



Aims and Statement of Faith

Hope Christian College, under the auspices of the Craigmore Christian Church, exists to offer a ministry to the Christian community by providing educational opportunities within a Biblical framework, such that its students will be nurtured in the Christian faith and equipped to function meaningfully in a non-Christian community as stewards of their gifts and servants of God. Students and staff are encouraged to excel in all areas in which they are involved. The College purposes to see the development of each individual in as many fields of endeavour as possible.

Hope Christian College recognises that balanced growth and education can only take place where due regard is given to man's essentially spiritual nature. That is to say, it is his relationship with God and his eternal destiny which must have pre-eminence. For such considerations the answer is found exclusively in the Person and Work of Jesus Christ as revealed through the Biblical record.

The Christian emphasis of the College seeks to stem the secularisation of students' thinking from which flows the partial or total rejection of the absolute truth as revealed in the Bible.

The main reason for sending a child to a Christian College, therefore, is to allow him or her to learn to think as a Christian about the world of science, the humanities and the arts, and to develop a totally Christian world view where the Bible is seen as relevant for all of life.

SPIRITUAL AIMS

- 1 To present the gospel to each student in such a way as to encourage them to come to a personal knowledge and experience of salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2 To ensure that students have been given a systematic grounding in Biblical knowledge and a Biblical foundation upon which the discernment and judgment of contemporary issues can be based.
- 3 To develop a respect for God's Word as a reliable lasting provider of moral and ethical principles and values.
- 4 To promote a sharing of responsibility by the home, the church and the College in guiding students towards maturity.
- 5 To encourage the use and development of spiritual gifts among the staff and students.

ACADEMIC AIMS

- 1 To foster intellectual curiosity, clear thinking and expression, the capacity to tackle problems and to make wise judgments and the ability to adapt to a rapidly-changing world.
- 2 To enable students to develop the intellectual and creative skills to enable them to be better equipped to take their place as effective Christian employees and citizens in the workforce and the wider society.
- 3 To ensure students gain a mastery of basic academic skills to their fullest extent possible.
- 4 To develop the ability in students to think as a Christian in a non-Christian world.

- 5 To promote self-discipline through goal setting, responsibility and self-motivation.

SOCIAL AIMS

- 1 To develop an understanding of the principle that all human beings must operate responsibly within the framework of law and an acceptance of the need to limit personal freedom in the interests of God's glory and out of consideration for others.
- 2 To foster for the common good, qualities of ready participation, co-operation, initiative, judgment and leadership and a willingness to be of service in areas of community need.
- 3 To learn to accept ourselves and others as Christ has accepted us so as to develop a realistic self-image in the individual.

PHYSICAL AIMS

- 1 To promote the importance of physical and emotional health
- 2 To learn to respect the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit
- 3 To provide a physically comfortable and aesthetically pleasing and safe learning environment
- 4 To allow students to develop their physical potential in sporting and other recreational pursuits.

The Vision of Hope Christian College

Developing the whole child in a caring, nurturing environment in the knowledge of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The words of HOPE

Hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Opportunity to grow together in a caring community

Promise of future possibilities

Excellence in teaching and learning

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe:

In the Bible as the Divinely inspired inerrant Word of God, the revelation of His mind and will to man, our infallible, all-sufficient guide for salvation, and for the Christian life. (II Tim 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21)

In One God, the Creator of all, eternally existing in three persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ; that He is true God and true man, begotten of the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, and that He has a perfect and sinless humanity. (John 1:1, Phil 2:6, Matthew 1:23-25, I John 3:5).

In the total depravity of the nature of man through his fall in the Garden of Eden, and the absolute inability of man to save himself from eternal punishment by his own works. (Gen 3: Rom 3:23, Eph 2:8-9)

In the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved (I Thess 4:17); and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost (Rev 20:11-15)

In the finished work of Christ on the Cross of Calvary, through which sacrifice Christ has effected complete and eternal redemption, God setting His seal of approval on the work of Christ by raising Him from among the dead, enthroned Him at His own right hand in Heaven and that He is the Head of the Church, the Lord of the individual, the High Priest over the House of God and Advocate in the family of God.

In the priesthood of all believers and encourage all to fulfil their roles according to the teaching laid down in the Bible. In view of modern pressures we note specifically the teaching regarding the role of men and women in the public worship of the Church. (I Tim 2:8-14; I Cor 14:33-35)

In the immediate and eternal salvation of every person who truly believes on Christ and by faith rests on His finished work as the only righteous ground on which a Holy God can forgive his sins.

That all who by faith receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour are born again of the Holy Spirit, indwelt by the Holy Spirit and by the Holy Spirit baptised into the Body of Christ, the Church, of which He is the risen and ascended Head. (I Cor 12:12-14; Eph 1:22-23; Col 1:18)

That God has given spiritual gifts to believers for the benefit of the Church and seek to develop these in the lives of each believer. However, we are not a 'charismatic church' in the modern, narrow sense of that word, and so do not teach or encourage believers to speak in 'tongues' or 'prophetic utterances'.

That the early Church met together and "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship and in breaking of bread and in prayers". (Acts 2:42) - God's pattern for the Church today.

In the personal, imminent and premillennial coming of the Lord in the air to Rapture (catch up) the Church. (I Thess 4:13-17) We believe that the Rapture of the Church will take place before the Tribulation period, and in the revelation of Christ in glory at His Second Advent to the earth to establish His Kingdom on earth and to reign in righteousness for a thousand years. (II Thess 1:6-10; Phil 2:9-11).

We know that some believers hold differing views on these subjects. We feel it necessary to state that those who seek association with us be prepared to respect it by refraining from teaching or influencing to the contrary.