

moving *forward* >

answering the call

Salt & Light
a family of churches
together on mission

CORE
COMMITMENTS

a family together!

The core leadership of our family of churches has certain beliefs, values and commitments. This is how we want to live together in our part of the family of God! As leaders we will live according to these core commitments. We will preach and teach these commitments in our conferences and training, constantly calling up churches to them.

Recent discussions on the need for greater cohesion to provide a greater degree of mobilisation for the mission God has called us to, have led to a call for greater clarity on what the Salt & Light family of churches stand for and are committed to. They describe us now – the result of walking together relationally for 25 years – and so they are also the foundation for where we want to go together.

We have explored a 3-stage model, successively setting out our place in God's wider evangelical family, within the charismatic family and our distinctive character as the Salt & Light family.

STEVE THOMAS
TEAM LEADER, SALT & LIGHT EUROPEAN APOSTOLIC TEAM

1 | we are evangelicals!

This implies a commitment to certain beliefs, as set out, for example, in the **Evangelical Alliance (UK) Basis of Faith** (www.eauk.org/about/basis-of-faith.cfm) and shared by the vast majority of Evangelicals worldwide:

	"We believe in..."	References and comments
a	The one true God who lives eternally in three persons – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.	Deu 6:4; Gen 1:1; Isa 40:28; Joh 1:3; 4:24; Col 1:16; 1Ti 2:5
b	The love, grace and sovereignty of God in creating, sustaining, ruling, redeeming and judging the world.	Gen 1:2; 2:7; Psa 103:1-22, 104:30; Job 34:14-15
c	The divine inspiration and supreme authority of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, which are the written Word of God – fully trustworthy for faith and conduct.	2Pe 1:21; Mat 5:18; 2Ti 3:16; Tit 1:2; 1Th 2:13; Jer 1:9; Pro 30:56; 2Sa 23:2; Mar 12:30; Act 4:25; Rev 22:18-19
d	The dignity of all people, made male and female in God's image to love, be holy and care for creation, yet corrupted by sin, which incurs divine wrath and judgement.	Gen 1:26; 2:7,16-17; Mat 19:4; Col 1:16; 1Ti 2:13-14; Gen 3:1-24; 1Ti 2:13-14; Eph 2:3; Psa 58:3; Jer 17:9; Rom 3:10-23; Isa 64:6
e	The incarnation of God's eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ – born of the virgin Mary; truly divine and truly human, yet without sin.	Isa 9:6; Mat 1:18-25; Luk 1:26-37; Joh 1:1-14; Rev 19:13; 1Ti 3:16; 1Jo 5:7; Isa 7:14
f	The atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross: dying in our place, paying the price of sin and defeating evil, so reconciling us with God.	Rom 6:23; 2:23-25; 8:34; 1Jo 3:4; Isa 53:4-8,10; Eze 18:20; Lev 17:11; Heb 7:25; 9,11-28; 10:1-18; 1Pe 1:18 19; 2:24; 1Co 15:38; Luk 24:51; Act 1:10-11; Col 1:27; 2Co 13:5
g	The bodily resurrection of Christ, the first fruits of our resurrection; his ascension to the Father, and his reign and mediation as the only Saviour of the world.	Mat 28:1-10; Joh 20:1-9; Act 1:1-10; 1Co 15
h	The justification of sinners solely by the grace of God through faith in Christ.	Rom 3:21-31; 4; 5:1-5
i	The ministry of God the Holy Spirit, who leads us to repentance, unites us with Christ through new birth, empowers our discipleship and enables our witness.	Joh 3:5; 6:44; 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:6-11; Act 1:8; 5:34; 1Co 2:11 14; 12:13; Rom 6:9-11, 8:1-39; 1Jo 5:7
j	The Church, the body of Christ both local and universal, the priesthood of all believers – given life by the Spirit and endowed with the Spirit's gifts to worship God and proclaim the gospel, promoting justice and love.	Eph 3:10-11; 4:11-13; Rom 12:3-8; Joh 12:44; Luk 10:16; Mat 5:13-14; Mar 16:20; 2Ti 2:12; 2Pe 2:1-3
k	The personal and visible return of Jesus Christ to fulfil the purposes of God, who will raise all people to judgement, bring eternal life to the redeemed and eternal condemnation to the lost, and establish a new heaven and new earth."	1Th 4:13-18; Joh 14:1-3; Zec 14:1-9; Act 1:10-11; Luk 11:39; Rev 20:6; 1Co 15:51-2

1 | evangelicals

we are part of the worldwide evangelical church



2 | charismatics

part of the charismatic church movement



3 | salt & light

our atmosphere and flavour as a family of churches

2 | we are charismatics!

We recognise that these convictions characterise very many Christian people in all sorts of networks, denominations and configurations. They are not specific to Salt & Light. We would hope that they would be non-contentious. Therefore we are committed to:

		References and comments
a	Living in the Spirit We believe that the life of God comes to us through the Holy Spirit. We want to experience God's manifest presence as we worship and pray in the Holy Spirit. We see the Holy Spirit's ministry and gifts in the life of the believer and the church as a key to holiness, fruitfulness and effective mission, as every member is thoroughly filled with the Spirit, walks in step with the Spirit, and flows in the anointing and ministry of the Spirit.	Joh 1:33; 4:23-4; 7:37-39; Eph 5:18-20; Gal 5:16-26; Rom 8:5-17
b	Building the church We believe that God plans to change the world through His church, the Body of Christ. We therefore want to see relationship at the heart of how we are called to build together; celebration of believers' baptism and breaking of bread at the centre of our fellowship, the release of 'every-member ministry', Ephesians 4 ministries as keys to God's mission; and church-planting as a call of God in expanding His kingdom.	Eph 3:1-10; 4:1-16; Phi 2:12-16; Rom 6:3-5; 1Co 11:17-34; 12
c	Seeking the Kingdom Christ's primary call on our lives is to be a people who are centred on Him and seeking His Kingdom. We therefore are determined to seek God's Kingdom 24/7, in our families, at work, in leisure, and in the family of the church. We want to keep being transformed to be like the King. We want to preach, live and demonstrate the gospel of the Kingdom, attending to issues of injustice, poverty and bondage in society.	Mat 6:33; 16:19; Act 8:12; 19:8; 28:23
d	Focusing on mission We believe that God is on a mission to demonstrate his love to His world, to redeem the world from its sin, and to gather a huge family to himself from across the nations. As God's people, we must be on the same mission. Therefore we want to be proclaiming the Good News; demonstrating the Good News in every aspect of culture and society; seeing lives transformed by the power of Jesus; living the Good News; serving God in whatever nations of the world he leads us to.	2Co 5:11-21; Eph 4:17-6:9; Rom 15:23-33

3 | we are salt & light!

Some of our more distinctive commitments that characterise our family of churches are:

		References and comments >> Further resources and papers on many of these themes are available from our website at www.saltlight.org/core-commitments
a	Relationship Everything in the Body of Christ is relational! This is a key understanding, biblically. We believe brother/sister relationships, pastor/disciple relationships and small group relationships are a key to leaders, local churches and the life of the Salt & Light family.	It is thus through our relationships that we are part of the Salt & Light family, not by 'signing a form' or 'joining an institution'. The family will work as well as we make it work relationally. Eph 4:16, 32; Col 2:19, 3:12-17; Phi 2:19-22
b	Family God works through spiritual and natural family, to give us a place of belonging, love, fun, joy, security, friendship, vision, encouragement and care. Fatherhood and motherhood is a key to strong, healthy families!	We recognise there is a joint mandate for men and women, within family, to rule together. We also recognise the spiritual headship of men within family. Most of our church families appoint men to be elders, but are also clear that women need to take an important place of leadership in our church families, just as in our natural families. 1Co 11:3; Eph 5:22-24; 1Ti 3:1 7; Tit 1:5-6
c	Leadership Anointed <i>servant</i> leadership, as Jesus taught it and modelled it, is vital to build up everyone in the body of Christ, and help all to grow to full maturity and fulfil their God-given destiny. Understanding and receiving the spiritual authority of anointed leaders allows us to live under its blessing.	In the Salt & Light family, we recognise the importance of spiritual fatherhood (as does the New Testament!) This is a vital aspect of apostolic ministry (1Co 4:14-17; Phi 2:19 24), and is a key to building family (Eph 3:15). The model for all leadership is Jesus himself (Phi 2:5-11)!
d	Generosity Generous living and giving is a key to individuals and communities enjoying the blessing of God. Tithing is a starting point for giving, but generosity will take us far beyond that.	We encourage the practice of tithing to the local church of which we are part, where we are fed and cared for spiritually. We see tithes as sustaining the ministry of church and mission, and offerings for good works, buildings etc. (Mal 3:6-12; 2Co 8-9)
e	Discipleship Discipleship is a key to growing all of God's people into maturity, so that each one can play their full part in the purposes of God's Kingdom. We encourage strongly the fostering of relationships of discipleship, where personal pastoring and mentoring are key.	In our view, this is essential. (Mar 1:16-20, 3:13 18; Mat 5:1)
f	Ephesians 4 ministry We believe that receiving apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers into local churches brings increased vision and spiritual impact, and provides good care, counsel and accountability for local church leaders. This is the key way that we experience connections and encouragement within the Salt & Light family.	Eph 4:11-16; Eph 2:21-22, 3.5; Phi 2:19-30; 1Co 4.
g	Wider relationships We encourage an atmosphere of working together with other churches in the Salt & Light family, and beyond the Salt & Light family. We believe that it is one mark of healthy churches to relate to and receive from others.	This enables the wider Body of Christ to be built up (Eph 4:16), and allows Christ's mission to be more fruitful (1Co 9:22-23)
h	Diversity We value the diversity of our family of churches, where there are different styles of leadership and models of church. We believe this helps us to understand and enjoy the richness of the body of Christ, and we want to live in an atmosphere of respect and mutual appreciation.	This diversity is a positive, edifying feature of the Body of Christ! 1Co 12; Eph 4:7-16

a salt & light family

More debatable issues

We recognise significant differences of perspective in relation to matters of, for example, eschatology or the place of Israel in God's future plans. We want to live in an atmosphere of respect, and do not want to take issue over such matters!



For further information talk with your apostolic connection, visit the website, or email us

Salt & Light – a family of churches together on mission | www.saltlight.org/europe | european@saltlight.org | +44 1865 297440