

華倫敦中華基督教會
Chinese Church in London

Baptism Celebration Service 2025

Youth & English Ministry



Testimonies

tng the next generation

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy universal church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Romans 6:4–11

⁴ For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. ⁵ Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. ⁶ We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. ⁷ For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.

⁸ And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. ⁹ We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. ¹⁰ When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. ¹¹ So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

Adriel Au

360 Student Fellowship (Soho)

I was brought up in a Christian household in Hong Kong. For as long as I could remember, my parents brought me to Sunday schools. As I grew older, I felt like my reason for going to church was more about pleasing my parents than having faith in Christ. That's also why I didn't sing during worship, because I felt like I wasn't being genuine in my intentions (although I admit, part of it was because I am not a great singer, but I digress.)

When I was 13, I went to study at a boarding school in the UK. Although I stopped attending church, I joined a weekly bible study group organised by other students. I did this because my parents often asked about my faith, and being part of the group allowed me to give a half truthful answer without disappointing them. Even though I wasn't a genuine Christian at the time, the years of going to church had shaped my behaviour, my moral compass, and sparked a curiosity in religion.

When I started university, I decided to explore my stance in faith, to figure out whether I truly wanted to become a Christian. I had a lot of questions in faith, so I began watching religious and theological debates on YouTube and I also joined a student fellowship. In my first few years there, I especially enjoyed the bible study sessions as they gave me space to discuss topics that I was curious about. Even though I often played devil's advocate and explored taboo topics in Christianity, my intentions were always genuine: I wanted to understand the religion more deeply. I believed that by engaging in difficult discussions, we can attempt to uncover the reasoning and logic behind scripture, not to memorise the bible without understanding. I'm grateful that the student fellowship provided an environment where such discussions were welcomed. Beyond theological conversations, I greatly enjoyed the social side of fellowship. Through trips, campus meet-ups, and hotpot gatherings, countless friendships and memories were forged.

Recently, I felt like I can truly call myself a Christian, not because all my questions have been answered, but because when I reflect on my life, I see how much my actions and attitude have been shaped by my faith. For example, I used to only rely solely on myself to navigate problems in life, from watching countless hours of YouTube tutorials, to working non-stop around the clock. But in my second year, the student fellowship did a Bible study series on Galatians, where one of the key themes was: "We are saved by faith, not by works". Something clicked. I realised I had been approaching life the wrong way.

Around the same time, God gave me challenges that were impossible to solve on my own. I began to rely on Christ and stopped carrying burdens and questions by myself. Eventually,

my worries and stress faded away. Looking back, I've never felt as refreshed and free as I do now. At the end of the day, exposure to Christianity undeniably helps shape one's life for the better. But no amount of external pressure can truly convert someone. The decision to follow Christ must wholeheartedly come from within.

Finally, I want to thank all my friends who shaped my journey in faith, the church for providing such a great fellowship, my family for their unwavering encouragement for me to stay connected to church, and most importantly, God for making all these experiences possible.

Alex Xu

360 Student Fellowship (Soho)

Growing up in Beijing and being raised by atheist parents, I had never considered religion as something serious, it was just superstition. Back then I had loving parents, I did great in my school so it felt like I didn't lack anything in my life. Of course there were problems sometimes but I believed that I would be able to fix everything when I grew older, and I had complete faith in myself.

But everything changed when I first entered university. I started to fall short on academics, which had never occurred before, I started to worry about my future, and most importantly I struggled a lot with socialising and relationships with other people. I felt overwhelmed and started to see that I do not have the power to fix everything. I became so frustrated in my second year of university that I started to question the purpose of my life. As a result I had a lot of ill feelings which also troubled people around me a lot. This made me question myself even more as I never thought that I was capable of doing these.

At university I also managed to make some friends, one being a Christian. This was my first time getting to know a Christian in real life and, after spending more time with that friend, I started to become curious about what people do in a church, and how they live their lives. So I went to a Sunday service for the first time at CCiL Soho, although I did not understand much. But as time went by I began to realise that all my problems needed to be dealt with, and I thought that maybe the Bible had an answer. So during the summer after my second year ended, I started reading the New Testament, and I knew that repentance was what I needed. After that I decided to attend the Alpha course when I heard about it.

During Alpha, I started to learn what Christianity truly is and who God is. Spending time in a Christian fellowship, especially going to the 360 retreat, made me realise that I am loved, and it is all because God loves us. After joining a Bible study small group, I began to know more about God and what it means to be a Christian. We are all sinful but God loves every one of us, and sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for us so that we might be reconciled to Him, so that we can truly love people around us. It was this love that made me accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. I started to abandon all my previous beliefs and let God take control.

Looking back, I can now see more clearly how God has always been working in my life, and how blessed I am to be in a Christian community. I am extremely grateful that He has put so many people around me that love and care about me in my journey to faith. Of course I

cannot know exactly what God has in store for me, but I now know that He has a plan and that is the best for me. Wherever God puts me in the future, His grace will always be with me.

Yet I know that this is a lifelong journey and it is impossible to become perfect at some point and stop. Especially as I go into my last year of university, I know that there will be more things to worry about. I still sometimes struggle with all the problems I had before, but now I know that I am no longer a slave to them because Jesus has set me free, and I can use this freedom to fulfil the purpose of my life, which is to become more like Jesus, and to love each others. Galatians 5:13-14 says "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." This is one of the Bible verses that really stood out to me in my journey of faith and it often reminds me how I should live as a disciple of Christ. This is not going to be easy, but God provides abundantly, His grace and love will always be enough for me.

Angel Lai

Youth 4 Christ Youth Group (Soho)

Having been a part of CCiL Soho my whole life, the answer to the question of whether I believed in Jesus was never answered at one definitive point but rather confirmed over time. Much like my decision to get baptised, it was a gradual process of asking questions and confirming my own beliefs before committing my life to Christ. The concept of baptism had always been at the back of my mind, not quite hidden but not quite focused on either. Every testimony from others that had any impact on me were ones filled with life-changing stories and unexpected revelations. Consequently, I had attributed these qualities to the definition of a “real” testimony, believing myself unable to fulfil the requirements of baptism.

Despite having read the Bible my whole life, I lacked the vast array of knowledge that I believed those who got baptised already had, as well as the passion to know more about what happens after. I had no particular desire to discuss my faith outside of my church or family and found it hard to converse with friends at school who weren't interested. My plethora of doubts didn't help either and may have even pulled me further away from Christ as I saw leaders and fellow youth who had been baptised express almost no doubt when sharing their testimonies with confidence. I had told myself that I would get baptised once my doubts lessened and I understood more of what I was deciding to commit the rest of my life to. Little did I know that I would never truly understand everything (that's where faith comes in) as that belief led me to become more and more like the Pharisees who doubted Jesus; knowledgeable but faithless.

Attending Youth Easter Camps throughout the past few years meant I gained a community of leaders and friends throughout the widespread church, a community I didn't learn to fully appreciate until I realised how valuable they were to me as people and children of God.

Last year, I started attending the new Friday Youth Group and began recognising fellowship. The friendships, conversations and prayers in this new group were unlike youth on Sunday mornings. Soon I found myself with a new passion to delve deeper into the Bible. From Friday Youth Group, God gifted me the confidence and desire to spread His unconditional love in as many ways as possible – one way being as a better listener with more patience and empathy. Not long after, I found myself engaging in conversations of religion and faith with a close friend who was not religious. Through many months of answering their questions with the knowledge I already had, as well as new knowledge from a leader, I was hit again and again by the realisation that I lacked a lot of knowledge about Christianity and had previously not been doing anything to change that. I had also greatly misunderstood many major parts of Christianity (one was the idea of goodness.)

I knew that I was a sinner, but what I didn't know was that I was not good and never would be. That was more of a revelation than knowing I was a sinner. As the realisation that no part of me was and ever could truly be 'good' began settling in my mind, it made me view things in a new light. Now I see that any and every good thing comes from God. So instead of trying to be 'good', I try to become more like Jesus everyday as the only truly good human being.

Through a culmination of sermons and observations of those who served, I was convicted to pour out the love God first gave me, in the form of serving. I started with serving on the Audio & Visuals team during Youth 4 Christ youth group, and as a youth representative on the Youth Easter Camp 2025 (YEC25) Worship Team, before serving in the Soho English service.

During YEC25, I heard the first verse of "Run to The Father" so clearly with a renewed sense of meaning that I knew it must be important. I have heard many similar worship songs and even with "Run to The Father" I already knew the lyrics since I had heard it many, many times before. But that time I heard it so clearly and it was filled with such purpose that my mind could only focus on what the words were saying about running to God.

When questioned on the topic of baptism, I would mention the absence of a greatly significant change and lack of 'readiness', but through talking with leaders I discovered that I had misunderstood the core reasons behind baptism. I didn't need to go through a life-altering change in order to be baptised. They suggested I think about the small changes in my life instead and I was so surprised by how God has been changing me without me noticing. I had gone through a few years where I was extremely numb and barely felt any emotions. After praying to God for Him to change the way I felt, I became aware of myself transforming into someone who felt emotions deeply and was able to express it over the next couple of years. Before, I would forgive people on the outside but continue to hold that grudge inside as I believed it built up my identity and character. Slowly I found myself wanting to distance myself from the person I was in the past and become someone who forgave wholly, with my identity rooted confidently in God.

Discussing God with those who didn't know him was no longer the challenge it used to be and I found myself sharing Youth Alpha videos with my Christian and non-Christian friends, as well as inviting them to church. God's love in people who genuinely want the best for me was something that I only saw after taking a step back to try and see the bigger picture. I believe that the changes I will go through haven't finished as God refines me more and more to reflect Him in all that I do.

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding' – Proverbs 3:5

Annabella Day

360 Student Fellowship (Soho)

Since young, I held very high expectations for myself. Whether in academics or self-discipline, I would not allow myself to make even the slightest mistake. These unrealistic goals caused pressure to accumulate day after day, yet I didn't know how to cope with such overwhelming stress. Growing in church, I learned that I could pray to God to seek help, that He is the almighty one who loves us unconditionally. I did believe that God is real, true and the one and only. I've always held onto the expected christian standards like attending church, engaging in fellowship and doing daily devotionals, but I have never built a strong personal relationship with God; He was always "the God" or my mom's God, but never "my God".

When the anti-extradition bill protest began in 2019, I became deeply involved. I constantly prayed for social justice and for people's voices to be heard. I believed that the people's strength would be enough and that God would bring justice, yet nothing changed. Instead, things only grew worse for my city and the people. Every picture and video was carved into my mind, and I began to question God's justice and authority. I questioned His existence, whether He loved us, how He could witness increasing evil, and what His purpose was in all of this. Even though I prayed, I never saw an answer. Since then, my connection with Him grew weaker.

Within family, I was often expected to be a role model for my younger brother. Combined with my own perfectionism, I constantly lived in a state of tension and fear of not being enough. I frequently avoided facing the fact that I needed to relieve stress and not allow myself to acknowledge my feelings. To hide the person behind my mask, I gradually began to not show my feelings to anyone, and I also forgot about the presence of the Heavenly Father. Everything around me changed too drastically since then.

When the pandemic hit and society kept shifting, I realized I couldn't control anything. I gradually lost the ability to detect my emotions, unable to feel joy or sorrow. I kept suppressing myself, living each day in blind emptiness. Everything felt meaningless, and I had no sense of direction. Even at my home church, almost all leaders left. All I knew was that the divisions were so strong that brothers and sisters were driven apart. My faith wasn't strong back then, but the aunties and uncles at church were like family to me, people I respected and looked up to. Knowing the constant conflicts and seeing people leave the church made me question God and christianity even more. As christians, we are called to be a group of people set apart from the world, yet what I saw differed from what was taught at church. I

couldn't understand how a place that should have the most love ended up with so little of it. I stopped going to church and my habits of doing devotionals fell apart.

Perhaps it was a challenge from God, or the result of my perfectionism and many other factors, that I developed a serious mental health illness that year. It was only during my illness that I truly encountered God. It was a blessing that my doctor was a Christian, who healed me through the power of God and encouraged me to rely on Him.

Slowly, I started to pick up the Bible again, doing devotions, and praying. Through His words and worship songs, I reflected on how I had distanced myself from Him and began to seek him. Little by little, as I let God guide me, giving myself space and quietness to listen to Him and opening my heart to His love, the distorted thoughts in my head started to fade. Through the angels He sent to support me and walk with me, I felt His peace in the midst of storms. That's when I really learned to submit myself to Him fully.

I realized that nothing in life is really in our control. Whether it's society or self-achievements, there is nothing more promising than the love of God and His covenant with us. Before, I saw God through how people, which made me focus on the people instead of Him, and eventually lost faith in the community. Yet, through diving into His words, I've started to understand the importance of building this intimate relationship with Him and basing my faith on Him alone. After months of feeling hopeless and broken, it was through walking this recovery journey with God that I finally understood how to feel, love and understand the purpose of life: to run towards the goal the Lord has set for me.

One of the messages that God kept speaking to me during my journey was that I was made perfectly in His image. As Ephesians 4:24 says, "Put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." I felt deeply that God wants me to build a connection with him, that He is eternal and will never abandon or forsake me. Although the road to recovery had its ups and downs, I know He has always been beside me through it all. Through songs, scripture, and the people around me, He reminded me that I am loved that I do not need to make myself appear perfect in the eyes of others. Before Him, I need no disguise and not worry. No matter what mistakes I made in the past, through the blood of Jesus, I can confess to Him and live as His child. I understand that in Him, I am enough and I no longer only rely on my own strength. Instead, I face challenges of life through the Heavenly Father. Under His care, I am complete.

In the past, going to church was just a habit. But when I realized that God is the one and only true God, my savior, my heart began to desire going to church, to know Him more and build a life within the church community. Coming to 360 student fellowship and CCiL, I have witnessed God's love through the people around me and have been inspired by their desire to

grow in christ. This community helped me to come out of the trauma from my past church experience, helped me recognize God's love and taught me to express this love to others.

Just as Proverbs 4:23 says, "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life." Now, I continue to seek God, to keep the light in my heart shining for Him and for others, and to never let go.

Aven Lui

360 Student Fellowship and Croydon Congregation

I grew up in a Christian family, going to Church since I was small. I know many Bible stories quite well but never really applied them into my everyday life. I treated church and God like every other task, do it and that's it.

Then, after COVID, I started to feel unmotivated to go to church since I stayed at home during COVID. Then I started to question, why do I need to go to church?

I asked this question one time in a small group discussion, "Why do Christians want heaven? Is hell even that bad?" The answer I got, which was also mentioned in Genesis 4:16, is hell is the absence of God. This leads to another question: "Do I need God to be in my life?"

I don't usually feel anxious but one time, the night before a test, which was not even important, I felt a sudden anxiety attack. I couldn't sleep, I felt my heart pumping extra fast, my mind was just in chaos. So I started to pray. After a while, I didn't feel the stress anymore. This peace in my mind was an experience that I have never had before. From this, I know I can't have peace without God and I need the presence of God in my life. Therefore, I decided to get baptised.

Reading the Bible everyday changed me gradually. From just reading in order to know what's happening and feeling like I knew so much, to being humbled and actually consolidating the purpose of the words, to using this as self-reflection and willingly write down what I have gained from the readings. I treated it more and more seriously and it impacted my everyday life more and more. One example is how I used to love judging people but I started to change and avoid it, because in James 4:12 it says, "There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy." Who am I to judge? This made me understand more deeply the law of loving our neighbours as ourselves.

Although I decided to get baptised now, it doesn't mean I can change overnight. However, this will be my start that I constantly grow in Christ and live out the life God wants me to live.

Brigitta Tseng

Ignite Youth Group (Croydon)

Growing up, I took church very seriously. I had to be the first to finish the worksheets so my teachers would "like" me and I had to answer every single question perfectly. Younger me would have thought that getting everything right was how I'd earn God's love and the love of people around me, but really I was just chasing validation of others instead of what actually mattered – God's grace.

That desire of validation didn't stop at kid's church – it stayed with me as I grew up. At school, gaining the validation of everyone around me took over my life. All I'd think about every second of the day was what people thought of me. It wasn't any better at church, the need to be accepted and liked extended from my leaders to the other youths. Moving from Hong Kong and joining kid's Church in Croydon congregation, God brought the most wonderful group of people into my life. Yet even then, I was still actively seeking approval from everyone around me.

Soon enough, I was in Ignite youth group and attending my first Youth Easter Camp (YEC). To me it was just 4 days and 3 nights away from my parents, spending time with my friends and maybe some Bible reading in the middle. At that point, I didn't really know much about Christ – maybe a few of those Bible stories I memorised when I was trying to impress those leaders back in kids' church.

During ministry night at YEC, the lyrics of "Stir a Passion" really stood out to me. I left camp wanting God to stir a passion in me to seek Him and for Him to reveal Himself in my life. I got home that day with this grand plan that I would read my Bible every day and start leading the "perfect christian" life. One month went by and my Bible hadn't been opened. Not even once. My life went back to how it was before, claiming to everyone I was a Christian but not living as one.

Seeking approval from others remained a constant struggle for me and I even started fearing that I would be judged for being Christian. At school I stopped mentioning that I had church on Sundays and when people asked me to go out, I would try to avoid giving them a reason that I couldn't go. This pattern continued for a whole year and YEC 2024 rolled around. I signed up reluctantly in fear that I would miss going out with school friends and their perception of me changing because I would be at church camp.

In YEC 2024, a verse we kept going back to was Colossians 3:2, "Set your minds on things above and not on earthly things." The first time I heard that verse, I immediately thought of my desire for validation and how I was so fixated on it. During camp I felt God speaking to me to prioritise Him over approval of others. I realised that God's love and grace is eternal, unlike the acceptance and approval of people which would only benefit me temporarily.

Leaving camp, I felt so spiritually high. I started reading the Bible and trying to put God first. I also joined the worship team in Ignite youth group. However, the summer holidays came and things started falling apart. I spent most of my days worrying over socialising with people and going out and slowly I started to idolise that sense of acceptance again. I started to struggle with discipline in my relationship with God and my Bible was left on my desk, untouched as I obsessed over social approval. As summer ended, busy schedules and overwhelming pressures took over my life. My Bible stayed where I put it down back in July – the corner of my desk as I started idolising getting good grades and began drifting from God at the time I actually needed Him the most.

I went into YEC 2025 disconnected from God, stressing over how I would be perceived and basically having to dig out my Bible to bring to camp because I hadn't read it in so long. The theme Hold On resonated deeply with me as I had struggled with perseverance and trusting in God's plans for me. It felt like God was really speaking to me when the session was about holding on when things got difficult. I left camp a lot less spiritually high than the year before but I truly felt my heart beginning to change.

I started doing Bible plans with my friends after camp and I was determined to be better that summer so I reached out to some friends and leaders for help. I found myself starting to read the book of John and there was this verse that really stood out to me: John 15:19, "If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you." This verse called out to making me realise how foolish I was to seek the validation of the world when the world didn't even validate Christ. Being of the world meant being separated from Christ and I realised that the worldly validations would stop me from pursuing Jesus. I knew I had to give that up to be with Him and be able to live the life He calls me to live. That was the summer where I really felt a shift in my life.

Going back to school, I felt so confident in sharing my faith, talking to my friends about church and being really open about it. I started to consistently go to the Christian community at my school, and even have the courage to invite a few of my friends and encourage them to also go to church. I found myself praying during difficult times which was something I

struggled to do before. I felt God working in me as I worried less about the way people perceived me and let go of my fear of judgement from my friends.

I am so grateful that God has worked in me and put people in my life to guide me on my journey with Him. Even though I still struggle with idolising school and seeking validation, I believe that God will continue to work in me and give me the strength to overcome challenges that may come my way.

I pray that I will be able to reflect God in all that I do, pick up my cross daily, surrendering my life for Him to use me however He wants to, living a life that glorifies Him and grow into the person He calls me to be.

To be baptised is to be freed from sin and to devote my life to Christ. So here I am, getting baptised, burying my old self and declaring to everyone my acceptance of Christ as my Saviour.

Christy Yum

ALIVE Youth Group (Hammersmith)

Hello, my name is Christy! Throughout my life at church, I had many different attitudes towards church and my relationship with God. From the perspective of younger me, the Church had lost its meaning. I saw it more as a routine that I was forced to attend or as a social gathering, but I did not really look far into my personal connection of faith and the Bible. I had so many people who gave me opportunities to dig deeper into the Bible, like my mum who I find a bit scary when it comes to the Bible; what she taught often went over my head. I would ignore the Bible like it was a waste of my time or groan at the ramble and complexity that my mum would drone on about. But I look back and realise how blessed I was to have been given this opportunity to have such a willing and wise mum, even when she's so talkative. I believe I grew up in quite an influential society and did things that got me into deep trouble multiple times, without much thought, and sometimes it hurt other people. And even though I had this bad stage of life, I was able to push through it and see the mistakes.

Something I struggled with was the fear and questions that looking into the Bible gave me. I'm scared to think that people think I'm not ready or I'm not proper enough to get baptised. Also, getting baptised with so many people watching is intimidating. I question the controversies, like problems of evil and suffering or unanswered questions like the unthinkable. But beyond all of that, I have learnt that God has provided this path for me and it's right and that all I have to do is believe.

One other turning point was at Youth Easter Camp in 2025. Levi, the camp speaker, really intrigued me and made me see more of God's doing and during ministry night, where the room was just full of prayers and love; it was super sweet. Someone then prayed for me, and I felt so happy and uplifted, like I got things off my chest. So from then to now, these 6-7 months, I've found myself diving deeper into my faith, surrounded by a community that supports me. God has forgiven me and given me confidence within my daily life and when I pray I hand Him my worries and put my trust in Him.

So I put my belief in God and from when I get baptised to the future I will have Him by my side.

Eason Chan

ALIVE Youth Group (Hammersmith)

My name is Eason Chan and I have been a believer of Christ ever since I could remember as I was brought up in a Christian household. Growing up, my parents would take me to church every Sunday in both Hong Kong and the UK. This routine was somewhat by force, but I also viewed it as an opportunity to socialise with the same few faces.

For the majority of my life, I had thought that going to Sunday youth group and church, watching a couple of Christian TikToks and doing the bare minimum was enough to be called a follower of Christ. However, over the years I have slowly come to realise that being a Christian is not by my own efforts, but rather putting my full trust and faith (including a burning passion and love for Him) that Jesus Christ had died for me on the cross, through His grace to forgive our sins.

In the sixteen years that I have lived, I have consistently faced many struggles in life, whether it was related to football, academics, or even my personal confidence and every difficult moment I always came to God and would have prayed about it. But honestly, that was the only quality time I would have spent with Him. I always gave myself the excuse of 'doing it tomorrow' as my mind had always been fixated on social media and academic work that I could never be bothered to pick up the Bible and start reading.

The Youth Easter Camp in 2023 brought me a fond memory that I will remember for my lifetime, where it was my first true encounter with the Holy Spirit that I can recall. On Easter Sunday, near the end of worship, I started to reflect deeply on the abundant grace that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ hands us. We have no right to deserve such a gift, yet we still get salvation from Him for just being a believer. As I have been struggling with different sins, this moment has left me in constant thought of Christ for a couple of days: wanting to listen to worship songs and wanting to learn more about Him. However, this transformation only lasted a few days, as I then continued my life living for my flesh. Although truly not living for Him but instead living for myself, God kept working in my life and showering me with blessings in a way that will eventually glorify Him; he provided me stronger friendships in Christ that kept bringing me closer to Him.

Another memorable moment where I had experienced the greatness of God's work and blessings was in the summer of 2025. My family had hoped they had booked a stress-free holiday to Seoul. But, instead God had his beautiful plan laid out for us. My family had to spend 24 hours in Doha, Qatar as we missed our exchange flight, due to a delay in our first

flight. During these 24 hours, the traumatic experience of seeing missiles flying over our heads made me see how truly fragile our lives are but conversely how blessed I am to live the life I have. From that day, I realised being a Christian means that I should love Him and everyone the way He loves us, hence the first thing I can do to get closer to Him is to be baptised. I pray that God gives me the strength to constantly help me to live a life for Him.

Felicia Qi

Ignite Youth Group (Croydon)

I've been going to church ever since I can remember because I was raised in a Christian household. I would go every week, yet I never truly understood what it actually meant other than going with my parents. When I started secondary school, I joined the youth group there. I enjoyed it mainly because of the people rather than to find out more about Christ. I went to my first Youth Easter Camp (YEC) just to hang out with friends, and it wasn't about learning more about God.

But the first turning point for me was YEC 2024. It was the first time I ever felt God so near to me and that was the first time I understood how good God was. From that point onwards, I started to read the Bible a lot more often because I felt spiritually high. Unfortunately, after only a couple weeks, I sort of lost the feeling and went back to my old self. Yet in the very back of my mind I knew God would be there for me.

It would be a couple of months later that I encountered a massive turning point in my life. To my own surprise, the first person I turned to was God. That was the moment I realised how much I needed Him. I started to pray everyday by myself and started devotionals, and I saw the impact that He had on me. From that moment onwards, I started to see Christ in a different perspective. That same year, I joined the worship team. I used to enjoy it since I like to sing, but joining the team got me to really reflect on the lyrics. It made me realise how good God is and helped me learn a lot more about Him.

Yet as I started to get closer to God, I also began to think that I wasn't enough to be a good Christian. I had this mindset that I needed to read the whole Bible and know everything about Christ to be eligible for baptism. This all changed completely at YEC 2025. I went with a longing for God's presence and this was how I knew I truly started to believe. The one thing that stood out to me most was that we don't have to be perfect for God to love us. He is always there for us with open arms, waiting for us to go to Him. This truly impacted me and my mindset flipped.

As I started to feel a lot closer to God, my friends and I had more and more conversations about Christianity. It helped me realise how many people around me felt the same way I did. The more I talked about God, the more I began to rely on Him. It wasn't just when I was in need when I turned to Him, but it was also when I was happy. Whilst thinking about baptism I decided to pray about it and asked Him to talk to me about whether I should get baptised or not since I was still feeling quite unsure. A couple days later, I felt Him really speaking to me in

a way I hadn't experienced before and that's when I knew that it was going to be the next step in my journey with God.

Whilst writing this testimony, I was really reminded of Jeremiah 29:11. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." This verse is very comforting since I know I can put all my trust in God and that He will protect me because He will never put me through something I can't handle. He loves us so much and He will always be there for you no matter what.

Gloria Lau

360 Student Fellowship (Soho)

I never understood what people meant when they said God had transformed them. I always thought of religion as separate from the individual—something external, only a belief. I have never been happier to be disproven.

As a child, I found faith easy. My relationship with God was pure, childlike, and innocent. To me, heaven was a place with all my favourite foods and people. However, as I continued to grow and learn about the world around me, I found myself questioning the principles of my faith. Faith began to feel like a performance: reciting Bible verses, acting like a ‘good’ Christian, attending church, and repeating the routine week after week. I grew wary of God, who had once brought me joy, and selfishly, I wanted to explore life without Him.

Coming to the UK in 2020 opened my eyes to a new culture, new friends, and a new school. I threw myself into work, prioritising academic achievements over God. The harder I worked, the more I thought I didn’t need God; I was in control of my own future.

A turning point in my faith was at Youth Easter Camp (YEC) in 2024—“Wake Up!” At this retreat, I felt God calling me to come back to Him. He wanted to have a personal relationship with me, even though I had turned my back on Him so many times. I felt a longing for the strong relationship I had with Him as a child. But I was still scared. I wasn’t ready to give up control in my life, and I didn’t want to make sacrifices for God.

Unbeknownst to me, He was still working in my life. Against my will, God placed me in London for university. I had a very difficult time adjusting to a completely new city and new people. I struggled to make friends and found myself feeling anxious constantly. In my turmoil, I decided to start going to the 360 Student Fellowship. 360 completely changed my life. I started to see God’s character in the people around me. I saw how His goodness and love were reflected in those who loved Him.

Over the year, I learned so much more about God’s character and what it truly meant to be a Christian. I learnt that my identity wasn’t rooted in my achievements or my appearance, but in Him and His love. Being a Christian didn’t mean always doing the ‘right’ things or reciting the ‘right’ Bible verses; it was about trusting and giving my life to God. I was ready to make sacrifices for Him because He had already made the ultimate sacrifice.

Now, I know I am continuously being transformed through God. I used to be scared, unwilling

to give control to someone else. But my faith is now central to who I am. I can give control to God because I trust Him. I know that my identity is in Him, and nothing will ever change that.

Psalm 143:8: “Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life.”

Jonah Chau

Ignite Youth Group (Croydon)

Being born in a Christian family has been a blessing which I had always neglected. I have been attending church since as long as I can remember. I swapped going to a few churches when I was young, but it was basically following my parents' footsteps without acknowledging what church is and what it is for.

My very first memory was me attending a program called AWANA, and it was very systematic: you come in, memorise a bible verse, get a little sticker or so called "gems" and then move on to the main session where you will be bombarded with more bible verses, which you can't really comprehend as a 4 year old. So at the time, this "church life" felt like any other school day to me.

During my time in Hong Kong churches, I've acknowledged how powerful, mighty and holy God is, yet never knew Him personally until I got asked to serve in church. At first, I didn't know what the purpose of being in the serving team was, but looking back I have no regrets joining it since I prayed about it with the then head of children's ministry.

By being a part of the serving team, I developed a habit of devotion and starting to learn more about God and His word at a deeper level. I was also in the Stream of Praise Ministry Worship School where they highly emphasised having a personal relationship with God through devotion. Through these I came to enjoy using the musical talents God had given me to worship Him.

Although this made little Jonah enjoy playing music to the Lord (and in general, of course), I still felt lost. I remember talking to my mum about how I felt like I was in a maze and Jesus was waiting at the end of it, but I couldn't find my way through. As I dug deeper into the devotions with the church's serving team, I started to grow in knowledge and reflected on God. The memory was vague, but it certainly kick started my journey to pursue God deeper.

Fast forward to the COVID years where the whole world came to a halt and our lives revolved around seeing each other's faces through our screens. Yet, I still attended church virtually and regularly, thanks to my parents always waking me up to watch the church service livestream together. Because everything was so remote and isolated, I hardly felt the presence of the Lord. I remember vividly in the zoom small group times, everyone had their cameras off and

barely said anything. During that on and off period in Hong Kong, where we frequently switched between face-to-face services and zoom meetings, I attended church regularly and looked to deepen my understanding in my faith, and I am grateful to the church leaders in my Hong Kong youth group and my brothers and sisters in Christ there who pushed me onto the right track to get to know God.

During that time one thing has undoubtedly solidified my faith: one of my great uncle's testimony. In brief, it was about how he was hospitalised and my mum and uncle were preaching the gospel to him every other day. One night, he saw the gates of heaven in his dreams with the voice of God saying, "You are not allowed to get in". This testimony has struck deep in my mind. It made me believe God can work through all things and anchored my faith. When life has resumed back to normal, I started to be active in church small groups eager to learn more about God. But not everything was as smooth as I imagined.

I moved to the UK in July 2022. Everything was new: new home, new people, new church, new school, new life. I remember being very overwhelmed with life and at how quickly things can change. From year 9 to 10, I was a boarding school pupil, and everything was alright at the start. However, the roots had started to unveil; besides church, I didn't have many friends. I found myself falling into worldly values, which made me struggle to find the right friends for me to hang out with. But somehow, in year 9, I was not that affected by it maybe because of the boarding community which brings people together (although I still found it hard to establish my place in the school.)

I am grateful that I've been a part of the Ignite youth group in Croydon congregation, and for my leaders Brendon and Johnny who have led me to understand my faith more deeply. Youth Easter Camp 2023 has changed my life completely. I felt the presence of God upon me and left the camp with a spiritual high and a huge desire to learn more about God. I took bible studies more seriously than ever before, and with the help of youth leaders my faith was more rooted in Christ. However, it didn't last long until I found myself back in my old ways, and I found myself falling into sin like lust, pride and jealousy.

In 2024, I went to Youth Easter Camp where we were covering Colossians 3:5-6, "Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming." For once, I felt like I absolutely had to make a change and stop chasing worldly passions and set my mind on the things above (Col 3:2). Coming out of that camp I rejuvenated my passion to

chase after Christ, but this time I had to try and set an example in speech, conduct, love, faith, and in purity (1 Timothy 4:12) and pick up my cross daily (Luke 9:22).

At the end of year 10 everything seemed to work, but little did I know I was very wrong. In year 11, I faced one of the toughest battles I had. I never felt such isolation from my "friends" at that time, and I have never been that depressed and desperate to find a community and friendship group that I truly belonged to. I also struggled very hard when socialising and even unintentionally hurt one of my closest friends. I was depressed, broken and my whole world shattered in front of my eyes. I had never felt so vulnerable before, felt like one mistake will lead to the doom of my life.

At the same time, I started attending Friday Night Youth Group. I've met fellow brothers in sisters in Christ who are desperate to seek God, and some that I am blessed to call my lifelong friends. However, none of these filled my void of emptiness and loneliness at the time.

After encouragement, I started reading the Bible properly. I started from Romans (that was the book I wanted to read the most), then 1 & 2 Corinthians. By that time, I feel like I was on fire for God and desperately wanted to seek Him. I proceeded to consistently read the Bible, taking it one chapter per day—Proverbs, John, Hebrew, and I took a slight dip into the Old Testament with Genesis, since I was doing a bible study with my leader Justin Yeung and a few friends of mine. At that time, I realised what it meant to set my mind on things above, and to not conform to this world (Romans 12:2). More importantly, that "why God" moment has turned into a "wow God" testimony.

Fast forward to now, I still often struggle to hold on to my faith alongside my commitments, but I am proud to say I have started to know God personally, and I want to know Him more. Coming out of that period of transition, I still felt like I'm not good enough, wanted to establish my value in this world, and fell into the same sins I struggled with. But from the bottom of my heart, I knew that through Jesus, my sins have been atoned, and He is the mediator between me and God, my comfort and help when I am in trouble.

This testimony would not have been possible without my family, the pastors and youth leaders who have mentored me, the friends God has placed into my life, the ones who have prayed for me and gave me a little nudge when I fell short to keep me accountable, and mostly importantly, God. Being born into a Christian family was a blessing that I had neglected, and without God I wouldn't be writing this testimony, and making the decision to

get baptised and tell the world that Jesus is my Lord and Saviour, and I would not be able to do anything without Him.

I would like to end this testimony with Psalm 23, a Psalm my mum has been reading to me since I was still little Jonah. This Psalm acts as a sound reminder when in times of help:

“[1] The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. [2] He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. [3] He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. [4] Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. [5] You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. [6] Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”

Joshua Wong

360 Student Fellowship (Soho)

Since the age of five, I have been brought to church by my dad. Similar to other children, I was amazed by all the Bible stories, and had to memorise Bible readings every week. In spite of that, I did not truly know the meaning behind the stories, and did not know the purpose of reciting all those passages. Then, I went to a Christian elementary school and I was exposed to Christianity a lot, basically every day, but I took religious studies as a tool for me to receive good grades, instead of trying to understand what it truly is to be a Christian.

However, when I stepped into secondary school, things changed. I started to take the care from older people at church as them being nosy and felt bothered. I started refusing to go to church just to rebel against my parents, and I started to put studying in my first place as academic workload had become heavier. As a result, I started to turn away from God, and think of what life would be without Christianity.

A few years later, I got into high school, and coincidentally, I was brought to the church fellowship of my Christian friend. In that fellowship, I felt joy and peace, and because of that feeling, I started to go to that fellowship, and eventually their church. In the beginning when I started to go to the fellowship, I was interested in how Christianity shapes the morality of people, but did not believe in God's doing.

In mid-June 2022, I was so stressed from everything and was anxious about the upcoming final exams when I went to fellowship. We had a prayer session where we talked to God ourselves alone, and I told God all of my stress and my anxieties. In my prayer, I suddenly had a feeling which I have never had, and I saw a road which was moving forward despite my eyes being closed. Since then, I have had the same feeling whenever I pray. Having this feeling in prayer, I started to feel the existence of God in me, but still I had never attempted to submit myself to God.

In early 2024, as the public exam (HKDSE) was coming, I focussed myself once again on academics. Despite praying to God for lending me the power to work harder, to receive good grades and to study somewhere outside Hong Kong for university, I felt like I was the only one who had the ability to change my own future. Gradually, I turned away from God again without knowing it.

Eventually, I got the chance to study in the UK. Due to a member of my church in Hong Kong who had also moved to the UK, I joined 360 student fellowship. In the beginning, I treated

going to church and 360 as a responsibility. Still being a teenager, I was reluctant to talk to people and open up to them during Bible studies, although they were the same age as me, hoping to minimise my existence. However, I felt calm whenever I was there.

As time went past, and having Bible studies weekly, I started to feel the love from God, and realised God has always given me more than I expected, even when I was turning away from Him. The most solid example of all was my prayer to allow me to study overseas, while I was not putting any effort in to worship Him. I realised God has always loved me, and has always waited for me to turn back to Him, even though what I have done in the past.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:17-18). The past of a person does not matter, what matters is how I serve God from the moment I am in Christ. In the future, I expect myself to always put God in the first place, not only reading the bible, constantly praying, or going to church, but to rely on Him, let Him make decisions for me, instead of making decisions according to my ways.

Liz Mak

Ignite Youth Group (Croydon)

Church has always been part of my Sunday morning routine as I was raised in a Christian family. For me, it was a place my parents brought me to learn about the Bible, meet friends, and play together after the service. I would still pray before a meal or when I was struggling with something, seeking God's "miracle" before I even tried. I prayed with my mouth but not with my heart, so I didn't really have a relationship with God until last year, when I realised I was not enough to handle things by my own strength. Looking back, the thing I was really searching for was security and a sense of worth that wouldn't disappear. I needed something bigger and more powerful than myself to help me during my depression, which was caused by fear, anxiety, and insecurity, as I couldn't find my value until God reminded me how great I am and how many blessings I had already received from Him.

Ever since I moved from Hong Kong to the UK, everything changed. I went from a familiar environment to starting completely from zero. Slowly, having friends and a happy social life became the only way I thought I could "survive" in the UK. On top of that, because I wasn't confident in my English, I became more quiet wasn't brave enough to be myself. I tried to change my personality and interests just to make myself fit in and to seem "normal." I would force myself to be someone I wasn't so that I thought people would like me. Very naturally, I started looking for my worth from people or the internet, but both are unstable and can easily become harmful. So of course those friendships and connections never ended well, and my relationships with people kept changing. I tried to handle everything by myself, or hide from it, but it only made me feel more empty. At that time I didn't realise how serious the problem was even though I felt exhausted. Eventually, I slowly fell into depression. Everything I saw felt like it had lost its light, and all the hope I used to have was gone.

In February 2024, I had an experience I will never forget. I was sitting at the edge of my bed, completely overwhelmed. I couldn't breathe properly, my body wanted to move but I couldn't, and I just kept shaking. That was my first panic attack. I always thought I was someone who could give a lot of emotional support and comfort to others, and I believed no one could give that kind of comfort back to me. That desire to be helped and understood was buried under so many doubts and disappointments in myself. I felt completely helpless. The darkness in my heart grew so big that it started to break me apart. I didn't know how to handle any of it, so I began to escape from people. I kept skipping school and staying up late just to avoid reality.

A few days after the panic attack, I started to pray even more than I usually did, asking God for His healing. After two or three days, God reminded me through prayer that I was not, and would never be, alone. Slowly, my depression started to feel lighter day by day. During that time, I also began to reflect on my past and everything I had gone through. An auntie once told me that when the same type of challenge keeps repeating like a loop, it might be a lesson from God, and it will only stop when we finally learn from it. For me, that lesson was loneliness. This hit me deeply and made me question what I truly needed.

My journey of facing loneliness continued this year when I moved to another school. The first few days were still scary, but I could clearly see the difference in myself. I knew that if this had happened a year earlier, I would have escaped instead of facing it. I started to pray every day, asking for God's presence when I felt lonely, and trusting that He was with me the whole time. This gave me a strong, continuous feeling of warmth and security. What changed me wasn't my effort, but God's presence.

The change happened when God opened my eyes. I saw the truth about myself and the truth about Him. I realised I had been letting fear control me without knowing instead of living as the person God created me to be. There were two moments—once during worship and once during a prayer—when I heard God's whisper saying, "Come to me, Liz." From that day, I started to seek God more every single day, and slowly I began to see my value in Him. I realised that I am, and always have been, fully loved by God, no matter what I do or how I see myself.

I confessed my fear to Him and chose to trust his love and his plans for me. I submitted to God by choosing His way even when my emotions were pulling me in the opposite direction. Through that, I began to see that I already have so many blessings in my life, and that God had never once given up on me. The same God who brought me here would not leave me to face everything alone. He kept giving me opportunities to grow, to seek Him, and to learn from the different paths even when I felt lost, reminding me that I am never alone and that He has a purpose for me.

Through all of this, I realised that sometimes our perspective is not the same as God's perspective. 2 Corinthians 5:7 says, "For we walk by faith, not by sight," and it reminded me how important faith is. Faith is the foundation of trusting God — trusting His guidance, promises, and presence, even when we cannot see the outcome or fully understand what is happening. Slowly, the healing, peace, and sense of value began to come. It also comes from trusting what God says about me, not just what I can see with my own eyes.

No matter what has happened in the past, it does not define who you are. Remember you are made by love, out of love, and to be loved by God. If God can restore me, even in my fear, loneliness, and doubts, then He can do the same for you.

Max So

360 Student Fellowship (Soho)

I want to be baptised because I believe in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour, and I want to publicly declare my commitment to follow Him. Baptism represents leaving my old life behind and embracing the new life that Jesus gives.

For me, choosing to follow Christ means trusting in His teachings, His grace, and His example. I believe that walking with Jesus transforms us, and I want my life to reflect His truth and His love.

My hope is that through my baptism, I will continue growing in faith and honouring Jesus in everything I do.

Megan Chow

Soho Congregation

I did not grow up in a Christian household, but even then, God's hand was quietly guiding me, waiting for the moment I would finally turn to Him. That moment came during one of the darkest seasons of my life, after a painful breakup that left me feeling shattered and directionless. Everything I had been holding onto suddenly slipped away, and for the first time, I realised how little control I truly had.

In the midst of that pain, my mum began to pray with me. At first, I went along simply because I did not know what else to do. But as we prayed, something began to change. I felt a calmness I could not explain, a peace that filled the very spaces where my heart had been broken. Through her faith, I began to see the light of God breaking through my darkness.

Not long after, I started attending church. I still remember one Sunday sitting there, listening to the sermon, and feeling as though every word was meant for me. It was as if God Himself was speaking directly into my heart, reminding me that I was seen, loved, and never forgotten. In that moment, I made the choice to stop striving for control and to trust the One who already held my life in His hands.

Before that, I lived believing that if I worked hard enough or planned carefully, things would go my way. But surrendering to God taught me a different kind of strength, one that is born from trust, not control. As I began praying more earnestly, reading Scripture, and attending church consistently, I felt my heart begin to transform. Each prayer lifted a weight off my shoulders, and I began to truly believe that where there is God, there is always a way.

Now, when doors close, I no longer despair; I trust that God is leading me toward something better, something I may not yet understand. My journey has not been perfect; I still stumble and fall short. But through it all, God's grace remains constant. He has turned my heartbreak into healing, my worry into worship, and my desire for control into complete surrender.

The verse that resonates most deeply with my story is Proverbs 3:5–6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." This truth has become the anchor of my faith. Through every trial and every prayer, I have learned that when I let go and let God lead, He always turns brokenness into beauty and uncertainty into peace.

Monique Sabeer

Truth and Grace Congregation (Hammersmith)

Growing up I had a weak relationship with God as a child. I was conflicted and confused about whether there was a God.

I remembered my mum would pray and read the Bible everyday. Always giving thanks to the Lord, despite the difficulties we experienced. I never understood why. We went to church together but I didn't feel settled in or as close to God as I should have been.

After a few years I understood what my mum was doing. And her love for Jesus. I began to pray more often and she would give me scripture to help my anxiety. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. (2 Timothy 1:7). Praying and knowing my burden is in his hands is a constant reminder that everything will be okay. So do not fear, for I am with you. (Isaiah 41:10)

My friend Meg invited me to Alpha and to attend CCIL. This allowed me to make friends and develop a foundational knowledge of God. Because Jesus has completely atoned for my sin and granted me forgiveness, I now live free from condemnation (Romans 8:1) and am seen as a new person in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).

I never thought that I would be baptised, I didn't understand what this meant. I thought I needed deep Bible knowledge to be close to God. Now that I understand and I have my brothers and sisters in church who will guide me under Jesus. I am looking forward to the journey that lies ahead.

Natalie Cheung

360 Student Fellowship (Soho)

My journey with God started in my childhood because God has always been in my life, even if I was not always aware of it. I went to church every week, answered questions at Sunday school, gained an extensive knowledge of Bible stories and prayed with my parents every night. I was very lucky to have a happy childhood with few worries, so it was easy to believe in God and take the time to have a relationship with Him.

I think my most vivid memory of experiencing God's presence during my childhood was when I went on two short-term mission trips to Malaysia, where I taught at Dignity: a school for underprivileged children originally founded by a reverend and his wife. During the first trip, I was particularly reminded of God's desire for us to love our neighbours and to be cheerful givers. We had the opportunity to visit the students' homes, and I was moved by the families' kindness and generosity in sharing the little that they had with us. There were a lot of uncertainties during the second trip, which was frustrating, but I learned to trust in God and His plan, and everything worked out in the end. Looking back, these experiences were what sparked my interest in justice and human rights, leading me to study law at university, once again revealing God's plan for me.

As I grew up, I became increasingly focused on academics and relied more and more on myself, drifting away from God; going to church and doing devotions felt more like a routine than truly building a relationship with Him. I was on my own for the first time after moving to the UK at the age of fourteen, so I stopped going to church, reading the Bible and praying. I never made much of an effort to seek God, always making the excuse of being too busy. Despite my apathy, God was still working in my life. I remember being extremely stressed before taking my GCSEs— they were the first real exams that I would sit and, at the time, I thought that the results would follow me for the rest of my life. During this time, my Dad sent me a Bible verse, Isaiah 41:10, which said “fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand”. In that moment, I felt a sense of peace, which I now know was from God.

I've said this to many people, but my faith has grown exponentially in the last year; it was the first time that I actively and willingly made the decision to go to church, pray and do devotions again, seeking a relationship with God. It was probably the first time that I've really put an effort into building a relationship with God, relying on Him and His plan. Going to church and spending time with God gave me a sense of peace and joy, and Bible passages would often remind me of things that I was going through at that time or areas that I needed to work on. I

was, and still am, very lucky to be surrounded by Christians, whom I can learn from and ask questions to, which really helped me to grow in my journey of faith. The only way that I can explain this change is that God never gave up on me and brought me back to Himself, just like the parable of the lost sheep, and I am incredibly grateful for this.

I've always known that I would only get baptised if I was sure that I was fully committed to following God and living a godly life. The past year has led me to understand that when I look back at my life, there are so many signs of God's presence that I did not fully recognise, whether it's looking back and seeing that He always had and still has a plan for me or seeing the way that He works through others around me to show His love, like in the Winter Shelter Project. It's all of these experiences, big or small, that make me sure about my faith and my relationship with God.

I still have a long way to go in my journey of faith, whether it is further developing my own relationship with God or better showing God's love to people around me, but faith is a lifelong journey and I am confident that God will continue to guide me to become a better representative of Him and the salt and light of the world.

Nathan Cheng

Ignite Youth Group (Croydon)

God has always been in my life, He has always kept me in His sight. I grew up in a Christian family and in church, so I was familiar with God as someone who loved me. My Dad would read the Old Testament tales and the Gospels as bedtime stories. My Mom would tell me that “God loves to listen to His children” and taught me to pray earnestly. So to me, God was my protector and my friend. He kept me safe and comforted me when I was scared and made sure everything was alright. In the same way, the church was like home and I always felt safe. In church, I would feel His Spirit filling the room, though I doubt that I knew it was Him. Still, I remember being star-struck at worship lyrics or the atmosphere. It was deep in my chest, like something stirring like when you’re excited.

As I got older, I began to forget who God was. When I moved to Hong Kong, I lost my church community and didn’t have many close friends. So I felt very lonely and isolated. Eventually, I was distracted by the world; it offered flashy rewards, vain idols, and scraps of comfort which pulled me into a life of sin. In my foolishness, I rejected Him and forgot who the Lord was. I became skeptical and hardened my heart to Him, and I doubted the name of Jesus because I was blinded by the world’s perception of Him. Yet, in his faithfulness, He never left me. The nights I cried out for the Lord, broken by the world, every time, He met me where I was. And still, I lived a life of disobedience and unrepentance.

When I moved back to the UK around 4 years ago. I was devastated because everything had changed so suddenly that I didn’t give myself the chance to come to terms with it. So, I buried my sorrow in jealousy and resentment, and threw myself further into the world, into sin. I gave myself into pride and lust and closed my heart off to my own wickedness. Seeking comfort wherever I could I find it, at some point, it felt like I was scrounging around in the dirt for treasure that wasn’t there.

The Lord used my brokenness to draw me to back to Himself through his Word and the people around me. At first, I cryptically aired out both my frustrations and curiosities with the Lord in small group discussions, whether in church or at youth camps. By being in church, serving and socializing with others, the Lord began to show me just a hint of what life in service to His glory looked like.

His callings led me to Praise Him All Together (PHAT) camp 2023 (a youth summer camp.) On the early morning of the last day, I set off to pray to God. In my selfishness, I wasn’t satisfied with my time there at the camp, but I asked the Lord to truly encounter Him. And I did. Later that day, He showed to me the weight of my sin; I deserve death. Yet, in the same moment,

He showed me his mercy. That while I was a sinner, Christ *died* for me. Me! During the following service, I broke down in tears understanding that I was cherished by the Most High. I stood in awe of how deep a love like that must be; that Living God saw through my brokenness and called me by name. He has given me the honor, despite my sin, of being called a child of *God*.

After PHAT23, I sought out for more of the Lord and moved towards Him in faith. It's been a slow process, but I can see my character changing for Him and I'm trying to do more now to supplement my faith. Lately, I've been focusing on being a living sacrifice for Him, trying to reflect and respond to the love that He showed me first. And though I fail, often miserably, I'm no longer bound by the shame and guilt that shackled me because I know that I have a loving Father to run to.

I decided to get baptized after I was listening to a worship song, where the chorus goes: "I'm done with the hiding, no reason to wait". And God said to me "Well?". So here I am. God has always been in my life. He's drawing me closer and closer, even as I stumble, like waves on the shore. Whatever comes, I want to be His child, a sheep that knows His voice. I want Jesus to be at the center of my life and my faith. He has always kept me in His hand and pointed me to His light. Therefore, though I falter in this race, I will hold fast to hope we profess. I will run to Him, knowing that the King of Kings is cheering me on.

And I'll say the same to you; God is with you. He has never let go of you, He loves *you*. Jesus is the "founder and perfecter of our faith" (*Hebrews 12:2*). So be with Him! Learn of the Lord, know his light, and *run* to the Prince of Peace!

Psalms 46:10 (ESV): "Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

Olly Qu

Croydon Congregation

When I first came to church, I wasn't much of a believer. My mum was the one who brought me to church. I stopped going to church for some time, because it was all a bit much for me to comprehend.

In the Bible verse, John 1:10, where it says "He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognise Him", that was a bit like me years ago, specifically the part where it says "the world did not recognise Him", when I first came to church. But as the years went by, I slowly felt like I started to understand and then that's when I wanted Jesus in my life.

A decisive moment was when Isabel, Croydon's pastoral worker, made a visit to my house. She asked if I was interested to play the piano on the worship team. God must have been calling out to me from before, but I didn't notice it at first until I heard Him speak to me clearly for the first time when we prayed together. I felt my heart beating like He was trying to tell me to stay strong, confident and be brave.

I knew it was an encounter with God in the sense that He was the one who gave me the gift of joy, gift of talent and a gift of being able to play music. Before that it felt like I wasn't paying much attention to God but then, as soon as I heard him speak to me, I decided to allow Him into my life. He said words that I could not unhear, He said words that were true to me. He said words that gave me hope, courage and strength that stirred confidence in me. And this was important to me because, since I was little, I never had any confidence or independence.

When I was little, I had delayed learning and didn't speak as a kid until much later. In school, I was also bullied a fair bit. Those times were awful, truly. To know God wants me to be confident and Him making me see things I could never see in my childhood is really the experience of being born again.

Ruth Cheung

Ignite Youth Group (Croydon)

Growing up as a daughter of a pastor, I always knew that one day it would be expected for me to be baptised. I had this perfect baptism envisioned in my mind, but even as I pictured it, I never truly understood what it meant to be baptised and live as a child of God. It wasn't until I saw others around me at church going through their own baptism journey that I stopped and asked myself what being baptised meant to me. As I reflected, I realised that baptism meant acknowledging my need for God, surrendering my life to Him, and choosing to follow Him wholeheartedly.

I always had this perception that I had to be a 'perfect Christian' in order to be baptised. I was under the impression that I didn't deserve to be baptised, because I was what's considered to be a 'lukewarm Christian' — I barely read the bible, I only ever prayed at mealtimes, and God was really only part of my life on Sundays. I spoke to multiple people about this, and they all told me that I don't have to be perfect to be baptised, but I still couldn't accept the fact that I was worthy enough to be a child of God. I struggled with this for a while until I realised that I didn't deserve God's grace, yet His love for us is so great that He is willing to forgive us of our sins. No Christian is perfect — we all sin, and that's exactly why we need Jesus in our lives. The whole point of being baptised is to recognise how much we sin and ask for forgiveness. Now I understand that I don't have to be perfect. The fact that I recognise I am a sinner and I need God in my life is more important.

In the 2023 and 2024 Youth Easter Camps (YEC), I kept hearing all these other people experiencing God's presence in their lives, but I didn't feel anything. After these camps, I felt angry and resented God because I saw Him work in all these other people's lives but didn't see Him working in mine. I was also frustrated at myself for not feeling spiritually moved when all the other people around me seemed to be.

When YEC 2025 came around, I didn't want to go because I was afraid I would feel the same way again. I was forced to go, but I'm so grateful that I did, because I felt God move me in my faith and call out to me that it was my time. After YEC 2025, I desired to know God on a deeper level and build a stronger relationship with Him. However, reading the bible and praying still felt like a chore; it was like a criteria that I was simply completing to get closer to God.

When I went to PHAT 2025 (Praise Him All Together, youth summer camp), for the first time I genuinely wanted to get to know God and grow closer to Him. After PHAT, I started reading

the Bible daily. It no longer felt like a chore but a privilege I realised I had taken for granted. Even though I only stayed consistent for 2 weeks, what stood out to me was that, for the first time, I enjoyed reading the Word of God and I actively tried to apply what I was reading into my everyday life.

When I first started considering baptism, I put all my doubts and struggles in God. That night, around 12am, after I had already done my daily devotional and was trying to get some sleep, I suddenly felt the desire to read the Bible. So I got up and just started reading, and before I knew it, two hours had passed. As I was finally about to go to bed, I decided it wouldn't hurt to read one more chapter. When I looked down at my Bible, I saw that the next section was about the exact thing I had been praying to God about just hours before. In that moment, I heard Him speak to me, and I saw His presence in my life in a way I never had before. I cried out, "Lord I'm listening, keep speaking to me". It was the first time I had felt God speak to me, and although I had heard experiences from other people, encountering God myself truly felt like a miracle.

The next day, I had a hard time at school, but I found myself turning to God multiple times throughout the day, seeking Him for help. I didn't think much of it at first, but later that evening, while I was reflecting on my day, I remembered something a church leader had told me the day before: if I turned to God in difficult moments, I should definitely consider baptism. It felt like I had received a test from God — almost as if He was showing me whether this was something I should pursue. Through that experience, I felt like God was speaking to me and guiding me, reassuring me that baptism was the right direction to follow.

So today, as I am getting baptised, I declare the need for Jesus as my Saviour, the one who forgives me and provides me a new life freed from sin. I'm prepared to give up my life for God and surrender myself to be used by Him in every way He can, glorifying Him as I serve His kingdom. I pray that He provides me with guidance to navigate the challenges I encounter in this walk of faith. As I go forwards, I want to be a reflection of God everywhere I go, walking as His light and living as a Child of God.

Samuel Chu

Ignite Youth Group (Croydon)

Hello everyone, I am Samuel Chu from Ignite youth group in Croydon. I was born into a Christian household and have been a Christian from a young age. Therefore, growing up, I was taught Bible stories from my parents. Hence, I couldn't recall a specific moment where I came to a realisation that I need God or I turn to Christ. However, I attended a Christian primary school and Catholic secondary school before moving to the UK, so the Christian faith is always a part of me growing up. I have grown in my relationship with God further these couple years since as I mature, I have made myself a habit to practise gratitude no matter how small the things might seem to me. One massive blessing that I have encountered from God is definitely the smooth application process for my family's immigration procedures — not in my wildest dreams would I have envisioned myself leaving a place where I was born in.

The idea of baptism was introduced to me by Hannah, a previous pastoral worker, around 2 years ago at church. I rejected her then as I deemed myself not ready but then in hindsight my life was in shambles yet I learnt that baptism is a declaration of my faith to God instead of a CV application to God. Therefore if there is one thing to take away from my testimony, it is to stop being a perfectionist and stop trying to sort out your life before getting baptised, but invite God into your life and join His big family of followers instead.