

## Statement of Faith

### God's Word

I believe the King James Bible alone is the preserved Word of God for the English speaking people. It is infallible, inspired, and inerrant. The Bible is authored by God and is sufficient to show man's need of a Saviour, the way of salvation and to provide instruction for living a life of faith pleasing to God.

### The Godhead

God is revealed in Scripture as three Persons, but one God. The three that make up the Godhead are God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God's omnipotence was demonstrated when He spoke the world into existence. As the infinite Creator of the universe, He is Lord over it. He alone holds the right to judge all of creation. Among many attributes, He holds primarily the attributes of holiness, love and mercy.

### Future Judgment

Man's eternal home is determined by his acceptance or rejection of God's gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. Christ's atoning death on the cross, believed and applied by an individual, is God's only means of salvation. The Bible teaches that after life on earth, all people will face judgment. Judgment is made according to the things committed while on earth and will determine degrees of reward for the redeemed and punishment for the lost.

### The Local Church

The Local New Testament Church is a group of born-again believers united together in fellowship, seeking to fulfill the Great Commission. It is an organization ordained of God, empowered through the Holy Spirit and effectual to accomplish God's purpose in this present dispensation.

## Sending Church

We are accountable to and are under the authority of our sending church, the Pembina Valley Baptist Church, located in Winkler, Manitoba, Canada. My wife and I have held membership there since 1999. The founding and current pastor is Michael W. Sullivant, to whom I report regularly.

I believe that the local church is God's ordained institution that is to reach the lost through purposeful outreach ministry. Our church is active in propagating the Gospel, both in its local area as well as supporting foreign mission endeavors.



Baptist Missions to Forgotten Peoples is acting as our mission agency. All financial support is processed through BMFP.

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# The Klassens to Mexico



*Planting the Gospel  
Among the  
Mennonite People*

## My Testimony and Call

The Bible is relevant in today's world, but is beneficial only when applied personally. This has been the most meaningful discovery in my life.

A religious home and a traditional Mennonite background gave me knowledge of many Bible facts. I never personally received salvation until the age of nineteen, when I heard a clear Gospel presentation for the first time at an independent Baptist church I had been invited to attend. I responded during the invitation and accepted Christ as my Saviour. As I began to grow in the Lord, I was baptized, and seeking a deeper walk with God, started attending Bible College.

During my second year, I felt the Lord calling me to the ministry of a missionary church planter. Because of my background, I had a burden for Old Colony Mennonites and had a desire to see them saved. During a missions conference, I was called of God to reach them in my homeland of Mexico. I graduated from Canadian Baptist Bible College in May of 2006 and completed a survey trip to Cuauhtemoc, Mexico.

My wife grew up in a Christian home that was less traditional, but also familiar with Mennonite culture. Involved in a children's mailbox club, she responded to the Gospel literature around the age of eight, and with her mother's help prayed to receive Christ as her Saviour. As a teenager, she began attending Pembina Valley Baptist Church along with her family. Some time later I met her and the Lord brought us together in marriage. The Lord has blessed us with four children. We are excited at the prospect of serving in Mexico.

We believe this is the area God would have us work. There is a great need among the Mennonites in the area of Cuauhtemoc, and also an open door of opportunity to plant a church and reach these people.



## The Need

Old Colony Mennonite migration to Mexico began in the 1920's in an effort to "escape" from the world. Motives sprang from a desire to preserve a traditional lifestyle.

However, today changes are rapidly taking place among them. The need in Mexico is great among the Mennonite people. There are virtually no independent Gospel-preaching churches among the Mennonites. There are none in their native dialect of Low-German in the area of Cuauhtemoc.



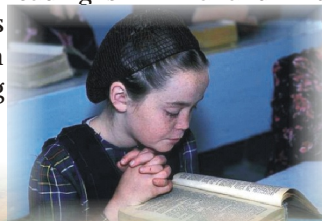
## The Mennonite People

Mennonite doctrine is Protestant in origin, but today much of it is tradition and deviates from the Scriptures.

Mennonites are industrious, religious people; tragically, many have no assurance of salvation. The need is for a church to be established and the Word of God preached that they might be saved and then grow in their faith. Many of the youth are departing from their churches to live in the world. Substance abuse is common.

A primary focus is on material wealth.

Education offered in their private schools is often inadequate. Typically there is no encouragement to further education in Christian studies or Bible College. Private Bible reading is minimal and in its place an emphasis is placed on learning a catechism and reading a hymnal.



## Goals and Vision

My vision is to see several churches planted in the area of Cuauhtemoc, Mexico. I desire to see this family-oriented culture come to value and obey the Word of God. The Word of God changes lives.



My plan is to show plainly the way of salvation to a people who have, in many cases, been exposed to a polluted gospel but are sincere. I believe God will open their understanding so they will come to the saving knowledge of Christ. With Him as their Foundation, they will build strong lives based on Bible principle. I anticipate men and women being called of God to a life of separation, surrender, service and blessing.

My goal is to successfully plant an indigenous work that may act as a beachhead to reach out to the surrounding communities. I plan to accomplish this through faithful preaching and teaching of God's Word, encouraging congregational fellowship, and visiting and encouraging people from house-to-house in the local area.



**"Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; "Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament..."**

**-- II Corinthians 3:5, 6**