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SHARE YOUR STORY

BAPTISM

2026

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FOR GOD
SO LOVED
THE WORLD THAT
HE GAVE
HIS ONE AND
ONLY SON,
THAT WHOEVER
BELIEVES IN HIM
SHALL NOT PERISH
BUT HAVE
ETERNAL LIFE.
JOHN 3:16

—

Just like our birthdays, graduations, weddings, and the joy of welcoming new life, baptism is a significant milestone for us as believers. Today, in the presence of the church body and other witnesses, we celebrate this moment with those who publicly proclaim their acceptance of Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour (Acts 2:38-39).

The stories in this booklet, written by the baptism candidates, reveal how different people from diverse backgrounds experience God in unique ways. They all, however, point to the fact that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. They confirm that Jesus is the answer to our quest for meaning in life. I hope some of these stories resonate with you.

Even if you are not a Christian, I encourage you to read these testimonies. I pray they spark your curiosity and move you forward in your search for God. The Bible promises that we can find Him when we seek with all our hearts (Jeremiah 29:13).

We are grateful for all the baptism candidates today and for their willingness to share testimonies of God's loving pursuit and transformative grace in their lives. May this day mark the beginning of a wonderful, magnificent, adventurous and enduring faith journey with our Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself." Acts 2:38-39



Alan Leung
Director of Connections
Island ECC

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CHRISTY NG

Growing up in a Catholic school, I always knew about Christ. I learned the stories, heard the prayers, and saw the Bible in my classroom. But honestly, I never thought deeply about the meaning of being Christian. That changed when I went to study in the United Kingdom.

I met a group of Christian friends in my first year of university. We did Bible studies together and read the book of Romans which talked about God's love and mercy. There was a day when I was sitting alone in my student accommodation, I started thinking about the study we did. Living away from my family, whom I had always relied on, I often felt lonely. For the first time, I began thinking deeply about my own life and the meaning of love. I realised I did not know how to love myself or others well.

One day, as I was talking to my Christian friend, he invited me to pray with him. As we prayed, I suddenly felt a strange yet familiar warmth deep in my heart. It was such a gentle, yet powerful feeling and a moment I could never forget. That was the first time I felt God's great power. His healing and love are real. That was the moment I accepted Christ.

Throughout my Christian journey, God has transformed me. Since I was young, I have been overly self-protective, insecure and withdrawn. I was not willing to share my thoughts and feelings with others. I also felt quite self-centred. I often expected love to mean that others would listen to and agree with me.



I remember there was a time my friend made a mistake. I couldn't forgive them nor let go of the situation. The argument kept going non-stop for an hour. That relationship was draining. I was suffering as well as those around me.

However, God always shows love and mercy. He never gave up on me. During fellowship time, my friend invited me to share updates in my life. God gave me the courage to share my struggles. It was vulnerable but precious. They prayed with me, and I also started praying for myself. I prayed for God's transformation so I could be more generous, loving, and forgiving.

Over time, God did fulfil His promises. He changed my personality without me noticing it. I slowly started feeling less sensitive than before. I learned to forgive, be considerate, and be more humble. I feel myself softening. There is no way this huge change could come from my own effort. God changed me through the Holy Spirit. Although it was tough, God always has His own timing to show me the best.

From Acts 2:38-39: "Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off — for all whom the Lord our God will call." Through Jesus, I have received forgiveness, kindness, and love. I want to publicly share my journey with my loved ones because I know how important Christ is in my life. He doesn't need us to do anything for Him. All He needs from us is to accept Him as our Lord and Saviour.

I once questioned whether I deserved His grace, but I now know that grace is a gift. Jesus died and rose again so that I could be forgiven and made new. I am so grateful for this gift and for a life full of joy. I am so proud to call myself a Christian, and I will forever accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour!

I LEARNED TO FORGIVE, BE CONSIDERATE, AND BE MORE HUMBLE. I FEEL MYSELF SOFTENING. THERE IS NO WAY THIS HUGE CHANGE COULD COME FROM MY OWN EFFORT. GOD CHANGED ME THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

DAISY WON

I grew up in an emotionally neglectful family. For most of my life, I felt that I was not really important to anyone.

At the age of 33, I was completely betrayed by the man whom I was married to at the time, while also feeling emotionally neglected by my parents and siblings. When one of my friends took me to a Christian church, I felt overwhelmed by God's love, kindness, and understanding. My tears ran down my face as I felt my Heavenly Father touched me, and I heard Him say, "It's alright."

At that moment, I knew He was my Lord. I believed in Christ Jesus and wanted to follow His path to meet my Heavenly Father. But because of my arrogance, I felt ashamed to receive help from Christ Jesus. I replied to Jesus' invitation with a promise that I would fight against all odds on my own, and when I could stand on my own feet, I would come back to Him.

In the years that followed, I managed to build a successful life according to the values of the earthly world. But then I realised I had not accomplished anything on my own. God had been there all along. He guides me, helps me, holds my hands and embraces me.

Looking back on my lonely years, I can now see that God sent many angels into my life. When I was at the bottom of my life, I had nobody but two lovely West Highland White

Terriers. 2Q and 3Q were not only companion dogs to me, but they also taught me how to love, forgive, hope, keep faith, and surrender to God. God has since brought more dogs and horses into my life. Through caring for these animals, God continues to show me through miracles that He listens, loves, cares, forgives, and never gives up on me, even when no one else seems to care.

NOW, I DON'T FEEL LONELY ANYMORE BECAUSE
I AM LOVED BY MY LORD AND CHRIST JESUS.
I HAVE FAITH THAT GOD NEVER ABANDONS ME.

Several years ago, I started studying the Bible and listening to sermons and Christian songs. The more I pay attention to the details of my daily life, the more I feel that Christ Jesus and God are with me. I have found peace in my mind, and I feel so much joy just thinking about the day when I will bow my knee before Christ Jesus and my Heavenly Father to thank you in person.

Now, I don't feel lonely anymore because I am loved by my Lord and Christ Jesus. I have faith that God never abandons me. I want to declare publicly my commitment to Christ Jesus and my Heavenly Father: I will live my life to fulfil God's will, tell others about His greatness and share the joy, peace, and hope I have found in Him. I will practise God's love towards my husband, to my neighbours and the animals in my care.



DAMIEN CHOR

I was born into a non-Christian family, so I was first introduced to God through my helper as a young toddler. She shared Bible stories with me and even taught me how to pray. But because my family wasn't Christian, there wasn't anyone to nurture my relationship with God and teach me more about who Jesus was, so as I got older, I forgot about God and also heard a lot of negative perceptions about Christianity.

When I graduated from primary school, I started drifting away from Christ, and slowly, I found myself in a toxic environment. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, there were literally terrible lockdowns around the city. I felt bored staying at home without praying.

Feeling lost, I was able to say prayers quickly, and eventually, all bad circumstances came to an end.

Eventually, a friend from my school introduced me to Island ECC in 2024, and I learned more about God and about going to church. It was around this time that I joined Island Youth. I can still vividly remember the friends I met in the ministry. Apart from their warm welcome and friendly smiles they offered, what stood out most was their confidence and sense of security in their identity. Despite facing academic struggles, they continued to smile.

I then became more interested in the Bible when I attended Island Youth. Looking at various Bible verses helps me understand more about who Jesus is. I would never forget to say the proclamations at the end of the service (i.e. "Jesus has died, Jesus is risen, and Jesus will come again.") By attending Sunday Fundays and worshipping on Sundays, I was able to know who Jesus is. Last summer, I went to the Island Youth Summer Camp in Kenting and deepened my faith with friends through worshipping and studying the Bible.

While I'm still learning about Christianity, developing my faith, and growing my relationship with God daily, I've recognised that I can fully trust Jesus with my heart and wish to publicly declare and accept Him as my Lord and Saviour. I continue to get closer to God through worship, attending church, reading the Bible, and praying. And even during uncertain and doubtful times, I will remain faithful to Christ, love God, and trust in His unfailing power. Most importantly, I will continue to seek comfort and support from God through His grace in hardships and troubling moments and surrender my control into His mighty hands, as I know Jesus is my salvation.

I'M BEYOND BLESSED FOR ALL THE AMAZING FRIENDSHIPS I'VE FOUND AT CHURCH AND THE PEOPLE GOD HAS PLACED IN MY LIFE.

God gives me peace and reassurance. I can find comfort in His unchanging presence, knowing He is with me in every circumstance. God has given us the strength to overcome these difficulties and adapt, primarily through the recent challenges my mom, brother, and I have faced. God has brought me so much peace amidst all this chaos and a view of forgiveness that I wouldn't have had if it weren't for coming to church and understanding His Word. I'm beyond blessed for all the amazing friendships I've found at church and the people God has placed in my life. It served as a powerful reminder that nothing is impossible with God, as Luke 1:37 says. I have successfully graduated from high school this year and am ready to accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour once and for all. I would also like to thank all the people who have helped me along this journey and the wise teachers who have helped me in all situations.



EMI HASEGAWA

I was born into a non-Christian family, but I attended Christian schools until I graduated from high school. This was how I came to know about God and the Christian faith. Back then, my environment made it easy to be a believer. Being a Christian seemed to be the most natural and correct choice.

I grew up very blessed and fortunate. I was raised in a loving and supportive family and had wonderful friends. I also excelled academically, so I didn't have many worries or struggles throughout my childhood. Because of this, I carried a sense of pride that my life went well because of my own abilities and hard work, rather than because of God. As I entered university, I began to be drawn to the ways of the world, namely, living for yourself and chasing worldly success. I felt that I no longer needed God, being confident in my own abilities. I enjoyed university, but it was not without its struggles. I was actively seeking to fill what I now know was a Jesus-shaped hole in my heart. Last spring, I thought I had found the solution. It felt like I had finally found a way to make myself consistently happy. And for a while, it did. But just when things were falling into place, it was taken away from me. I was crushed. I had everything worked out. I had my plan fully fleshed out. But why did the answer have to be "no"? I was upset and confused, not sure of where to turn. My method of coping with hardship — burying myself in my studies — didn't work. It felt like the world had been pulled out from under me. That pain of loss lingered for a long time.

One day, while trying to navigate life with a heavy heart, I remembered the love of God that I had felt as a child. The love that I had been desperately trying to outrun. God's love is the most precious gift, yet I was denying it out of pride. I didn't want to admit that I had been wrong and foolish. But God's love is beyond human comprehension. It is not conditional, nor is it fleeting. So despite rejecting Him, my Heavenly Father still loved me. And He had always been patiently waiting for my return.



As God met me in my brokenness, I swallowed my pride and admitted that I longed for Him. I searched for English-speaking churches in Hong Kong, and I found Island ECC. I still remember the first time I came, I didn't know anyone. I was nervous, but I could feel the Holy Spirit leading me there, so I kept going to church on Sundays and also joined the young adults' fellowship on Fridays. Through community, I finally realised a crucial flaw in my understanding of the Christian faith as a child, which had led me astray. I thought that being a Christian meant life would be easy and without challenges. But the Bible clearly tells us that we will still face challenges, if not more, because we believe in Jesus Christ. But He also promises to work all things out for our good and that He has plans to help us prosper. And most valuable of all, He died for our sins so that if we believe in Him as our Lord and Saviour, we can spend eternity in His holy presence.

Trusting in God gives me supernatural peace, even in the most difficult of times. I no longer have to grow weary from relying on my own strength, but I can draw my strength from God, whom I know loves me endlessly. To me, a life without God is not one I want to live. I want to spend the rest of my days worshipping Jesus and publicly professing my faith.

I NO LONGER HAVE TO GROW WEARY FROM RELYING ON MY OWN STRENGTH, BUT I CAN DRAW MY STRENGTH FROM GOD, WHOM I KNOW LOVES ME ENDLESSLY.

FRANCES CHAN

I grew up studying at one of the top schools in Hong Kong, where many of my peers were incredibly capable and driven. Being in that environment, I often felt the pressure to perform and keep up. Over time, I found myself constantly comparing myself to others and questioning whether I was good enough, which made me feel like I always had to try harder and stay in control.

This also affected how I viewed my dad. I often compared him to others, which made me feel frustrated or dissatisfied. At times, I found him annoying and kept my distance. It's hard to admit, but I think part of me was holding on to an idea of what I thought I needed.

Even though I studied in a Catholic school and had religious studies as part of the curriculum, I never felt any real connection with God. Faith felt distant and routine, more like a subject than something personal.

After I started working, this desire to prove myself only became stronger. I chased success, relationships, and material things, believing they would finally make me feel secure. But it was never enough; I still felt empty inside.

It was in that emptiness that things began to shift. I met my ex-boyfriend, who invited me to Island ECC. At first, I went just to spend time with him, without expecting much, but I continued attending Sunday services with him. A few months later, an announcement about the Alpha Course was made. He encouraged me to join, and I signed up without any expectations.

Attending Alpha was the first time I went to church and met people on my own. I was nervous, especially since I'm introverted and usually feel overwhelmed in large groups or when meeting strangers. But something felt different; I wasn't afraid. Week after week, I met with my group and started to notice how different these people were – kind, genuine, and full of joy. That sparked my curiosity about Christianity and who God really is.

I became more committed and didn't miss a session. I now see it as God's blessing that I was placed in that Alpha group. We connected so naturally that after the course ended, we wanted to keep meeting and formed a care group together.



IN THE MIDDLE OF MY FEAR AND MY NEED FOR CONTROL, GOD HAS SHOWN ME THAT I DON'T HAVE TO STRIVE TO BE ENOUGH, BECAUSE IN HIM, I ALREADY AM.

At that time, I didn't fully understand what a care group was; I just knew I wanted to continue being with these people. When I was asked to step up as one of the leaders, I said yes, even though I had never done anything like that before. It was a step of faith. I didn't have everything figured out, but I chose to say yes.

Being part of this care group became such an important part of my journey. Through the highs and lows over the years, this community has walked alongside me, kept me grounded, and held me accountable in my faith. I still have a lot to learn and grow, but I'm so grateful that I don't have to do it alone.

As my faith grew, I also began to see changes in other areas of my life. One of the most meaningful shifts was how I viewed my dad. As I came to know God as my loving Father, I started to see my dad differently, not through comparison, but with more appreciation and love. Our relationship isn't perfect, but it has definitely been transformed.

It's been almost eight years since I started this journey, with ups and downs along the way. I can see now that it was never about my own effort; it was God leading me, step by step. In the middle of my fear and my need for control, God has shown me that I don't have to strive to be enough, because in Him, I already am.

This year, I felt God inviting me to take another step of faith – to be baptised. For a long time, I held back because I was afraid of public speaking and being vulnerable in front of others. But as I reflect on my journey, I realise that it has always been about learning to open my heart to God, even when I felt uneasy or afraid.

And I'm learning that following God isn't about having no fear; it's about choosing to trust Him, even when the fear is still there.

JENNIFER NGAI

I learned Bible stories in kindergarten. I remember hearing about Jesus being born at Christmas, and I learned to pray and be thankful. I also spent seven years in a Christian religious high school in Hong Kong. Even so, I never stayed truly close to God. I was a very typical kid – I prayed when I had problems, but during good days, I would forget to stay connected with Him. I believed, but my faith was on and off.

Thirteen years ago, when I was only 26 weeks pregnant with my second child, my waters broke unexpectedly and I was admitted to hospital. It was the darkest and scariest moment of my life. There was no medical explanation and I didn't know what to expect. As many people would, I kept searching online, reading about premature babies. But the more I read, the more worries I had.

Then one day, I decided to stop doing my own research. Instead, I prayed. I prayed to God to help my baby and me. I prayed for her to be a strong baby. “I called on the Lord in my distress; I cried out to my God for help. From His temple, He heard my voice; my cry came to His ears.” (Psalm 18:6)

My little one was born at 28 weeks, just enough time for the doctors to give me shots to speed up the development of her lungs. She did not require intubation but only a nasal cannula for a few weeks. God heard my cry. She was also born on Boxing Day! It's the Feast of St. Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit. For me, having my little one born the day after Christmas felt like a quiet reminder that even in the hardest moments, heaven was near.

But the journey didn't end at birth. For the next 24 months, we had very detailed follow-up check-ups at the hospital – scans of her brain, eye check-ups on the nerve, and many other careful examinations. There were worries here and there along the way. But by God's blessing, despite all the concerns, everything went well. She grew up very healthy.



After I gave birth, I started going to church with my best friend, who had lost her first child. We went together, probably both seeking some peace, looking for comfort in God's temple. I saw how God helped her through the unbearable pain. She found her faith there, and eventually she got baptised. I also made a decisive prayer and gave my life to Christ. But even after that prayer, I still did not take the step of baptism. Life went on, and I stayed on and off in my faith. I believed, but I never felt that strong a sense of encouragement to make a public declaration, and I thought I had already done the Sinner's Prayer anyway.

GOD CONTINUES TO WORK THROUGH DIFFERENT PEOPLE AND DIFFERENT SEASONS... AND HE IS WITH ME NOW, THROUGH THE FAITH OF MY OWN CHILD.

Then, a few years ago, I started bringing my younger daughter to church because I wanted her to learn about God. We came to Island ECC last year because she felt more comfortable in an English-speaking youth session. And here is where God worked in a new way – through my own child. She started encouraging me to take one more step closer to God. She keeps pushing me to read the Bible every night (I still haven't managed to do it consistently, but we're trying). And she also encouraged me to be baptised alongside her. (She was baptised earlier this year in May, too.)

I find it amazing how God continues to work through different people and different seasons. He was with me in that hospital room when I prayed for my daughter. He was with my best friend in her grief. And He is with me now, through the faith of my own child.

I don't have a perfect story, and I still struggle. But I know where to turn for help. Today, I want to say publicly that Jesus has been with me all along, and I want to follow Him.

LI LIANG DAVID

This year, I'm 41 years old and have spent a long time searching for Jesus. As a result of this ongoing journey, I've embarked on a brand-new and blessed life.

Before the age of 24, I barely knew anything about God because of the environment I lived in and the education I received. These led me to believe in materialism and become a convinced atheist. During those days, I faced many struggles in my life, particularly in three major areas. I felt great sympathy for ordinary people, especially those facing hardship and trouble, and I became increasingly angry when I saw people treated unfairly. I also experienced conflict with my family because the person my parents wanted me to become was someone I felt I could never be. At the same time, I questioned everything and wanted logical answers to all the confusing questions I encountered in life. All these struggles consumed me and damaged my personal life.

But Jesus loved me and did not give up on me. One day in Beijing, I met a man from Hong Kong who shared the gospel with me and invited me to study the Bible with him. We met for ten joyful Bible study sessions together at a cosy café. At the end, he realised that he could not convince me to become a Christian at that time. He left me a Bible as a gift, and I believe it was a seed of faith planted in my soul.

After that, I continued learning about Jesus and the church. I read and studied about Christianity, and I came to understand that salvation is a gift of grace through Jesus. I began applying what I learned to my daily life. Now I am certain that I believe in Jesus and will follow His teachings. I know that I am saved.

NOW I AM CERTAIN THAT I BELIEVE IN JESUS AND
WILL FOLLOW HIS TEACHINGS. I KNOW THAT
I AM SAVED.



SOPHIA MAN

Even though I was not born into a Christian family, I was no stranger to Christianity. Growing up, I attended Christian schools and had many opportunities to learn about God and the Bible. At the age of 10, a miracle moment led me to God: I had lost my textbook for my Bible studies class, and after hours of searching, it was nowhere to be found. I cried and prayed desperately to God to help me that night in my sleep. The next day, at midday at school, the textbook “suddenly” reappeared in my school bag! Since then, I knew God was real. God met me in my helpless moment.

My faith journey, however, has not been linear. Throughout my life, although God has sought me and pursued me in many ways, I had treated Him more as my “Santa Claus” than my Lord and Saviour. I would only come to Him with my desires and problems – from studying abroad in my teens, dealing with different cultures and academic challenges, to navigating careers and relationships upon graduation. Even though God heard me and helped me every time, I did not feel the need to know Him deeply or build a personal relationship with Him. Slowly, I let the growing life and work demands take priority, and I became distant from God. My faith was shallow.

The turning point came when my dad was suddenly diagnosed with stage 3 cancer in the summer of 2016. The doctor said he would only have a year. It was a shock to my family and me. Seeing my dad turning from a tough, macho man into a fragile, deteriorating being in a hospital bed was extremely heartbreaking. Meanwhile, I felt lost about my direction in life. I had never felt so uncertain and confused.

In the years that followed, in moments of despair and helplessness, I found myself turning to God more often. As I continued leaning into Him more often, I came to witness that He was with me every step of the way. He comforted me and gave me peace and hope when

I needed it most. He renewed my strength when I simply did not know how to move forward. He showed me how to navigate a sick family member while managing the messy and unpredictable life and work



IN A WORLD FULL OF CONSTANT TRIALS, CHALLENGES, AND UNEXPECTED SHIFTS AND TURNS, GOD IS OUR ONLY ANCHOR.

challenges in between. He also granted so much grace to my dad and family. Against all odds, my dad stayed with us for another seven years, and he became a Christian just four months before he passed away in November 2023.

After my dad passed away, I found myself dealing with immense grief and processing the loss of a close family member. Combined with the constant stress and demands of my career, I felt pushed to a point of no return – I realised I could no longer put God in the back seat. In a world full of constant trials, challenges, and unexpected shifts and turns, God is our only anchor. Only by grounding in His truth, hope, and faithfulness could I remain grounded without spinning in different directions. I began making a conscious decision to know God more intimately and build a close relationship with Him.

Day by day, I have felt a growing sense of closeness and connectedness with God. Now, His words and presence renew my mind every day. He has become my constant refuge, strength, and counsellor. I have also come to realise what it means to follow Christ – to trust and lean into God, in good times and bad times. God is bigger than our fears, anxiety, worries, and life circumstances. And in Him, we are held in strong hands.

My grace is sufficient for you. My power is made perfect in weakness. 2 Corinthians 12:9

Today, I am prompted to openly share my weaknesses to praise God, my Lord and Saviour. God has relentlessly sought me and found me, even when I had been stubborn. Through the trials and challenges of life, He has shaped and transformed me, deepening my faith and trust in Him. And He has forever changed the way I see the world.

Thank you, my God and my Lord. You are so, so good. May you have all the glory.

WILSON NG

My journey of faith began when I immigrated to Sydney as a young boy in Year 6. I attended an Anglican high school, and it was there that I first encountered the Christian faith in a personal and meaningful way.

During those years, my mother faced deep struggles in her marriage to my father, which eventually led to divorce. She was weighed down by sadness and uncertainty. Yet when she came to believe in God, I witnessed a remarkable transformation in her. Her energy, outlook, and character changed. Where once I had seen her low in spirit, I now saw her renewed, uplifted and filled with hope. It was clear to me that God had turned her life around.

Not long after, my sister also chose to be baptised. Again, I saw how faith reshaped her character and gave her strength. These changes in my family left a lasting impression on me. They were living testimonies of God's power to heal and restore.

In 2005, I moved to Hong Kong for work while my mother and sister remained in Sydney. Although I was living alone, my faith continued to anchor me. I attended church in Fortress Hill and prayed every night – a practice I have faithfully continued to this day. My belief in God was never a matter of external pressure; it was an inner conviction, a quiet but steady flame that had been lit during my high school years and never extinguished.

For two decades, I carried this belief without yet being baptised. I always felt that baptism was not something to be rushed or forced. It had to come from within, from a genuine stirring of the heart. And while I believed deeply, I waited for that moment of conviction to arrive.

A few months ago, my life was shaken in a way I could never have imagined. I lost my daughter at the age of 15. She had grown up attending church and walking in faith, and her love for Jesus was evident in her life. Her passing was the most painful experience

I have ever endured. Yet even in grief, I felt a profound call: to continue in the faith she embraced, to carry forward the legacy, and to live in such a way that I might one day be reunited with her in eternity.

This loss became a turning point. The prompting I had been waiting for in my heart finally came. I realised that baptism was not simply a ritual, but a personal commitment to follow Christ fully. For 20 years, I had believed in God, guided quietly by the Holy Spirit. Now, I understood that the Spirit was leading me to take the next step – to declare my faith openly, to be baptised, and to live with the assurance of eternal life in Christ.

My decision is not the result of family influence or external pressure. It is not because my mother or sister was baptised, though their journeys inspired me. It is not because of tradition or expectation. It is because the Holy Spirit has worked within me, patiently and faithfully, until I could no longer ignore the call.

I want my testimony to reflect this truth: that God has been present in my life from the beginning – through my mother's transformation, my sister's baptism, my years of prayer in Hong Kong, and even through the heartbreak of losing my daughter. Each chapter has been part of a greater story of faith.

MY JOURNEY OF FAITH HAS BEEN SHAPED BY FAMILY, SUSTAINED THROUGH PRAYER, DEEPENED THROUGH LOSS AND GUIDED BY THE FAITHFUL HAND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Today, I stand ready to be baptised as a declaration of my heart's deepest conviction. I believe in Jesus Christ as my Saviour. I believe in His promise of eternal life. And I hold on to the hope that one day I will meet Jesus and be reunited with my daughter in heaven, where we will live together in God's presence for eternity.

My journey of faith has been shaped by family, sustained through prayer, deepened through loss and guided by the faithful hand of the Holy Spirit.



TIFFANY LAM

I have always felt the need to excel in every role I play: daughter, friend and professional. I believed my worth was tied to perfect performance. These were identities I had to earn. I needed to be seen as capable, reliable, and good. Whenever I fell short, I told myself I had not thought enough, planned enough or tried hard enough. I would overwork to the point of burnout – my body screaming in protest with constant tension, while my mind dismissed it as the necessary cost of responsibility.

My shoulders were always tight. The burden I carried had been a physical weight that affected my body, my expressions, and my relationships. I lived in a world that told me my future depended entirely on my own effort and that I would receive only what I could achieve for myself.

I had encountered Christianity a few times before, but it never resonated. I believed in a universe of cause and effect, not grace. I thought I was the architect of my own life, and I thought I was doing okay on my own.

But then in 2022, my blueprint broke. I hit rock bottom. A personal challenge left me feeling hopeless in the middle of a change I never planned. I had endless questions and reflection, which didn't help, and I became increasingly depressed.

In June 2024, I was invited to a Christian event called "Purpose Refocus". The community and the sharing suggested a new approach to life for me. I knew I needed a turnaround

to reconnect with myself and find the one who will never disappoint. My instinct then (which I now believe was the Holy Spirit) whispered, "Find God. Go to church."

In August 2024, I walked into Island ECC for the first time, not knowing what to expect. I did not want to connect with anyone, as I wanted to act purely from my heart to reconnect with myself and perhaps with God, rather than external pressure.

What I found deconstructed my world. Learning God's Word and experiencing the love of this community wasn't

a gentle tweak to my philosophy; it was a turbulent, beautiful upheaval. Scriptures churned up buried traumas and unspoken pains I'd been carrying, not to condemn me, but to finally bring them into a healing light.

I learned that in God's eyes, in Christ, I was made in His image before I performed a single act. I could finally lay that weight down. The moment I truly internalised that – perhaps during a sermon, or in a quiet prayer – I felt a physical release. My shoulders actually dropped. I am no longer the frantic centre of my own universe, trying to manage every outcome. I am learning to put God at the centre and trust His masterplan.

Now, when anxiety hits, I don't just spiral. I pray. I download the messy, critical thoughts to Him, like transferring files from a full, crashing hard drive to an infinite, secure cloud storage. Sunday service is my weekly reset; worship songs wash over me, softening a heart I didn't even realise had grown so hard. And God gave me loving sisters in Christ – women who see me, not my roles, and nudge me toward growth with truth and grace.

THE MOST PROFOUND CHANGE IS IN THE QUIET OF MY OWN MIND. THE CYCLE OF SELF-CRITIQUE..., IS BEING BROKEN. IT'S REPLACED BY A LOUDER, STEADIER TRUTH: I AM FORGIVEN. I HAVE A PURPOSE.

The most profound change is in the quiet of my own mind. The cycle of self-critique, of replaying every suboptimal moment, is being broken. It's replaced by a louder, steadier truth: I am forgiven. I have a purpose. My cornerstone identity is no longer "Tiffany who must prove herself", but "Tiffany, beloved daughter of God." This identity doesn't shift with my success or failure. It grounds me and allows me to possess a peace that makes no sense, amidst life's ongoing challenges.

That decision to walk into church two years ago began a journey from the worst season of my life to the best. Today, through baptism, I am publicly choosing this new life. I am symbolically burying that old, burdened, self-reliant person, and rising to walk in the grace and freedom of being a child of God. My greatest hope is for my beloved friends and family to know this profound grace in His perfect timing.



YANICE WANG

I grew up in a Christian family and had been attending church since I was a baby. I learned about the Bible, who God is, and how much He loves us — sending His one and only Son, Jesus, to sacrifice Himself on the cross to save us. However, I didn't develop a personal relationship with Him, and I didn't believe that God could truly help me.

When I was 14, terrible things happened. I was bullied by classmates and teachers, experienced verbal and sexual assault, and my dad was diagnosed with Arrhythmia. I reached out for help, but the responses made things worse. People said, "You're just seeking attention," or "Stop faking it." These hurtful comments made me feel even more isolated and ashamed. I withdrew further and struggled to cope. Soon after, my dad took me to see a psychiatrist, and I was diagnosed with depression. This dark condition lasted six years. During that time, I hurt myself countless times. I went clubbing, drinking, and dating in an attempt to distract myself. I was self-destructing and living in total rebellion against God.

Depression feels like a persistent, heavy weight of sadness and emptiness. No matter how hard I tried to be happy, I felt nothing but sadness. I lost interest in everything — playing volleyball, singing, and more. I felt drained no matter how many hours I slept. I couldn't eat much and lost 7 kg in one week. I had no motivation; I couldn't go out, take a shower, or go to school. All I could do was lie in bed, cry, and think negatively. I lost my sense of purpose in life.



At 18, I attempted suicide by overdosing on medication. I can't recall exactly how I ended up in the hospital, but I felt dizzy and fainted. I vaguely remember being admitted to the psychiatric ward. It was dark, with a mortuary corridor on one side and screams on the other. I felt close to death — probably the scariest moment of my life. When I regained consciousness, the doctor warned me that if I hurt myself again, I might never leave a mental hospital. That moment made me realise I had to change. The incident left me with side effects such as memory loss, hand tremors, and headaches. Since then, I have been prescribed additional medications to reduce the risk of another suicide attempt.

For a long time, I believed the only help was medication and changing my thinking. Although I didn't enjoy the meds — they suppressed my sadness and made me unable to cry or feel happiness — I relied on them more than anything else. I didn't believe prayer or church could help.

One night, during a serious emotional breakdown, I felt overwhelmed and lost. My body shook, I howled, and I felt completely alone. Suddenly, I sensed God saying to me: "It's okay. Talk to me. Come back to Me, and I will guide you." For the first time, I felt His presence. I kept praying, asking Him to take away my pain, give me strength, and grant me peace. He answered, and my problems gradually started to resolve.

On the night of my parents' wedding anniversary, I decided to give my life to Jesus. A few weeks later, Carol, my volleyball friend, brought me to Island ECC, where I began my walk with Christ.

**"IF GOD IS ALL YOU HAVE, YOU HAVE ALL YOU NEED."
THANK YOU, JESUS, FOR CHOOSING ME.**

Since abiding in Jesus, my whole life has been transformed. I have quit the habits of drinking, overthinking, and worrying about the future. God never leaves us; He has a perfect plan for each of us. So, what's the point of worrying? He is in charge, and He will always fight our battles.

Before writing this testimony, I looked back at my past and realised that I still hadn't truly forgiven or accepted it. I still harboured bitterness and felt sorry for the people I had hurt. After praying, I reached out to one of them to apologise. I was nervous at first, but then our conversation revealed how merciful and loving our God is. It turned out he had been attending church after moving to the UK! I was so touched by how God brought two broken people back together.

"If God is all you have, you have all you need." Thank you, Jesus, for choosing me.

DAISY YEUNG

I grew up in a Christian family and attended a Christian school, so faith was always present in my environment. I knew about God, heard His Word, and was surrounded by people who believed. Yet, even with that foundation, I often leaned on my own strength when facing challenges. I thought I could manage life on my own without fully depending on Christ.

Last year, I entered a season of intense struggle. Work became overwhelming, and the stress I carried seemed to grow heavier each day. I felt drained, discouraged, and uncertain about my future. My identity became tied to my performance, and when I couldn't keep up, I felt like I was failing not only at work but in life itself.

Eventually, I decided to quit my job, but instead of relief, I was left with emptiness and confusion. I wondered what my purpose was and whether I had made the right decision. In that weakness, I realised how fragile my own strength was. I had always known about God, but I had not truly surrendered my struggles to Him. My life was marked by striving, anxiety and a constant search for worth through achievement.

During that difficult season, I began praying more earnestly than before. The truths I had learned while growing up became personal. I realised I could not carry the weight alone and needed Christ's strength.

Through prayer, Scripture and quiet moments with God, He reminded me that my worth is not defined by work or achievement, but by His love and grace. Philippians 4:6-7 spoke directly to me in my situation, inviting me to bring my anxiety to God and trust His peace to guard my heart and mind. God has been inviting me to lay down my burdens and trust

Him. It was not about me trying harder, but about surrendering fully to Him. I chose to give my life and my struggles to Christ, trusting Him to guide me even when I could not see the way forward.



Although I did not have a dramatic moment of conversion since I had always known about Him, there was a deep shift in my heart. I moved from knowing about Christ to truly depending on Him. I came to understand that faith is not just about growing up in a Christian environment; it is about a personal relationship with Jesus.

Since surrendering to Christ, my life has not been free of challenges, but it has been transformed. I now face stress and uncertainty with a new perspective, knowing that Jesus walks with me. Instead of being consumed by anxiety, I find peace in His promises. There are still moments when I feel overwhelmed, but I no longer face them alone. I have learned to depend on Him daily, and I have experienced joy and strength that I could not find on my own. My testimony is not that all problems disappeared, but that Christ gives me the courage and hope to face them.

I am learning to see my identity not in my work or achievements, but in being a child of God. This truth has freed me from the constant pressure to prove myself. I now approach life with gratitude, knowing that God's plan is greater than mine. Even when I do not understand the path ahead, I trust that He is leading me.

**THERE WAS A DEEP SHIFT IN MY HEART.
I MOVED FROM KNOWING ABOUT CHRIST TO TRULY
DEPENDING ON HIM.**

MARILIZ LABUTONG

My name is Mariliz Labutong, and I am 52 years old. I am blessed to be a part of my employer's family, and it was through them that I came to Island ECC. When I started working for the family, I prayed that I would also be able to attend church with them. In December 2025, my employer asked whether I would like to come, and I said, "YES!" God answered my prayer, and I have been attending ever since.

I have been an overseas Filipino worker here in Hong Kong for the past 28 years. It has never been easy. There are so many sacrifices I have had to make for my family. Homesickness and longing for them have been the most difficult parts. I have spent more than half my life away from them, and I can say that God is the only reason I have been able to stay here for so long. God has been so good and faithful to me and my family back home. I have been able to overcome sadness because of His presence and promises. He's the one who gives me strength every day!

Now I want to publicly declare that I want to follow Him for the rest of my life. I surrender to His will for me, and I want to give Him all the praise and glory He deserves for what He has done, what He is doing, and what He will continue to do in and through me.

To God be all the glory, honour, and praise. Amen!

I SURRENDER TO HIS WILL FOR ME, AND I WANT TO
GIVE HIM ALL THE PRAISE AND GLORY
HE DESERVES...



LOUISA ZHANG

When my family moved to Hong Kong while I was very young, the transition was a major adjustment for us. My mother, in particular, found it quite difficult to adapt to the new environment and felt very lonely during those early days. Fortunately, there was a church located right opposite our apartment. The community at that church noticed our situation and welcomed my mother with open arms. They quickly became some of the very first people we knew in Hong Kong. Their warmth and hospitality provided our family with a vital sense of belonging when we needed it most.

Following that initial introduction to the church community, I attended a convent school. There, singing hymns, praying, and participating in church activities were natural parts of our everyday routine. Through this daily exposure, I gradually grew to know God. Because of these positive early experiences, stepping into a church has always given me a very warm, reassuring feeling. It felt like a familiar place where I could always find comfort.

Despite this close relationship with the church, my faith remained quiet for many years. While I frequently attended services, I rarely talked about my beliefs with others, and I never went to church with friends or joined fellowship groups. I preferred to keep my spiritual life entirely to myself. At the time, I genuinely believed that this was sufficient. I felt that as long as I believed in God in my own heart, I did not need to share my thoughts or lean on a Christian community.

A few years ago, this perspective began to change. After my husband and I got married, we wanted to start a family and began trying for a child. We soon realised that having a child would be a much more difficult journey than we had anticipated. We faced many unexpected challenges and went through numerous ups and downs. The process became emotionally exhausting to the point that at many points I felt my faith running low. For the first time, I found it truly hard to believe, and I struggled to maintain my trust in God.



THIS JOURNEY HAS TAUGHT ME THAT EVERYTHING HAPPENS IN HIS DIVINE TIMING AND ACCORDING TO HIS PLAN, BRINGING TREMENDOUS PEACE TO MY HEART.

Interestingly, whenever my faith hit these low points, I received support through the people around me. Quite unexpectedly, a friend would reach out to ask me to come to church or invite me to join a Bible study group. These invitations always seemed to come at precisely the moment I was feeling most distant from God. Looking back, I can see that these were not random coincidences, but God's way of keeping me connected to Him when I was tempted to pull away.

One year, during a particularly tough phase of this journey, a friend asked if I wanted to attend the Christmas service at Island ECC. I still recall that service so vividly. The sermon centred on the book of Isaiah, emphasising that God's light shines brightest in the darkest places. Those words spoke directly to my situation. They gave me a renewed sense of hope and a perspective that I held onto tightly during the remainder of our waiting period.

Eventually, our prayers were answered, and we welcomed our son in 2023. Whenever I look at my son today, I am reminded of God's constant presence throughout my life. I realise now that He has always been seeking me and has never forsaken me. This journey has taught me that everything happens in His divine timing and according to His plan, bringing tremendous peace to my heart.

My experiences have shown me that faith is not meant to be kept entirely private. We need community, and we need to acknowledge what God has done for us. Therefore, I would like to openly and proudly proclaim myself as a Christian and a follower of God. This baptism is my public declaration of that commitment.

TIMMY SHULTZ

My name is Timmy Shultz. I am from Hong Kong, and I am hard of hearing. I grew up in a non-Christian family, and I am the only Christian in my immediate family.

I first heard stories about Jesus in kindergarten. In primary school, I attended Bible classes and prayed with the school principal. When I was in secondary school, a teacher taught me stories from the Old and New Testaments, and I joined the Boys' Brigade. Through these experiences, I learned that Jesus Christ died on the cross to save us from sin. I repented and believed in Him because I wanted to receive eternal life, as promised in John 3:16.

Sport has always been an important part of my life. I enjoy rugby, basketball, running and going to the gym. I took part in many school competitions and won championships and medals. I thank God for giving me strength, wisdom, joy and physical ability. Isaiah 40:31 reminds me that those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

After becoming a believer, I tried attending different churches, but I sometimes felt they did not suit my needs. At one point, I stopped attending church in person for about two years because I was upset by the conflicts I experienced. During that time, I watched church services on YouTube, studied sign language, exercised and trained for esports competitions.

Mercifully, God led me to Island ECC through an acquaintance. I began attending and joined the Men's Fellowship, Shift and Island Training Club (ITC). Through these ministries, I met many new people and learned many new things.

In the Shift C3 Cantonese group, the brothers and sisters helped me study Scripture and learn Bible stories. I enjoyed talking and studying with the group, and I especially enjoyed the music.

God also gave me excellent coaches at ITC. Because I could not always hear the exercise instructions clearly, my coaches patiently demonstrated the movements so that I could understand by watching them. They taught me how to warm up and practise different exercise techniques. Although the training was difficult at first, I did not give up and continued working hard. I thank God for giving strength and health to our brothers and sisters. I pray that He will give us healthy bodies and stamina so that we can continue exercising for His glory.

I have decided to be baptised because I want to make a fresh start in my faith journey and repent of my sins. In the days ahead, I pray that God will give me the strength to face what lies ahead, together with faith and courage. I pray that my faith will continue to grow. May God grant me wisdom, understanding and the strength that comes from faith!

**I PRAY THAT GOD WILL GIVE ME THE STRENGTH TO
FACE WHAT LIES AHEAD, TOGETHER WITH FAITH AND
COURAGE.**



KAI WONG TANG

As a child, I grew up in a family that was Buddhist, but only to the extent that we would say, “I am Buddhist.” Although I knew very little about faith, I always sensed that there was something spiritual I was unable to tap into.

I remember knocking over a Buddhist statue at home and breaking its fingers. I thought if god was Buddhist, I would not be forgiven, so I never went down that route. I still went to the Buddhist temple during Chinese New Year and once even asked for a girlfriend during a live TV interview, but that never worked. Serves me right.

I had heard about Christianity through my helpers, but going to church every Sunday seemed like too much of a commitment, even though I often had nothing else to do. I was curious, but I never had the opportunity to learn more.

In 2020, I entered a self-help phase and obsessively watched videos by Jordan Peterson. At the time, I thought stories such as Jonah and the whale had no basis in truth, but an openness to Christianity had been planted in me. Self-help helped to some extent, but it was a lonely period, and I still felt that something spiritual was missing.

During my final term at university, I visited a friend in Canada and met another friend whom I did not know particularly well. He did not actually invite me to church, but I tagged along with him on Easter Sunday. There was a free potluck, and I mistakenly thought churches did this every week. So I returned to Hong Kong determined to find a church where I could have free lunch every Sunday and socialise.

It was difficult to adjust at first because the way I communicated with people was far from friendly. I held Christians to unrealistic standards and quickly judged their mistakes as hypocrisy. It took me a long time to understand that the church was actually the opposite: a place for imperfect people.

I began joining ministries including Shift, ITC and the ARK dragon boat team. Eventually, after eight months, I made my first friend at church whom I felt comfortable talking to.



IT TOOK ME A LONG TIME TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE CHURCH WAS ACTUALLY THE OPPOSITE: A PLACE FOR IMPERFECT PEOPLE.

The moment I realised that something in me had changed came during a trip to the Philippines. Poor planning and a lack of self-awareness on my part left me cycling through a very deprived area. With another long ride ahead of me, I began to feel a sense of dread.

Then a fisherman offered me a ride for a fee. I felt the Lord spoke to me, or perhaps I was simply afraid of being left behind — I offered him more than he asked for. During the ride, he told me about his life, his cousin and the dangers they faced while fishing. At that moment, all my worries suddenly felt so insignificant.

After he dropped me off, I met a Chinese couple and told them about my experience. They were moved to pay for my dinner, and I felt the Lord prompting me to pay that kindness forward.

This is not a story about money, nor is it a story about how great I am. It is the story of how the Lord entered my life.

As I continued joining different ministries, I realised that the Lord had blessed me with the ability to share both the joys and burdens of others. I also learned how to integrate God’s Word into my daily life. I have had the best year of my life so far, sharing God’s Word and helping people who come to me with their struggles.

Recently, a Christian friend asked me why I chose Christianity. I told him it was the most accessible religion to me. He laughed a little, so I went back and reflected on my experience of the Lord as my Saviour.

Now, I would like to think that this testimony is a much better answer than the one I gave him.

JOANNA CHOW

Born in mainland China, the native land of Confucius, I was raised to revere Heaven and earth, treat people with kindness, and always remain grateful. I excelled academically and enjoyed art and Chinese philosophy with my parents. Guided by my family's teachings, I became self-disciplined and believed that intellectual growth would make me a good and valuable person, honouring the support my family had given me.

After leaving home, I experienced cultural and value conflicts between my family background and life in Shanghai during university, and later between Chinese and Western cultures in my career. Through these experiences, I refined my values and explored who I was. Honestly, I cared less about the world and those beyond my inner circle.

However, during the COVID pandemic, as I listened to ordinary people's stories and channelled them into my artwork, I felt the world's suffering so deeply that it caused profound heartache and guilt. I longed to live out my ideal: "In adversity, cultivate personal virtue; in prosperity, succour all mankind." I wanted to do what was right and meaningful, but I found myself lacking wisdom and strength.

Gradually, I began to yield to the world, telling myself that survival would bring future opportunities. Guilt and shame followed. I eventually had to accept that philosophies had their limits and contradictions, and that I could not live out my ideals through willpower alone. This was a massive disillusionment. My value system was collapsing.

At this breaking point, I had the opportunity to move to Hong Kong. Later, I realised that this relocation was part of the path of salvation God had orchestrated, not only for me, but for our family.



When I arrived, my new life and my new faith became intertwined. I came ready to start again from zero, yet felt constantly evaluated and believed I had to earn acceptance. As brothers and sisters in Christ appeared one after another to guide

me, I began to realise that God might be the answer to the life I had been searching for. I wanted to know Him, yet I still felt like a child scrambling to make everything right out of fear, hoping to earn my Father's acceptance.

However, God's grace was greater. During the Alpha retreat, I heard the words, "Joanna, I know you. I love you unconditionally." My tears flowed like a river. His words always came to me at precisely the right time. He brought angels to surround me when I needed them and embraced me with His most genuine love.

In the safety of knowing that I had been adopted by my Father, my surrender moved from the surface to the core, reaching the deeper parts of my soul. The more I knew Him, the more I became aware of my sins, especially the things I had once mistaken for virtues.

Through confession, He beautifully rebuilt my marriage and gave me wisdom in raising our child. "God bless our home" is on the carved stone cross in my house, and I now know it to be true. My heart overflows with gratitude.

**I DID NOT KNOW WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR
UNTIL GOD HIMSELF FOUND ME. EVEN NOW, HE IS
PATIENTLY HEALING AND RESTORING ME.**

Looking back, I had always been searching for the cornerstone of truth, goodness and beauty, without knowing that it was God Himself. I constantly sought to be understood and loved, without knowing that God had always understood and loved me. I did not know what I was looking for until God Himself found me. Even now, He is patiently healing and restoring me.

In a world so deeply fractured and full of suffering, we no longer need to search for a path alone, for Jesus Christ is the way. If you, too, are carrying heavy burdens or seeking a love that never fails, let us step out of our own little world and discover His beautiful kingdom.

Being baptised today is my lifelong commitment. I know that the line holding my life securely has, from beginning to end, always been held firmly in His hands.

GLORIA POON

Half a year ago, I was given a chance for a fresh start in life. Before that, I had reached a point where I didn't think I wanted to keep living.

My mind returned to a place I thought I'd escaped in high school, only this time it was worse. It wasn't something that I could easily suppress or pretend everything was fine anymore. I couldn't get out of bed. I couldn't eat. I couldn't sleep. My whole body felt heavy and in pain. I felt caught in an internal battle and did not know how to escape. Although I knew I had much to give to the people around me and to the world, I had never felt so empty and alone.

Looking back, all of this didn't happen overnight. I had always put other people's needs before my own because I did not want to burden anyone. Over time, I gave so much of myself away that I lost sight of who I was. I poured so much of myself into people who didn't value it, while feeling that I had failed the people who truly mattered. I was so focused on being there for everyone else that I didn't realise how much I was neglecting myself.

Then I experienced sudden loss. Two of my grandparents passed away unexpectedly. What stayed with me wasn't just grief but regret over time I thought I still had and conversations that never happened. I didn't know how to process death, and as someone who overthinks, my mind kept spiralling.

Somewhere in the midst of it all, the idea of baptism came to mind, though it came from a place I could not fully understand. Deep down, I knew I believed in God, but I also felt that I barely knew Him.

Growing up, I had always been around church. I was curious – I believed in God, but I also had many questions. I wanted to understand what faith truly meant for me, but I never found my footing. Throughout secondary school, most of my church friends migrated, and eventually, I drifted away from faith too.



I REALISED THAT IT WASN'T A COINCIDENCE; IT WAS GOD MEETING ME WHERE I WAS. I WAS NEVER TRULY ALONE. GOD HAD BEEN THERE ALL ALONG.

Then, half a year ago, amid my mind wars, my friend invited me to church. I didn't want to go, but somehow, I made it out of the house. I showed up exhausted and empty. That day, the service's theme was "A Fresh Start." As the pastor spoke and my friend prayed, it felt like every single word was speaking directly to me and for me. For the first time in a long time, I felt seen. At that moment, I realised that it wasn't a coincidence; it was God meeting me where I was. I was never truly alone. God had been there all along.

Something in me began to shift from then on. Not all at once, and not perfectly, but slowly and gently. I'm learning to let go of things I've been holding onto so tightly – the need to control everything, the pressure to be everything for everyone, and the belief that I always had to carry things alone.

There are still things I grieve, things I wish had happened differently, and the people I wish I hadn't hurt along the way. Life is still complicated, and there are days when my mind feels heavy again. But I've come to realise that faith does not mean life suddenly becomes easy or painless. Sometimes life is painful. Sometimes things happen in ways that we will never fully understand. But I started to see that none of it was meaningless.

back, I can see that God was present through the losses, the pain, the people and the timing, using even the darkest episode of my life to draw me back to Him.

Choosing baptism is my way of surrendering my life to Him. Not because I have everything figured out, but because I know that if it wasn't for Him, I wouldn't be standing here today. I'm grateful for this life, for the chance to be made new, and for the choice to trust Him with my life today and forever – to let go, to surrender, and to walk forward, even through battles in my mind.

Half a year ago, I was given a chance for a fresh start in life. And for the first time in a long time, I want to keep living it.

FLORENTINA COLLADO

My name is Florentina Collado. I am 60 years old and have worked as a domestic helper in Hong Kong for more than 30 years. Because of the hardships of life in the Philippines, I decided to come to Hong Kong to work as a domestic helper.

I was raised by my parents as a dedicated Roman Catholic. One day, my employer brought my co-worker and me to attend their Filipino service at their church. It was there and then that I learned about God and personally encountered Jesus Christ in my life.

As I came to know Him, I really felt the joy and peace in my heart. I want to accept Him into my life as my God and my Saviour. I know I am a sinner, and I am not worthy of His greatness. I believe that Jesus was crucified on the cross to save me, and now I want to give my life and everything to Him.

I want to thank my employer because it was through him that I came to know God in my life. Today, I am willing to be baptised and accept Jesus as my Saviour. Amen.

AS I CAME TO KNOW HIM, I REALLY FELT THE JOY AND
PEACE IN MY HEART.



ESTHER LEUNG

God's blessings have been with me from the very beginning. I was born into a Christian family, brought to church before I could walk, and surrounded by loving parents, church friends and cell group families. I was also blessed with lifelong friendships formed at a Christian primary school, friendships that still feel like family today.

Since I was little, my Sunday mornings centred around church, Bible studies and youth fellowship. I can hardly remember missing a Sunday unless I was away for holiday. Yet when I entered an international secondary school, my walk with God began to feel distant. Most of my fellowship friends attended local schools, and differences in culture and environment left me feeling disconnected. I also became uncomfortable expressing my faith in Cantonese, even though it is my mother tongue. Gradually, church became more of a routine than a genuine desire to seek God.

I still remember being deeply moved when I said the Sinner's Prayer with my fellowship friends at the age of 11. However, I struggled to stay spiritually rooted afterwards, especially as I saw others grow in faith while I felt stagnant.

Yet God never stopped pursuing me and eventually led me to Island ECC. Two of my fellowship friends had started attending because they connected more deeply with Scripture in English. During my first visit, God softened my heart through the worship and sermon. People who know me would describe me as logical and rarely emotional, yet tears filled my eyes in the presence of God. It was another moment when I felt Him calling me back.

During the COVID lockdown, my faith slowly drifted again. After moving to the UK for university, I stopped seeking a church community and struggled to find Christian friends. I barely opened the Bible or spoke to God. I felt spiritually lost.

Even then, God remained faithful. In my final year, I met a young pastor from Hong Kong who invited me to a young adults ministry and weekly Bible studies. God began stirring my heart once more. I was encouraged by people from different

EVEN WHEN I STOPPED SEEKING HIM, HE NEVER STOPPED WORKING THROUGH DIFFERENT CHURCHES, COMMUNITIES, FRIENDSHIPS AND SEASONS OF LIFE TO DRAW ME BACK.

cultures and backgrounds, and for the first time in years, I felt safe bringing my doubts and questions into a Christian community.

Last year, when deciding whether to return to Hong Kong for my career, church unexpectedly became an important consideration. Deep down, I knew I longed for a stronger church life and Christian community.

After moving back, I delayed returning to church, making excuses about not being fully settled and the long commute. Yet through God's grace, He used my childhood best friends to gently lead me back to Island ECC. The journey of more than two hours each Sunday may sound tiring, but I never felt burdened. Over time, I realised something had changed. For the first time, church was no longer a plan made for me by others. It became something I was choosing to pursue.

Looking back, I can see God's hand through every season of my life, even when I drifted furthest from Him. There were moments when I questioned whether I truly knew God personally, rather than simply knowing Him through my upbringing.

For a long time, baptism felt like something that would naturally happen one day because of my upbringing — like a seed planted long ago, waiting quietly. Deep down, I knew I wanted baptism to come from genuine faith and conviction, not habit or expectation.

After reconnecting with church life at Island ECC, I realised how faithfully God had been pursuing me all along. Even when I stopped seeking Him, He never stopped working through different churches, communities, friendships and seasons of life to draw me back.

For the first time, faith became a personal choice that I genuinely desired. Choosing baptism now is my response to follow Jesus. I know I am still growing spiritually, but through every season, God has remained faithful, and I want to continue walking with Him.



ASHLEY LAI

For me, baptism is not merely a religious ceremony; it is a public response to God's call. It is the moment when I place my faith on the altar, not only in my heart, but also in my witness to others.

From childhood through secondary school, I studied in Christian schools. Over the years, I learned Christian stories in Religious Education classes. I also joined friends and teachers in attending fellowship meetings and church services. Although I had been around the faith, I had never truly decided to follow Christ. At the time, I believed that going to church was enough; at least I could find friendship and belonging. I thought participation could replace commitment. Later, I realised I was missing the most important step: surrendering my life fully to God.

I grew up in a Buddhist family. To me, becoming a Christian felt like a betrayal. Even more personally, when I was young, my mother arranged for me to make a vow to Guanyin. That tradition created an inner conflict within me. I was afraid of change, afraid of the consequences, and afraid of losing the sense of security connected with my upbringing. For a long time, I knew the gospel, yet I hesitated to cross the line from knowing to obeying.

Then God met me in a very real way. On Christmas Eve, I was walking along the street when I saw people from a church singing carols. I watched them sing with joy and noticed how happy the children were. I felt a warmth that I could not explain in words. In that moment, something in me awakened. I realised that God was drawing me closer, patiently and in a way I could understand.

The following Sunday, I brought my child to church. I did not return merely because it was convenient or because I wanted friendship. Gradually, I sensed that God was leading me step by step. Eventually, at an evangelistic meeting, I made the decision to commit my

I AM HIS, AND HE PREPARES PLACES WHERE I CAN SERVE ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.

life to Christ. I truly believe that God had been arranging my path all along. Each time I returned, each time I listened, and each time I drew nearer was not random. It was God's careful guidance.

After I became a Christian, God continued to confirm His leading in my life. I work at a Catholic school, but for a while, I was unhappy with my job. I wanted to change jobs, but I was unsuccessful. Despite my efforts, the doors remained closed. Then, at last, I was able to move into a new position. One of the key reasons was that I could teach Religious Education. When I heard this, I saw not only an opportunity, but also God's reminder: I am His, and He prepares places where I can serve according to His purpose.

Because of these experiences, I am confident that my decision to be baptised is not impulsive. I believe it is the right response to God's love and call. I want to be obedient and openly declare my faith. I want people to know that I am no longer someone who simply attends church. I am a Christian who desires to follow Christ sincerely.

On the day of my baptism, I want to say to God and to the church: I place my life into Your hands. I am willing to walk with You, even when the future is not fully clear.

"God is not calling us to stand by; He calls us to respond."

I also hold on to this prayer: "May the Lord make what I believe become what I live."

I thank God for His guidance and for leading me to this moment. May He continue to strengthen me, guide me and help me remain faithful. Amen.



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JOHN 3:16

—

Just like our birthdays, graduations, weddings, and the joy of welcoming new life, baptism is a significant milestone for us as believers. Today, in the presence of the church body and other witnesses, we celebrate this moment with those who publicly proclaim their acceptance of Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour (Acts 2:38-39).

The stories in this booklet, written by the baptism candidates, reveal how different people from diverse backgrounds experience God in unique ways. They all, however, point to the fact that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. They confirm that Jesus is the answer to our quest for meaning in life. I hope some of these stories resonate with you.

Even if you are not a Christian, I encourage you to read these testimonies. I pray they spark your curiosity and move you forward in your search for God. The Bible promises that we can find Him when we seek with all our hearts (Jeremiah 29:13).

We are grateful for all the baptism candidates today and for their willingness to share testimonies of God's loving pursuit and transformative grace in their lives. May this day mark the beginning of a wonderful, magnificent, adventurous and enduring faith journey with our Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself." Acts 2:38-39



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- 01 / Ashley Lai
- 02 / Esther Leung
- 03 / Florentina Collado
- 04 / Gloria Poon
- 05 / Joanna Chow
- 06 / Kai Wong Tang
- 07 / Timmy Shultz
- 08 / Louisa Zhang
- 09 / Mariliz Labutong
- 10 / Daisy Yeung
- 11 / Yanice Wang



8.23

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