



# CONVERGE

## INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

DARMSTADT, GERMANY

### SUMMARY OF BASIC BELIEFS

27 AUGUST 2012

#### **The Word of God**

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. (2 Timothy 3:16&17)

#### **The Trinity**

We believe that there is one living and true God, sovereign over all things; eternally existing as Father, Son and Holy Spirit; that these three are equal in every divine perfection; and that they fill distinct but harmonious roles in the work of creation, providence and redemption. (Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14)

#### **God the Father**

We believe in God, the Father, Who is Spirit and infinite. He is perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of all people, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (Deuteronomy 4:25 & 30, Ephesians 4:6, Titus 3:4&5)

#### **God the Son - Jesus Christ**

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection and ascension into heaven. We believe He perpetual intercedes for His people, and will personally and visibly return to earth. (Luke 1:27&28, Hebrews 4:15, 7:25, I Corinthians 15:1-8, Romans 5:8-10)

#### **God the Holy Spirit**

We believe in the Holy Spirit who comes from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. It is He who regenerates, sanctifies, and empowers all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide. (Genesis 1:2, John chapters 14,15&16, Galatians 2:20, I Corinthians chapter 12, John 16:9, Romans 8:26)

#### **The Human Condition & God's Solution**

We believe that all people are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation. We believe that human beings are incapable of saving themselves and stand in need of God's gracious love and that Jesus Christ has, through His death and resurrection, done everything necessary for us to have a personal one-to-one relationship with God; we begin to experience the benefits of this when we repent from and confess our sin, and commit our lives under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, our only Savior. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit. (John 1:12, Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9-13, I John 1:9)

#### **The Church**

We believe in the global church, the living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a community of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible declaration of faith, and united for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that we, in response to the Great Commission, have been sent out and given the task of making disciples (disciplined followers of Jesus Christ) from among all ethnic groups. (Acts 1:21, 6:3, I Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:6-9, Matthew 28:19, Mark 15:16)

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## **Christian Lifestyle**

We believe that Christians, as a result of their new life in Christ, will live for the glory of God and the well-being of others; that, empowered by the Holy Spirit, their conduct should be blameless before the world; that they should be faithful caretakers of their possessions, and that they should be always growing into the people God desires them to be. (Ephesians 4:1, Colossians 1:10-14, I Peter 1:14&15)

## **The Ordinances**

We believe that Christ has, according to the Scriptures, instituted two church ordinances for believers:

1. BELIEVER'S BAPTISM as an act of obedience and an expression of a personal commitment to Christian discipleship. The baptism of the believer into and under water "in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit" is symbolic of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ; the end of an old way of life; and the beginning of a new life in Christ. It affirms the Holy Spirit's work that is already experienced by the believer and this public baptism is an outward visible sign of the ongoing and life-long sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19, Romans 6:3&4)
2. THE COMMUNION OF THE LORD'S TABLE as a repeated and frequent reminder of our communal life in Christ, whose death we remember, whose resurrection we celebrate, and whose return we eagerly await. (Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26, Luke 22:7-20, I Corinthians 11:17-26)

## **The Last Things**

We await the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment of all humanity, the eternal joy of those who are made righteous through faith in Jesus Christ alone, and the endless suffering of those who do not place their faith in Him. (Matthew chapters 24&25, John 14:3, Acts 1:11, I Thessalonians 4:16-18, Revelation 20:11-15, 21:1-4, 2 Corinthians 5:10, I Corinthians 3:10-15)