



# BAPTISM AND TRANSFERS

26 February 2023

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## BAPTISMS

Sarah Ang ([sarahang99@gmail.com](mailto:sarahang99@gmail.com))

I grew up in a Christian family and attended Sunday school and service on Sundays, but I would honestly say that I did not have a personal relationship with God and did these things out of routine and duty. Growing up, I was always asking myself about what difference knowing Jesus and being Christian made to my life and I found I could not give an answer, because I could not honestly say anything other than a generic “being a good person”.



This changed when I moved to the UK for university and started reading God’s Word for myself. Looking back, I felt called to find a church to settle down in, and by God’s grace was given a good community of people who made my first time living away from home feel much less lonely, and who have been so instrumental to my Christian life.

I spent a large part of my time in university involved in church, where God worked through my friends and the people there to show me how everything made sense when viewed through the lens of the Gospel. I’ve always been interested in policy and research, and I want to do something with my life that could make a difference to people’s wellbeing. But I’ve also come to realise through the course of my studies and work that, despite our best efforts, no policy programme or intervention can solve what is fundamentally broken in our world.

Instead, we need to be made right with God for things to be put back into order. I saw that no amount of good work could fix the problem of sin, and even my standards of being good were nothing before a holy God. God worked to humble me and I was convinced of the reality of my sin, the need for repentance, and the fact that only Christ’s work on the cross was sufficient for salvation. I could now

see how knowing Christ – and therefore being Christian – made all the difference, because it gave me hope for things beyond this side of eternity, where, as John writes in Revelation 21:4, “[God] will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away”. Spending time in God’s Word and with his people also showed me a bigger meaning in God’s plan, as Paul writes in Ephesians 1:10, “to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.”

I still struggle with my Christian walk and often, in my anxiety, fail to trust that God is in control, and that He has a bigger and better plan. Still, I’ve been particularly encouraged by John 17. I find myself coming back to John 17:3 in particular: “And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” This verse helps me focus on what ultimately matters: knowing God, and learning how to better love and serve Him and His people.

**Hong Wei Jie** ([hong193@hotmail.com](mailto:hong193@hotmail.com))

I grew up in a non-Christian family, where we practised burning joss sticks as respect to our ancestors and presenting food as an offering twice every month, on the first and fifteenth of the month of the lunar calendar. I first heard briefly about Christ when my army friend shared with me during Basic Military Training. I was still sceptical about Christianity at that time so did not think much about it.



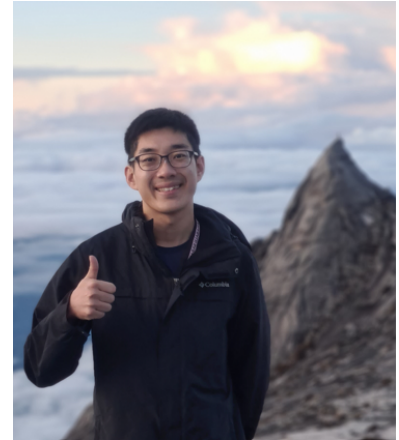
When I heard more about the gospel from my girlfriend, Christine, now wife-to-be, I realised there was a lot more about Christianity that I had not heard. I learnt that Christ died on the cross for the sins that I committed, and rose to life on the third day. I thought to myself, “Wow! There is someone who is actually willing to die for me?” It was then when I had more questions and was keen to learn more about the Bible. Christine then brought me to GBC where I got to listen to the sermons and participate in the worship service.

Christine’s parents also shared with me that we are all sinners and this separates us from God. The only way to God is through Jesus Christ. I knew I needed a Saviour, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by

His grace as a gift through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ” (Romans 3:23-24). Jesus has saved me through his death and resurrection. I would like to share a verse I learnt during Bible study, which has encouraged me to live in Christ. I hope it will encourage you as well: “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.” (John 15:4)

**Christopher Thong** ([christopher\\_thong@hotmail.com](mailto:christopher_thong@hotmail.com))

I was born in a Catholic family and was raised as a Roman Catholic. However I did not really understand what my faith meant, and I felt that the things I did were part of a stuck routine which was of no value to me. I used to feel that I could have spent time at church in a better way, for example, studying more and trying to get better grades. This continued until I went to Ireland for medical school. I found that despite all the achievements I had, there was just something that was missing in me. I felt like I was endlessly chasing academics and that there was no longer meaning in it.



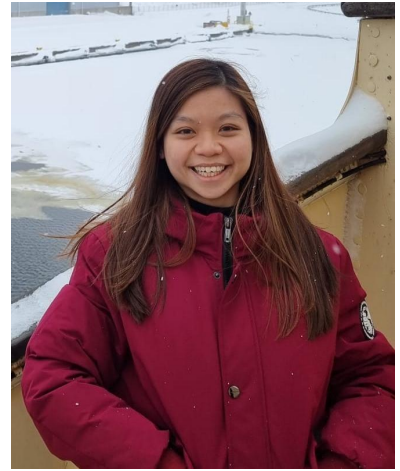
In Ireland, I met a group of friends who encouraged me to attend Calvary Galway, a non-denominational Christian Church. I soon realized then that I was only living for myself and not for the glory of God. I could see how God worked in my life, encouraging me to turn away from sin and to turn to him. Jesus came to save sinners by dying on the cross and rising from the dead.

From then on, I started knowing the word of God properly. I applied what I learnt into my life. Having a relationship with God is invaluable. I am grateful that despite how I turned away from Him all my life, he still called me to return to him. I now know what it means to be truly loved in Christ. I continue to be flawed, but God has shown me that I am not saved by my own works, but by having complete trust in Jesus. As Ephesians 2:8-9 reads, “for it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourself, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.”

I continue to struggle with sin, but I will continue to walk by faith in Christ. I acknowledge that God sent his only Son to die on the cross, so that we can be saved from our sins and have eternal life. Amen!

**Christine Toh** ([christinetohph@gmail.com](mailto:christinetohph@gmail.com))

I was privileged to be born into a Christian family and was infant-baptised in a Bible-Presbyterian Church. I attended Sunday school learning about Jesus every week. I learnt that Jesus sacrificed Himself and died on the cross to save us from our sins. But because I was still young at that time, I did not think much about the significance of God's Word and treated it more like a routine that my parents set for us to follow – to attend church every Sunday. I enjoyed attending church mainly because I got to meet my friends and play after Sunday school. As I got older, I began to understand the real reason why we attended church.



We all need Christ in our lives as we are all sinners. Jesus saves us from our sin through his death and resurrection. He calls us to repent and to believe in him alone, for he saves us only by his grace. Having trusted in Christ, I started to cultivate the habit of doing my quiet time every day, and I could feel the difference when I am keeping close to God. I learnt to be more patient, and to choose my words before speaking to others so that I do not hurt them. “Love is patient and kind, love does not envy or boast, it is not arrogant” (1 Corinthians 13:4) This verse always serves as a reminder to me especially when anger hits me.

I was convinced that I can't live without Christ, so I went through my reaffirmation of faith in my late teens. Years later, my family left the church and was searching for another church to settle in. God led us to GBC which we have been attending for years and have now decided to be part of the community just as God has instructed us to through His Word: “For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.” (Romans 12:4-5)



# TRANSFERS

**Foo Meei Fang** ([mffoolee@yahoo.com.sg](mailto:mffoolee@yahoo.com.sg))

I was fourteen when God reached out to me. The end-of-year exams were over. While the teachers were busy grading papers, we were left to manage our time in class. I devoured novels of youthful travel adventures and romance and planned how one day I too would travel, discover and possess all the experiences this world and this life have in store for me. Then the pin dropped. My very existence suddenly felt random and elusive if there were no one to know who I am, to know about me, to know just how much I wished to live this life the best that I could, and who CARED!! And it came to my mind that God, the Creator of the universe and Creator of me, is the One whom I need to find. It wasn't difficult. There was a church near my home that had a John 3:16 signboard. I'd read it every time I passed by it. It became immediately clear that God loved me so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to die for my sins, that I may have eternal life. Eternal life! How more perfect can life be!



There was a Christian girl in class whom I approached. She told me the gospel story in the simplest of terms but it all made sense. She gave me a gospel tract and referred me to the prayer that I could pray if I wanted to believe. I deliberated over it for a couple of days. Trepidation held me back. Then before I uttered the sinner's prayer, I told God my biggest fear was if I turned away and stopped following Him some day. Nothing could be worse. And so, would He promise never to let go of me even if I struggled to let loose myself.

God is faithful in all he does (Ps 33:4) For fifty years, He has kept me faithful. He is indeed the promise-keeper. Now I ask Him to help me finish well. He tells me how I (1) always have hope (Ps 71:14a); (2) praise Him more and more (Ps 71:14b); (3) declare His righteousness, power and might to the next generation, to all who are to come (Ps 71:15-18).

All the way my Saviour leads me. What have I to ask beside?

**Lucas Lim** ([lucaslimsy@gmail.com](mailto:lucaslimsy@gmail.com))

I was born in a Christian family, went to a Methodist school and have been attending church since I was young. Yet there were often times when I felt insecure, unsure if I was good enough for God or those around me.

Living in a meritocratic state, I subconsciously developed a belief that I would be loved and rewarded if I was good, but cast aside and punished if I was bad. I had read the Bible and was serving in church, but I looked around and saw people who were better than me – more eloquent, more knowledgeable, people who seemed to hear God more clearly. I wondered: would people still value me if I messed up or couldn't meet their expectations? What if I was too sinful for God? God seemed like a hard master who was difficult to please, and I would sooner hide my talent in the ground than risk his displeasure at my failed attempts to multiply it.



Around that time, the Lord sent fellow believers my way who inspired me with their simple and earnest faith. They were wired differently from me. They desired to obey God not to be good enough, but to make God happy, for they were sinners saved by faith and were infinitely grateful to God. They cared little about what others thought of them, and recognised that each person's journey with the Lord is unique.

With time and much prayer, God changed my heart. I stopped relying on my own abilities and virtue, and placed my trust in Christ alone - He died for the forgiveness of my sins, and in Christ, I am accepted before God. I became content to do my best for the one who had loved me from the beginning, and it mattered not if others saw that I was weak, for the Lord had said to me "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor 12:9).

Though I still feel inadequate from time to time, I am confident that God, who began a good work in me, will bring it to completion in his good time. I am thankful that God has been faithful to me all my life, and I look forward to growing in Christ with the community at Grace Baptist Church.

**Elliot Lim** ([samuellimelliot@gmail.com](mailto:samuellimelliot@gmail.com))

Before I became a Christian, I grew up in church. I went to Cell Group and I sang songs of worship on Sundays but in my heart, I didn't see God as anything more than a wish granter. I saw Him as only a blesser and not a righteous God. This was shown in my behaviour and prayer. I wanted to have my own freedom and I lived as such. However, I never felt fulfilled or truly joyful. Life was always troublesome, whether by my own hand or by others.



When my parents began divorce proceedings in 2017, I felt helpless and distraught. These things were out of my control and there was no peace in my life. God began showing me how sinful I was. I was disobedient, unfaithful and selfish with my thoughts and deeds. God graciously used people and His Word to guide me to Him. He showed me that my own way leads to destruction, that I cannot redeem myself and that true peace was found only in Christ.

As the picture of the gospel has been made increasingly clear, I see that we never outgrow the need for it. My sin is ever before me; and without the sacrifice of Christ, there is no remission of sin. In His death, He paid the price for our sins. In Jesus' resurrection, there is the gift of new life in Him. There is no hope of salvation without faith in Christ which comes by the grace of God. I continue to see that Jesus truly is the only way. He is the truth, and the life, that we all need. It is this revelation that changed the way I live. I do not live to glorify myself but that He be glorified. Christ must increase and I must decrease. As I walk with other Christians and in this faith community, I hope that Jesus is the centre of attention for us and others.

**Shee Hui Li** ([shee-hui-li@hotmail.com](mailto:shee-hui-li@hotmail.com))

By the grace of God, I grew up in a Christian home and attended church every Sunday though I dreaded it. As a child, I did not understand why I had to sit through "stories" that were written so long ago. Yet these stories would take roots in my heart and bear fruit in years to come.



As a rebellious youth, I was in an unequally yoked relationship and stopped going to church. While I was in that relationship, I was constantly pricked in my conscience by the truth of God. Nevertheless, I struggled for a period but God's relentless prompting, nudging in the Spirit convicted me to come out of that relationship. By God's grace (indeed), I rejoined my previous church having been convicted by the Holy Spirit that I was a sinner in need of God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ. I came to repentance knowing that I have gone against God's desire for his children. God changed my heart and I began to have a serious outlook on God, the church, and His word. I started serving in the children and youth ministry in my previous church as a group leader to help them desire God's truth for themselves and live out a life conformed to the Word.

Coming from a church where the preaching of the Word is shallow, I thought that I chose God and that my salvation was a direct consequence of my own actions. Every worship "experience" determined whether God was close to me or that He loved me. During that time, I began yearning to have someone teach me how to read the bible to grow in my understanding of God and to deepen my relationship with Him. Hence, I relied on supplementary sources to better my knowledge of God. By God's grace, it was during this time that I caught up with an old friend who I used to have many extensive "arguments". As we discussed certain matters of church, I realized I have no biblical evidence to back it up, everything was by the habits of old, what I feel, what's familiar. I went into a period of despair because I felt that I did not know God and was unsure of my salvation. This friend then invited me to Grace Baptist Church (GBC).

As I visited GBC, God used the preaching of the Word of God to help me see the truth of the Gospel and to correct my understanding of God – that I am able to do nothing to save myself. For by grace, I have been saved through faith, that it is the gift of God and not of works, not of myself. (Ephesians 2:8-9, LSB).

With my remaining years on this earth, I pray that I will love and serve this body of believers. Most of all, I pray that I will faithfully and diligently walk with the Lord.

*Redeeming love has been my theme,  
And shall be till I die.  
When this poor lisping, stammering tongue  
Lies silent in the grave,  
Then in a nobler, sweet song,  
I'll sing Thy power to save*



(There Is a Fountain)

*For ev'ry day I have on earth  
Is given by the King;  
So I will give my life, my all,  
To love and follow him.*

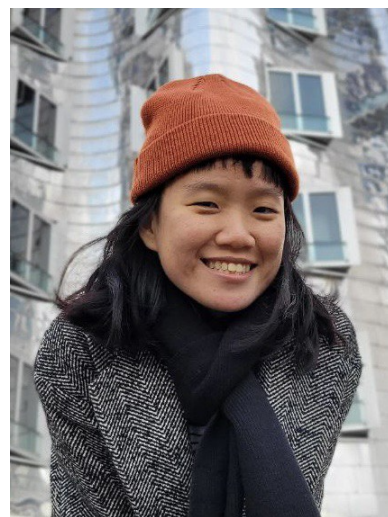
(My Heart Is Filled With Thankfulness)

**Athena Sze** ([athenasze@gmail.com](mailto:athenasze@gmail.com))

Hello my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, I am Athena. Before I knew and trusted in Christ, my childhood experience was a tough and chaotic one, facing difficult family issues and was not doing well in school. Being the only child in the family, it was a tough and lonely journey. I strived hard and attempted to be a strong and independent child, yet constantly looking outwards, seeking for love and acceptance from my friends, extended family and others. Thankfully, my grandma and aunts who were believers introduced me to the church community. That was when I began to feel God's love being exemplified through the church.

Nevertheless, that did not stop the chaos at home, but it was God's unconditional love, grace and mercy that challenged me to personally know who God is. My turning point was when family issues and studies got too overwhelming. As a teen, I was selfish and rebellious and that affected my family, causing them to be worried and heartbroken. I did not know who I could turn to except for Jesus Christ, and started praying on my own. God also sent many close friends and family who were believers to pray for me.

I decided that I did not want to live a life that was double standard. I know I have sinned many times, Jesus Christ being the only truth and the way, has died for our sins and was resurrected on the third day so that we can experience life with God. Hence, I wanted to fully surrender and commit to the Lord. Thus, during a youth service, I came forward to say the sinner's prayer and repented from my sins. I have since been following Jesus and depending on his strength, grace, and mercy. Over the years, God has brought reconciliation to our family and today we live amicably together. I am really grateful that God has never given up on me and my family, he heals the broken-hearted, and mends broken relationships. May this



Bible scripture that has kept me going throughout my faith journey encourage you.

*"Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; even though you do not see him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls." (1 Peter 1:8-9)*

**Moreen Tai** ([moreen.tai@outlook.com](mailto:moreen.tai@outlook.com))

I was born in Malaysia to a Muslim family. My mum is a Muslim, and by Syariah law, so are her husband and children. When I was about 4 years old, we came to know the Lord through a neighbour. My mum confided her troubles, and our neighbour risked her life by praying for my mum (it is an offence to convert a Muslim in Malaysia). She told my mum that she knew just the right person who could help her – Jesus! By God’s grace, my mum believed. We found a church and attended for a while, as churches were reluctant to receive us for fear of breaking the law.



When Pastor Ian and Auntie Sherri came to Malacca, they started a Bible study group in their home which would later grow and become a church. Auntie Sherri taught the children’s class, which my sister and I enjoyed attending. When I was about 10 or 11, my mum, sister and I were baptized by Pastor Ian in a pool in the home of a church member surrounded by high walls.

I have always believed in the Lord Jesus Christ ever since I was a young child. I believed that he died for my sins in my place so that I may have eternal life. It was one of the first Bible verses I learnt in Sunday school. When I was baptized, I understood that it symbolized my own death and resurrection in Christ. But, for many years as an adult, I haven’t lived my life in obedience to God. I was not part of any church. I didn’t have any close friends who were Christians and I lived by my own rules. Until three years ago, I found myself lost in my own despair and alone in a place without hope. In desperation, I reached out to Auntie Sherri. We were just entering COVID, and we would meet every week to read the book *“Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands”* by Paul Tripp.

For the first time, I experienced God in a powerful way. I discovered that if I ask God earnestly to change my heart, he will answer my prayer! And he did. I

realized the dangers of living life outside the fellowship of a Christian community on a prolonged basis. Without the accountability of a local church, it was not possible for me to pursue a life of righteousness. I hope that by being part of GBC I can learn to exercise love, forgiveness and doing good toward one another, and that one day, my husband will be reconciled to God. Please pray for us.

**Sebastian Tang** ([sebastiantanglw@gmail.com](mailto:sebastiantanglw@gmail.com))

I was born into a Christian family when my parents brought me to my former church, Grace Independent Baptist Church as a child in 1999. It was back then where I heard about the gospel message for the first time, time and time again. However, in my youth and immaturity I was merely going through the motions of just knowing what the bible says and what it is to be Christian but not actually accepting Christ as my personal Saviour and Lord. In church I was simply trying to be the best to look good, by my own efforts and not even putting my faith in and surrendering to Christ.



Soon, my unbelief caught up with this façade I was putting up, I was sucked into worldly influences in my later primary school years and started to behave rebelliously, sinful and foul. Even non-Christian friends wondered if I was really Christian. It wasn't until the last day of a church camp in 2007, all of us were split into different age groups under different mentors to help us reflect on what we'd done and give us time to confess our deep dark sins to God. My heart was really pricked after the sermon that night which touched on having a victorious life in Christ. That evening we also touched on confessing sins to Christ and being crucified in Christ and that to be victorious, the flesh is put to death. (1 Cor 15:57-58, Gal 2:20, Romans 12:1-2) – Faith is the victory. I started to think and wanted the Holy Spirit working in me. God was calling to remembrance all those gospel messages I had heard before, this time it dawned on me I was clearly lost in my sin and in need of a Saviour and the only way to be saved was Jesus Christ (John 3:16). It was that evening where I asked God to truly work in my heart — I turned from my ways and repented of my sins.

After that day, I started to become hungry for the word of God, I learnt to be more loving, turn my back on bad and sinful habits, seeking to grow more in God each day. I thank God for being patient and loving with me in this Christian journey as He reveals Himself more to me, and one where I am reminded how hapless and fallen I am and need Christ in my life.

**Jasmine Too** ([jasminep@singnet.com.sg](mailto:jasminep@singnet.com.sg))

My name is Jasmine, I came from a staunch Taoist family. However, my parents sent me to a Christian School which was near my home. Growing up in a Christian School did not make me a Christian. My family had a strict religious background. I was pretty against what was taught about the Christian God and scripture. Like my mum, I was a devout Taoist, going with her to many temples on a regular basis. In hindsight, I am grateful to God for leading me to learn His word at a young age.



I joined the Girls' Brigade (GB) when I entered Secondary School. Weekly GB's meeting taught me about God's word through our devotion session. I began to be more open to the gospel. The Holy Spirit softened my heart to receive the gospel of Christ. God has been so patient with me though I had been rejecting Him. He loves me, never gives up on me, pursued and led me to know that I am a sinner, undeserving of His grace, yet He loves me so much to send Jesus to die on the cross for my sins. I confessed my sins to the Lord and accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour at the end of Secondary one. My life was changed, I was able to better manage my quick temper and more joyful. I was very excited about my new found faith and shared with my non-believing classmates.

I continued to serve in GB till I left school. Throughout those years, I only attended GB but did not attend church due to strong family's objection. I lost touch with church ever since I left school but I attended a regular weekly Bible study with some colleagues for a while. My Christian walk was weak and I was far from God.

I got married to a non-believer and we have two grown-up sons. After I had my sons, I was convicted to bring my sons up to know God. I brought them to a church near my home. They were three years and one year old respectively then. I thank God for providing a church so near home so that I can bring two young kids to church more conveniently. By God's grace, my boys and I grew spiritually in the Word. God has been so good to us. We are still praying for my husband's salvation, please pray along with me.