

TeachBeyond Identity Statements

Mission Statement

Who We Are

As followers of Jesus we are an international organization providing transformational education to children and to adults.

What We Do

We provide teaching and learning services to all regardless of gender, ethnicity, or religion in order to promote holistic personal growth and enduring social benefit.

Statement of Identity

TeachBeyond is a Christian organization whose staff and volunteers are inspired by the message, life and example of Jesus. We embrace the revelation given by God in the Christian Scriptures, the Old and New Testaments. We likewise receive and accept the faith, which is taught in the Scriptures and summarized in such orthodox statements of the whole Christian church as the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed. We understand our own faith in continuity with the Protestant confessions of the Reformation and the evangelical awakenings in subsequent centuries.

We further share the ideals of movements such as the Lausanne Covenant (1974) regarding the authority of Scripture, the priority of evangelism, the need for Christian social responsibility and personal holiness, the costliness and urgency of world mission, and the importance of Christian education.

Statement of Faith

We believe

...in the **Holy Scriptures** as originally given by God, divinely inspired, infallible, entirely trustworthy; and the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct...

One **God**, eternally existent in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit...

Our **Lord Jesus Christ**, God manifest in the flesh, His virgin birth, His sinless human life, His divine miracles, His vicarious and atoning death, His bodily resurrection, His ascension, His mediatorial work, and His Personal return in power and glory...

The **Salvation** of lost and sinful man through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ by faith apart from works, and regeneration by the Holy Spirit...

The **Holy Spirit**, by whose indwelling the believer is enabled to live a holy life, to witness and work for the Lord Jesus Christ...

The **Unity** of the Spirit of all true believers, the Church, the Body of Christ...

The **Resurrection** of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life, they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

(World Evangelical Alliance Statement of Faith)

Core Values

- **Faith:** Trusting God for wisdom and provision and believing He is good in all He does, we live in bold confidence that reflects that trust.
- **Integrity:** We live in such a way that our consciences are free from guilt and our actions align with our words and thoughts, so that we can be trusted and respected for who and what we actually are and are becoming (i.e., Christ followers), by God's grace.
- **Holiness:** Valuing the moral perfection of God, we pursue a life of purity as He instructs us to in His Word and enables us to live through His indwelling Spirit.
- **Love for people:** Our thoughts and actions are motivated by a love for others that reflects Christ's love for us and the world.
- **Creativity:** We seek to explore, to imagine, and to invent in order to pursue that which improves and furthers God's Kingdom on earth, while bringing joy to our Father and to those with whom we live.
- **Cultural relevance:** While we embrace tradition and reject religious syncretism, we contextualize our practices to the cultures in which we live in order to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ fairly and persuasively.
- **Congeniality:** Kindness, joy, civility, pleasantness, and the appreciation of fun and laughter reflect our family origins and mark our on-going interpersonal relationships.
- **Partnering with others:** We believe we can usually do things better together with others than we can alone and that working collegially in unity with others is a mark of the Spirit's presence and blessing.
- **Excellence:** Whatever we do, we do it wholeheartedly to the best of our ability and for the glory of God alone.

The TeachBeyond Distinctive

Our Vision Prayer: *We wholeheartedly desire to serve our Father's world, to love Jesus Christ, and to see individuals and societies transformed by His Spirit through education.*

We hold to a collection of characteristics and qualities, which taken in sum, constitute our approach to transformational education. Our distinctive is the way we embrace these tenets, beliefs, and ideas which, in and of themselves are not necessarily "distinct." They are:

1. Our calling to "transformational education"

We are called to an age-old idea in Christian education, which we call "transformational education." This is the simple, yet profound belief that through the power of God's Holy Spirit active in the medium of education, children and adults can undergo redemptive, holistic transformation, which makes them increasingly like Christ in their world.

2. Our commitment to the idea of "teaching beyond"

We are committed to "teaching beyond."

- teaching with an attitude of teachability
- teaching creatively in both formal and informal settings
- teaching in local communities, but always thinking beyond to the world and its needs
- teaching for effectiveness in society, but also teaching for affirmation and fruitfulness in God's eternal Kingdom

3. Our commitment to cultivate a learning community

We see ourselves as a reflective learning community. This means we seek to grow corporately in our understanding of our global mission and identity as we think together. It also means that we seek to grow personally and in our vocational competence, in our engagement with our community and world, and in our love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

4. Our vision to foster a global movement to which God has called us

We see ourselves as part of a global community of like-minded people. We envision this community becoming a vibrant global movement that the Spirit uses to impact our world in redemptive ways. We see ourselves participating in this movement and nurturing it through the services we provide.

5. Our multi-ethnic composition and unifying organizational structure

We seek to be as ethnically rich and diverse as the Church itself, focused on our commitment to transformational education. This keeps us working in unity and harmony, in spite of legal and cultural barriers that would otherwise divide us. Our organizational structure fosters this cooperative spirit and ensures that we work together in effective ways that extend our local and national endeavors. We view our national legal entities as expressions of TeachBeyond and derivatives of a global community committed to the ideals of TeachBeyond.

6. Our statement of faith

We ascribe to the statement of faith of the World Evangelical Alliance that grounds our understanding of God and His world.

7. Our values

We ascribe to and embrace nine values which inform our beliefs, guide our actions, and define our character: faith, integrity, holiness, love for people, creativity, cultural relevance, congeniality, partnering with others, and excellence.

Vision Statement

When we successfully pursue our mission, that is, when we as an international organization have provided transformational education through teaching and learning services and in the power that God gives us through His indwelling Spirit, we see emerging a great movement of people who have experienced personal renewal and whose world of influence experiences redemptive change. Our services will have helped them become holistically healthy as they come to understand what it means to be formed *Imago Dei* and to live before Him as loved, called, and commissioned people.

We see communities changed through teachers who understand what it means to integrate their faith with their profession and manner of living. We see all levels of society benefitting – the rich and poor alike. And we see those who have been changed becoming ambassadors of transformational education, and proponents of a contagious idea that contributes redemptively to the spiritual, moral, social, ecological, and economic wellbeing of countries. We see deeply entrenched patterns of social injustice and prejudice broken on the anvil of truth learned in educational settings. In their place will be new patterns of respect and civility, justice and compassion.

We see ourselves being given the privilege of instigating and fostering a movement that is unbounded – a movement that is neither constrained nor restrained by TeachBeyond. Rather, TeachBeyond taps a deep and ancient pool of wisdom inspired by God Himself. From this eternal resource TeachBeyond becomes the artesian well that sources a river which overflows its banks and spawns life-giving streams. And, while these streams carry in them the discernible TeachBeyond quality of transformation and redemption, their influence and blessing extends far beyond the reach or even the knowledge of TeachBeyond. Put another way, we see ourselves as a catalyst for missional Christian education and as a steward nurturing renewal, not as an end or as proprietary guardian. Nowhere in our vision do we see TeachBeyond acting as a foreign agent selling a product, or as an entrepreneur conquering a market: we will be a multinational movement filled with people from around the globe and with ideas from across the ages. We will anticipate the rich cultural tapestry of the heavenly family of faith.

We see ourselves known far and wide as a learning community which welcomes best practice and best thinking in all areas of education wherever this practice and thinking may be found. Parents from many countries and all strata of society line up to register their children in our programs, even before they are born. We see ourselves as a magnet attracting like-minded people who wish to join a community that cares deeply about people and societies and who have a restless desire to serve, rather than to be served. As followers of Jesus, we see ourselves as models of all we teach and we see those whom we serve relating all of life and learning to God and His word.