



# VIA JESUS

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REACHING SCANDINAVIA BY WAY OF JESUS

# About

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## Our Mission

Via Jesus is a mission effort committed to reaching the Scandinavian nations with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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## Reaching Scandinavia

Comprised of 25 million souls, the nations of Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Finland are the epitome of secular, modern, and affluent. They sit atop Europe both geographically and economically. Spiritually, however, these post-Christian societies have fell victim to the ways of this world. Their vast collection of vacant churches paint a clear picture of religious decline. God has placed it upon our hearts to rekindle a right worship among the Scandinavian people.

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## By Way of Jesus

Currently, there is only a handful of missionaries to any of these countries. God has impressed upon our hearts to go to Scandinavia as church-planting missionaries. Jesus Christ is the only hope for these people's souls. Our prayer is that God would break down the barriers that are restricting these people from believing the gospel.

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## Philosophy



### Preaching the Gospel

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth...” Many Scandinavians have heard of Jesus Christ, but most have never heard the gospel. Our mission is dedicated to sowing the precious seed of God's Word.

### Training national leaders

Paul exhorted Timothy, saying, “the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” With only one life to live, it is imperative that we make disciples who can propagate the message of Christ across our world.



### Planting local churches

God has set the church as the pillar and ground of the truth. There are churches all throughout Scandinavia, but few are preaching the gospel. As believers begin to multiply, we will begin local churches, pastored by local pastors, that serve as God's true house in their land.

# Scandinavia



Scandinavia is the northern region of Europe that comprises the countries of Sweden, Denmark, Norway, and Finland. Referred to as the “Welfare States,” they are known for their social systems that impose heavy taxes on its citizens. For most Scandinavians, the word “need” is almost non-existent. Everything from healthcare, to college tuition, and even retirement is funded by the government. Truly, the only need that they do *not* have fulfilled is the one that is most important: salvation. This need can only be provided from on high, above any principality or power. Jesus Christ is the One they are missing.

Below, you will find some interesting facts characteristic of these individual nations. These facts are to help shed light on their spiritual condition and need for a gospel presence.

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## Sweden

Sweden is one of the most non-religious nations on earth. Gay and lesbian couples are welcomed and willfully married in the churches. Homeschooling is against the law, as well as corporal punishment. Abortions are free, “safe,” and legal in Sweden. Only 3% of Swedes consider the Bible to be the actual Word of God.

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## Denmark

80% of Danes are members of the state Lutheran Church. Of these, a mere 3% attend services regularly. It is one of the world’s most secularized nations. Christianity plays only a minor and indirect role among Danes. Mainly, they want to adhere to the traditions associated with Christianity (Christmas, church weddings, etc.)

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## Norway

In Norway, the monarch is the head of the state-run Lutheran church. He appoints the bishops of the church and the government decides the salaries and pensions. By law, at least half the government must be Lutheran. There is a small Baptist presence in Norway of 0.2% of the total population.

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## Finland

On average, Finnish people attend the state-run Lutheran church services twice a year, mainly for holidays, weddings or funerals. Like the rest of Scandinavia, Finland has long divorced herself from true Christianity. Most Fins are uncomfortable talking about God or spiritual matters.



# The Sixt Family

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## MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

We were married on May 15, 2010, at our home church in Middletown, Ohio. Though we had known one another since 2007, we did not begin dating until 2009, the same year we were engaged. In May of 2011 Beverly graduated from Miami University (Ohio), and I graduated from the Grace Baptist Bible Institute, a small Bible college based out of our home church. God has blessed us with two beautiful sons. Our first son was born on October 22, 2013. His name is Landon. Our second son, Laban, was born on February 2, 2015.



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## MINISTRY

I was ordained into the gospel ministry on June 12, 2011, just weeks after graduating. Our new relationship and new ministry led us to Bible Baptist Church in Radcliff, KY, where we served for one year. After one year in Kentucky, we moved back to our home church and began working in our College and Career ministry. By God's grace, we have served in that ministry for two and a half years. To better prepare for the mission field, I completed a six-month internship at our local church from August 2014 to February 2015. While working at Grace, I taught in our Bible institute, helped begin a bookstore ministry, and helped with various projects throughout the church. The internship also helped provide the means for us to take our survey trip.

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## MISSIONS

It was in the beginning part of 2013 that I knew God was calling us to the mission field. Since that time, God has allowed me to take three missions trips, all overseas. My first trip was to China with veteran missionary Jake Taube. There I got to see an established church-planting ministry that had started four churches in only seven years. Later on, in June of 2014, I was asked to participate in a baseball camp in Hungary. Since baseball is foreign to most of Hungarians, the pastor, Zsolt Kovacs, wanted to use it as an evangelistic outreach to the local children. Twelve souls made professions of faith during that trip. The last and most recent trip God allowed us to take was a survey trip to Scandinavia. We visited four cities in Denmark and Sweden.

# Testimonies

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## Don

I was raised in a Christian home and received Christ as my Savior when I was five years old. Though I have been saved most of my life, I did not walk with God throughout much of my teenage years. It was while playing baseball in college that God led me to repentance and restored me to a faithful fellowship with Himself. Following my junior year, I transferred to the Grace Baptist Bible Institute, a small four-year Bible college out of my home church. I met my wife, Beverly, while in Bible college, and we were married on May 15, 2010. Upon my graduation and ordination in 2011, I served for one year as Director of Student Ministries at Bible Baptist Church in Radcliff, Kentucky. We moved back to Ohio in 2012 where we served in our College ministry for two and a half years. I recently completed a six-month internship at my home church. We are currently on deputation as missionaries to Scandinavia. Jesus has proven Himself faithful to me, and I love Him with all my heart. I am excited to see what God will do in the most secular and non-religious region on earth.



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## Beverly

I was also raised in a Christian home, and made a profession of faith when I was eight years old. However, I doubted my salvation during some of my teenage years, and I gained that assurance at the age of seventeen. Fellowship Baptist Church, home of the Fellowship Tract League, was my home church for many years. While at Fellowship, I had the opportunity to serve in the church and at the Tract League. I have always had a heart for the ministry and surrendered to full-time Christian service when I was eighteen. My philosophy has always been to follow my husband wherever the Lord may lead him. Though Scandinavia is very dark spiritually, I am trusting God to shine through us to bring the Gospel light to many.



# Education

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Wabash Valley College, 2004-2006

By God's grace, I was able to play baseball while in college. The first school I played at was Wabash Valley, located in Mt. Carmel, Illinois. I graduated from Wabash with an Associates of Science degree.



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Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW), 2006-2007

After two years of junior college ball, I was recruited by the division one university IPFW, which is located in Fort Wayne, Indiana. I played there for one year, pitching against teams such as Tennessee, Indiana, Georgetown, Boston College. It was during this season that God restored me to proper fellowship with Him. While in Fort Wayne, I attended the New Heights Baptist Church, pastored by Dr. Gary Lovens. With the support of great friends and an entire church, I decided to leave baseball for Bible school, a decision I have never regretted.

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Grace Baptist Bible Institute, 2007-2011

From 2007-2011 I worked full time during the day while taking a full load of classes during the evenings at the Bible institute of my home church, Grace Baptist. It was at the institute that I gained a strong foundation of biblical doctrine.

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Continuing Education

When I left IPFW in 2007, I was eleven classes away from receiving my Bachelor's degree from Indiana University. Since that time, I have taken six classes, and am now only five away from completing my degree. As soon as time and funds permit, I will continue pursuing my Bachelor's degree and beyond.

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Miami University, 2005-2011

Beverly graduated cum laude from Miami University (Ohio) in 2011 with a Bachelor of Integrative Studies. She also has an Associate degree in Business Management. While at Miami, she helped start a student organization called "Grace at Miami" (G.A.M.), which is a college ministry of Grace Baptist Church. She served as President of this organization for three years. Beverly has also taken multiple classes at the Grace Baptist Bible Institute.



# Experience

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## Ordination

I was ordained on June 12, 2011, under the ministry of Dr. Roger Green.

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## Bible Baptist Church, Director of Student Ministries, 2011-2012

During the last half of my senior year in Bible college, Pastor Roger Green recommended me to the Bible Baptist Church in Radcliff, Kentucky. While in Radcliff, under the leadership of Dr. Thomas Green, I worked in the Youth ministry and in the Christian school, helped coach the boys basketball team, led a bus route, taught a discipleship class, sang in the choir, and helped organize events.

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## China Mission Trip, 2013

In the summer of 2013, the Lord allowed me to visit an established church-planting ministry in Northeast China. It was a tremendous, eye-opening experience to see God's hand at work among the Chinese. While in China, I witnessed church-planting first hand and asked many questions concerning missions and living overseas.

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## Hungary Mission Trip, 2014

Though I never dreamed the Lord would afford me the opportunity to use baseball as a tool of evangelism, the dream was realized in Debrecen, Hungary in 2014. There are only a few Bible-believing churches in all of Hungary, and there can't be many more baseball diamonds. Nevertheless, Hungarian missionary Zsolt Kovacs, Pastor of the Bible Baptist Church of Debrecen, invited me and two other men from my home church to conduct a youth baseball camp. While in Hungary, I preached in the local church, presented the gospel to the children at the camp, and gave them some pointers on how to play baseball. By the end of the week-long camp, seven young people made professions of faith in Jesus Christ.

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## Grace Baptist Church, Internship, 2014

I accepted a six-month internship at my home church in August of 2014. This internship provided my family the opportunity to better prepare for the mission field. During the six months at Grace, we took a survey trip to Sweden and Denmark, helped initiate the formation of a mission board, and served in various ministries throughout the church.



# Home Church

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Grace Baptist Church, Middletown, Ohio



Established in 1945, Grace Baptist Church has been in existence for seventy years. Today, it still holds to the cardinal doctrines of the Christian faith and the purest standards of fundamentalism. Started as a mission work itself, Grace Baptist currently supports one hundred and fifty mission works worldwide. The church's annual missions conference is held every year in September. It is always a highlight event.

Dr. Max Fernandez is the current pastor of Grace Baptist Church. He is actively engaged in door-to-door soul-winning and life-on-life discipleship. Pastor Fernandez has a passion for world evangelism and takes no less than two overseas mission trips every year.

For twenty three years, Grace was pastored by Dr. Roger Green. Under the ministry of Dr. Green, the church vastly expanded its worldwide missionary involvement. Many men and families yielded their lives to full-time Christian service during his ministry. Dr. Green still takes no less than two overseas mission trips per year, usually to the Philippines and Eastern Europe. Dr. Green serves as the President of IBMA (Independent Baptist Mission for Asians).

Grace Baptist Church has a separate 501(c)(3) to support its home missionaries. It is the sending agent for our ministry, Via Jesus.



# Recommendations

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Dr. Max Fernandez, Pastor

Dear Pastor, thank you for taking the time to consider the Sixt family as your missionaries to Sweden. Don and Beverly are longtime members of Grace Baptist Church, Middletown, Ohio, where Don was also ordained. I have personally known Don and Beverly for over 10 years. Brother and Sister Sixt have both been born again and baptized. In addition, they have served faithfully in various ministries throughout our church. They have continually and consistently grown in their Christian lives. I am recommending this couple and the ministry God has placed before them. My prayer is that you will carefully consider having Don and Beverly in your church and supporting this great ministry. This ministry would be a great investment for the cause of Christ. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me directly at the number provided below. In Christ, Max Fernandez, Pastor, Grace Baptist Church, 937-269-9482



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Dr. Roger Green, Former Pastor

Dear Pastor, it is with joy that I recommend to you Bro. Donnie Sixt and his sweet wife Beverly along with their precious babies Landon and Laban as missionaries to Scandinavia. It was my privilege to be Donnie's pastor for over twenty-three years and Beverly's for seven years. I had the honor of performing their wedding. Donnie graduated from the Grace Baptist Bible Institute, which is a ministry of the Grace Baptist Church of Middletown, Ohio. I have watched a young couple grow in Christ and their heart captured for the call of missions. I know of no better place you could invest your mission dollar than in this young couple. They have my highest recommendation. As you may have questions, feel free to contact me at 937-478-2844. God bless and thanks for your investment in the cause of Christ and the Gospel for lost souls. Sincerely, Roger D. Green, D. Min.



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Glenn Mogle, Branch Manager, ABC Supply Co., Dayton, Ohio

To whom it may concern, I take great pleasure in writing this letter of reference on the behalf of Donald Sixt. Don came to work for us at ABC Supply, Dayton as a CDL driver. During the time he spent with us, his attendance, attitude and dedication has been nothing short of spectacular. He takes great pride in all his actions and we consistently received positive customer feedback. I know he is following his passion now, and I admire his ambition and know that he will excel in all his future endeavors. My door will always be open for Don to return, he is a diamond of a person and will always consider him a friend. My loss is definitely someone else's gain. If any further information is ever needed please feel free to contact me. Glenn A Mogle, Branch Manager, ABC Supply Inc., Glenn.mogle@abcsupply.com, 937-604-3652 cell



# Beliefs

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## The Word of God

The 66 books of the Bible make up the Word of God (39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament). All scripture was inspired by God as men were moved by the Holy Ghost. God has also perfectly and divinely preserved His Word through the ages. The Word of God is inerrant and infallible, is harmoniously and divinely synced together in its canonicity, and is the supreme and final authority in faith and life. God reveals His truth to people today through the preaching of the Word of God and the working of the Holy Spirit.

[II Timothy 3:16](#); [II Peter 1:21](#); [II Samuel 23:2](#); [Psalm 12:6-7, 19:7](#); [John 1:1](#); [Romans 10:13-15](#); [Hebrews 4:12](#); [John 17:17](#); [John 15:26](#); [John 16:8-13](#)

We use the King James Bible for all teaching and preaching in English.

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## The Godhead

God is one God, holy, eternal, omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, and unchanging. God is manifested in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. These three are one in nature, attributes, power, and glory.

[Deuteronomy 6:4](#); [Mark 1:9-11](#); [Matthew 28:19-20](#); [Hebrews 1:8](#); [Exodus 3:14](#); [Psalm 90:2](#); [Malachi 3:6](#); [Psalm 139](#); [Psalm 29:2](#); [Psalm 24:7-10](#); [Jeremiah 32:27](#); [Matthew 19:26](#); [Genesis 1:1-3](#); [Genesis 18:14](#); [Romans 11:33](#)

## Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the only Son of God. Jesus Christ is true God and true man. He was born of the virgin Mary by divine conception of the Holy Ghost, was crucified for the sins of mankind, died to save the world and give everlasting life to all who believe, and rose from the grave the third day to grant resurrection from the dead. He sits at the right hand of the throne of God.

[Luke 1:26-38](#); [Matthew 1:18](#); [John 1:1-14](#); [Galatians 4:4](#); [Hebrews 1:8](#); [I Peter 2: 21-24](#); [II Corinthians 13:4](#); [John 3:16](#); [Romans 5:9-10](#); [Romans 8:34](#); [I Corinthians 15:12-21](#); [Hebrews 12:2](#)

## The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is proven to be God through the names given to Him, the attributes pertaining to Him, and the works accomplished by Him. He is present in creation, in salvation, and indwells and empowers the believer.

[John 4:24](#); [Matthew 28:19-20](#); [II Corinthians 3:16-18](#); [Genesis 1:2](#); [Hebrews 9:14](#); [I Corinthians 6:19](#); [John 14:16, 26](#); [John 15:26](#); [Romans 8:15](#); [Galatians 3:2](#)

Concerning the unbeliever, the Holy Spirit strives with men, testifies of Christ, and convicts of sin.

Genesis 6:3; John 15:26; John 16:8-11

The Holy Spirit is ever-present in the believer. The Holy Spirit regenerates the new believer, indwells the believer, fills the believer, liberates him and equips and empowers him for Christian service. He convicts of sin and produces fruit in the believer. The Spirit also makes intercession to God on behalf of the believer and will one day quicken the mortal body of the believer in the resurrection of the dead.

Hebrews 13:5; Ephesians 1:13; Ephesians 4:30; II Corinthians 1:22; John 3:3-6; John 6:63; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 5:18; Acts 6:3; Romans 8:2, 14; I Thessalonians 5:19; Acts 1:8; Galatians 5:22-23; Romans 8:26-27; Romans 8:11

The baptism of the Spirit occurs the moment a sinner is saved by faith in Christ. There is no believer that has not experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Moreover, no believer is more or less baptized by the Spirit than any other believer. The filling of the Spirit, however, concerns the degree to which the believer yields to the Spirit's conviction and control. The more a believer yields to the desires of the flesh, the less he will yield to the Spirit of God, and vice versa. The Holy Spirit baptism occurs once for the believer, but the filling of the Spirit can occur at different occasions or in various degrees.

Matthew 3:11; I Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:2-3; Galatians 3:13-14; Galatians 3:26-27; Ephesians 5:18; Acts 6:3; Romans 8:5; Romans 8:13

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## Man

Man was created by God, and for God, on the sixth of day of the creation week. Man was created in the image of God.

Genesis 1:26-31; Colossians 1:16; Genesis 1:27

Man was originally created perfect and without sin. The fall of Adam in the garden ushered sin and death into the world.

Genesis 1:31; Romans 5:12-19

Outside of the grace of God, man is in total rebellion against God and is unable to access Him or have peace with Him. In this state, man is completely unable to please God morally or spiritually, and is under the eternal wrath of God. Outside of Christ, man is the enemy of God.

Romans 3:9-18; Romans 3:23; Hebrews 11:6; Romans 14:23; John 3:36; Romans 5:1-2; Romans 7:13-25; Romans 1:18; Romans 5:9-10; James 4:4

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## Sin

Sin is anything and everything (physical, spiritual, or moral) that comes short of the glory of God or opposes His holiness. Sin originated in the garden of Eden when Adam fell (one may also argue that it originated in Lucifer when he fell from heaven). The result of sin is death. The remedy of sin and death is Christ, for it is only through Him that man can be restored to fellowship with God.

Genesis 1:16-17; Genesis 3; Romans 3:10-18; James 4:17; Romans 6:19-23; Romans 5:12; Romans 5:20-21; Romans 6:1-23; Acts 4:12

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## Salvation

Salvation is a free gift of God that He bestows upon men by His grace and mercy. A lost person can be saved by repenting of their sins and believing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable concerning salvation; both occur simultaneously in the individual. Saving faith is evidenced by an apparent change in one's works, outward and inward, although these works do not actually save the individual. Saving faith is also evidenced by the chastisement of God upon an individual. Salvation is best illustrated as a new spiritual birth. Upon faith in Christ and repentance toward God, the spirit is quickened and a new life is brought forth.

Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; Mark 1:15; Matthew 3:8; Matthew 9:13; Acts 20:21; II Corinthians 7:10; Hebrews 6:6; Ephesians 2:10; Hebrews 10:24; Titus 2:14; Titus 3:8; Titus 1:16; Hebrews 12:6; John 3:1-8

Christ's work on the cross atoned for the sins of the whole world, but the effect of His atonement is only realized in those who believe on Him as Lord and Savior.

I John 2:2; Romans 5:11; Romans 10:13; John 3:16

To be justified is to be made righteous before God. A justified person is at peace with God and free from His wrath. A future glorification will also accompany a justified person. Justification cannot be earned by merit or works. Justification is accomplished by the grace of God when an individual places their faith in Christ. It is perhaps best defined in the simple phrase, "Just as if I had never sinned."

Romans 3:19-26; Romans 5:1; Romans 5:9; Romans 8:30; Romans 8:33; Romans 3:28; Titus 3:4-7; Galatians 2:16

A saved person is considered a child of God and a purchased possession of Christ. These represent relationship and ownership, respectively. A relationship with God comes by spiritual birth into His family. Concerning ownership, Christ paid for the believer with His own blood. God has promised that He will never leave nor forsake His people. Neither Satan nor man can rip a believer of salvation, for a saved person is kept in the grasp of God (in the context of a sheep being guarded by a shepherd). Furthermore, since salvation is not based upon works (good or bad), but upon faith in Christ, works cannot reverse regeneration. Unbelief itself cannot reverse the work of God in salvation, for God would then have to deny himself. Moreover, the Holy Spirit seals the believer at the moment of salvation, keeping him until the day of redemption. Lastly, it is the seed of the Word of God whereby we are born again, and the Word of God is incorruptible and eternal. The Word of God is truth.

Romans 8:16-17; Ephesians 1:13-14; John 3:3-8; Acts 20:28; Hebrews 13:5; John 10:27-29; Ephesians 2:8-9; II Timothy 2:13; Ephesians 1:13-14; I Peter 1:23; John 17:17

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## Baptism

New Testament baptism is a visual display of new life in Christ. The spiritual activity that occurs in someone the moment he is saved is visually seen in figure when he is baptized. The man standing out of the water represents the old man of sin. The immersion into water portrays the death of the old man of sin that happens at salvation. The newly baptized believer standing back out of the water represents the new life that he has in Christ. Only believers in Christ may be baptized, and they may only be baptized after they have professed genuine faith in Him. Complete immersion under water is the only way in which the death, burial, and resurrection can be fully expressed. Jesus was fully immersed in water when He was baptized.

Baptism is also the means by which believers are added to a local church body. Baptism is one of the two ordinances Christ gave to the church, thus the authority to baptize is held within the local church.

[Romans 6:3-4](#); [Colossians 2:12](#); [Acts 2:41](#); [Acts 8:34-39](#); [Mark 1:9-11](#); [Matthew 28:19-20](#)

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## Sanctification and Holiness

Sanctification means to be set apart, specifically for the service of the Lord. A Christian is sanctified by the truth of the Word of God. The complete makeup of man (spirit, soul, body) has the ability to be set apart for God's use. Sanctification is progressive, meaning that it does not happen at one single point in time, but rather at the rate of the believer's spiritual growth.

[John 17:17](#); [I Thessalonians 5:23](#); [II Peter 3:18](#); [II Timothy 2:20-21](#);

\* There are some instances in the New Testament where the word "sanctification" is used in regards of salvation; however, in these instances the word is being used to denote separation from the world and its vices, and separation unto God.

Holiness of life is maintained when the believer abides in Christ and abounds in love toward his brethren. Holiness also deals with keeping oneself morally and spiritually clean. Abiding in Christ requires obedience to the Word of God and the principles and commandments found therein. Lastly, the New Testament often attaches holiness to the return of Jesus Christ with His saints. If the believer lives in the reality that Christ's return is imminent, he will be more apt to live a holy life, knowing that he is soon to be before God. Jude 20-21 does a great job of tying in all of the above points, adding to them the necessity of prayer.

[I John 2:6](#); [I John 2:10](#); [I Thessalonians 3:12-13](#); [I Thessalonians 4:7](#); [II Corinthians 7:1](#); [John 15:1-12](#); [Hebrews 12:14-15](#); [Revelation 20:6](#); [I Corinthians 15:50-58](#); [Jude 20-21](#)

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## Life After Death

When a believer dies, his spirit separates from his body and enters into the presence of the Lord. When an unbeliever dies, his spirit separates from his body and enters into the depths of hell. Both the saved and the unsaved will face judgment after death. The saved will be judged at the judgment seat of Christ. They will live eternally with God in Heaven. The unsaved, however, will be judged by their works at the great white throne of God. The unsaved will be cast into the lake of fire with death and hell, which is called the second death.

II Corinthians 5:6-8; Luke 16; Hebrews 9:27; Romans 14:10-11; II Corinthians 5:10; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:11-15

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## The Church

The greek word for church, “ekklesia,” literally means, “a called out assembly.” The term “church” is used in the New Testament in two different manners, both referring to this same thing, “a called out assembly.” Throughout Acts, the epistles, and the first three chapters of Revelation, the term church is mainly used to refer to a local congregation of baptized believers. These autonomous assemblies make up local representations of the body of Christ, with each member representing a different part of the body. The second manner in which the term “church” is used in scripture is to refer to the complete body of Christ that will one day be united together in one location in the presence of Christ. On earth, as in heaven, Christ is the head of the body, the church.

Acts 8:1; Acts 13:1; Revelation 1:11; I Corinthians 1:2; I Corinthians 1:12-16; I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 5:25-27; Ephesians 5:32; Ephesians 4:11-13; Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18

The mission of the church is threefold: evangelize the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ, baptize believers, and instruct them in the knowledge of God and His Word. The purpose of the church is to bring glory and honor to Christ, as it is His body, His bride, and His house. The church is the pillar and ground of the truth. Also, through the church Christians are able to observe the ordinances of baptism and the Lord’s table and give tithes and offerings.

Matthew 28:19-20; II Timothy 2:2; I Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 5:25; Revelation 21:9; I Timothy 3:15; I Corinthians 11:2; I Corinthians 11:23-26; I Corinthians 16:2

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## Spiritual Gifts

The Lord places believers in different positions and grants to them various spiritual gifts in order to perform specific functions, all to fulfill His purpose within the body of Christ. Although different members possess different spiritual gifts and talents, God uses these diversities of gifts severally as He will to the profitability of the whole body.

Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Romans 12:3-8

There are New Testament verses that refer to the speech connected with this gift as both foreign and angelic. Either way, the gift of speaking in tongues ceased centuries ago. It was given to the apostles and early Christians as a means of spreading the gospel of Christ to the Gentile world. Today the scriptures are fully canonized, and there is no need for such a gift.

I Corinthians 13:1; I Corinthians 13:8; Acts 2:1-11

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## Giving

It is a biblical mandate to give to God a portion of one’s increase – this has always come in the form of tithes and offerings. The word “tithe” simply means “a tenth;” thus a minimum of ten percent of one’s earnings should be given to God as a tithe. All giving in excess of this amount is an offering



given cheerfully of one's own will and purpose. Nevertheless, both tithes and offerings are commanded by God, not only the former.

Scripture sets forth the principle and practice of systematic, "storehouse tithing." Following this practice, God's people are to regularly give to a central locale, the funds then being distributed to benefit the community associated with that locale. In the Old Testament kingdom of Israel, all tithes and offerings were to be given to the house of God (the tabernacle or Temple). In our current dispensation, the local church serves as the house of God and is the place that all tithes and offerings are to be brought.

That tithing is a commandment which was abolished when Christ liberated us from the law is an erroneous argument when we consider that Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek during a dispensation that was without law.

[Genesis 14:20; Malachi 3:8-10; 2 Corinthians 9:7; 1 Timothy 3:15; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2](#)

There is an abundance of grace associated with the act of giving. As God's people give to God that which He requests and which is rightfully His, He in turn supplies them with more than they previously had before they ever gave and more than they would have had if they retained their gift for themselves. By giving in accordance with scripture, God's people are enabled to supply the needs of the local church and spread the gospel of Christ around the world.

[Romans 11:35; Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; 1 Corinthians 9:9; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5](#)

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## Last Things

The scriptures teach a pre-tribulational, pre-millennial return of Christ to rapture His church from the earth. The rapture itself is the moment in time at the end of this age when Christ will gather together in the clouds all the redeemed of the earth. It is said that the dead in Christ will rise first, at the sound of the trumpet of God, and then those that are alive and remain will be caught up together with them. This special moment, which will take place in a twinkling of an eye, is the blessed hope of the believer today. It is at this time that all Christians everywhere will meet Christ face to face for the first time and be made like Him.

[1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; 1 Corinthians 15:52; Titus 2:13; 1 John 3:2](#)

The rapture of the church occurs directly before the tribulation period begins. Unlike the second coming of Christ to the earth, when the rapture occurs the Lord will gather His people together in the clouds to meet them in the air (Christ will not touch down on earth again at this time). Those saints that are dead will rise first. Then all of the redeemed of the earth will meet Christ in the air, both literally and physically. During the tribulation time on earth, the redeemed will participate in the marriage supper of the lamb, being arrayed in righteousness.

[Revelation 3:10; II Peter 2:9; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 19:1-9](#)

The millennium concerns the thousand year reign of Christ on earth. The bodily return of Christ to earth will usher in the millennium (thus coming immediately before the millennium). During this time, Satan will be bound from earth in the bottomless pit. Christ the King will rule the world from Jerusalem. The saved will reign with Christ a thousand years as priests of God.

Revelation 20:1-6; Zechariah 14:1-4; Isaiah 24:23; Luke 1:30-33

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## Civil Government

According to scripture, there are three sovereign and independent institutions ordained by God: the home, the church, and the state. Because each of these institutions were ordained of God, they are also answerable to God, He being the ultimate power. To resist or rebel against the powers that God has ordained is to resist God Himself. In an effort to live peaceably with all men, and for the cause of Christ around the world, Christians ought to pray for those in positions of leadership and authority. Only in instances where obedience to authority requires disobedience to God should that authority not be obeyed nor rule honored. God Himself is the supreme ruler and authority of the Christian's soul and conscience.

Genesis 2:18-24; Matthew 10:28; Mark 12:13-17; Acts 4:19-20; Rom. 13:1-7; Ephesians 5:22-24; 1 Timothy 2:1-4; Titus 3:1; Heb. 13:17; I Pet. 2:13-17

## Contact Information

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Grace Baptist Church



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## Support Address

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GBC Missions

Grace Baptist Church has its own 501(c)(3) to support its home missionaries. Because it is a ministry of the church, it is located at the same location as the church. Please make all checks payable to "Grace Baptist Church," and include "Don Sixt" in the memo line.

Mark Allen is the name of our Missions Director. Bro. Allen serves on the pastoral staff at Grace Baptist Church. He has been on many mission trips throughout the years, including twenty to the Philippines alone. Please contact him with any questions regarding our missions program. His phone number is listed below.



937-602-9973



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