



BAPTISM AND TRANSFERS

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BAPTISMS

Gizelle Joy Gevela

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I grew up in a Catholic family. I knew who God was and what Jesus did from an early age. I was surrounded by God and the church from the very beginning. My parents would bring my sister and I to church every Sunday. Every year, our family and relatives would host a novena for a week followed by a procession on the last day.



During my secondary school, I attended a Catholic school and continued learning more about God. I also chose to work in a Catholic school as a primary school teacher.

When I moved to Singapore, I initially continued to attend a Catholic church. But I found myself searching for a purpose and meaning in life. That is why I decided to join a community called Singles for Christ (SFC). I kept myself occupied and became an active member trying to find acceptance.

I became inconsistent in attending the church service every Sunday. I was still active in the community, but I know that I was not exerting much effort anymore listening to His word. I felt disheartened. It was at this time I met my partner, Kah Lok. He invited me to attend Grace Baptist Church. Through attending GBC, God drew me to Himself. It brought me a deeper understanding of who God is in my life, the gospel of His son Jesus Christ, and the plans He has for me.

God has shown me that I should not worry about His plans for me, that I should trust in Him and hold on to His promise of hope (Jeremiah 29:11). He has given me purpose and joy through the forgiveness of my sins. When I was discouraged, God has never once left me. He has shown Himself to me in His word.

Vincent Lim (oneharu@hotmail.com)

I was a sinful and very quick-tempered man before God had changed me. It began with growing up in a broken family and living most of my life with hatred. I was fostered by a distant relative at 3, and it was them that first preached to me the Gospel, who God is, who Christ is and how we're all sinners.

When I was 17, somebody came to my door to preach the Gospel. Seeing that he is a religious man, I just couldn't bear to chase him off, so I stood by and listened to him.

I remembered this night, I overheard a car accident below my apartment block. Usually, I wouldn't care but my conscience that night kept telling me, you should go check out what happened. So I did, and I found an elderly man lying unconscious on the road fighting for his every breath. This was the very first time I ever prayed, "Oh God, please heal this man, if you're there, please save him and I will believe in you". I can't remember when but I did meet him on the street, recovered from the accident like nothing ever happened before, but I went back on my word "Nah, just a coincidence, maybe he wasn't even that serious at all".

And it was during last September that my dog was seriously ill. I visited the vet a few times, but each time its condition got worse. One night, my dog was lying on my feet fighting for its every breath. I was so helpless and I prayed again, "Oh God, I'm sorry I went back on my words the last time, please heal my dog, and I promise I'll not go back on words this time round".



Praise God for his mercy that my dog was healed shortly after, and I stand firm on my word. But, I never truly understood the Gospel, until that afternoon when I took a nap and in my sleep, I remember I recited John 3:16 and I woke up crying in tears. I realised that God loves me so much that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Finally, I understood that Jesus Christ's death for the forgiveness of sins was God's perfect love (Romans 5:8 - but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.). I pray that I will grow in assurance and faith in Christ as I grow in God's Word.

TRANSFERS

Evelyn Chia (iburin_ri@yahoo.com)

I was born into a non-Christian family though at primary school age, I would occasionally follow my aunt to her Chinese church services. At that time, I thought Christianity was just another religion.

The turning point came when a Sec 2 classmate invited me to Sunday School at Bethesda (Frankel Estate) Church where the positive demeanour of the believers sparked my desire to know Jesus. Later that year, I accepted Jesus into my life, recognising that I was sinful and that He had borne the wrath of my sins, died on the cross for me and was resurrected on the third day.



As a believer in the initial years, I faced each day with gladness and served in the church youth choir. At 17 years old, I experienced God's goodness when my father, who was then a non-believer, told me I could proceed with my wish to be baptised. I was extremely happy when both my parents came to church to witness my baptism.

After graduation, I was blessed with a stable job and started a family with my husband Alvin. Gradually, I lacked discipline in studying God's word,

felt disconnected from church and stopped attending Sunday service for some years.

In 2010, I accepted my friend Sandra Heng's invitation to attend GBC and subsequently joined a ladies group, initiated by Sandra, where we would meet once a month for Bible study. In recent years, I have been regularly attending services and Kai Mun and Carrie's CG.

I am thankful for friends who never gave up praying for me and encouraging me to persevere in my walk with God. While my faith journey in this broken world will be dotted with life's challenges and struggles, I am encouraged by these verses in Romans 5:1-5, reminding me that God will never abandon me:

"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

Christina Loi (sgtraveler11@gmail.com)

I was born to believing parents, and there was never a time that I didn't know who Jesus was or what He had done for us on the cross to forgive our sins. In fact, some of my earliest memories are those of my mom singing my sisters and I to sleep at night with hymns like "Jesus Loves Me" and "To God Be the Glory". I grew up in an atmosphere full of a love for God and constant study of His Word, and I think I was six or seven when I first asked Jesus into my heart and chose to be baptised.



However, I constantly carried guilt and a great deal of fear within my heart. Although I truly believed Jesus was my Saviour, it wasn't until a little over a

decade later when I was about sixteen that I realised I had never surrendered myself to Jesus as Lord, never placed my life under His direction and leadership. Everything came to a spiritual crisis for me while I was in the middle of an inductive Bible study on Romans. I had been going through the study with my mom and sister, and every new lesson each week found me struggling more and more to fully understand the concepts or even, at times, accept them. When we started going through chapters 9 and 10, I wrestled through the questions on the Lordship of Jesus, and that was when I realised I was not truly a believer.

After a great deal of soul-searching and pride-choking (it was very humbling to admit this to my family), I repented and asked Jesus to take complete control of my everything. Although it was hard, I felt convicted over my previous baptism since it had been done while I was not actually saved. I felt that in order to be upfront with my church and other believers about my faith, I ought to be baptised again as a public statement that my heart had been truly changed and that Christ now reigned over my life. Later that summer, I had the privilege of being baptised once more, this time as a true child of God and servant of Christ.

Although I don't think my outward behaviour changed all that much when I was saved (I was a pretty well-behaved, obedient child growing up), my soul had been renewed and the impetus behind my actions was being sanctified. By His grace, I see evidence of His help, His guidance and His shaping of me. Even in the dark times, I know that He who began a good work in me will be faithful to complete it.

Jesher Loi (jesherinc@gmail.com)

It is by God's sovereign grace that I grew up in a Christian home, hearing scripture read and attending Sunday school. I will not shy away from this privilege because it created in me an early foundation and familiarity with the Word and the message of the gospel.

Strangely though, I do recall saying the sinner's prayer many times - at



school, youth camps and in church, each with varying levels of confidence after. Sometimes, they were out of the need of assurance. Other times, they were out of guilt. It was only when I was 14, when one night, I felt the physical weight of sin on my shoulders. I likened it to an image from John Bunyan's illustrated Pilgrim's Progress. I quietly went into my room, knelt down at my bedside and prayed. I acknowledged my sin, acknowledged my need for a Saviour, affirmed that there was no other who can reconcile me to God, except Christ Jesus and invited Him into my heart as my only Saviour and Lord. I am so grateful that I was able to draw on the foundation that was built over many years for me to know how to pray and Who to pray to when I was confronted with my sins.

Over the years, I am challenged to love His word and study His word. Studying His word has been a joy and excitement to me as I seek to grasp God's redemptive plan for man, as an act of love to His Son and how our purpose in the midst of this is worship which is ultimately, for God's glory. I am also challenged to bear fruit because it is by our fruit that we are known. That is a continuous and on-going process as well.

I am genuinely grateful for God's sovereign grace in saving me and bringing me to Himself.

Peggy Mak (lookforpeggy@gmail.com)

My family was very poor when I was young. We often went to bed hungry. I was always looking for avenues to generate income for the family. Still, we could somehow make ends meet. Quietly, I felt someone was watching over us and taking care of us.



Dad was retrenched when I was in college final year, and I could not pay the school fees and exam fees. Thank God there was no GIRO then for auto fee deduction, no EZ-link card for tapping in and out of school, and no digital way to bar me from school. The days were rough, but I managed to clear the A-levels and enrolled for a bachelor degree programme for real estate at NUS.

However, 3 months later, I had to quit as I again ran out of money. The kind directors at J M Sassoon offered me a varsity scholarship on the condition that I had to switch to a business course. I took it on though I was 4 months behind the rest of the class. Somehow, things just fall in place. I knew it was not my own doing. Someone greater had a hand in it.

At the university, I met Sin Lee, who is now my husband, who shared the gospel with me. I then realized that God has been on my side and holding my hands. I trusted Him for the forgiveness of sins as my saviour when I was 19.

Life became so much easier after I became a Christian. With the Bible as the guide, all decisions and directions became focused, clear and easy to make. I have been working in the securities industry, where greed and fear is the order of the day, and temptations are aplenty. It is increasingly important to cling to God and allow Him to lead us on the right path.

The Bible verse that resonates strongly with me is Ecclesiastes 12:13-14: “Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”

Joel Soon (joelsoon92@gmail.com)

I was raised in a typical Christian home and did the typical things that a child in a Christian home would do such as going to Sunday school, participating in youth gatherings, serving in small groups. While I had head knowledge about the saving and redeeming grace of God, it was largely my “parents’ faith” until a gradual conviction about the gravity of my sin and my need of a saviour. There was no watershed moment or a sudden realisation of this truth but it was the persistent and gradual work of the Spirit that opened my eyes. The “justification” that I sought by being the “good Christian boy” in the eyes of the church, being the “good son” in the eyes of my parents, being the “good student” in the eyes of society were all but “filthy rags”



(Isaiah 64:6). I thank God that in His mercy, He allowed me to realise the extent of my depravity – that behind the façade hid my pride, selfishness, covetousness. And in His grace, He allowed me to receive salvation through the forgiveness and redemption made possible only by the death and resurrection of His son, Jesus Christ.

Since accepting Jesus as my Lord and Saviour and being baptised by immersion in my teenage years, the journey of sanctification has been a roller-coaster ride. God has pursued me relentlessly through the valleys of rebellion and refined me through trials and tribulations. Being prone to wander during my undergraduate and initial years in the workforce, it was and still is only His preserving grace (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24) that has sustained me. I am always comforted that nothing can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8).

Having attended GBC for over 2 years, I have come to embrace the “one-another” commands to journey with, to encourage each other towards Christ-likeness and holiness. Just as the hospital is for patients, the church is for sinners. It is a joy to share in each other’s sanctification. I pray that as I formalise my membership in GBC, He will continue to use me as salt and light wherever I’m called to.

Elizabeth Tan (tan.huiying.elizabeth@gmail.com)

I am thankful to grow up in a Christian family, where my parents read the Bible with me everyday when I was young. I have never doubted the existence of God before, and it is difficult to pinpoint when I exactly accepted Christ as my Lord and Saviour. There was not a specific turning point or event where I decided to believe in God. There are still days where I struggle to place Christ at the center of my life, and I face worries and anxiousness trying to take control of my life. However, I know that I can place my confidence in Christ, knowing that He loves me despite me being a sinner and has sent his son to die for my sins. Because God has saved me through his Son, I can confidently place my trust and faith in Him, and know that my all-knowing God has a greater and better



plan for me despite the circumstances and trials I will have to overcome. I am thankful for the daily reminders of His grace and mercy, and I look forward to meeting Him face to face one day.

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” - Romans 8:28

Izabella Tan

By God’s grace, I was born into a Christian family. Thank God for my parents who read the Bible and prayed with us when we were younger. Jesus lived a perfect life and died on the cross for our sins. He gave us a love so pure and so free; we only need to believe in Him to be saved. I have always been secure with my identity in Him.

However, one could label me a “complacent Christian”. Church was a Sunday routine, and I knew Bible stories by heart. I served as an elected Church treasurer and an usher. “Need I do more?” was my attitude.

Ironically, COVID gave me my first Christian community. As an ex-student-athlete, I never involved myself with school clubs or projects. Covid hit in my final year of university and I was forced to take a break from my sport. School clubs don’t usually take in final year students, so I joined Christian Fellowship (CF). God led me to my first Christian community through CF. There, we studied His word and prayed together weekly. I felt a deep connection to them. As we discussed more about His word, God revealed my pride and tendency to be self-sufficient. God humbled me to reflect on my lacklustre Christian life and make changes.

Right now, I’m nowhere near living the life Jesus led. I’m still praying for God to reveal my calling. But I want to know God more and make Him known. Please pray for me! 😊

“Many things about tomorrow,



*I don't seem to understand.
But I know who holds tomorrow,
And I know who holds my hand."*

Tan Sin Lee (sinlee@outlook.com)

Having been led by the Spirit of God to the salvation grace for the past 46 years, I often stand amazed at His love, grace and mercy, that he can redeem a sinner like me.

I am not perfect. Along the road of life, I have fallen at times, but His mercy makes me whole again.

There were times of sweetness and also times of anxieties (Ecclesiastes 3). There were times where He said; For my thoughts are not your thoughts (Isaiah 55:8). There were times where He declared; Be still, and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10).

I learnt to focus and diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). I realised that God is faithful to His promises to them that love Him and keep His commandments (Deuteronomy 7:9). He has led me all these years to the Praise of His Glory. Yes, our Lord is loving, gracious, merciful and faithful.

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.*

Not I, But Christ. Amen.



Grace Tee (gtee2311@gmail.com)

I grew up in a Christian family but we siblings were taught that Christianity is not something inherited. Everyone has a choice and it is when you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead (Romans 10:9) that you are saved through faith and God’s grace.



Being raised in a Christian family, right and wrong were clear and even as a kid, it wasn’t hard to grasp the concept that no one is without sin. We all needed saving. We needed a saviour to rescue us from our sins. Moreover, there was a growing desire for a greater purpose in life and awe-struck realization that there must be a God that created nature to work so wonderfully the way it is. At the same time, I also realized that Christianity is not the only religion out there so then, how do I know Christ is the ONE true God?

As I shared these with my mom, she shared her own testimony and encouraged me to ask God to reveal himself to me, for everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened (Matthew 7:8). So I prayed and waited. There came a time my mom misplaced her pouch and the whole family was in “panic mode”, hunting around the house. Not thinking much about it, I told God, “well God, this is the time you can reveal yourself to me, help me find the pouch and I will know you are God and I will give my collection of coins (*which was VERY precious to me as a kid*) as offering in acknowledgement”. Almost immediately, God led me to lift up the cushion seat of the sofa and there it was, the pouch! Even though a few of us already searched through that sofa but did not find it. Then it hit me hard upon realizing that a sovereign, almighty, all-powerful God is personally interested in and listens to me and loves me. It seems such a trivial thing but it meant a lot to me especially in that moment.

Of course, it didn’t stop there but that was the start in my relationship journey with Jesus. Also, there are times in life where God says wait or no to

my prayers and every time I continue to trust Him, I look back and see things working out for the better with His perfect timing, and I grow in trusting Him.

Teng Yun (tengyun.xie@gmail.com)

As the only child in an atheist family, I grew up with constant pressure to excel. At school, we were taught that the world came into being by chance, people originated from apelike ancestors, and all things, including mental states and consciousness, are results of material interactions. However, I always believe that there is a supreme power in the universe, the power that is evident in changing seasons, in sunrise and sunset. Although, I did not know what it was, and I was too busy to seek the answer.



Xie Wubin

Teng Yun

Soon after finishing my undergraduate study, I joined a Christian relief and development organization, moving from Beijing to a small city in north-western China. For the first time in my life, I encountered a very different perspective about life and the world. It was not difficult for me to accept that there is a God who created the world, but the concept of sin sounded strange to me. How could I be a sinner when I give up the ease of city life to help the poor and needy in one of the poorest areas in China? I thought I was a righteous person, all things considered. By God's tender mercy, I gradually understood the essence of sin through books, sermons, and godly friends. Looking at the cross, I could see how much I fell short of God's perfect standards, and needed God's forgiveness for my sins.

I acknowledged my need for Christ and was baptised in 2006. Life as a Christian is still challenging, but I could rest assured that I am now complete in Jesus, no work of mine may take the place of what was accomplished by Christ.

Xie Wubin (wubin.xie@gmail.com)

Born and raised in atheist China, I firmly believed that science is the only way to truth. By God's mercy, soon after finishing my undergraduate study, I joined a Christian relief, development, and advocacy organization. Over three years, I worked in a team headed by a Christian project manager who had a terminal degree from a world-renowned university. Deeply shaped by Christian faith, the workplace culture (e.g., commitment to the poor, integrity, thrifty) contrasts sharply with that of other public/private institutions. The experiences challenged my atheist worldviews greatly. From time to time, my supervisor invited me and my colleagues to gather, singing hymns and sharing their faith.



Xie Wubin

Teng Yun

Another important thing that happened in those years was that I met my lovely wife, who worked for a nearby office within the same organization. She accepted Christ before me and encouraged me to explore more about the mystery of life and faith. Since then, I started to join bible study groups, have Christian friends, read gospelbooks, and attend church on Sundays. Gradually, I was no longer bothered by the problem of science and religion.

Since childhood, I have tried hard to be a good student. Then as an adult, I strived to be a productive employee, an obedient son, a loyal friend, a loving husband, and a kind father. But deep down, I found myself utterly incapable to truly love the people around me. All I have done seems to have been driven by selfish motivations.

Over the years, I came to realize that Jesus laid down his life for us, and only by this we know love. Apart from the blood of Jesus shed for me, nothing can save me from my sins and give me true satisfactions. In 2007, I was baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Looking back, I could see God's abundant mercy; He has been truly my "refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." I believe that He who began a good work in me "will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus".

Huang Zi (huangzi@pm.me)

I grew up attending church and was baptised at 16, turning from my sins and trusting in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of my sin, although I stopped going to church soon after as I grew disillusioned with the infighting among church leaders and how the gospel was preached in my previous church. I felt no desire or need to return to church during my time in National Service, when I was studying in the UK for my bachelor's degree, or during my early years as a Foreign Service Officer in the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



My spiritual antipathy of Christ and his Church was reversed during the COVID-19 pandemic, when I was in lockdown in the Philippines where I was on posting. Being in lockdown opened my eyes to how hollow a life built on chasing worldly achievements was, and drove me to seek out the word of God again. I started watching online services streamed by Churches in Singapore, and received much spiritual comfort from the online services conducted by Grace Baptist Church (GBC). Having resolved to once again take my faith seriously, I joined a GBC care group to be engaged with and connected to fellow Christians, and my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ have been great inspirations to my path back to Christ.

It has been an immensely fulfilling and challenging journey to reorient my life towards Christ. I look forward to being encouraged by the devotion and commitment of my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ in GBC, and to place our lives and our Church in God's hands moving forward. For as Proverbs 3:5-6 says: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."