

SIERRA BIBLE CHURCH

TRUCKEE, CALIFORNIA

A

STATEMENT

OF

FAITH, MISSION

AND

PURPOSE

Sierra Bible Church

Mission & Purpose Statement

Our Mission

To know Christ, to exalt Christ, and to make Him known...
(Philippians 3:10, Psalm 34:3, Matthew 28:19)

Our Purpose

We purpose, by faith, to embrace a life-changing and loving relationship with Jesus Christ that is real and personal (John 3:16, 14:23). In obedience, we desire to present our bodies as living sacrifices, and to exalt the Lord in worship, prayer, and service unto Him (Romans 12:1). WE affirm Christ's great commission for us to make disciples in all the world (Matthew 28:19) and the greatest commandment to love God and one another fervently from the heart (Matthew 22:37, I Peter 1:22). We desire to manifest Christ's spiritual fruit (Galatians 5:22 & 23) and employ His spiritual gifts in the building up of the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:12). We desire to minister to the hurting and less fortunate in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord (James 1:27).

Our Statement of Faith

1. We believe that the Bible is the Holy Word of God, and that it is inspired by the Holy Spirit and is profitable for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness (II Timothy 3:15-17). It is our creed. We believe that it is alive and active (Hebrews 4:12) and that it is the only absolute guide for life and conduct that we have. It is pure and total Truth and has the power to change lives (John 7:17, Romans 10:17, Deuteronomy 8:3). We believe the Old and New Testaments to be inerrant as originally given, that they were verbally inspired by God and are a complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men. They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice (II Peter 1:20 & 21).
2. We believe that there is one God (Deuteronomy 6:4) who is infinitely perfect; who reveals Himself in the persons of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We believe that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one in substance and purpose, co-equal and co-eternal, yet are different in position and authority (John 14:28, John 16:7). We do not believe that the Father and Son are the same person...or that the Holy Spirit is just the force of God...for we see that the Bible makes clear distinctions between each of them. These three wonderful manifestations are eternally the one true and living God. Therefore we adhere with all our hearts to what the Bible historians have called "The Doctrine of the Trinity" (Matthew 28:19, Luke 3:22, Matthew 3:16 & 17).
3. We believe that Jesus Christ is true God and true man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died upon the cross, the Just for the unjust, as a substitutionary sacrifice, and all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood. He rose from the dead according to the scriptures. He is now at the right hand of

Majesty on high as our great High Priest (Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 1:36-38, I Peter 3:18, Hebrews 2:9, Romans 5:9, Acts 2:23 & 24, Hebrews 8:1).

4. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, sent to indwell, guide, teach, empower the believer, and to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and of judgment (John 14:15-18, John 16:3, Acts 1:8, John 16:7-11). We believe that Jesus also promised and sent the Holy Spirit into the world to empower true believers to be good and faithful witnesses to His glory and purpose (John 16:8, Luke 24:49, Isaiah 43:10, Acts 1:8, 1:1-4).
5. We believe that man was originally created in the image and likeness of God; that he fell through disobedience, incurring thereby both physical and spiritual death. All men are born with a sinful nature, are separated from the life of God, and can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ (Genesis 1:27, Romans 3:23, John 1:29, I John 2:2).
6. We believe that one is saved only by faith in Jesus' finished work on the cross. This finished work will be evidenced by a changed life and a heart that desires to please God in all things (James 2:14-26). We also believe in the security of the believer and that one who has been truly born again cannot lose that salvation (John 10:22-30).
7. We believe in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 12, Romans 12) and that true believers can and will be empowered by these gifts as the Spirit wills (I Corinthians 12: 7 & 11). We believe that these gifts are for the edification or the building up of the Body of Christ, that we may have power to be witnesses of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus (Acts 1:8). We do not believe that any particular gift is evidence of the Spirit-filled life but that the fruit of one's life bears witness to that filling (Matthew 7:16, Galatians 5:22 & 23).
8. We believe that Jesus Christ will physically again return to the earth, "Coming on the clouds with great power and glory along with multitudes of His saints" (Matthew 24:27 & 30, I Thessalonians 3:13). This time, though, He will not be coming to save the world or to offer salvation, but He will be coming to judge the world and avenge the honor of His Father and the blood of all those "who died for the testimony of God" (Revelation 6:9 & 10, 20:14 & 15, 14:11, 17:14). We believe that there shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust; for the former, a resurrection unto life, for the latter, a resurrection unto judgment (I Corinthians 15:20-23, John 5:28 & 29).
9. We believe that the Church consists of all those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood, and are born again of the Holy Spirit. Christ is the Head of the Body, the Church, which has been commissioned by Him to go into all the world as a witness, preaching the gospel to all nations. We believe that the local church is a body of believers in Christ who are joined together for the worship of God, for edification through the Word of God, for prayer, fellowship, the proclamation of the Gospel, and the observance of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Ephesians 1:22 & 23, Matthew 28: 28 & 29, Acts 2:41-47).

Our Ministry Objectives

We acknowledge the scriptures as God's revealed direction for the Church (I Timothy 3:16). We also note in the scriptures the following distinct ministry objectives that can and will provide focus for the believers at Sierra Bible Church. The objectives are defined under the ministry headings of Upreach...our responsibility to God, Inreach...our responsibility to those in the fellowship of the church, Outreach...our responsibility to those outside of the church. These include but are not necessarily limited to the following:

UPREACH

Worship

Christ warned the church at Ephesus that He would remove their lamp stand (their witness) because they had left their first love (Revelation 2:1-7). Christ stated that loving God is the greatest commandment (Luke 10:27) and that the Father seeks those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). Therefore, we fully embrace a heart-felt worship ministry expressed in psalms, hymns, spiritual songs, and other Spirit-led expressions which are consistent with the scriptures. Specific ministry objectives include the following:

- Worship Teams, that bring glory and honor to God, and lead the body of Christ in expressing their love and adoration to God.
- Seasonal Choirs-to celebrate the Christmas and Easter holidays as well as other special times of celebration.
- Musicians and Singers-who offer up songs and spiritual sacrifices to the Lord.
- Concerts and Special Events-that focus on praising God and the celebration of our corporate life in Christ.
- Skilled and Creative Arts Ministries-for interior and exterior sanctuary design, as well as evangelism and social communication.

Prayer

Prayer is vital communication with God (I Peter 3:12). In our prayers we recognize our dependence upon the Creator. We have every reason to express gratitude for God's blessings (Philippians 4:6), as we continuously respond to God's love for us in our prayers (I Thessalonians 5:17). Effective prayer is the sincere response of believers saved by grace (Ephesians 2:8) to the living God who hears and answers (I Kings 18:24). As such, prayer involves these and other crucial aspects:

- Faith-by placing our trust in the Savior as He is revealed in the teachings of scripture (Matthew 21:22).
- Worship-in exalting God and His will above ours (Matthew 6:9).
- Confession- because God is infinitely Holy and we are sinners still awaiting our ultimate glorification (I John 1:9).
- Love-because God demonstrated His love for us in the gift of His Son (John 3:16).

- Thanksgiving-for every good and perfect gift that comes down from above (James 1:17), especially His love, grace, and peace.
- Dedicated Action-to build up Christ's body and to offer service to those in need (Ephesians 4:12, James 1:27).
- Intercession-making requests for our needs and the needs of others (James 5:6).

We believe that prayer should be an intrinsic part of every ministry in the church and include the following aspects:

- Each gathering of believers should emphasize prayer, including Home Groups, Men's and Women's Fellowship Gatherings, Youth Meetings, Bible Studies and Outreaches.
- Gatherings specifically dedicated to prayer and intercession.
- Prayer Chains-for focusing on specific needs.
- Devotions-we strongly encourage each believer to commit to a daily quiet time of devotional prayer, scripture reading, memorization, and meditation that results in a life fully devoted to Christ (Proverbs 8:17, Romans 12:12, Colossians 3:16, Psalm 119:11, 15).

INREACH

Discipleship

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19 & 20). Only the church, gifted by the Holy Spirit can carry out Christ's great commission (John 14:15-17). We are called to teach all that Christ commanded, so that believers may grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ (II Peter 3:18), being transformed into the image of His Son (II Corinthians 3:18). We note the primary discipling objectives:

- For each member to know what they believe (scripturally), why they believe it, and how to apply scriptural truth in their lives (II Timothy 3:16).
- To equip the body to build strong individuals, marriages, and families (I Timothy 3:18, 5:8, Hebrews 13:4).
- Stewardship, work ethic, and financial principles should be taught so that a Christian example can be maintained in these areas (II Thessalonians 3:10, Luke 16:2-4).
- Sharing our faith with others, offering a reason for the hope that lies within us, is fundamental to our effort (I Peter 3:15).
- Specific equipping of the saints that they might impact the world with God's truth in the hospitals, prisons, schools, with the homeless and the addicted, on the mission field, and to others who desperately need God's touch and the counsel and ministry of His people.

In light of these objectives, we note these active and potential ministries:

- Sunday Worship Services-directed to the widest church gathering, emphasizing the fundamentals of the faith and the application of scriptural truth.

- Children’s Church-age specific, activity-based and geared to supplement Christian training in the home, regarding salvation and Christian living.
- Adult Sunday School & Study Groups-emphasizing observation, interpretation and application of scripture. The doctrines of the Bible, expositional teaching, interactive dialogue, and special topics form the basis of these ministries.
- Home Fellowship Groups & Bible Studies-to encourage participation, sharing, accountability, prayer, spiritual gifts, and the bearing of one another’s burdens.
- Sierra Bible Church Men’s Ministries-challenging men to be godly leaders in their households, church and community.
- Sierra Bible Church Women’s Ministries-training women to love God, their husbands, children, and homes.
- Youth Groups-that are family based but sensitive to the needs of young people. Ministry emphasis on providing avenues for students to become part of the larger body at Sierra Bible Church so they are not isolated. Ministry will result in promoting real and personal relationships with Christ that will last beyond high school.
- New Believer’s Classes-that focus on grounding new believers in the faith.
- Lay Counseling Ministries
- Special Needs Discipleship
- Cult Awareness
- Bible Study Groups

Fellowship

The fellowship that Christians share with God and with one another has a distinctly spiritual meaning. Indeed, our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son, Jesus Christ (I John 1:3), by the indwelling Holy Spirit. Also, as “we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin” (I John 1:7). Therefore, our fellowship is a high calling and carries with it Christ’s will and purpose for transformed lives. We note the following scriptural directives as examples of principles for our fellowship with one another, and view them and all scriptural fellowship principles as essential commandments from the Lord, crucial for our growth in Him:

- Stimulate one another to love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24).
- Be devoted to one another in brotherly love (Romans 12:10).
- Give preference to one another in honor (Romans 12:10).
- Teach and admonish one another (Colossians 3:16, Matthew 18:15-20).
- Employing our gifts to serve one another in love (Galatians 5:13, I Peter 4:10).
- Be kind and compassionate, forgiving each other (Ephesians 4:32).
- Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ (Ephesians 5:21).
- Encourage and build up one another (I Thessalonians 5:11)
- Offer hospitality to one another (Romans 12:13).

We do not believe it is possible to carry out these scriptural mandates for close and intimate fellowship in the Sunday Worship Service alone. We therefore embrace smaller gatherings where personal participation, interaction, prayer, and sharing is encouraged:

- Home Fellowship Groups
- Men's & Women's Prayer and Study Groups
- Special Needs (ministering to the widows, widowers, singles, divorcees, single parents, and convalescents).
- Special Topic Bible Studies (i.e. Parenting, Marriage, Stewardship).
- Prayer Nights
- Special Events (Valentines Banquets, Potlucks, Church Picnics, etc.).

OUTREACH

Evangelism

All believers today are called to make disciples, and to bear witness to the hope that lies within them (I Peter 3:15). We are to be the salt of the earth and light of the world (Matthew 5:13 & 14). Our witness shows forth the transforming power of God in the life of the believer through the completed work of Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:13& 14, Hebrews 4:3). We bear the message of the truth of the Gospel, that Christ died according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures (I Corinthians 15:3 & 4). He (the Father) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin, to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (II Corinthians 5:21). For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). We believe that sharing God's truth regarding the salvation found in Jesus Christ alone, is fundamental to the faith and is being pursued in these current and potential ministries:

- Sunday Morning Worship Services
- AWANA Programs
- Sunday Evening Studies
- Men's & Women's Ministry Meetings
- Short-term Missions
- Fellowship Group activities that would involve the non-believing community.
- Christian Concerts
- Theater Arts
- Christian Publications

Missions

As a Christian & Missionary Alliance Church, our heritage is one of missionary outreach. The scriptures themselves bear witness, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19 & 20). “How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things’” (Romans 10:14). We need to be a sending body, and we need to go as the Spirit would lead us. We therefore embrace these current and potential ministries:

- Missionary Support (prayerful & financial)
- Great Commission Fund Contributions
- Wycliffe Bible Translators Contributions
- Gospel for Asia Contributions
- Haggai Institute Contributions
- Short-term Missions (local & international)
- Outreaches to Truckee

Compassion Ministry

The Book of James says that, “faith without works is dead” (James 2:26). The Good Samaritan really cared, really loved, and took care of a fallen stranger (Luke 10:25-37). Scripture tells us that our compassion or lack of compassion will be dealt with at the judgment seat:

“And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me’” (Matt. 25:32-36).
“Here is pure and undefiled religion that you visit the widows and orphans in their distress” (James 1:27).

We must not let the world exceed the work of Christ’s body in reaching out to those in need. This calls for great sacrifice, great love, and great faith. But we serve a great God and we can not do otherwise. We must remember, “When we do unto the least of these our brethren, we do it unto Him” (Matthew 25:40). We note these current and potential ministries to our community:

- Feeding the Hungry
- Clothing the Poor

- Prison Visitation
- Hospital Ministry
- Meals for the Sick
- Babysitting for Moms with special needs
- Volunteer tutoring
- Literacy Projects
- Crisis Pregnancy Support
- Convalescent and Shut-in Visitation
- Citizen Alert (civic & political awareness)
- Spanish-speaking Ministries

It is our desire that all of the above stated ministries be encouraged, challenged and led by devoted servant leaders.

Servant Leadership

The scriptures clearly teach the principle of servant leadership within the body. Christ washed the feet of the disciples on the night before He went to the cross (John 13:12). He also taught specifically on another occasion:

“But Jesus called them to Himself and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not to be so among you, but whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life a Ransom for many’ (Matthew 20:25-28).

We also acknowledge God-given leadership within the body. The scriptures declare, “Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you” (Hebrews 13:17). “Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of a double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching” (I Timothy 5:17). “Deacons likewise must be men of dignity” (I Timothy 3:8) and so their ministry to the body is vital. We acknowledge the gifts and calling of all men and women who do not serve in a church office, but whose service is essential to the proper functioning of the body. We note the following spiritual, administrative, and practical ministries within the church:

- Spiritual equipping, teaching, service, accountability, and ministry oversight by pastors and elders.
- Practical and spiritual ministries by deacons and deaconesses.
- Administrative oversight by the Leadership Council where elders, deacons, staff, and other men and women who lead various ministries in the body receive counsel, encouragement, and give an account of their ministry stewardship.

Sierra Bible Church Core Beliefs

To know Christ, to exalt Christ,
and to make Him known

We believe in the inerrant Holy Scriptures which proclaim the triune God...Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We praise and worship God for the sacrifice He made for our sins through the death, burial, and resurrection of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We rejoice in knowing that it is by God's grace through faith that we are saved and given eternal life. We humbly acknowledge that the Holy Spirit testifies with our spirits that we are the children of God. We acknowledge that we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which the Father prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Our heart's desire is to bear witness to the glory of God and to salvation in Christ Jesus. Our desire is to please Him and to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which we have been called. We praise God for the Holy Spirit who comforts us and counsels us and who has gifted us to build up the body of Christ. We praise God for the fellowship of believers, and recognize that we are called to love one another fervently from the heart. By the Holy Spirit's help, we long to forsake our own critical spirits, unforgiveness, pride, and selfishness, and choose to think more highly of others than we do ourselves, practicing longsuffering (patience). We desire to embrace a pure and undefiled manner of communication. We desire to speak only such words as are good for the building up of others according to the need of the moment, that we may give grace to those who hear us. We desire to bear one another's burdens, visit the widows and orphans, and help the weak. We gladly affirm before God, "Thy will be done." We consider it an unspeakable privilege to be bondservants of the Holy one of Israel. We bow at His feet and humbly devote ourselves to His eternal purposes in Christ Jesus.