

Baranduda **Community**  
**Church**



## **Core Beliefs Statement**

## What we Believe ....

### 1. About the Bible

There is no other way to know God except that He reveals himself to us. The Bible is the only objective and authoritative record of God's revelation to us, and which continues to reveal Him to us as His written Word. The Bible consists of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. It is divinely inspired, inerrant and infallible as originally given, and has supreme authority in all matters of faith, conduct and experience.

Scripture is sufficient for knowing God. It is not only central to the well being of the church but is able to thoroughly equip the Christian community for life and godliness.

(2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 5:18; Psalm 119:160; Joshua 1:8)

### 2. About God

There is only one God, who is infinitely perfect, the creator, preserver and governor of all things. God has always existed in three persons (Trinity) – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – sharing the one essence, co-equal in power and glory. He alone is the One whom the church is to worship.

(Deuteronomy 6:4; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Revelation 4:11; Matthew 28:19; John 1:1-3; Hebrews 1:3; Acts 5:3-4)

**God the Father** is the Creator of heaven & earth. By His Word & for His glory, He freely created the world out of nothing. Through the same Word He sustains all things and all people. He rules over all, and together with the Son and the Holy Spirit He is the only Sovereign.

His plans cannot be hindered & He is faithful to every promise. He works all things together for the good of those who love Him and in His grace & mercy gave His Son Jesus Christ for humanity's redemption. He made all things for the praise of His glory and intends humanity, in particular, to live in fellowship with Himself.

(Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-3; Hebrews 1:3; Jude 1:4; Daniel 4:25b; 2 Thessalonians 5:24; Hebrews 10:23, 11:11; Romans 8:28-33; Psalm 144:3; John 17:3).

**God the Son** (Jesus Christ) is the second person of the Trinity. Jesus is eternal and was not created. In the person of Jesus Christ the divine and human natures are perfectly united, without mixture or confusion, so that He is at once both truly God and truly man. He entered physically into human time and history, conceived by the Holy Spirit and physically born of the Virgin Mary as the human child Jesus.

Though tempted in every way, Jesus lived a perfect, completely sinless, upright and moral human life, and suffered and died on the Roman cross for our salvation. He rose physically

from the dead appearing to more than 500 witnesses over 40 days proving He was God, and ascended again to Heaven. There He currently ministers unceasingly for all believers, standing in their place as their advocate before the throne of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.

(John 1:1, 14, 18; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 1:18-25; John 19:28-30; Colossians 1:19-22; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 2:18, 4:15; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 1:1-4; 1 Corinthians 15:6; Acts 1:3; Mark 16:19; Acts 1:10-11; 1 John 2:1-2; Romans 8:34)

**God the Holy Spirit** is the third person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is the Lord & Giver of life; He convicts the world of sin, righteousness & judgment. Along with the proclamation of the gospel, the Holy Spirit makes the death of Jesus effective in an individual's life. The Spirit enables sinful humanity to repent and put their faith in Jesus Christ, so that salvation is entirely of God's grace and not of human merit or works.

The Holy Spirit is given to the believer as a seal of their salvation and a promise of what it is to come. The Spirit works to illuminate the believer's mind to grasp the truth of the Bible, producing in them His fruit, granting them His gifts and empowering them for service. He grants His gifts for the purpose of service, not self indulgence. Their use is determined, not by personal desire for fulfillment or satisfaction, but by the principle of building the church.

(Genesis 1:2; Job 33:4, 34:14-15; Psalm 144:29-30; John 16:8-11; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:1-9; Romans 1:16-17, 10:14-17; Ephesians 1:11-14; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; John 14:26, 16:13-15; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11)

### 3. About Humanity, Sin & Judgment

Men and women together are created in the image of God, and therefore enjoy a unique dignity in creation and a unique relationship with God. Men and women together have dominion over the created order.

Tragically, humanity's first parents (Adam & Eve) rejected God's ways, sinning against Him, and were banished from His presence. As a result of sin, each of us is spiritually dead, corrupted by a sinful nature and are directed towards doing wrong. As we are under the effects of sin, we are undeserving of and completely powerless to earn, in any way, the mercy, grace and favour of God. Therefore, by our own actions, we are each fully deserving of the judgment, condemnation and wrath of God. If left unresolved, this judgment will result in each of us being eternally banished from His presence to hell.

We are, therefore, in need of salvation from God's condemnation and restoration to a proper relationship with God. We are unable, without the prior regenerative work of God's Spirit, to turn ourselves to God.

(Genesis 1:26-28; 3; Psalm 51; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 6:23; Romans 7:14-20; Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16, 3:10-11; Romans 3:9-20; Ephesians 2:1-3; John 3:18, 36; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9)

#### 4. About Salvation

There is only one name under heaven by which we can be reconciled to God: the name 'Jesus Christ'. It is only through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, that the guilt, penalty and power of sin can be removed. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God demonstrates His love to us most perfectly and establishes His victory over Satan and all His foes.

The work of the Spirit is necessary to make the death of Jesus effective in an individual's life. The Spirit enables the sinner to repent and put their faith in Jesus Christ, so that salvation is entirely of God's grace and not of human merit or works. Biblical repentance is characterised by a changed life; saving faith is evidenced by Kingdom service or works in obedience to Jesus Christ.

The call to salvation is a call to take our place as participating members in the visible body of Christ, the church, and a call to a new way of living that is world challenging and world changing. Although we enjoy now the blessing of union with Christ and secure relationship with God, we await the final consummation of our hope with the return of Christ, the resurrection of our bodies, and life with Him eternally.

(Acts 4:12; Colossians 1:15-23; Romans 5:8; Hebrews 2:14-15; Romans 10:14, 17, 1:16-17, 3:21-31, 5:1-2; 2 Corinthians 7:10; 2 Pet 3:9; Romans 12:2; Ephesians 2:10, 19; Galatians 2:20; Romans 8:38-39, 6:5; 1 Corinthians 15:12-24, 42-44, 50-54.)

#### 5. About the Church

The Church is the worldwide body of believers, known as Christians, who have been reconciled to God. Although universal and invisible, the church is expressed locally and visibly through individual congregations such as *The Baranduda Community Church*.

(Ephesians 2:19-21; 2 Corinthians 5:18; Romans 5:10-11; Acts 2:41-42; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

*The Baranduda Community Church* believes that in church leadership, as in marriage, the roles of men and women are not interchangeable. We are committed to expressing the differences of mutual interdependence.

(1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4)

*The Baranduda Community Church* comprises men, women and children who gather around Christ in His Word. Within this community, both men and women are to seek proper expression of their gifts as they work to build the church in love. God appoints leaders among us, by His Word, whose role it is to serve the church working towards the maturity of its people as they teach them the full counsel of God calling them to ongoing faith, obedience and love.

(1 Corinthians 12:1-11; Titus 1:7; Acts 20:28; Ephesians. 4; Colossians. 1; John 14:21)

*The Baranduda Community Church* is commissioned by God to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ widely, and to make disciples of those who have responded to His call.

(Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-19)

*The Baranduda Community Church* engages in two ongoing church practices as commanded by Christ that express externally the internal reality of salvation, these are Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the immersion of believers in water upon their profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Baptism is both a symbol and declaration of their fellowship in His death, burial and resurrection. The Lord's Supper is taken as a memorial of the Lord Jesus Christ and the sacrifice of His body and the shedding of His blood for our salvation. We engage in both practices until Jesus comes again for His Church.

(Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:41; Acts 8:34-39; Luke 22:17-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

## **6. About Christian Hope**

Built on the historical reality of Christ's bodily resurrection, the Christian has a living and certain hope of a full life both now and beyond the grave. Jesus Christ will one day visibly come again to this earth in power and great glory to call those who have been saved by His grace to enter into the eternal presence of God in heaven, that place that Christ has prepared for them. Believers who have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit have the confidence of being kept by the power of God for that day.

(Acts 1:3, 2:24, 2:32, 3:15; John 14:3; 1 Peter 1:3-6)