

Church Planting Mission Trip Statement of Faith

I have read the statement below and I attest that I have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. I believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord.

Signature _____

Date _____

Print Name _____

The Bible clearly teaches that God wants to have a personal relationship with each of us. However, as people, we have a problem. The Bible says that we are not righteous: "There is no one righteous, not even one" (Romans 3:10), and it also says that we have sinned: "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Sin has separated us from God and as a result we cannot, on our own, have a personal relationship with God. Please understand that when we mention a personal relationship with God we are not talking about a **religion** but a **relationship**. Some people confuse religion with relationship. We are not talking about a religion, anybody can have a religion. It is not about being a Protestant, or a Catholic, or Baptist, or even a church member. It is not about a religion, but about a relationship, a relationship with God, a close personal relationship with God. A personal relationship with God is something that we can only have on God's terms, not ours. The good news is, God not only wants a personal relationship with us, but He has provided a way through which we can receive forgiveness of our sins, be saved from the consequences of sin, and gain eternal life with Him in Heaven---all this is offered as a free gift to us which we can receive by merely believing, by faith, in God's Son Jesus Christ as our Savior. The Bible says: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith---and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God---not by works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8,9). And "That if you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." (Romans 10:9,10)

Most people have always had the concept that to gain God's favor they would have to demonstrate to Him how good they were and that they would have to have been very religious and have done some exceptionally good deeds to earn His approval in order to gain eternal life. This is totally contrary to God's free offer of eternal life through Jesus Christ as a free gift as presented in the Holy Bible.

If you understand this and recognize that it is not a religion that justifies you before God, but His grace through faith in Jesus Christ, and if you don't remember ever receiving Jesus Christ as your Savior by faith, you can do it now by saying a prayer like the one below. It is really not the exact words that count in a prayer like this but the sincerity you have in your heart to act on faith to believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior. If you feel moved in your heart to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior right now, you can do so by merely believing by faith in Jesus Christ and expressing this faith by saying this prayer. If you would like to do that then pray this prayer by faith to God right now:

"Lord Jesus, I need you. I believe in my heart that you died on the cross for my sins and that God raised you from the dead. I repent of my sins and, by faith, receive your free gift of eternal life. I believe in you as my Savior. Take control of my life and make me the person you want me to be. I pray this in your Holy name, Jesus Christ. Amen."

If you have prayed this prayer for the first time by faith, you have received Jesus Christ as your Savior and you now have a personal relationship with God. God loves you and wants that relationship to become closer and more intimate each day. He wants you to grow in that relationship and become mature in your faith. He wants your love for Him to grow and your love for others to grow, and He wants to bless you abundantly. He wants you to experience love, joy, and peace in your life and have a life that is fulfilled and significant.

If you have any questions regarding this, or other matters, and want to discuss this with a Pastor, please feel free to talk with Ray Berryman, Missions Pastor, or any of our Campus Pastors at FBCW.