



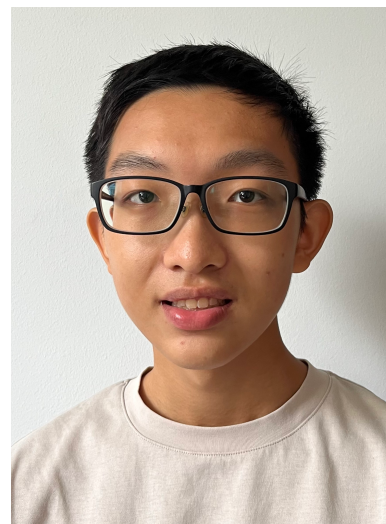
BAPTISM AND TRANSFERS

13 NOVEMBER 2022

BAPTISMS

Ethan Lam (ethanlam22@gmail.com)

Hi everyone! I am Ethan, serving national service and currently in a young adults small group. I grew up in GBC as my parents brought me here since I was born. I chose to be baptised today as a step of obedience to Jesus.



Growing up in church, I was exposed to Bible stories and the Gospel at a young age. However, as a child, I did not know what it was really like to be a Christian. I'd always thought that following my parents to church every Sunday, attending Sunday school, being a morally good person and reading the Bible regularly etc. are essential things I need to do to be a Christian. Although these works are indeed 'good', it ultimately fell short of the truth of the Gospel. Nothing I can do will be able to grant me salvation and eternal life with God. God graciously and lovingly sent his son to die in our place, for the forgiveness of our sins, if we put our faith in Christ. (Ephesians 2:8-9). When I was in the youth group, one of my youth leaders read the book of Romans with me. That was when I understood the severity of my sin, and that I was taking the gospel for granted. No one is able to obey the law fully and perfectly and we all fall short of God's perfect and righteous standard. (Romans 3:23) I realised that I am an atrocious sinner, it is impossible to keep all the commandments and laws in the Bible perfectly, and hence I am in need of Jesus, and accepted Christ as my saviour.

During my 2 years in Junior College, my walk with God was not healthy. My idolatrous heart directed most of my energy to studying to get good

grades and meet my expectations, leaving very little time to spend with my family and God's people. Even if I attended church or youth group, my heart was not genuinely interested in having fellowship with His people, sometimes not even interested in God's word, even though I understood that it was wrong. When the examination results came, I trusted mostly on my hard work, which led to anxiety. I did not trust God with my results that whether good or bad, it is according to his omniscient authority. Graciously, God had convicted me of my idolatry in my studies through His word, through the encouragement of people in church. Putting earthly desires ahead of the desire of the Spirit will lead to death. 'For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.' (Romans 8:6)

I believe that I should not be stagnant in my walk with God. It involves frequent recognition and repentance of sin, praying to God and trusting Him for the forgiveness of my sins through Jesus' work on the cross. I believe it is essential being plugged into a community to bear fruit, as we share one another's burdens with each other, encouraging each other to grow in the faith, pin-pointing each other's struggle with sin, in love. I am currently attending a Young Adults small group. I am not outgoing, however, it is important to have fellowship with God's people, hence I will try to talk to more people in Church. This way, I will have meaningful fellowship with His people, as we are one in Christ and therefore we are not strangers. (Ephesians 2:19-22) I pray that I will, with the help from God and His people, stray away from the temptation of sin, especially self-righteousness and selfish desires which is contrary to Jesus' selfless death on the cross for **our** sins. This physical act of baptism will not save me, it shows that I was buried with Christ in baptism, raising with Him out of the death of my sin through faith, by the powerful working of God. (Colossians 2:12) I pray that my testimony will be an encouragement to my fellow Church members, and hope to continue seeing all of you in church!

Marilyn Lie (liemarilyn@gmail.com)

I was brought up in a Christian family and grew up surrounded by practice of the Christian Faith which I'm sure would apply to many of us here. However, oftentimes I feel it makes me take for granted the gospel and my salvation. This has been the case up till I was about 16 years old and thoughts about my parents growing old and having to leave this world one day started to haunt me, I started to battle with doubts about eternal life/after life.



Being able to trust in the lord fully by faith wasn't something that came easily to me. Hence, I started looking for answers in various ways like attending the revelation class organised by the church at that time - however, it was not until I was singing this hymn during service and the words spoke to me so much that I felt I was wrong to have doubted Him and was perhaps distracted or stirred by fear and temptation to leave Him as it drove out the peace I had in my heart. I left the church service that day tearful as I felt lectured by the holy spirit for not guarding my faith and doubting God. Since then, I keep this verse (Romans 8:31) and hymn (O Jesus, I Have Promised) close to my heart to remind myself that If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? God who gave us his son to save me will supply all that I need.

I am reminded of the fact that the love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was demonstrated on the cross. He took up the cross and sacrificed Himself to make a way for all of us sinners to repent and inherit the Kingdom of God. He was crushed and punished for our transgressions. Knowing that this is the greatest act of love he has done for me, someone who is not worthy, is a constant reminder of why I have chosen to follow him.

With this baptism is my commitment to join the local church community and keep each other accountable in our spiritual walk so that in time to come, when I look back at my life, I could also proclaim (2 Timothy 4:7) that *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

*O Jesus, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
Be thou forever near me,
My Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If thou wilt be my guide.*

*O let me feel thee near me!
The world is ever near:
I see the sights that dazzle,
The tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me,
Around me and within;
But, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
And shield my soul from sin.*

Tan Jian Yang (jianyang1988@gmail.com)

I grew up in a family who are largely free thinkers with some Buddhist influences. As a kid, I spent a large portion of my childhood in my grandmother's house together with my grandmother and my aunts. My aunts, being Christians, often brought me to church on Sundays to attend service. I recalled enjoying attending Sunday school and listening to stories about this wonderful person called Jesus. I loved listening about Jesus and his miracles and how he saved the poor, the homeless and the destitute and I remember that as a kid I loved flipping the bible just to read about Jesus. It was a blessing to have aunts who brought me to church and let me know about Jesus at such a young age.



Sometime during my childhood, I attended a church event whereby some church aunties were overly fervent about forcing their values on me. Despite me being clearly very upset, they kept insisting that God had

touched my heart as being the reason that I was crying. But because of that incident, I developed a strong distaste towards people being overly eager about enforcing religious views on others. And shortly after that incident, I stopped attending church and distanced myself from God.

During my schooling years, I had a Christian friend who was the only Christian among my group of friends, and I recalled my other non-Christian friends constantly bombarding him with difficult questions about stories in the bible, and I always recalled his steady replies. His steadfastness of never backing down and having certainty of his faith always stuck with me. Eventually, two of my most fervent non-Christian friends ended up accepting Jesus into their lives. It was such a beautiful miracle and testimony of how God can find his way through hardened hearts and heal them just like how he did with Paul. After my two non-Christian friends accepted Christ, they invited me to attend church again with them, which I did. It was amazing how God worked through them to reach out to me and brought me back to him.

Sometime back in my army days, I fell into depression, hopelessness and despair about how my life was turning out to be. But somehow God was with me throughout and placed the right people around me to help me get out of my situation. Some might ask, if God is gracious, then why would God bring his children through difficult times. But when we, as his children, go through trying times, we develop a thirst, a desire and appreciation of his grace. And during the difficult times, we will reach out to God and praise him.

"With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted." (Isaiah 12:3)

As I meditated on this, I realised that I needed to draw water from the wells of salvation. And this salvation comes from trusting in the gracious gospel of Jesus Christ: that Jesus died to save a sinner like me. To glorify God for the salvation I received, I seek to be more Christlike, to treat people right and to be that beacon of light to others in the dark.

“So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,”
(Philippians 2:1-5)

I would describe my personal journey with God as like getting into a pool, sometimes the water can be cold. We step our feet into the water, it feels cold but only because we are not used to the temperature of the water and then we step back. But when we finally commit and jump in, we get that refreshing feeling of the cold water. And when we stay there for a while and finally get out of the pool, we get that shivering feeling, then we realise that the pool is the most comfortable place to be.

What if the pool is like being in the presence of God and spending time with him. When we have spent too long outside of that pool, and when we step in it feels cold and it feels like God is far away when in fact, we are just not used to what it feels like. But when we finally commit to jump into the pool again, we get that refreshing feeling of the Spirit. And when we stay there for a while and finally get out and go back to the things of the world, and we get that shivery cold feeling and we realize that the pool is where we are meant to be, in his Spirit.

I believe for most of us, journeying life is like going for a swim. We experience being in the pool, in his Spirit and getting out of it when we return to the things of the world. For me personally, I felt that I was in and out of that pool. But now, I am ready to dive back in.

TRANSFERS

Michael Toh (tohph123@gmail.com)

I was raised in a non-Christian home. During my younger days, I was looked after by my nanny. I used to follow her to church on Sundays and attended the children's class. I loved going because I could meet and play with other children. There was food and presents too and I particularly loved Christmas because it was the time I would receive many presents. My life consists of study and play and though I attended children's classes, I don't really know who God is.



One day, I was studying for my O level with my classmates in school. I heard someone talking about God and Jesus to my classmate. I somehow was drawn in and joined them. I heard about God who, out of nothing, created the universe. We were all sinners and separated from God. He shared the verse, John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." God shows his love for us and sent His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for our sins. He died and was raised from the dead on the third day. My classmate asked me whether I am willing to ask Jesus to forgive my sins and accept him as my personal Saviour. Without any hesitation, I prayed with him and asked Jesus to forgive my sins and be the Master of my life.

Life after that was different. I would read the Bible and through His Word, God taught me more about Him and how I could live my life according to His way. He gave me peace and taught me to draw strength from Him when facing difficulties. Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." Throughout my life, God is always close by and he taught me to trust Him as He promised all things will turn out to be good.

Jaime Choy (mijarech@gmail.com)

I was born in a Buddhist family where ancestral worship was practised daily. I attended a convent school from young as my mum thought this would helped me to get better grades, hence I was exposed to the Catholic way of worship - use of rosary - for the atonement of sins, praying to Mary (Jesus' mother) as intercessor to Jesus, as well as to the other saints. We were taught that Jesus was God and cannot be approached directly.



It was only when I was in Secondary 1 that one of my classmates introduced me to Christianity and brought me to church. It was there I learnt that we could approach Jesus, the Son of God **directly**! Jesus died, redeemed us, forgave us our sins, and gave us access to the Holy God! He was the High Priest who intercedes for us daily! “Jesus is our High Priest who knows and feels all our infirmities and we can come boldly unto the throne of Grace to obtain mercy and grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:14-16).

Soon my parents found out and they stopped me from attending church. I did not have much knowledge about Christianity nor about my salvation then.

Many years passed till I started my Polytechnic days. I was introduced to the Polytechnic Christian Fellowship. One of my coursemates brought me to another church which is just 5 minutes from my home. Knowing my parents will again object, I had to go 'secretly' on the pretext of meeting my senior for project work. This went on for a while. During this period, my mum's health deteriorated and each time, I had to go on my knees pleading to Jesus to heal my mum. But I knew deep down I could not continue to be a 'secret Christian' anymore. My family must know it's Jesus who healed her. It's not by my good deeds or prayers to the idols that healed her. It's God's grace!! So I decided to tell them that I am a Christian and I just wanted to go to church.

That started all the objections and persecutions. My dad would weep quietly at his workplace. My mum drowned herself with alcohol without food though her health did not permit her to drink. All those threats of 'kicking me out' were not spared. Week after week was a tremendous struggle – to go church or not. After each attendance, I would drag my feet to go home – to face hostility and consequences. It was just a simple request – to go to Church yet why all these misery, that was my constant struggle and heartache! Then one day, during my Polytechnic classes, I went to the end of the corridor, as I looked down (4th level), I heard a voice that said, “just jump down and it will end all these troubles!” I looked up to the heavens and asked myself “Lord, I do not know you deep enough to commit my life into your hands. I know I stand the risk of been 'kicked out', yet I've decided to follow you all the days of my life”. Then another voice said “Look at these nail-pierced hands and hold onto it tight. I died for you!!” With a deep sigh of relief and determination, I prayed “Lord, I will follow you!”

These objections went on for three years – God gave me strength, grace and wisdom to go through it. I wanted to show my family that they had not 'lost a daughter' but that I was determined to be more filial and caring to honour my parents obeying what the Bible says. It is Christ living in me! Many years passed and my parents' perception of Christianity changed drastically. They even 'boasted' to their friends and neighbours that 'Christians are different'.

“If God be for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31)

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulations, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?” (Romans 8:35)