



IAFR FAITH AFFIRMATIONS

We are a cross denominational Christian mission agency. As such, we hold fast to the basics of the faith as articulated in the Nicene Creed. We center our mission, lives, and community on Christ as we pursue the mission God has given us, choosing to respectfully honor our differences as we recognize Christ in one another.

THE NICENE CREED*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father; God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God; begotten not made, one in being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven. By the power of the Holy Spirit, He was born of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day He rose again, in fulfillment of the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son, He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one, holy, catholic**, and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

**The origin of the Nicene Creed dates to the First Ecumenical Council, in Nicaea, in 325 C.E. and was later expanded to its current form at the Second Ecumenical Council, in Constantinople, in 381 C.E. The Creed was meant to be a propositional statement of faith, agreed to by all Christians as a true summary of Scriptures. Its purpose was twofold: on the one hand, the minimalist language of the Creed itself functioned to unite Christians in a common affirmation of the core of Christian faith (i.e. 'creed' [Lt. credo] means 'I believe') whilst allowing for regional distinction in practices; on the other hand, its ecumenical character meant that it was binding for the whole church across time or place. As such, the Creed was meant to function as a safeguard against arbitrary deviations from the core of the historic faith as it is found in Scripture. The Nicene-Constantinopolitan – or as it is simply known, the "Nicene Creed" - is the most widely accepted expression of the Christian faith among Christian churches.*

[N.B. The minimalist form of the Creed also made it possible for Christians to provide a coherent, straightforward answer to the question of "What do you believe?" when asked to give an account of the faith. The expected response, of course, would be "I/We believe in ..."]



***The word “catholic” here carries a double meaning: (1) the adjective “catholic” [καθολική/-ος] describes “the whole Church,” highlighting its universal character. (2) At the same time, “catholic” [καθολική/-ος] also means “according to the whole,” indicating the completeness of each local congregation, that is, a local congregation/parish is not lacking anything, and God’s presence and grace is fully complete among the people in the sacraments/ordinances of the Church. ‘Catholic,’ then is meant to indicate both ‘universal’ and ‘complete.’*

Footnotes by Dr. George Kalantzis, IAFR Senior Fellow of Theology.