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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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I BAPTISM • HONG KONG

AERYN CHONG

Throughout my 13 years, I have gone through many stages in my journey of faith, and Jesus was there for the whole thing. I started exploring my faith around the age of 8. As a kid, I had a book with a few key biblical stories. That time, I didn't really know they were real. I just thought they were fun stories to read. Before exploring my faith, I didn't know much about Jesus. I knew He was God, and I knew that there was a God. At the time, I didn't know it, but Jesus was there the entire time.

Then, at 8 years old, I started going to church with my mom, who first shared the faith with me. She explained that she had gone to a Christian school and, like me, wanted to grow deeper in her faith. After that, I started going to church, and my faith got stronger and stronger.

That wasn't my true turning point though. Early last year, I started experiencing many stomach aches, and I had to visit multiple doctors before we eventually found the reason. For my family, it was a long and stressful process. I missed quite a few days of school due to these stomach aches. One night, the pain felt particularly intense. I wasn't just in pain – I was confused. I asked God to help me. I told Him that I wasn't feeling well and that I wanted relief from the pain. The next morning, when I woke up, the pain had lessened, and I felt much more active and energetic. I knew it wasn't just by chance or luck; it was something bigger. It was God. This particular moment made me think and led me to dive deeper into who Jesus really is. He is God. But God is also so much more. He is loving, He is caring, and He is a healer.



After that turning point, I became more involved in my faith. I started going to church more often, rather than only a few times a year. I read more Scripture and prayed more often. I put my trust and faith in Jesus. I know He guided me through this journey, and He will be with me forever. I realised again that this wasn't by chance or luck. I had changed so much in just a year. My faith grew more and more, and I developed a way deeper relationship with God. I saw my life change. Every moment, every sin – it was all forgiven. It felt as though a big boulder had been lifted off me.

I KNEW IT WASN'T JUST BY CHANCE OR LUCK;
IT WAS SOMETHING BIGGER. IT WAS GOD.

Baptism feels like the next big step in my journey with Christ. I know baptism itself is not what makes someone a believer. What matters is dedicating my life to Christ and putting my love and faith in Jesus. But after all He has done for me, I believe that as I come out of the water, I will "rise" as a new person. We do this because Jesus resurrected and made it possible for us. I am truly so grateful for everything the Lord has done for me – from creating new life in me to writing this testimony. He has done everything, whether we know it or not. And He is always here. I will continue to grow in faith, trust, and love in Him, and share my love for Him with others.

UE CHEN

Hello, my name is Ue. I am 17 years old. Today I am being baptised. I believe Jesus loves me. Jesus helps me feel calmer when I am worried, and He helps me face challenges I used to run from.

Because of Jesus, I have found true friends who understand and care about me. Back in 2025, I had an accident in which I was hit by a car. I was traumatised and sent to hospital straight away. My world fell into a downward spiral during those few days, but with all the encouraging messages and love I received from my family and church friends, I managed to go through this difficult time with ease.

As a neurodivergent person, my understanding of Jesus could be uncertain at times, but the guidance from the Island ECC family has been phenomenal. Through gatherings, worship, games, and trips, they have helped me learn about and understand Jesus. My church family has been very patient and friendly to me. I am not good at communicating with others, but my church friends always include me in their gatherings, like in our small group every Friday. We mingle, play games, and enjoy dinners together. I have never felt excluded by them; they truly are family to me.



Last year's mission trip to Chiang Mai helped me understand that many people around the world strive to do their best in life despite unfavourable circumstances. We shared our experiences with Jesus with them and prayed and sang together. I learned that sharing love and care is what people need to feel happy and content, and that this often has nothing to do with material things.

During my summer trip to Kenting, Taiwan, I had the opportunity to build a closer relationship with my church friends. We spent a few days there, having lots of fun and experiencing the love of Jesus. I truly believe that Jesus gave me this treasured moment in my life, one I never thought I could have.

Jesus showed us how to love, be positive, and be kind. I want to follow His example. I want to be kind to others and try my best every day.

Baptism is a special sign that I belong to Jesus and to this church family. Thank you to everyone who has helped me get here. Please keep praying for me as I grow in my faith.

**JESUS SHOWED US HOW TO LOVE, BE POSITIVE, AND
BE KIND. I WANT TO FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE. I WANT
TO BE KIND TO OTHERS AND TRY MY BEST EVERY DAY.**

INES LEUNG

This may sound strange, but I have never heard God's voice directly, and nor do I have dramatic testimonies to share. Still, I firmly believe that He is our perfect, almighty, and compassionate God.

It all started in elementary school. Every night, my dad would pray with me and ask God to guide me to a suitable secondary school. Although I didn't get into my first choice, it actually turned out to be a blessing in disguise. All the teachers at my current school are Christians, which has helped my spiritual growth. You might think I'd blame God for that, but at the time, He felt so distant that I didn't even consider that.

In Grade 9, encouraged by my teachers, I joined my school's fellowship team and the class fellowship committee. As an extrovert, I was often "forced" to preach in front of the class or lead evangelistic activities. I wasn't afraid to speak in public, but honestly, I didn't even read the Bible. I didn't really know God, and I did not feel like I had my own testimony. That was when I started studying God's Word and reflecting on my spiritual life. It was the beginning of my awareness of God's presence, and I started paying closer attention to sermons.

In Grade 10, I began to witness God's abundant love. I received a poor result on my first chemistry mid-term, and the teacher wanted to see me. To my surprise, she didn't ask anything about my grades, but about my mental state. At that time, no one had ever asked me that, not even myself. Immediately, I broke down in tears in front of my teacher, and she said, "Let me pray for you." The whole conversation lasted about an hour, yet I never sensed any impatience from her. And since then, she would pray with me before exams. I was so amazed because no one had ever treated me that way. It made me wonder, "Is this what people mean by the image of Christ?"

In Grade 11, I was convicted by the Holy Spirit and realised that my church friends back then had led me away from God. I longed for more in-depth sermons, and I started having thoughts that didn't even sound like my own. Compared to my old church, Island Youth (IY) is much farther

I NOW HAVE MORE COMPASSION TOWARDS OTHERS BECAUSE I WANT TO RESPOND TO WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US – SUFFERING AND DYING FOR OUR SINS...

away from where I live, and I had to adapt to a new environment and meet new people. Normally, as a thinker who values efficiency most, I wouldn't even consider this possibility. But despite all the fear and inconvenience of changing churches after six years, my heart still refused to stay. Eventually, I started attending IY and left my previous church.

Over these two years at IY, I've grown spiritually through sermons and small group sessions. I have found peace even when it feels like everything's falling apart, and I have gradually seen Christ reflected in more faces. A believer and the small groups have inspired me to build habits that draw me closer to God, and I am more than grateful for these incredible people.

I have decided to be baptised because Christ is already inseparable from my life. Over these six years, my cold and detached nature has softened. I now have more compassion towards others because I want to respond to what God has done for us – suffering and dying for our sins, even though we are basically a speck of dust.

A recent moment that surprised me was when my sister asked, "What do you think your purpose is?" The first answer that came to my mind was, "I dunno, whatever purpose that God has given me." Strangely, I also had conversations about baptism, even with people I barely knew. All these pieces have come together to tell me one message – I am now prepared to be baptised.

I want to publicly declare my faith in front of my family and friends, and make this commitment before God. May we all fulfill our purposes with the talents that God has given us, live in His abundant blessings, and spread His love for the rest of our lives.



JASMINE LARSON

I didn't want to believe in God; it sounds heavy because it is.

I was adopted into a Christian family and have so many memories of church and Sunday school. I have been at Island ECC for more than 15 years now, and I count it as my second home.

People say I have a very energetic and loud personality, especially at school and church. I would often be the loudest person in the room, sometimes a bit annoying, and I always answered questions during Bible study. As a child, I didn't truly understand what I was answering or what I was talking about. I knew about God, but nothing more. I would only realise much later how naive I had been.

Fast forward to middle school during the peak of COVID. I was depressed and at my lowest. I didn't want to live. Outwardly, I was still loud around people, but something was missing. I was not close to the Lord at all. I only prayed when I wanted something good to happen. I kept going to small groups, and most of my friends didn't know what I was going through, nor did my parents. I still answered questions during small groups, but I didn't want to listen to the whole message. I was there more for the people than for God. When inviting friends to small groups, we often told them they could "stay outside for the boring stuff".

By Grade 10, I was done with church. I stopped attending Sunday service and lost interest in small groups. I had a best friend whose attendance meant everything to me. If she came, I came; if she didn't, I wouldn't. One Friday, I told myself that if nothing new happened, I wouldn't go back to church; I would live as a non-believer. I was so certain I even prayed to God for the first time in a while: "God, if You don't show me why I should go to small groups anymore, I'll stop going." The next Friday, my best friend texted to say she wasn't coming. I was angry at the Lord, "Really?" But something inside told me, "You need to go this time, it will be different." So I went, thinking it would be my last time.

After small group, I felt nothing and was convinced it was my last visit. On the way out, I saw two girls standing outside the room. I asked, "Can I go home with you two?" They said yes. On the MTR, we started talking, and something in my mind told me this was a sign from God to keep going to church. That's

how I met my two best friends, Abby and Ayla. We became close quickly. I began paying more attention during small group, genuinely enjoying sermons, returning to Sunday service, and feeling a happiness I hadn't felt in a long time. Sadly, the friend who had stopped attending church before no longer does.

GOD HAS WORKED IN MY LIFE IN MORE WAYS THAN I CAN COUNT.

That moment was one part of my journey towards becoming a Christian, but the biggest turning point was Alpha Youth Day on February 21, 2025. I expected another typical church event: sing, listen, and forget. Near the end, it felt like a speaker was speaking directly to me, despite the hundreds of other teens in the room. They said, "You are not alone, and God wants to know you." I felt the walls I'd built for so long break down and I started crying. I usually don't cry in front of people, so I knew this was different. I heard God's voice say, "Jasmine, you are not alone. I am real." As I wept, multiple friends prayed for me. One thing stood out: Ayla asked, "Can I pray for you in tongues?" I didn't understand what praying in tongues meant at that time, but I learnt more about it afterwards.

After Alpha Youth Day, I knew I wanted to be a Christian and to be happier. I saw a change in myself, and friends noticed my personality shifted and my joy increased. One day, while hanging out with Abby and Ayla, Ayla mentioned she was getting baptised and invited us to her baptism. Abby and I happily said yes. During the baptism, I felt at peace, and as Ayla was called, something stirred in me and I began crying. I sensed God nudging me to get baptised.

God has worked in my life in more ways than I can count. One of my favourite Bible verses is Philippians 4:6: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." This verse reminds me that in every anxious moment, the Lord is always with me.

Thank you to everyone who has helped me in my journey with the Lord: my parents, Srya, Tiff, Venna, Ching, Dirksso, Connor, Charmaine, Jamie, Trisha, Jess, and my Grade 11 girls' small group. And to Abby and Ayla - thank you for helping me grow into who I am today.

I love God.



JOSHUA LUKE CHEN

My life so far, as I've known it, has felt split into two distinct chapters. In the first chapter, I did not really feel that Jesus was present in my life. I grew up attending church, going to summer camps, and sitting through sermons, but I never knew God personally. As a swimmer, my coach always told me to "stop going through the motions" and learn to put intentional effort into training and racing. In the same way, I felt like I was going through the motions in my faith, and was spiritually in the exact same place. I had a surface-level understanding of Christianity and a lack of motivation to learn more.

I was also occasionally let down by people who called themselves Christians. What disappointed me most was seeing people use the label "Christian" to seem better than others, while still falling short in their actions. This pushed me away from truly seeking God.

A difficult moment in my faith journey came when I began questioning everything. As a STEM student, I have always sought answers through science. I wanted a rationale for certain stories. I wanted proof and empirical evidence. When COVID hit, I lost personal relationships within the church, which made things even harder. During those years, I still believed in a higher power, but I began to explore other options. I was living in the first chapter of my life, without a real, blossoming relationship with Jesus.

But that place of doubt did not last forever. I felt God begin to plant seeds of faith back into my life through three specific avenues: summer camps, serving on the tech team, and a school class on Christian Apologetics.

The yearly summer camps shifted from simply being gatherings with close friends to opportunities to discover and build genuine friendships with other members of the youth church. I stopped simply attending and began trying to truly connect with others in the church.

I also finally decided to step up and serve during services. With a little push, I found myself on the tech team, and I was no longer just a spectator. I started to care more about the church, and it felt less like I was going through the motions. Instead, I was contributing to the body of Christ.

Most importantly, I instinctively decided to take a class on Christian Apologetics. This was a real turning point in my life. I entered the class expecting conflict between science and faith, but I left finding a beautiful balance. I felt God speak to me in ways I had never experienced before, and developed a personal reasoning for the Bible. I realised that science explains how the world works, but only through Jesus do we discover why we are here and who we ultimately belong to.

Now, as I look ahead to university, I am fully aware that the road of faith will not be easy. My decision to be baptised is not merely a ceremony; it is a safeguard. It is a symbol that I put my trust in Jesus, the One who will not fail me, no matter what. I want this baptism to propel me to intentionally find a Christian community that will keep me accountable and help me grow in my faith.

I have begun to realise that this life is not where we are called to place our ultimate rest. Because of this, I have become more purposeful in my daily life. Through the sermons and sharings of my youth pastors, God has spoken to me, disciplined me, and comforted me again and again. I now constantly think about how I should trust God more, because I love Him and trust fully in the plan He has for me.

**... SCIENCE EXPLAINS HOW THE WORLD WORKS,
BUT ONLY THROUGH JESUS DO WE DISCOVER WHY
WE ARE HERE AND WHO WE ULTIMATELY BELONG TO.**

I have come today to proclaim my faith in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. I am grateful to all the people who have supported and guided me on this spiritual journey towards a closer relationship with the Creator of the universe. I know I will continue to make mistakes, but I find comfort knowing that no matter what happens, I am safe in God's hands. I hope to continue growing in my faith in every area of my life and to trust that, whatever happens, God is in control. I hope my testimony gives a glimpse of the relentless love of Christ. Through this step in my faith, I hope to encourage others to take the next steps in their personal faith journeys. I now see that I am no longer going through the motions. Instead, I am taking deliberate steps to help myself and others discover the power of God's love.



KIRSTIN LAU

John 3:16 says, “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.” These words were woven into my earliest memories.

God’s love has always been at the centre of everything I was taught growing up in a Christian family, and being taught how Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Through Sunday school at Island ECC, God continued to plant seeds of faith in me. Looking back, I can see how God was working through every Bible story and VeggieTales video I was eager to watch to draw me closer to Him, and through the people He put beside me who reflected His values. It was through this foundation that God first made Himself known to me personally when I was four and reluctant to go on a mission trip because I did not see the purpose and thought I was wasting my summer break. Yet it was through prayer that God answered clearly – for the first time, I heard Him speaking to me and giving me a definite answer. It was there that God first showed me what it truly meant to cast my anxieties on Him and trust that I can always lean on Him. I was back on the same mission trip the year after, not 100% willing, but this time with a little expectation of what God would reveal to me.

Other than this memory of God answering my prayer when I was little, I never felt especially connected to Him. However, God kept drawing me back to small groups each week, even during COVID-19 over Zoom. Yet the only reason motivating me to go was that it started to feel like an obligation and part of my weekly routine. I did not feel connected to the community or to God. Still, even in that distant season, God was faithful, working through my family to keep me anchored. They constantly reminded me to put my trust in Him despite doubt, and that He would provide a suitable community in which I could grow stronger in my relationship with Him – deeper than



IT IS ONLY THROUGH HIS FAITHFULNESS THAT I HAVE MOVED FROM KNOWING ABOUT GOD TO TRULY KNOWING HIM.

words on a page. By gradually learning to trust in Him, I continued attending small groups, and in high school, He blessed me with a wonderful community that I felt a part of. On top of this, I feel at home through worship songs, listening to lyrics filled with His profound love. God used those exact seasons of doubt to equip me to help others who may also feel lost find their way closer to Him.

Ever since, I have been placing my trust in Him, especially with worries of university and my future, as I know that He already has the best path laid out for me, where I can use the gifts He has blessed me with to serve Him and others. I am reminded of Psalm 56:3, which says, “When I am afraid, I put my trust in you”. Throughout my faith journey, I am grateful for how He has worked in my life, teaching me that believing in Him is so much more than just head knowledge and memorised Bible verses. It is about establishing a personal and intimate relationship with God. Now, as I grow closer and closer to Him each day, I want to take this relationship to another level by publicly declaring my faith and walking in obedience. It is only through His faithfulness that I have moved from knowing about God to truly knowing Him. Despite all the uncertainties that are currently unfolding, I am immensely grateful that I can place my trust in Him for the rest of my life, knowing I will never be alone, with Him by my side. No words can express my gratitude to You, God, for all that You have done and will continue to do for me.

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LAEL MORGAN

My father and mother introduced me to God when I was little. Ever since then, I have felt connected to God when reading and learning about the Bible and the Holy Spirit. I believe the Holy Spirit has guided me towards a real relationship with Jesus.

When I was young, reading the story of the fiery furnace showed me that some people are willing to give their lives for God. When God saved them, He showed His faithfulness and loyalty to them. Following God was worth it and the right thing to do.

Two years ago, I knew that I needed to accept Jesus before I could be baptised. So I asked my father if I could be baptised, and he took me to my grandfather's room and told him that I wanted to be baptised. They asked me some questions, such as, "Why do you believe in God?", "Why do you want to be baptised?", "What does it mean to be a Christian?", "What made you want to do this?", and most importantly, "What do you believe about the Bible?"

I shared my answers with them. I believe in the Lord our Saviour and that Jesus died on the cross for my sins. Even though He was 100% God and 100% man, He could have said, "Let me out of here." or, "I can do this, but no pain shall be felt." But He chose to endure the pain and died for our sins.

Jesus was perfect and had no sin. We, as humans, are born with sin. God is holy, and His name is above every name. Yet God still loves me, even though I am full of sin since the day I was born.

As a believer, I believe in the Lord our Saviour, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. So here I stand, ready to be a servant of God, I am ready to give my life to Him.

**EVEN THOUGH HE WAS 100% GOD AND 100% MAN...
HE CHOSE TO ENDURE THE PAIN AND DIED FOR
OUR SINS.**



TIRZAH QUICK

Growing up in a Christian home, I was always wondering what God's plan for me was. It was always in the back of my mind, but what was mostly in my head was what I wanted to do, and that blinded me from what God wanted.

God has worked in my life in many ways, but the one that most influenced me was about a year ago when I went to the Philippines on a trip with my school. One day we went to a place with some of the worst living conditions I had ever seen. What shocked me most was that the children living in those conditions were the happiest kids I had ever met. They were so happy when we brought food for them and played with them. It brought me joy to see all these children so happy with so little. I remember that same night, I realised we experienced pure joy because God was working through us to bring joy to the people around us. God showed me how much joy I could have in serving Him, no matter the circumstance.

Another way God worked in big ways in my life was by showing up during a time when big changes were happening in the community around my family. When close family friends moved away, my family struggled to figure out what the next step was that God wanted us to take. During that time, I prayed almost every night for comfort and wisdom. Even though it was really tough, I had a hard time drawing close to God. I didn't realise it then, but God was always working to strengthen my faith in Him. I continued to pray as much as I could, and eventually my family and I found peace in God.

GOD SHOWED ME HOW MUCH JOY I COULD HAVE IN SERVING HIM, NO MATTER THE CIRCUMSTANCE.

Now my perspective has changed. I want to know and do what God wants me to do, not just what I want to do. I want to always go to God first, and not rely on my own judgement. Since then, I have worked hard to make my relationship with God personal by spending more time with Him, and slowly I began to see my mindset change in ways I couldn't have imagined. I feel connected to God when my friends come to me for advice about what God is doing in their lives, or when they come to me with their problems or worries. I can feel the Holy Spirit working through me as I pray with them and for them. In many ways, I see God giving me opportunities to connect with the people around me and help point others to Jesus.

Without Him, I can't see myself having a wonderful and beautiful life that I am forever grateful for. I want to dedicate my life to serving God in any way I can.



What It Means To Become A Christian

HE LOVES

God loves you because He chooses to.
“God wasn’t attracted to you and didn’t choose you because you were big and important ... He did it out of sheer love...” (Deuteronomy 7:7-8).
He loves you so much that...

HE GAVE

He gave Jesus, His one and only Son. While we do wrong things daily, Jesus is sinless. Though sinless, Jesus took our sin. He died on the Cross in our place. Our response to this great gift is simple...

WE TRUST

We trust Jesus to do what we can’t. We don’t trust our own efforts to save us. We can’t save ourselves. We don’t place our trust in other people to save us.
We believe in Him.

WE LIVE

God gives us brand-new life. We have joy because of His Spirit living within us. Little by little His Spirit changes us to be more like Jesus. No guilt in life, no fear of death, He gives life, now... and for eternity.

You can tell God you accept Him now.

“Father, I believe You love me. You gave Your one and only Son so I can live forever with You. Apart from You, I die. With You, I live. I choose life. I choose You.”
