



## Ethos Statement

*(Approved by the BCM NI Board 24/04/21, amended 17/03/23)*

All BCM International NI (“BCM”) volunteers, missionaries and staff members must be evangelical Christians, being those who are able to agree to the **BCM Doctrinal Statement and Core Values**, indicating personal acceptance of the beliefs stated, and show evidence of their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour in the way they live their lives.

As stated in our Doctrinal Statement, we believe that *“The Bible is the very Word of God and is the supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and conduct”*. And we believe that the Holy Spirit indwells the believer bringing *“a desire for holiness of life through separation from sin”*, transforming him or her into increasing likeness to Christ. A believer is therefore someone who seeks to grow in knowledge of God’s word and to abide by its teaching.

In line with our Doctrinal Statement and Core Values, our volunteers, missionaries and staff members must be willing to:

1. Maintain a personal devotional life through regular times of prayer and Bible reading. (*Psalm 119:105; Col 4:2*)
2. Attend regularly a local evangelical church fellowship and be in good standing with that church. (*1 Tim 4:13-14; Heb 10:25*)
3. Adopt a teachable spirit and exhibit a willingness to submit to the teaching of the Bible. (*2 Tim 3:16-17*)
4. Seek to be Christ-like in attitude and action towards all persons regardless of race, social class, religious beliefs or position of influence within the community. (*Lev 19:18; Matt 22:39*)
5. Be honest in all areas of handling money and finance. Avoid the love of money. (*Ex 20:15; Luke 16:13-15; Col 3:5*).
6. Be honest in speech and seek to avoid all speech which could be regarded as blasphemous or profane. (*Col 4:6; Eph 5:4*)
7. Maintain a lifestyle that recognises the effects of alcohol on the body and avoids drunkenness and other forms of substance misuse, at all times. (*Rom 13:13-14; Eph 5:18*)
8. Set a high standard in personal morality which recognises that God’s gift of sexual intercourse is to be enjoyed exclusively within marriage, being a lifelong commitment between one man and one woman; abstain from all sexual sins including immodesty, the viewing of pornography, fornication, adultery, cohabitation, homosexual behaviour and wilful violation of your birth sex. (*1 Cor 12:23; 1 Cor 6:12-20; Eph 4:17-24; 1Thes 4:1-8; Rom 1:26-27; 1 Tim 1:9-11; Gen 1:27; Deut 22:5*)
9. Give proper regard to the laws of the land. (*Rom 13:1-7*)

### ***Christian liberty***

BCM NI recognise that there are practices which are neither directly prohibited nor sanctioned in the Bible, and that Christians have different views on what is permissible behaviour. Examples may include: drinking alcohol (but not getting drunk) or observing



Sunday as a Sabbath. Regarding these kinds of issues the following should be considered carefully:

- Does this behaviour have the potential to stumble less mature Christians?
- Could this action be open to misinterpretation?
- Could this behaviour damage the reputation of BCM NI?

If the answer to any of these questions is “yes” then BCM NI would ask that those serving with BCM NI consider the context in which they are engaging their Christian liberty and if necessary choose to forego that liberty for the benefit of those over which they have influence (Romans 14:1-15:2). BCM NI volunteers should consult their BCM Team Leader in the first instance if they are unsure. The Camp Directors, Board and CEO may caution a BCM volunteer, missionary or staff member if they deem their behaviour to be unwise and potentially harmful to others’ spiritual development. If necessary the BCM NI Board may ask someone to step down from their role.

### ***Forgiveness***

BCM NI seeks to give proper regard to the place of grace and forgiveness but they will also give proper regard to their duty to ensure that the charity presents a consistent Christian witness.

*By accepting the offer of a role with BCM NI you indicate your agreement with BCM NI’s Doctrinal Statement and Core Values and your commitment to abide by the Ethos Statement.*