

## Close To His Heart Ministry

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### **Vision Statement**

We want to bring the love of Jesus Christ to those in the prisons through His word by forgiveness, revelation, reconciliation, and Restoration.

*Matt. 25:34-40, Luke 4:18-19*

### **Statement of Faith**

**GOD** Is the Creator and Ruler of the universe? He has eternally existed in three personalities: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are coequal and are one God.

*Genesis 1:1,26,27; Matthew 28:19*

**JESUS CHRIST** Is the Son of God and was born of a virgin? He is coequal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He rose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

*Matt. 1:22,23; John 1:1-5*

**THE HOLY SPIRIT** Is coequal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer spiritual gifts and empowers them to do the work of the ministry. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily.

*Eph. 1:13; Acts 1:8*

**THE BIBLE** is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture of error.

*2 Timothy 1:13; 2 Peter 1:20,21*

**SALVATION** is God's free gift to us, but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in

Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith, we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith. *Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8,9*

**ETERNITY** - People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.  
*John 3:16; Rom. 6:23*

**COMMUNION** - Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols as reminders of His death. These two ordinances are: Water Baptism and Communion. When we take Communion we are proclaiming the Lord's death until he comes again.  
*1 Cor. 11:23-26*

**WATER BAPTISM** - We are baptized in water to follow the example set by Jesus and because Christ instructs us to do so. It demonstrates that we are believers and illustrates our new life in Christ. Water baptism is like a wedding ring, it's the outward symbol of the commitment we made in our heart. *Matt. 28:19-20*

**HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM** - Baptism in the Holy Spirit is an experience which initiates a decisively new awareness of the all powerful presence of God, working in one's life, and usually involves one or more spiritual gifts. This is a different experience from water Baptism and is normal and expected of a Christian since God promised it to us. *Acts 8:15-16; 19:1-2*

**TITHING** - We practice tithing for the support of Christ's Body, the church, as God commands in the Bible. We recognize that giving at least 10% of our income is the Biblical beginning standard of giving. *Lev. 27:30*