MILTON

THINGS MOST CERTAINLY BELIEVED AMONG US

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PREFACE

This little booklet came about as a direct request from brethren gathered at Oceanview Bible Camp for a Camp Staff Retreat in April 1995, after a presentation of some of these things; it was suggested that it be preserved in booklet form. It is not an exposition of these truths but a brief outline of them.

We are sure that there are other truths that one would desire to be included in this paper but they did not come to mind. We are sending forth these few words trusting the Lord to use them for His glory, and for the blessing of His people.

The reader is asked to look up the Scripture verses given in the text.

For further help contact:

Milton P. Jamieson

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Ledgister and Sons Plaza

Santa Cruz, St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, W.I.

Phone: 809-966-2934

"Things which are most surely believed among us." Luke 1:1

- 1. We believe in the verbal unerring inspiration of all Scripture (1 Tim. 3:16; 1 Pet. 1:21) and that there is now no ongoing inspiration. We therefore hold and accept the sixty-six books of our present Bible as the Word of God, and the only Holy Scriptures (Jude 3; Rev. 22:18-19).
- We believe in **One, True and Living God** who has revealed Himself to us in Three distinct Persons, known as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Gen. 1:26; Prov. 30:4; Isa. 48:16; Matt. 3:16-17; 28-29; 2 Cor. 13:14).
- We believe that **God created** man and the universe, and **all things** that are in heaven and on the earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones or dominions, principalities or powers; all things were created by Him and for Him (Gen. 1; John 1; Col. 1; Heb. 1; Ps 33:6-9; Heb. 11:3; Acts 17:24 26).

- 4. We believe in **the fall** and utter sinfulness of all mankind (Gen. 3:1-24; Rom. 3:9-18; 5:12; 1 Cor. 15:22 etc.).
- 5. We believe in **the virgin birth**, the sacrificial death, the burial and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from among the dead on the first day of the week (Matt. 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20; Acts 1:1-11; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; Luke 1:26-35; Isa. 7:14).
- 6. We believe that salvation is by grace through faith alone, and that in order to receive this salvation, one must repent toward God, and place faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:8-9; Acts 20:21). A life of good works should follow salvation (Eph. 2:10; Matt. 5:16; Titus 3:1-8).
- 7. We believe that all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ should be baptized (immersed) in water, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16), and that the act

of baptism does not save the soul, but is the answer of a good conscience toward God and an act of obedience to the Lord's word, a testimony unto the Lord, and an identification of oneself with the Lord Jesus in His death and burial (Rom. 6:3-5).

- 8. We believe that all who receive Jesus Christ as Saviour, have eternal Life, as a present possession and shall never perish, nor can they be robbed from the Lord (John 10:27-29; 1 John 5:11-13).
- 9. We believe that the *Lord Jesus Christ is the One and Only Centre of gathering*: that believers should gather unto His name alone, and that gathering unto any other names, or doctrines, has no scriptural authority, and will not be honoured with His presence in the midst (Matt. 18:20).

We also believe that all the saints in every locality should come together in that locality every first day of the week for the **Breaking** of **Bread** in remembrance of the Lord. By

this we also show forth His death, and offer praise and worship to God and manifest the one body of Christ (Acts 20:7; Matt. 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:23-34).

10. We believe in the **Person and work of the Holy Spirit**: His work in Creation, in the inspiration of the Scriptures, in the virgin birth of Christ, in the baptism filling and sealing of believers in Christ, along with the manifestation and use of the fruit and gifts which are given by Him (Gen. 1:2; Luke 1:25; 2 Pet. 1:21; 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 5:18; 1:13; 4:30; Gal. 5:22-23; 1 Cor. 12).

We also believe and affirm that He Himself is God (Acts 5:3-4), possessing all the attributes of God: Omniscience (1 Cor. 2:10-11), Omnipresence (Psalm 139:7) and Omnipotence (Gen. 1:2 etc.).

11. We believe that the **Blessed Holy Spirit in the Church** is the One who leads and guides the saints in worship, prayers, preaching, teaching and in every other area of service

and that He should be free and unhindered in using whom He will. No human functionary should take precedent over Him in directing the affairs of the Assembly (1 Cor. 12:1-11; 1 Thess. 5:19).

- Christ is the Eternal Son of the Father, and that He Himself is God, ever to be worshipped, honoured and adored by all created beings, i.e. angels, men and all creation as they all do worship the father. (Prov. 30:4; John 1:1-3, 14; John 5:21-23; Heb. 1:6-8; Isa. 9:6; Rev. 1:8). That He Himself is the only Way, the whole Truth, and Eternal Life (John 14:6; 1 John 5:20; 1 Tim. 3:16). That He is pure and sinless, and that He could not sin (2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:22; 1 John 3:5).
- 13. We believe that **there is one true Church** of the Living God—The Body and Bride of Christ, and the Building and House of God to which all believers belong; both Jews and Gentiles, and is distinct from Judaism and

- Paganism (Matt. 16:18; 1 Tim 3:15; 1 Cor. 10:32; 1 Cor. 3:9; Rev. 21:9).
- 14. We believe that no Christian believer should be a member of a denomination. Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are members of the one body of Christ, members one of another, and members in particular (1 Cor. 12:12-27; Rom. 12: 4-5).
- 15. We believe that there is only one Head of the church. He is the risen and glorified Lord, Jesus Christ. That the Church has no human head, but the Son of God alone (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:8).
- We believe that the **Scripture is the standard of God** by which all who that believe are governed. There is no other rule or dogma, but "*Thus saith the Lord*." Everyone must bow to the Scripture as the Word and authority of God in all matters of faith and conduct (2 Tim. 3:15-17; Isa. 8:20).

- 17. We believe that **all believers are priests** (male or female) (1 Pet. 2:5,9; Rev. 1:16; Rev. 5:10), but we also believe that **the woman should be silent in the Church meetings**—that she should not teach or exercise authority over man (1 Tim. 2:11-14; 1 Cor. 14:34-38). She should be modestly dressed, with her head covered according to the Scriptures (1 Tim. 2:9; 1 Pet. 3:3-6; 1 Cor. 11:3-16).
- 18. We believe that **human ordination** is not consistent with the teaching of the Scriptures, but that we should obey and submit to those whom the Lord has given gifts and set in positions of responsibility in the Assembly (Heb. 13:17; 1 Tim. 5:17). We "esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake" (1 Thess. 5:12-13; Acts 20:28).
- 19. We believe in **Separation unto God from every evil**: Evil teaching, immoral living and evil associations (2 Tim. 2:19-21; 2 Cor. 6:17; 2 John 1:7-11; 1 Cor. 5:9-13; Hag. 2:10-13).

- 20. **We believe in prayer for all men,** for kings and for all in authority (1 Tim. 2:1-3).
- 21. We believe in One Mediator between God and man—The man Christ Jesus. All prayers directed to God must be in and through the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ in order to receive God's answer (John 14:13-14).
- We believe that **there will be two separate resurrections**: the resurrection of the just and the resurrections of the unjust (Acts 24:15; John 5:28-29; Rev. 20:4-6).
- We believe that **the Lord Himself will come**; and that all that are Christ's will rise to meet the Lord in the air. This we believe can take place at any moment now, as there is no prophecy that needs to be fulfilled before our Lord returns to receive His bride (the church) from the earth unto Himself (John 14:3; 1 Thess. 4:16-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-53; Phil. 3:20-21).

- We believe that **Christ shall return to the earth to reign** as King of kings and Lord of lords for one Thousand years. That His reign will bring joy, peace, fruitfulness and blessings to the earth. (Isa. 2:1-5; Isa. 65:18-25; Isa. 11:1-10; Zech. 14:9-21; Phil. 2:9-11; Rev. 19:11-16), and that the Church, Christ's wife, will reign with Him (Rev. 19:7-8; Rev. 20:4-6; Rev. 21:9-27; 2 Tim. 2:12; 1 Cor. 6:1-3).
- 25. We believe in the complete destruction of the present heavens and the earth, and all that are touched by sin (2 Pet. 3:10-12). We further believe that there will be a new heaven and earth, in which righteousness will dwell (2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1-5).
- We believe in **eternal judgment and eternal hell** for the lost (Rev. 20:11-15; Heb. 6:2; Heb. 9:27; Matt. 25:46).
- 27. We believe in announcing the whole counsel of God; preaching and teaching

men everywhere, night and day, publicly and from house to house; testifying to all repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe further, that our Lord Jesus Christ saves completely and forever, those that come to Him by faith (Acts 20:20-21; Heb. 7:25; Col. 1:28).

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