

BELGRAVE HEIGHTS CONVENTION STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE, BELIEF AND PRACTICE

Our Purpose

The Belgrave Heights Convention exists to inspire and equip Christians to love and live for Christ in this world.

Our Vision

The spiritual renewal of God's people for his mission in the world.

Our Mission

To develop spiritually mature Christians, whose faith and practice is anchored in the Bible through the teaching and applying of God's word.

God's purpose is to bring his blessing to all the nations of the world (Gen12:2,3). That promise of blessing, which touches every aspect of human life, is fulfilled through the life, death, resurrection, ascension and future return of Christ.

All of the people of God are called to participate in his missionary purposes, wherever he may place them. The central vision of the Belgrave Heights Convention is to partner with the local church to see the people of God equipped, encouraged and refreshed to fulfil that calling, directed and guided by God's Word in the power of his Spirit, for the glory of his Son, Jesus Christ.

Our Convictions

There are three fundamental convictions which shape all we do:

Hear God's Word

The Scriptures are the foundation for the church's life, growth and mission, and we are committed to preach and teach God's Word in a way which is faithful to Scripture and relevant to Christians of all ages and backgrounds.

Become like God's Son

We encourage Christians to live godly lives in the power of the Spirit, to grow in Christ-likeness and to live under his Lordship in every area of life. This is God's will for his people in every culture and generation.

Serve God's mission

The authentic response to God's Word is obedience to his mission to proclaim the gospel and make disciples of Jesus Christ, and the inevitable result of Christ-likeness is sacrificial service. We seek to encourage committed discipleship in family life, work and society, and energetic engagement in the cause of world mission.

Belgrave Heights Convention has adopted the following statement of beliefs of the essential truths of Christianity, as revealed in the Bible, which we desire to shape every aspect of our ministry.

1. There is one God in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
2. God is sovereign in creation, revelation, redemption and final judgment.
3. The Bible, as originally given, is the inspired and inerrant Word of God. It is the supreme authority in all matters of belief and behaviour.
4. Since the fall, the whole of humankind is sinful and guilty, so that everyone is subject to God's wrath and condemnation.
5. The Lord Jesus Christ, God's incarnate Son, is fully God; he was born of a virgin; his humanity is real and sinless; he died on the cross, was raised bodily from death and is now reigning over heaven and earth.
6. Sinful human beings are redeemed from the guilt, penalty and power of sin only through the sacrificial death once and for all time of their representative and substitute, Jesus Christ, the only mediator between them and God.
7. Those who believe in Christ are pardoned all their sins and accepted in God's sight only because of the righteousness of Christ credited to them; this justification is God's act of undeserved mercy, received solely by trust in him and not by their own efforts.
8. The Holy Spirit alone makes the work of Christ effective to individual sinners, enabling them to turn to God from their sin and to trust in Jesus Christ.
9. The Holy Spirit lives in all those he has regenerated. He makes them increasingly Christ like in character and behaviour, and gives them power for their witness in the world.
10. The one holy universal church is the Body of Christ, to which all true believers belong.
11. The Lord Jesus Christ will return in person, to judge everyone, to execute God's just condemnation on those who have not repented and to receive the redeemed to eternal glory.

[This Statement of Beliefs is based on that of Keswick Ministries, Tyndale Fellowship & University and Colleges Christian Fellowship among other evangelical ministries.]

Our Values

Belgrave Heights Convention is committed to the deepening of the spiritual life in individuals and church communities through the careful exposition and practical application of Scripture to daily life:

Lordship of Christ

To encourage submission to the Lordship of Christ in all areas of personal and corporate living;

Transformation by Word and Spirit

To encourage active obedience to God's Word through a dependency upon the indwelling and fullness of the Holy Spirit for life-transformation and effective living;

Evangelism and mission

To provoke a strong commitment to evangelism and mission in Australia and worldwide;

To stimulate the discipling and training of people of all ages in godliness, service and sacrificial living, equipping them to participate in the mission of God in every area of life;

Unity

To provide a practical demonstration of evangelical unity across denominations and across generations.

Our Practice

Belgrave Heights Convention seeks to model practical Christian living in all areas of life.

Gift of Life

To defend, protect, and value all human life. We believe that human beings are created male and female by God in His image. Therefore every person, from conception to natural death, possesses inherent dignity and immeasurable worth—including preborn children, elderly individuals, those with special needs and others marginalised by society (Psalm 139:13–14a).

Marriage and Family

To model and teach Christian marriage as biblically defined in a lifelong commitment between a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, and to encourage people of all ages to express biblical values in sexuality and family life (Matthew 19:4-6).

Working Together

To model Christ-like relationships of honesty, respect and integrity in all areas of our work together. We want our relationships to be governed by fundamental Biblical imperatives (2 Timothy 3:16,17).

Our witness

As a matter of Christian integrity and consistency, all aspects of our work and all of our relationships must reflect gospel values, so that our witness to Jesus Christ is commended, not compromise (Col 1:9-14).

Our Unity

Belgrave Heights Convention, with the Keswick movement worldwide, has adopted a key Pauline statement to describe its gospel inclusivity: “for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal 3:28). The Convention works with evangelicals from a wide variety of church backgrounds, on the understanding that they share a commitment to the essential truths of the Christian faith as set out in our statement of belief.

All who speak on behalf of Belgrave Heights Convention are asked to display sensitivity and generosity of spirit on the wide range of issues where evangelicals, in good conscience, hold a variety of opinions. Founded on our unity in Christ and our shared understanding of evangelical truth, we expect those who minister among us to expound scripture with clarity and faithfulness, but respectfully ask them not to use the Convention platform to campaign for particular positions on secondary issues. Recognising that Scripture allows for legitimate difference on such matters (Romans 14:1-15:13), we lay these aside for the purposes of our ministry together.

Belgrave Heights Convention: the events

BHC annually hosts two major Conventions at its property – The Heights Camps and Conferences. BHC also conducts other conventions targeted at particular groups or focuses. Each year Conventions provide Bible teaching with practical application across generations and denominations, and a challenging call to serve Christ in the world. The Conventions take place in the beautiful surroundings of the Dandenong ranges—a perfect setting for rest, recreation, refreshment and spiritual renewal.

Belgrave Heights Convention and Keswick: the movement

The Keswick Convention originated in the town of Keswick in the ‘Lakes District’ of England in 1875. It has been the inspiration for the establishment of other similar Conventions around the world, including Belgrave Heights Convention. We have had links with Keswick since the start of our own Convention in 1918. We continue to enjoy fellowship with other Keswick Conventions around the world.