thousands of converts.

"nevertheless I had hopes that they would come to faith in Jesus Christ, because they were barbarians. And for this I continued with them.."

Patrick, Ireland
"Confessions" Article 18

AD 900-1100

CELTIC CHURCH COMPROMISES

Celtic church replaced by Catholic continental orders & aligned with Rome

The **Protestant Reformation** which radically changed nations such as Germany, England, France, Denmark, Switzerland, Norway, and others **never reached the Irish shores.**

for nearly 1,000 years, Irish culture has been immersed in Roman Catholicism.

AD 1690

BATTLE OF THE BOYNE

Symbolic also of other battles, British William of Orange decisively defeated Catholic opponents, and Britain forced their Protestant religion for political purposes.

AD 1845-1852

IRISH POTATO FAMINE

1 million to 1.5 million perish due to potato blight and extreme dependence on the potato crop. Shockingly, British "Protestant" land owners still export wheat and grains on the free market, as Irish starve at home.

AD 1922

IRISH WIN INDEPENDENCE

Irish revolted during World War 1 in April 1916, finally gaining independence in 1922, with the 4th Protestant north region remaining British as Northern Ireland.

By 1930, one in three Catholic bishops IN THE WORLD had an Irish surname!

"To be Irish, is to be Catholic"

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH MISLED THE IRISH.

Between 1994 and 2009 over 6,000 documented cases of clerical sexual abuse were released to the Irish public. The church's high moral standards of morality forcibly imposed on the Irish people in law (divorce, contraception, cohabitating, abortion, etc. were illegal), revealed a horrendous display of hypocrisy.

Once devoted to the Roman Church, disillusioned Ireland is quickly stepping away from anything Catholic, nationally and privately.

2015

Ireland became the first nation in the world to legalize GAY MARRIAGE by popular vote

"I no longer want to be used as a stat by an organisation that never condemned the abuse of children."

Daniel MacAlister, 18/08/2015

2017

Ireland became the third country in the world with an openly gay Prime Minister (Taoiseach)

2018

IRELAND voted to legalize abortion (67%)

"Any belief I had as a younger person was born out of fear, I no longer believe in anything the catholic church has to say and I no longer wish to be associated in any way shape or form with it."
Margaret Kavanaugh, 30/05/2018

This drastic shift in thinking has created an OPENNESS not seen before.

THIS IS A **DOOR** OF OPPORTUNITY!

"For a great door and effectual is opened ..."
1 Corinthians 16:9

Secularism & Modernism are no doubt global trends. However, in IRELAND these phenomena are more RECENT, and FAR MORE DRASTIC.

"No Religion" grew by **73%** from 2011 to 2016

78%
Roman Catholic

< 1%
Evangelical Christian



ABOUT ANDREW

I am so grateful to have grown up in Ireland. Like most missionary's children, my triplet brother and sister and I were involved intimately in the ministry and learned the incomparable joy of being used by the Lord. While my parents did not naively hide from us some of the struggles of ministry, they always sought to encourage us that the very best use of our life is in service to Christ.

Following Bible College, For the last three years, I have worked part-time teaching piano in the community, and worked full time with youth, music, and outreach ministries at the church. God also enabled me to become a full Irish citizen in 2016. I am so grateful for God's goodness, and now leading my lovely bride, Shawn, into my life at the perfect time.

EDUCATION

2010 – 2014 – Bachelors of Biblical Studies, Pastoral Ministry at Crown College (Knoxville, TN)

2014-2015 – Master of Ministry, Crown Seminary & Graduate School (Knoxville, TN)

EXPERIENCE

2010-2014 (while at Bible College) Door to Door, Bus, Public School Bible clubs, Prison ministry, Nursing-home ministry

2013 – 2015 (summers) Neighbourhood Bible Time Evangelist

2015 – 2019 | Assistant Pastor at Hope Baptist Church (Dublin, Ireland) working under my father, Dan Canavan

Working with children's clubs, teens, outreach, music, media, and finance

2015 – present | organise NBT Ireland/UK summer circuit

SALVATION TESTIMONY

My salvation testimony is a simple one, in that I was saved at a young age, yet as miraculous as any, in that rather than being saved out of a life of deep sin, I was saved from it. I remember clearly as a young lad of five years old, approaching my mother who was reading the Bible one morning. As we spoke, she asked me if I was saved. I had thought I was, but she showed me how I was a sinner, how the penalty for sin was death and eternal separation from God, and that Jesus Christ died in my place. She further showed me how I must receive Jesus Christ, and His death on the cross, as the payment for my sins, by faith. (John 3:16, John 1:12) As a young boy, I knelt and prayed – I admitted my sin, and asked Jesus Christ to be my Savior. I took God at His Word, (Romans 10:11, 13) and He kept His Word. (John 10:38).



ABOUT SHAWN

Growing up in beautiful Rhode Island, our bustling family of eight, was typical in New England and without Christ. As a teenager, my parents were gloriously saved, and our home radically changed. I soon accepted Christ as a teenager, and wanted to serve the Lord with all my heart, because of what He has done for me.

I first heard a missionary speak as a teenager and thought, "maybe one day God would let me do that too!" Soon after our family was saved, my parents enrolled me in Christian school with Bible college following. After graduation I accepted a teaching position. It was here God gave me an even deeper love for education and young children. This has been my "mission field" for the last several years, serving actively in the school and church ministries. I'm grateful God lead Andrew into my life, and for the new opportunities God is giving to reach children and other Gospel ministries.

EDUCATION

2006-2010 Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education, Fairhaven Baptist College

2019 – Master of Education, Fairhaven Graduate School, Chesterton, IN

EXPERIENCE

2007 - 2019 Bus Ministry, Junior church

2011-2019 - Fairhaven Camp Advance (summers)

2010-2012 - Receptionist at Fairhaven Baptist Church

2011-2019 - 1st and 2nd grade school teacher

SALVATION TESTIMONY

My dad worked a second job on the weekends, just around the corner from an Independent Baptist Church. The women were unrelenting in their faithfulness to pass out tracts. While my dad never read them, he maintained a whole collection of them. One day, during a difficult family time, my mom finally read one. The Bible verses about sin, punishment, and a loving God brought her to a place of repentance; she was the first of our family to be born-again! I began attending church with her that Sunday and I've been going ever since.

At fourteen years old, I had a more full understanding of the Gospel and realized it had nothing to do with me or the "works" I did. I understood it is all what Christ has already accomplished by His death on the cross. I made the personal decision to be saved and surrendered my life to the Lord very soon after.

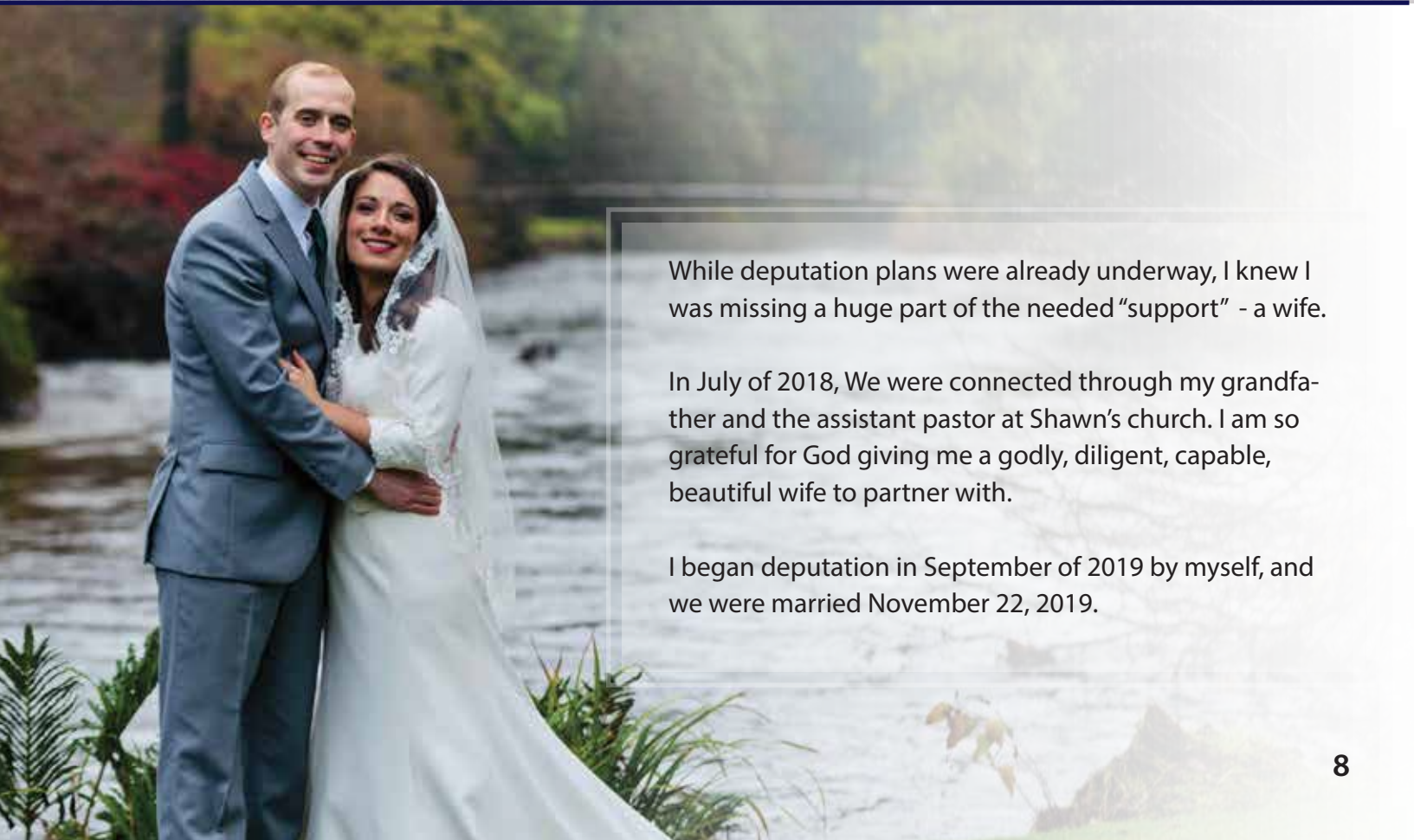
CALL TO MINISTRY

Following my parents into the ministry, and then specifically returning to Ireland seems like a natural step – and indeed it is – yet I must make it clear that I am certain it is God who has called me here, not circumstance. Many a pastor has wisely counseled, “A man must make certain of his call, for if a man is not called, he almost certainly will not stay.” Perseverance is one of the crucial and vital characteristics in Irish missions.

In the summer of 2006, while attending a Christian camp, I surrendered my life to the Lord to whatever He would have me do. I clearly felt a prompting towards missions. Throughout my teen years, God continued to press on my heart the call to the ministry, and specifically in the area of missions. Initially, I desired to go to another field other than Ireland simply because of the hardness of hearts here, yet God had other plans. While in Bible college, I pleaded with God to show me specifically

where He would have me serve, and God continually showed me that it was Ireland. I could not escape it; (Acts 16:7) to be in any other place would be outside His will.

I look at 1 Timothy 3:1, and see the practical side of the call to ministry as a God-given “desiring a good work.” It is the work of selfless, sacrificial service and shepherding that allures a God-called man, not position or recognition. A brief examination of numerous New Testament verses pertaining to bishops/pastors finds a singular common word – work. (1 Cor. 16:15-16, 1 Thess. 5:12, 1 Tim. 5:17-18, Heb. 13:17, Acts 20:28, Eph. 4:11-12) God gives men not only the inescapable burden to preach, as Paul expressed in 1 Corinthians 9:16, but also a zeal and desire for the work to which He has called them! I am so grateful for the clarity of my call and pray I might be a faithful steward of the ministry I have been given. (1 Timothy 1:12)



While deputation plans were already underway, I knew I was missing a huge part of the needed “support” - a wife.

In July of 2018, We were connected through my grandfather and the assistant pastor at Shawn’s church. I am so grateful for God giving me a godly, diligent, capable, beautiful wife to partner with.

I began deputation in September of 2019 by myself, and we were married November 22, 2019.

OUR PURPOSE

TO EVANGELIZE THE LOST & ESTABLISH TRULY INDIGENOUS BAPTIST CHURCHES IN IRELAND

STEP 1: LAY THE GROUNDWORK



- Door to door soul-winning
- Open air evangelism
- Evangelistic Bible studies (6 weeks)
- Discipleship Bible studies (12-18 months)



STEP 2: LAY THE FOUNDATION

- Obtain building / weekly meeting place
- This is important everywhere, but crucial in Ireland in tapping into local, Irish communities
- Hold first service / dedication service

STEP 3: BUILD



- Maintain consistent evangelistic focus (Psalm 126:5,6)
- Disciple new believers (Matthew 28:19-20)
- Grow through well-rounded, expository, weekly preaching ministry (1 Timothy 4:16)
- Reach and disciple children and teens through dedicated outreaches (Mark 10:14)

THREE PILLARS

of a truly INDIGENOUS church

I

SELF-SUPPORTING

DEFINED: Church has no need of outside funding. The entire budget is covered by tithes and offerings from within local church membership.

PRACTICAL STEPS:

- 1) Teach consistently on giving, missions giving, and the Biblical tithe.
- 2) Steward church funds wisely and transparently.
- 3) Demonstrate some level of financial sacrifice as a church-planter.

II

SELF-GOVERNING

DEFINED: Church has no outside governance or control, but is governed by a pastor freely-elected by the local church membership. Church is led forward by its own pastor/teacher, and supported by members and deacons.

PRACTICAL STEPS:

- 1) Train men through engagement in active ministry, mentorship, and Bible institute courses.
- 2) Develop understanding of Biblical church government and Pastoral, servant-leadership.

III

SELF-PROPAGATING

DEFINED: Church is engaged in establishing other like-minded assemblies both in its "Judea, Samaria, and uttermost parts of the world" (Acts 1:8) in fulfillment of the Great Commission.

PRACTICAL STEPS:

- 1) From the beginning: Develop a fundamental understanding of active world evangelism, both in the global setting through missions, and in the local setting of establishing other like-minded churches in needy surrounding areas.
- 2) As the work grows: prayerfully ask for God to raise up the right men to send, and support them in the establishment of like-minded assemblies.

October 24, 2018

Dear Pastor,

If you are like me, you are often eager to take missionaries on for support but feel unsure how they will adapt to cultural differences, ministry trials, and family pressures once on the field. We almost wish that a missionary could be tested in a real-life ministry scenario before we lead our church to assume financial participation.

Andrew Canavan has already been tested and has passed with flying colors! When Andrew was just a child, his mother and father arrived in the land of Ireland. A vast majority of Andrew's adolescence was spent in Ireland. He thinks Irish, acts Irish, and in a very real sense is Irish.

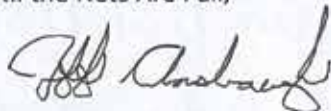
Andrew is a deep thinker and models piety. He has lived a life of stellar integrity before the Irish people and has developed a mind that is acutely aware of the Irish opposition to the Gospel. His analytical and apologetic approach to evangelism has already proven effective in the Irish culture. He loves Ireland and considers it home already. He has a passion for the lost.

Most of us in the fundamental Baptist movement are already aware of Daniel Canavan and the tremendous work that God has used him to launch in Ireland. The apple has not fallen far from the tree, and it is our belief that God will use Andrew to enhance and expand the work of God already existent in Ireland.

I trust that you will find a place in your busy calendar to have Andrew present his ministry at your church. It is my firm belief that your precious and limited dollars will not be wasted as this second-generation missionary continues the work begun by his father and launches new church plants elsewhere in this needy field.

Should you have any questions about Andrew Canavan, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. It would be a pleasure to be of service to you.

Until the Nets Are Full,



Jeff Amsbaugh
Pastor

JA:ca



"Thy testimonies have I taken as an HERITAGE forever;
for they are the rejoicing of my heart."
Psalm 119:111

Pastor Jeff Amsbaugh
14510 Spriggs Road
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22193

Phone: (703) 680-6629
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info@visitheritage.com

Home of Heritage
Christian School



November 13, 2018

Dear Pastor,

It is my pleasure to recommend for your consideration, Missionary Andrew Canavan. I have known Andrew his entire life and have witnessed his love for the Lord and his desire to serve in the country of Ireland.

Andrew's parents met and married at Heritage and were sent out of Heritage to the land of Ireland where they have served with great distinction for many years. Andrew was raised in Ireland and has an understanding of the Irish people and Irish culture that will give him a great advantage as he serves in that place. He is a devoted and hard-working young man and has demonstrated throughout his life a desire to be submitted to the Lord's direction.

I highly recommend him for your consideration for financial and prayer support in your efforts to carry out the Great Commission through your local church. May God send many more laborers into the fields!

Pastor Michael Edwards
14510 Spriggs Road
Woodbridge, VA
22193

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VisitHeritage.com

Home of Heritage
Christian School

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Michael Edwards".

Michael E. Edwards
Pastor Emeritus
ME:ca



"Thy testimonies have I taken as an HERITAGE forever;
for they are the rejoicing of my heart."
Psalm 119:111

THE CRICHTONS

**“Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart:
for consider how great things He hath done for you.” 1 Samuel 12:24**

!
December 3, 2018

Dear Pastor,

Thank you for taking time to read this letter in reference to Andrew Canavan . . . a second generation missionary, who is called to be a Church Planting Missionary in the Republic of Ireland.

Andrew is currently assisting his father, Daniel Canavan at Hope Baptist Church in Dundrum, Ireland. The Canavan's have been church planters in Ireland for 20 years. Andrew has had the valuable experience of growing up on the mission field of Ireland and has a heart's desire to give the Gospel message to the Irish and those of other nationalities in Ireland .

I have worked along side of Andrew recently for two months's when filling in for his parents, who were reporting to their supporting churches in the States. Together as we did extensive door to door evangelism, I sensed his heart for souls and for the work of God. I observed him in various roles of ministry at Hope Baptist Church conducting the services, preaching and working with the youth. In a day when so many young people are choosing to serve their own desires and dreams, it is encouraging to see a young man like Andrew Canavan that has chosen to yield his life to follow the Lord's call.

Your consideration to have Andrew Canavan present his surrender and call to the Republic of Ireland would be an encouragement to him, as well as, give an opportunity for your people to hear of the spiritual dearth in Ireland.

Thank you for any help your may offer Andrew along the way as he journeys through the experience of deputation. We are praying that the Lord will use him effectively as he follows through on his surrender and call of the Lord on his life.

For the Furtherance of the Gospel,

Tom Crichton
Pastor Emeritus of Greater RI Baptist Temple

10325 Wishingstone Court, Bonita Springs, FL 34135
401-465-9190/ tgcrich@gmail.com

STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Scriptures

I believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Bible, as it is in truth, the Word of God... (I Thessalonians 2:13). I believe in verbal, plenary inspiration in the original writings, and God's preservation of His pure words to every generation (II Timothy 3:16, Psalms 12:6-8). The Masoretic Text of the Old Testament and the Received Text of the New Testament (Textus Receptus) are those texts of the original languages I accept and use; the King James Version of the Bible is the only English version I accept and use. The Bible is our sole authority for faith and practice.

The Godhead

I believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections (Deuteronomy 6:4; II Corinthians 13:14).

The Person and Work of Christ

I believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men (John 1:1-2, 14; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 9:6; 7:14; Philippians 2:5-8; Galatians 4:4-5). I believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His finished work on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Romans 3:24-25; I Peter 2:24; Ephesians 1:7; I Peter 1:3-5). I believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (Acts 1:9-10; Hebrews 9:24, 7:25; Romans 8:34; I John 2:1-2).

The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

I believe that the Holy Spirit is the Person who reproves the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption (John 16:8-11; II Corinthians 3:6; I Corinthians 12:12-14; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13-14). I believe that the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and the gift of healing, were temporary. I believe that speaking in tongues was never the common or necessary sign of the baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit and that ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness or death awaits the consummation of our salvation in the resurrection, though God frequently chooses to answer the prayer of believers for physical healing (II Corinthians 12:12; I Corinthians 13:8; Hebrews 2:3-4; Mark 16:17-20; I Corinthians 1:22, 14:21-22).

Man

I believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and that man is totally depraved, and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12). The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image and is mindful of him, and in that Christ died for man; therefore every individual possesses dignity, a free-will, and is worthy of respect and Christian love. (Psalm 8:4-9; Colossians 3:9-11).

The Way of Salvation

I believe that the clear message of salvation is "repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:21). I believe that salvation is "by grace" plus nothing minus nothing. I believe that men are justified by faith alone and are accounted righteous before God only through the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 2:8-10; John 1:12; I Peter 1:18-19)

I believe that all the redeemed, once saved are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. I believe that eternal life is the present possession of every believer (John 6:37-40, 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 38-39; I Corinthians 1:4-8; I Peter 1:4-5; Jude 1, 2).

The Church

I believe that the Church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of this present age which began with Christ and the Apostles, was empowered at Pentecost, and will be caught up to be with Christ at the Rapture (Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:25-27; I Corinthians 12:12-14; II Corinthians 11:2). I believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).

I believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control (Acts 13:1-4, 15:19-31, 20:28; Romans 16:1, 4; I Corinthians 3:9, 16, 5:4-7, 13; I Peter 5:1-4).

The Ordinances of the Church

I recognise the ordinances of baptism by immersion in water and the Lord's Supper as a Scriptural means of testimony for the Church in this age (Matthew. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42, 18:18; I Corinthians 11:23-26).

Separation

I believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded of God (II Timothy 3:1-5; Romans 12:1, 2, 14:13; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11; II Corinthians 6:14-7:1).

The Return of Christ

I believe the "Blessed Hope" of our Lord's return is literal, personal, visible, imminent, premillennial, and pretribulational. He will rapture His Church prior to the seven years of tribulation, and at the end of the tribulation Christ will return with His saints to establish His thousand-year reign on the earth (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; I Thessalonians 1:10; Revelation 3:10; Zechariah 14:4-11; Revelation 19:11-16, 20:1-6; Psalm 89:3-4).

Our Eternal State

I believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28, 29, 11:25-26; Revelation 20:5-6, 12-13). I believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; Revelation 20:4-6; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23, 3:21; I Thessalonians 4:16-17).

I believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting, conscious punishment (Luke 16:19-26; Matthew 25:41-46; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20:11-15).



SENDING CHURCH

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