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**PEOPLES GOSPEL
CHURCH BAPTISM**

萬民福音堂浸禮



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2022 PGC BAPTISM TESTIMONY BOOKLET

2022 萬民福音堂浸禮見證集:

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Miranda Choi 蔡美珊 (IGC)

信主前的我

自幼家境清貧，父母體弱多病，身為家中獨女的我自小被教導為”凡事需得靠自己便有出頭天”。因此我深信只要憑自己努力，世上無難事，人定可勝天。這信念令我的性格在遇到困難時喜歡自己解決，並且非常執著，越是抓不住越是想捉緊，是一名完美主意者。由於太過執著，當讀書，交友等事情發展並非如己所願時，便會感到無比壓力，意志消沉，十分憂傷。久而久之，為免自己負荷不了，我漸漸封閉自己在熟悉的人和事中，儘量減少作新的嘗試和避免新的挑戰。表面上每天開心如常生活，但其實內心既孤單又茫然，時常思考人生的意義。

如何信主？

雖然自小就讀基督教學校，但一直不相信上帝的存在。直到 20 歲的那年，某天早上媽媽發生意外被進醫院，醫生宣佈他們已儘力拯救，吩咐我們作最壞打算及為她準備後事。此突如其來的打擊徹底令我崩潰，心想那一刻我們人類可以做的都已經做盡，難道我真的眼睜睜地看著她離去？正當十分彷徨之際，我的內心忽然興起了祈禱的念頭，於是在那星期裡我不斷祈禱，求主讓媽媽能夠平安渡過危險期並生存下來。原來神真的有聽我禱告，媽媽後來不單奇跡地好起來，而且連任何後遺症都沒有，於是從那一刻起我便決志信主。

可是我並不是一位虔誠的基督徒，決志後由於生活忙碌，我不但沒有返教會崇拜，亦沒有跟弟兄姊妹建立教會生活，我和神慢慢又走遠了。但是神卻一直與我同在沒有離棄我。在我 30 歲的那一年，本身是殘疾人士的爸爸不幸遇上車禍以致盤骨碎裂。在他生命垂危的時候，神再一次彰顯祂的大能聽我禱告，眷顧了爸爸並拯救他快死掉的身體，奇蹟地經多次手術後把他救活。經過漫長的康復路，爸爸更可一步一步慢慢走起路來。我深信這是神對我的再次呼喚，讓我充分體會到祂對我們的厚愛。

雖然如此，我仍然沒有跟神親近，仍然只顧每天營營役役地工作。直到數年前，爸爸突然患上癌症，剩下一個月命的時候，一向不信神只信唯物論的他，竟然提出了決志信主並且受洗的要求，令我大為感動。後來得知原來我以前訂閱的”中信”福音月刊在我結婚後仍舊寄到舊居，爸爸閒時在家閱讀後不知不覺內心種植了神的福音，因而在人生最後階段作出此重大決定接受基督以得永生。這事令我感到神奇妙的安排，並立定決心重返教會接受洗禮，一生跟隨耶穌基督。

信主後的我

自從信主後，我領悟到人類的渺小以及神的偉大。有很多事情其實人是無法控制，而神卻有最特別最奇妙的安排，時候未到所以我們看不見出路而已。神亦很愛我們，祂時常守護在旁並且與我們同行。現在的我不再執著，學會放手，凡是儘了力的便將一切交託神讓祂帶領。靠著神的力量，在新環境新挑戰下我變得更有勇氣，更勇於面對，並且心無掛慮。我亦比以前更懂感恩，更懂珍惜眼前所擁有的一切，我的心充滿期盼，不再茫然，十分滿足。我期待在神的帶領下活出更豐盛的人生。

Maria Chow 周寶儀 (Bethel 伯特利)

我媽媽是天主教徒，我亦在天主教學校讀書，所以都讀過聖經故事。我大概在八或九歲的時候就已經洗禮。那時都會念經及星期日去聖堂。到了中學三年班時，同學帶我去團契，我是那時開始閱讀聖經，有祈禱，有返崇拜，亦有事奉。所以對救恩有啲認識，不過唔係好感受到神對我的愛。知道耶穌基督為人類死在十架上。回想當時的感覺，我只是億億萬萬人之中的一個，亦不曾覺得神會與我同在。

來到加拿大讀中學，亦有跟那時的同學返教會，好似是順理成章。其實因為沒有好好扎根，一人來加讀書好似可以自由發揮，想玩就玩，以致對神越嚟越疏遠。

之後工作、結婚、生女，其實有好多年都係渾渾噩噩咁過。當個女幾歲大的時候，再返西人基督教會，那時很喜歡聽牧師講道，但是仍沒有睇聖經的習慣。雖然本聖經一路跟身幾十年，但只是久不久看看，亦有真正思考或感受神想同我講嘅話。當時最開心就是個女要求洗禮。不久我們就沒有再返教會。但我仍然有繼續祈禱。

我這幾年來生命有很大的變遷，好多時要自己決定很多事情，又有遇到困難及憂慮的時候。亦有時會覺得徬徨。

由於 COVID，通過一些 Zoom 的活動，一個基督徒的同事給了我萬民堂的崇拜連結，由那時起我便開始再返教會。原來兜兜轉轉在萬民堂再見返以前中學的舊同學。感覺很親切。然後入了伯特利 A 組，上了扎根永恆個 course 才真正認識神的大愛和救恩。那時才真正感受耶穌釘十字架流寶血救贖我的罪，向神認罪悔改，作他的女兒，決定跟從耶穌基督，聽他的教誨，作祂的門徒。亦開始時常睇聖經希望可以知多些和親近神。現在有些時候覺得神藉聖經同我講話。

我的性格是緊張仲係憂慮型。現在同神親近多了，覺得有時有一種無名嘅喜樂還有平安的感覺。我係一個自我中心，亦有乜愛心也唔會關心人。現在慢慢開始學會關心同記掛別人。我亦明白到需要認罪及悔改的重要性。我現在的功課是”改”。

其實我唔覺得是我去尋找耶穌。是神施恩執我返嚟。我覺得是神俾我睇到佢對我奇妙的恩典：撞返好多年冇見嘅親人，賜給我一班好有愛心的弟兄姊妹和一個主內的大家庭。

現在我明白到神先愛我。我相信和跟隨祂，受浸作見證是回應祂的愛，我亦希望將這愛的福音同別人分享傳給其他人。聖經俾我知道罪惡是令我們與神分隔，唯有耶穌基督在十架的救恩才可使我們的罪得赦免，能夠直接親近神。我希望我可以盡力遵行聖經的誡命律例和典章，盡心盡性盡意愛神，聽神的話，一生一世跟從主耶穌基督，能做神所喜悅的事情，識得愛人如己。

我希望受浸是回應我對神的愛和見證在生命及靈命的轉變。

最後我想分享詩篇 23:6:

我一生一世必有恩惠慈愛隨着我，我且要住在耶和華的殿中，直到永遠。

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Neil Chan 陳宇軒 (HingStone)

How was your life before knowing / accepting Jesus?

I grew up with a family with no religious beliefs, therefore, I had no knowledge of any religion or interest in any. I was first introduced to Christianity in highschool. My friend's church had a Saturday morning fellowship and basketball program. At that time, I was mainly just interested in basketball, but it was a requirement that you attend fellowship first. From the fellowship, I learned about how Jesus sacrificed himself for us and that we should follow him if we want to go to heaven.

How and why did you decide to follow Jesus?

After I attended the fellowship for a while, the pastors invited me to a room and discussed accepting Christ each time before basketball. One of those times, I decided to accept Christ. I did believe in God, but it was also because I wanted them to let me go play basketball. At that moment, I would say I accepted Jesus, but I didn't really know him.

During my university years, I grew further from Christ as my friends and I stopped going to fellowship and church. Even though I have accepted Christ, I didn't know him. I didn't know what was right or wrong according to the bible. I would live life according to my family, friends, society and myself. After university I started to go back to church mainly because my friends went. During that time I started growing and learning to live my life more according to God's teachings and will. However, it was more because of the Christian influence around me, personally, I didn't really care too much. Ultimately I decided to follow Jesus because no matter how I grew further from him, there was always an unexplainable pull back to church and Christianity for me.

How is your life now in light of the gospel?

It wasn't until I joined PGC Lighthouse (one of Hingstone cell groups) that I really wanted to genuinely follow God's will more and grew more rapidly. The cell based learning really fit me, and I was able to see the positive influence of God in my cell leaders. They were not all talk, but actually showed God's teachings through action. I even started volunteering to help out with the church media team because I genuinely wanted to help and thought God would appreciate it. Now I live life and make actions/decisions with first thinking if it is God's will as opposed to living life based on what society or I think is right or wrong. I also pray more often now compared to when I didn't know God as much.

Angie Tam 譚啟欣 (HingStone)

1) How was your life before knowing / accepting Jesus?

Although from a very young age I took religion class in a Christian school back in Hong Kong, and I know who Jesus is, yet my family is not Christian. I would follow my family going to temple, idolize all the different Buddhist Gods who will grant you different needs. I often would tend to fall into the thought of "it does not hurt to idolize more than one God, if they can give me what I Need".

Having an introvert personality, I do not like to share my feelings with others or reach out for support. It is because of this character; I generally like to take control of my life. I like to have control in making decisions and knowing I have that security in me. Because of not willing to share, at times when facing challenges or difficulty, it can be stressful. I did not involve much in the community. I will not volunteer on my own. I like to do things that are in my comfort level rather than helping those in need. I tend to only care about my family and close friends, but to others outside of this circle, I can be selfish and not care as much since I do not think I need to.

2) How and why did you decide Jesus?

In September 2020, my fiancé and I had decided to purchase a house. At that time, the market was very hot, we were not even sure if we could secure the house with the offer we put in. I had prayed to God and sought his comfort during this time. Understanding I cannot fully control the outcome, I let Him lead the way, knowing he will give me what he knows is the best for me. In the end, God heard my prayers and provided us with a new house, but at the same time, we had to sell each of our condos within the 90 days closing date to avoid a burden on our finances. I continued to pray, asking God to lead the way. Even though there was only one buyer visiting my condo, God is a miracle saviour, he knows to put the best people around us to help us, and within a month, this one and only buyer was the person who put an offer in for my condo. In the end, I was very grateful to God, I can feel his presence knowing he is watching from above during this stressful time.

And it's because of these experiences, I truly learn I cannot control everything, I have to let Him lead the way. As we moved into our new place, thinking we could start settling in, just a week prior to Christmas, I fell down from the stairs at the new house. I had fractured two bones on my right ankle from this accident and needed surgery. Since this happened at the peak of Covid, the hospital does not allow anyone to accompany you into the surgical room. I was very scared as I had never been under the knife in my whole life, never thought I would face my first surgery alone, and did not know what was going to happen. All these fears and emotions hit me when I was in the waiting area. I recalled all I knew was to pray, prayed to God to calm me down and let these fears go away. Indeed, prior to the surgery, I was calm and in peace, knowing God will be there with me and holding my hands during surgery. Late 2020 was a very challenging year. Within three months, a lot had happened in my life and I really felt I had built a strong connection with Jesus. Even prior to knowing Jesus, going to the temple with my family was just routine, I did not feel any connections. But with Jesus, I can feel that connection, he is there for me, he listens to me and guides me. And it is because of this connection, I want to follow Him.

3) How is your life now in light of the gospel?

As I get more involved in cell group, I learn to open up and share my feelings. I know not to fear as God has placed all the brothers and sisters around my life to support each other. His words also inspired how I should treat others, not only to my family and close friends, but rather broaden my love and care to others in need. Through cell group, I participated in serving the homeless, and that experience was very inspiring for me. I was very happy after that event as I know I helped people who are not as privileged as I am. Knowing how much God has provided in my life, in return I want to extend his love and care around me as well. This is why I decided to step out of my comfort zone and serve at Church by joining the usher team on Sunday service and be the GM for Lighthouse cell group. Lastly, I learned I cannot control everything, God has his plans, I need to follow his words, pray, be thankful and he will lead me to Him.

Doris Xu 許嘉欣 (HingStone)

1) how was your life before knowing/accepting Jesus

Before truly getting to know Jesus, I felt I was lost, I didn't have a purpose in life. That I felt life was just about studying for school for a "better future" and going to work for a "better life" and spending money to have fun and chasing "stars" and lifestyles shown on TV and celebrities. I wasn't actually lost as I know that I need to complete school, but was that truly what I am born to this world to live for? If once we all die, we can't take the money or anything with us, what is left for me after death? It is just the end? Before accepting Jesus, when I was in High school I attended church event and helped out to complete my volunteer hours, but I wasn't absorbing anything while attending those Sunday churches. I was close minded and only believed if I work hard and I do good things, I will get good returns.

2) how and why did you decide Jesus

It's a feeling that I can't describe. I feel safe and peaceful and everything at ease when I hear songs worshiping God. I feel 感動 when I see the lyrics that worships God, his almighty, his forgiveness, his greatness. I am moved by other brothers and sisters' testimonies in how their prayers are answered by God. Although things don't happen the way we humans wanted, not in our favour. But I strongly believe that God has chosen this path for us and we don't see the big and full picture. God wants us to experience life and even when we encounter difficulties, in the end my heart is at peace believing things will work out fine in the end. That I don't need to stress and God will take care of everything, I don't need to worry that the new job I choose might not work out.

3) how is your life now in light of the gospel? how the gospel has affected the changes in your life?

I still have struggles and sometimes doubt my faith isn't strong enough. That's why my mind always think of the negative sides of a situation and believes that I can work things out with my hands if I work hard enough. But it makes me stressed and worried. Once I let it go and acknowledge that the situations are out of my hands, I just close my eyes, put my hands together and pray, and God will hear and answer my concerns. He will resolve my worries. and at that time I feel I'm so small, that it's such a small thing in life that I worry about, the earth still spins and it's not such a big issue. God has given me so much peace, I feel relieved. Recent flight changes example: We did not get any notifications from the Airline and when we arrived at the airport, we were told our flight is cancelled and we have to wait for updates. After two hours we got the email with the option to select an alternative flight. One of our companions' flight change was not accepted and we were afraid she will be stuck at Charlottetown by herself. We were trying to figure it out and told her to try again and reload the webpage. At that moment I did not know what to do to help my friend and it's out of my hand. So I stood there, put my hands together, head down and pray to God. I pray to my Lord, the savior to help my friend get through this and let her fly home with us together. After my prayer, just a few seconds afterwards her webpage loaded and her request was accepted. I felt so relieved and warm blood was rising from my chest to my nose. I was moved and amazed by how God answered my sincere prayer immediately. Since I accepted Jesus, I am always grateful, I start to look at things differently, I start to appreciate nature and lives, I learn to love people around me, I recognize I learn to be more understanding to those troublesome customers that I deal with, I show more sympathy. I began to look at things in a more positive way, and circle back thinking God chose this way for a reason, and I feel peace and comfort.

Flora Ng 吳家儀 (HingStone)

As I look back at my childhood, I can now see that God has been watching over me all these years. He has led me to Christianity by intriguing my apprehensions to my family religion. He also put different people, situations, and miracles in my life. All of which has led me to become more and more faithful in Him, His works, and the purpose and mission of His sacrifice.

I was brought up in a family who has been rooted in the belief of Buddhism. As a child, I always had questions and concerns about the faith. Before immigrating to Toronto, I would sometimes see my parents and/or grandparents preparing cooked chicken, fish, roasted pig and other fruits to worship the Buddhist statues. I was often confused about why they were left in front of the statues for hours untouched before we could go eat them. Sometimes oranges would even be left on a plate in front of the statues until they rot. Even though we had altar shelves for those statues at home with red lights that stay lighted up and we also performed rituals from time to time, we never talked about the Gods or Goddesses of the religion at home. When I went to the temple with my family once a year, I would be told to make wishes for the family under many different statues with incense sticks. The incense sticks would often irritate my allergy which caused me to have red and watery eyes and a running nose. One time, I saw one the workers pulling all the incense sticks out of the burner when they were just newly put in at the temple. I remember wondering what would happen to those people's wishes as they were all thrown away into the huge garbage bin just because there were too many people making wishes that day.

In the meanwhile, I was also presented to the concept of Christianity at a very young age. In fact, my elementary school best friend was the first to introduce me to the concept of Christ. Every time when I would have dinner over at her house, her family would pray before dinner about the food and things they were grateful for in their life. Later, I had a Science tutor who further introduced me to praying. Every week, she would spend a few minutes praying with my sister and me about our concerns to God.

I remember enjoying that time a lot because every time we prayed, it would give me a sense of comfort. It was then I began praying every night and often not only for myself but learning to also pray for people around me as well. When I was in my teenage years, I was invited by some of my high school friends to church events such as movie nights. Even though the events were fun, I didn't feel comfortable attending church on a regular basis. I remember praying to God to guide me to Him if he was "real". As I prayed to God for more guidance, God answered my prayers in university when I started dating. My boyfriend's mother went to church every Sunday alone and I remember accompanying her. I thought I was doing it so that she can be accompanied, but now looking back, it was actually God leading me to Him. I did not like to miss even a week of going to church because I genuinely felt like I was learning something new and good for me to apply in life. I eventually got married and faced many not-so-happy moments, which ended up to a divorce with my ex-husband. I had a lot of struggles at that time, but prayed to God for courage and peace. Many things happened during that time, but somehow in the mist of all the chaos, I felt peaceful. Many of my friends were surprised at how calm and clear I was as to how to proceed with the situation, but I felt confident because I was able to rely and hand over all my concerns to God and I knew that he would always be there to guide and listen to me. After the incident, I have learned to love others differently.

Believing in God has allowed me to see my flawed side and gives me the motivation to change. Eventually I was led to read the Bible. Reading the bible has also allowed me to understand and see all the corruptions and problems we have in our past and current society and how to change my actions in life to become a more selfless, forgiving and loving person to my family, friends, and even strangers around me. The bible also gives me guidance to what is right and wrong in God's eyes. It has equally given me insights on how to do my job differently as an elementary school teacher so that I can teach children to become more loving and caring people. God has given me the opportunity to do many great things for my school, including bringing my students to a community senior home to connect with seniors, doing a school-wide sandwich run, running a school-wide homelessness donation event with an organization downtown, connecting with a school in Korea to exchange pen pal letters to understand another culture with a different lens and the list continues. As I seek to reflect on myself through

God's words from Sunday sermons, participating in weekly cell meetings and discussions, I have also learned to see other flaws that I have in my personality and how to fix them. One of my biggest blessings is to meet many genuine people at church who has allowed to see love and care in a different way. God loves us and forgives us so much that I always remind myself that I need to do the same for others.

Many things happened during the past few Covid years. All of which I see as God's continued guidance and blessings to my life. For one, I dated, got married again and gave birth to a baby girl. Because I had gone through a not-so-happy marriage before, and had a few miscarriages, I had anxiety of doing any of all the above things again. However, everything went so smoothly and every time when I would ask God for directions, he would always give me an answer. He even blessed me with a wedding celebration with Reverend Tam to conduct our wedding and my closest family to witness this special moment with a short period of Covid restrictions re-opening.

I have wanted to get baptized for a few years now. Every time I would present the idea to my family, I would be given a very hard time. It has been very difficult for me to get through this barrier because I really love my family. I see baptism as big of a celebration as a wedding and it would mean a lot to me to have my parents' approval and blessing to it. As Covid was at its peak last year, I thought to myself, what would I say to God if I suddenly passed away and never publicly announced my belief to Him. This thought continued to bother me as I heard more and more news about different bad things that were happening all around the world. It really got to me when I was suddenly got hit with the news that my husband was told to have a critical illness. I finally took up the courage to talk to my dad last week about baptism and I guess because of all the things that he also saw me experience, he calmly told me that he acknowledges my decision as it is a choice for my own religion. And that was the end of our conversation! He did not bring up the topic further nor gave me a hard time. That was it! Deep inside I knew it was God's work. God continues to bring me closer to Him and I know that he will never give up on me as long as I am willing to listen to Him. And this is how I have decided to follow him for the rest of my life. Amen!

Erin Law 羅瑗琳 (English)

As a person who was born into a Christian family, I've always known Jesus. I attended Sunday School weekly, volunteered at church, and read devotions before bed every day. Despite this, I was never truly close to God. That was until I was able to feel His work in my own life.

In elementary school, I was diagnosed with panic disorder and separation anxiety. From grade four until my third year in middle school, I struggled with mental illness constantly. As a child, I knew nothing about how to deal with my condition. My parents brought me to a variety of therapists and counsellors, and even enrolled me in an anxiety-management summer camp. Unfortunately, none of the strategies they taught me ever worked. I was unable to calm my mind, and when caught in a panic spell, nothing could ease my fear at all.

At the height of my condition, I refused to eat out of fear, and skipped school for days at a time. Due to my separation anxiety, I rarely felt safe when I was away from home. At school, I was unable to talk to any of my peers, and would run to the school nurse every lunch time, asking her to send me home. I would miss the last period of school every day.

During this difficult time, my mother would pray with me, and play hymns every morning as I got ready for the day. She gave me a cross necklace to wear at school: a reminder that God was always with me, and that I could find comfort in Him when I was away. For the longest time, I couldn't understand it. If God were with me all the time, why did I feel so alone and afraid when I was away from home? Why did it seem as though He had left me, leaving only one set of footprints in the sand?

Through daily prayer, God finally responded.

At school, I was struck by a particularly bad panic attack. Typically, I would run to the nurse's office and ask for her to send me home. This time, I felt called to find the school counsellor instead. In my fear, I barged into her office unannounced, only to find the whole counselling team with their heads bowed in prayer. I was stunned. Until then, I did not have any friends at school nor teachers that shared my faith. I never thought of school as a place in which I could find God, much less connect with Him.

In that moment of shock, my counsellor raised her head, and noticed how afraid I was. She brought me into the room, and offered to pray with me and the rest of the team. As I sat down and lowered my head in prayer, I truly understood what my mother meant for the first time. God was really with me, wherever I went.

After that day, my condition began to slowly improve. Knowing that I was able to find comfort in God no matter where I was, I finally broke my streak of leaving school early, and was able to have fun with my friends again. Throughout the remainder of my years at that elementary school, my counsellor looked out for me mentally and spiritually, gifting me children's books about faith, and praying with me when I needed help.

Not knowing how to deal with my fear, I found that God provided the comfort I was seeking, and gave me the strength I needed to overcome. In those trying times, when I saw only one set of footprints in the sand, it was not because God had left me alone, but because He was carrying me through it all.

Elena Law 羅伊琳 (English)

1) How was your life before knowing / accepting Jesus?

I can't recall a time before knowing Jesus as I was brought up in the church and had accepted Him early on; I had undeniably felt God's presence in my life. I knew of His love for me and I accepted Him. However, there are definitely aspects of my personality that have been changed as I follow Him. I think I was more individualistic and anxious as I thought I had to figure everything out by myself, an example being when I moved here from Hong Kong. I was taken aback by the complete change in culture and was remorseful about having left, but it wasn't until I trusted in God and His plan that I started to try to make the best with what I have. Instead of dwelling on my regret I knew that if moving was His will, then there must be a reason and hence I started to put in effort to appreciate the differences in my life.

2) How and why did you decide to follow Jesus?

There have been a few major moments where God has allowed for me to experience His power and grace personally. I think one of the most significant standpoints of my faith was when God healed me of my eczema after suffering from it for more than 12 years. I was born with the skin condition and it was a constant hindrance and discomfort. When I was around 12, I had recently had some of the worst eczema of my life for more than a year; I wasn't able to open my eyes and even walking was difficult. However, God provided me with faith to continue hoping in Him, and He spoke to me and my mother one day in a testimony that spoke of God bringing healing after 21 days. The next morning, my mother was recommended a doctor that specialised in a treatment that lasted approximately a month. We knew it was from God and my skin already saw healing within a day.

God used those 12 long years to solidify my trust in His plan for me and to show others of His power. There have been many other times where He has shown me His power during more difficult times. These trials showed me His kindness and mercy. God's constant patience and love through these events helped me to grow my faith in Him and is why I decided to follow Jesus and get baptised. I've decided to get baptised now and not when I was cured of my eczema because my family didn't have a specific church that we attended weekly. My mother also told me to wait until we moved so that I could be baptised and be a part of the spiritual family.

3) How is your life now in light of the gospel? How has the gospel affected the change in your life?

Even though I can't exactly pinpoint a turning point of my life before accepting the gospel, I think my faith in God guides me in the way I should go through the Bible and the conviction of the Holy Spirit. I know I have more to learn but I'm thankful that even though the process wasn't easy, He is leading me on the right path. As for any changes in my life that came from knowing God, I think He has helped me to be less pessimistic and has led me to serve Him in my daily life, like helping others do things I normally wouldn't.

Ethan Leung 梁礎賢 (English)

How was your life before knowing/accepting Jesus?

Growing up in a family where both my parents were mature Christians that raised and taught me well, I knew how to act 'Christ-like', and my upbringing in the church gave me the ability to give very good, Sunday school answers to biblical questions. But that was all it was. My 'faith' influenced my mind, but not my heart, and looking back now I realized that my outward actions didn't reflect my intentions or what I really thought. Not to say that everything I did was malicious or done with ill-intent, but what truly motivated me was wrong. When I acted mature, read my bible, prayed in group settings, and did other 'good Christian things', I mostly did it trying to please/impress others, not because I loved God and genuinely wanted to sing worship songs or pay attention during sermon time. I was a relatively judgmental, self-centered and immoral person before personally knowing Christ. When I did things, I needed to get something from it. I had trouble sharing (just ask my brother), and I had a bad habit of silently judging others. Yet I never expressed it outwardly because of how I was raised. In my mind I knew these bible truths, but my heart clearly wasn't in the right place because I was still thinking these thoughts, living in sin, and, in all honesty, God wasn't even close to the center of my life as He should be.

How and why did you decide Jesus?

As mentioned, I was raised in a family where both my parents are mature Christians. I grew up in the church in quite a literal sense because even in the womb I was technically already 'going to church', but my family was most definitely not the reason why I decided on Jesus. I often wonder how I would respond if someone asked me why I chose Jesus over all the other religions, and I think that if I was ever asked, I would tell them the truth. I don't know about these thousands of other religions, but I know how God has changed my life, seen the Holy Spirit work in my heart, and I've felt His unfailing love and forgiveness.

I've also seen Him in others' lives as well, and I've realized that believing in Christ and accepting Him as your savior isn't a blind faith. And although I haven't studied any other religions, I know of only one religion where the God they worship and serve loves them, and even loved them first, so much so that he died a sinner's death for them so that they could be saved. It's wonderful that our salvation isn't earned by 'Good Karma' or a balance at the end of your life that weighs between your good and bad deeds. It's fully by God's grace. It's my personal experiences with Christ that allow me to be fully confident in my choice.

How is your life now in light of the gospel? How the gospel has affected the change in your life.

I've noticed a significant heart change in my life, done not by me but by the Holy Spirit cleaning and changing me from the inside out. Instead of being powered by willpower and the world, I've found it increasingly easier to focus on God, and in doing so, my motivations for my actions are also changing. I don't just pray and search for him when times are hard, but at any time on any day. It's easier to love others instead of silently casting judgment because of God's love that calls me to love others. Sinful ways of living that once felt inescapable to me I'm now slowly breaking free from. All these changes are things that I pursued before, but no matter how hard I tried I couldn't do it because I needed Jesus and the Holy Spirit to help me. I'm far from a perfect person even after getting to know Jesus personally, but it's a lifelong journey that I'm ready to embark on.

我們的信仰

我們篤信：

- 全部聖經都是神所默示的。(提摩太後書 3:16-17)
- 真神為三位一體的聖父、聖子和聖靈。(約翰福音 1:14; 哥林多後書 13:14)
- 耶穌基督為神的兒子，道成肉身，由童貞馬利亞所生。(約翰福音 1:14; 馬太福音 1:20-23)
- 所有罪人得救是本乎恩，罪得贖是靠基督寶血。(羅馬書 5:1; 5:6-9; 以弗所書 2:8-9)
- 基督按著聖經所說，由死裏復活，並將親自再臨地上，此乃信徒虔誠的盼望。(使徒行傳 1:11; 約翰壹書 3:2)
- 得救的人得永生，滅亡的人承受永刑。(啟示錄 20:11-15)

Our Confession of Faith

We Believe:

- that all Scripture is given by the inspiration of God. (II Timothy 3:16-17)
- that the Godhead exists eternally in three persons - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. (John 1:14; II Corinthians 13:14)
- that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, born of virgin Mary and God manifested in the flesh. (John 1:14; Matthew 1:20-23)
- that sinners are saved by grace through faith alone, and the atonement by the blood of Christ. (Romans 5:1; 5:6-9; Ephesians 2:8-9)
- that Christ rose from the dead, according to the Scriptures; and His bodily return to earth, a purifying hope to the believers. (Acts 1:11; I John 3:2)
- that there will be eternal life for the saved and eternal punishment for the lost. (Revelation 20:11-15)

浸禮誓約

我，_____ 相信上帝，全能的父，創造天地的主是唯一的真神。

我真心承認我的罪並相信主耶穌是我的救主，祂曾為我的罪死在十字架上並從死裡復活。

我願意從今天以後，不再拜偶像，並專心信靠跟從主耶穌是我唯一的神。

我願意從今天以後和教會眾信徒一同過聖潔合一的生活，盡心敬拜和盡力事奉主，並傳揚福音。

Declaration of Baptism

I, _____ believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. The only true God.

I have confessed my sin and believe in Jesus as my savior, who died on the cross and rose again in three days.

I am willing to cut all ties with idols and only follow and trust Jesus and He is my Lord of all.

I am willing to live a holy life and together with other Christian serve and worship God.

