

華倫敦中華基督教會
Chinese Church in London

Youth & English Ministry
Baptism Celebration Service 2025



Testimonies

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.

Clare Zhou

Soho English Ministry

I grew up in a Christian household and attended Sunday school throughout primary school. However, at the time, I never truly understood who Jesus was or what it meant to be a Christian. To me, it was simply about “being a good person” and “having the right values.” When I transitioned into high school, I quickly stopped going to Sunday school, believing that I didn’t need God to be a good person and that I was completely self-sufficient.

During high school, my entire focus was on academic success — getting good grades and getting into a top university. In the end, I was fortunate to achieve my goal, and I felt proud of my accomplishments. However, within the first few weeks of university, I felt incredibly hollow. I was surrounded by students far more intelligent than I was, and they all seemed to have clear career aspirations. In comparison, I hated my degree and had no idea what I wanted to do in the future. In an instant, I felt like I lost everything I had built my identity on — my academic achievements and my future aspirations.

By my third year, I found myself surrounded by close friends who were Christians, and they invited me to join a student-run fellowship group. At first, I went just to socialise, but through these conversations and Bible studies, I realised that I had never truly understood Christianity. I came to see that Christianity wasn’t just about being a good person — it was about receiving God’s grace, love, and transformation through Jesus Christ, and I wanted to know more.

As I continued exploring Christianity, I also discovered a career path I was interested in and started applying for internships in London. It was during this process that I first experienced God’s presence in my life. I felt His guidance at every step — from opening opportunities to helping me through interviews and ultimately receiving a job offer. Throughout what should have been a stressful time, I had an overwhelming sense of peace, and I realised that I was not self-sufficient. I needed God’s provision in my life, and this realisation led me to fully commit to pursuing Him.

Through accepting God, I came to understand that my identity is not about worldly success, which can be fleeting and taken away in an instant. Instead, as a Christian, my identity is eternally secure in God’s love as His child. My only response to this is to actively surrender my life to Him everyday.

Connie Tong

ALIVE Youth Group (Hammersmith)

My name is Connie, and I have been attending church with my parents for as long as I can remember. Growing up, church was a central part of my life. When I was in kindergarten and primary school, my mother served as a children's Sunday school teacher, so I was constantly surrounded by Bible stories, hymns, and lessons about God's love. These experiences shaped my early faith and gave me a strong foundation in Christianity.

Some of my most cherished memories come from our family's monthly visits to an orphanage. During these visits, I was responsible for handing out coloured pencils and small gifts, and we celebrated the children's birthdays by singing, cutting cakes, and blowing out candles. Through these experiences, I not only witnessed the joy that simple acts of kindness could bring but also felt God's love working through me. Those moments helped me understand how God's love is expressed through service and compassion, deepening my relationship with Him and teaching me the importance of sharing His love with others.

However, my faith journey has not always been smooth. When I moved to the UK, everything changed. The transition was difficult, and my limited English made it challenging to fully engage in youth group. I struggled to understand Bible passages, and over time, I felt myself drifting away from God. What had once been a source of comfort and familiarity now felt distant and difficult to grasp.

Things changed last year during Youth Easter Camp. Through the kindness and encouragement of the leaders, I felt God reaching out to me again. Their support reignited my desire to reconnect with my faith, and I began attending church more regularly. However, I still experience moments of weakness and doubt. There are times when I feel unmotivated, and I know I cannot stay in this place of uncertainty.

That is why I have decided to be baptised. I see this as a step toward reaffirming my commitment to God and deepening my relationship with Him. I want my faith to be strong and unwavering, not just in moments of inspiration but in my everyday life. No matter where I am or what challenges I face, I want to walk with God and trust in His plan for me.

Daniel Cheung

Soho English Ministry

My name is Daniel Cheung. My mother serves in the church and kitchen, providing refreshments. My younger brother serves as a leader in 360 student fellowship and is also the co-leader of the AV team at the Soho English Service. My father, Pastor Chun-Kuen Cheung, has served at CCL for longer than I have been alive, frequently leading Bible studies and delivering sermons to various congregations and other churches across the country. All members of my family are baptised and continue to be disciples of Jesus. So, if you could not tell, I am from a Christian family. You might assume that being born into a Christian family meant growing up with Bible verses and the gospel instilled in me, engaging in daily devotions, and living the life of an exemplary Christian. However, this was not the case.

Throughout my childhood, I was often confrontational, frequently disrupting and arguing with my kid's church leaders and others both within and outside the church. I was a menace; I was the very thing that people would hate to have. I developed a reputation for being difficult, and at a young age, I was labelled the "devil's child." I became a real burden, and this reputation followed me, making it feel as though I could never escape it. Being aware of this from a young age was challenging. It felt as though I was constantly being watched and expected to meet certain standards, it was uncomfortable. So, being perfect felt like a prerequisite to being baptised.

I wanted to ensure that my decision to be baptised was a sincere one. I believed that baptism required both an internal and external transformation—to become more like Jesus and to embody the fruits of the Spirit. But I was wrong, I later came to understand that baptism is about accepting Jesus as my Saviour, recognising that God sacrificed His Son to take away our sins. Through God's grace, we are forgiven, as human beings are inherently imperfect.

Despite knowing this, I still did not feel ready for baptism. I felt as though I had not yet met the necessary standard. I would only turn to God when I was at my lowest, it did not feel right. From a young age, my understanding of what a Christian is was as someone who serves and turns to God whenever and whatever the circumstance, during the highs and lows. Turning to God only when I was in despair felt like I was leveraging God only for his powers and abilities while giving Him nothing back in return. From an early age, I believed that being a Christian meant serving and turning to God in all circumstances — both in times of joy and difficulty. Relying on God only in moments of hardship felt as though I was using Him solely for His power and guidance, without offering anything in return. This made me feel unworthy of baptism and below the standard that is required to be baptised.

So, when did I reach a turning point? When did I decide to be baptised? There was no singular moment in time when I made this decision; rather, it was a gradual process. I was fortunate to grow up surrounded by individuals in the church, including close friends who have been positive influences, supporting me and encouraging me to consider baptism. Despite their intentions, I remained reluctant. However, witnessing their dedication to serving in the church and their unwavering reliance on God's plan led me to realise that I could not navigate life alone. They helped me realise that my strength and abilities were not enough to overcome all the battles I would face. I would design different scenarios in my life and figure out different ways to tackle them relevant to what was already happening in my life. It was not a good thing to do, it put me in dark places. Then I started to ask God for support and let Him know that whatever was to happen it was all part of His plan for me. I also began relying on God. Over time, I began seeking God's guidance, acknowledging that whatever happened was part of His greater plan. I learned to rely on Him, ensuring that He remained in my thoughts during periods of uncertainty. I placed my trust in His plan, believing that He would support me through every circumstance.

Attending Bible study helped me gain a deeper understanding of the gospel and made me realise that only God is perfect. I came to understand that He does not demand perfection but instead calls us to serve in His name and trust in His plan. Gradually, my perspective on baptism changed. The idea that I needed to achieve perfection before being baptised slowly faded, and I came to see that baptism is about faith, trust, and surrender to God's will.

There is no one I trust more than God to support, lead, and guide me through life. Now much like this testimony, there are still gaps in my knowledge about Christianity and vast areas where I can grow in my faith and serve God. I know that I am far from the ideal Christian and that I have much to learn. However, I believe that God has established a strong foundation for me to continue this journey, and I trust in His plan for my life.

Ella Tang

ALIVE Youth Group (Hammersmith)

My name is Ella, and I grew up around this church and in a Christian household. Since birth, I can remember walking through the doors and being welcomed into the church, so for me faith was always something in my life. But I don't think I fully understood what faith meant for me and how it impacted my life.

Growing up in a Christian household and going to Sunday School every Sunday morning, I always knew of a God and that He exists in my life. At the same time, I never really delved into what God meant to me as a person and I never understood what I meant to have a relationship with God. That was what I struggled with the most for the majority of my life. Sunday School at times would have felt like a chore; like I was forced to go. I went to church because that was what my family did, it was like a routine. We prayed before meals, went to Sunday School and heard and learnt about Jesus, but I didn't truly understand the depth of his love. I remember feeling extremely distant from him and as if I didn't know what my purpose was in life.

As I got older, I started to struggle and experienced many problems and difficulties within my everyday life. I faced challenges throughout my life, whether it was with friendships or at school. I started making bad decisions and prioritising the things in life that were not as important as my faith. Deep down, I knew those decisions were only being made to seek my own fulfilment – they weren't healthy for me. To everyone else, everything looked fine, but inside, I was struggling. As I chased those that fulfilled myself, everyone around me started to grow away from me. I would often get into arguments with everyone, my friends and my family included. The more I chased, the further away I felt I got from them; I began to isolate myself from those around me and felt so disconnected. I knew I was in need of searching for something more, but I didn't know where to start and how to look for it.

The first turning point came when I, with a bit of encouragement from my family, decided to go to Youth Easter Camp. I wasn't really focused on the camp being on God at the time, my friends were going and I imagined it to be somewhere in between a rough overnight residential with a fully packed schedule to a fun getaway with my friends. But walking into it, the atmosphere around me was so different to anything I had ever imagined it to be like - there was such a visible sense of love and peace in the air. I remember sitting there listening to all the stories I had been told a thousand times yet it felt so different; there was so much passion coming from everyone showing their faith and how they learnt to love God and let Him love them. Throughout that weekend I was there, I began to feel God's presence and

love surrounding me, and for one of the first times ever, I came to a realisation that God's love isn't just something you hear about but something you truly feel and can encounter throughout your daily life, no matter who you are and what you have done.

During worship one morning, I felt God speak to me in a way I had never experienced before. I remember Him speaking to me, forgiving me for all the wrong choices I had made before that had pushed people away from me. As we prayed after that morning worship, I felt so calm – like a weight had been lifted off my shoulders from all the burdens and guilt I was carrying previously with me. From that time, I had begun to feel a sense of belonging and love around me, realising that instead of chasing those that fulfilled me, I could've just put my worries and fears towards God, who loves me and wouldn't judge me for anything I have done, but instead forgive me.

Ever since Youth Easter Camp, I have rekindled old friendships, created new relationships between people and grown an even stronger relationship with God. I no longer seek validation from others or seek fulfilment in the things I did before. Instead, I've found a greater sense of peace knowing that I am a part of God's family and that I am loved by God, despite my past mistakes. I've learnt that fulfilment doesn't come from validation from those around me but from the love of God and how he accepts me for who I am. Even though I still face challenges everyday now, knowing that God is guiding me and is with me brings a whole new sense of peace into my life.

For me, baptism is a way for me to publicly show that I am committed to following Jesus and that my old life has passed away. It openly shows that my sins have been washed away and my decision to live a life with faith.

Grace Wong

360 Student Fellowship (Soho)

Growing up in a christian household in Hong Kong meant I had to go to church every Sunday at a young age. Because of this, going to church was more like an inevitable weekly routine. As a student in Hong Kong, school had always been my priority, so I always felt like going to church was a waste of time. There were times where I would pray at night but it's usually for some selfish requests such as getting good grades, and I would go to church as a repayment for God to answer my prayers. My heart posture was all wrong and I reached a point where the immense pressure from school felt unbearable and suffocating that I desperately started praying, asking God to give me peace. It was during this stressful time that I got the news that I'll be moving to the UK with my family. Although I was both anxious and scared about moving, I felt like I could finally breathe and was hopeful about restarting my life. Looking back, God's grace is truly amazing, he is so faithful even when I'm not, and he has always been there, waiting for me to seek him.

While settling into a new school, I can really see God working by surrounding me with supportive teachers to help me catch up, supportive friends to help me settle down, and a more laid back school environment which I really needed. However, after I moved here, I attended another church for 2 years before I started attending CCIL. And during these 2 years, my faith had been unstable. There wasn't a youth ministry and I wasn't the type of person to seek help from people either, so I would have to rely on my own understanding, which made me constantly doubt God and his existence even though he showed me time and time again that he's here with me.

During this period, I had to study arguments related to the existence of God in philosophy, which I falsely used as a guideline for my faith. My philosophy teacher used to be a priest and I remember vividly that someone asked whether he believed in God, he said "On a good day I do." And that sent me into a spiral of doubt. At the time I couldn't grasp what it meant, I just took it as someone with good biblical knowledge doesn't believe in God. Since that was the guideline I had back then, I started searching for answers to ease my doubts, but I was searching blindly which in the end made me drift away from God. It was until a while later, when I asked whether or not he's a christian and he without hesitation said yes, made me question my faith again.

After months of contemplating what he said, I finally understood the meaning of "On a good day I do." God was guiding me to clear this misconception I had, that christians have no worries, no doubts and have a perfect life. When in reality, no one is perfect except for God,

and it's normal for christians to have doubts, worries or even fall back on sin. I came to the realisation that I have been avoiding God because of the guilt and shame I felt from not being the 'perfect' christian. I realised what's important is how I go about these things, do choose to repent and seek God for forgiveness or for guidance, or do I choose to ignore it and continue to dwell in these worries and sin and avoid God.

Since then, my faith has been more stable, although I still wasn't able to trust God fully. This was until I started coming to CCL. I remember going to Youth 4 Christ for the first time, being so anxious and worried about meeting new people and being in a new environment, but all my worries faded away when I saw how welcoming and loving everyone was. I'm grateful to have such supportive youth leaders as well who were always there for me, and encouraged me to start my bible reading journey. Being able to join Youth Easter Camp was a blessing as well, as it was the first experience I had where I could have time to solely focus on my relationship with God. It was also where God wiped away my doubts, by having people answer some of the main concerns I had with christianity but also being able to experience God's love from the people around me, which really strengthened my faith.

Now I'm currently in 360 Student Fellowship, and I'm really thankful for the bible studies and for the loving and supportive people here, especially for my small group leader who really helped me build a firm foundation for my faith through diving deep into scriptures. And recently I realised how important it is to have a strong foundation for my faith. Just a few weeks ago, my close friend passed away. Her unexpected passing hit me so hard, but during this time of suffering, instead of feeling miserable and hopeless, I felt hopeful and I was able to see God showing me his grace and mercy during this difficult time. There were times where I felt lost and guilty for being frustrated at God, but instead of letting me deal with these emotions alone, God stepped in and comforted me. He reassured me that it's alright to feel all these emotions, that he's here with me and I can rely on him. I'm thankful to have people who were there to comfort and support me during this time of grief, but I'm even more grateful for God's love.

My journey with God was full of ups and downs and it won't get easier from here, but I know I can get through it because I have a loving and faithful God who is with me every step of the way, so I'll put my faith in him and love him with all my heart.

Jamie Delderfield

Truth and Grace Congregation (Hammersmith)

Hello everyone, my name is Jamie, and today I want to share a little about my journey with God — a journey I never expected but one that has changed my life.

I didn't grow up in a Christian family, and for much of my life, faith wasn't something I thought much about. But looking back, I can see that God was always present, even when I didn't know Him yet.

One memory from my childhood stands out. Even though I wasn't a Christian then, I remember one Christmas Eve, standing by my window, looking up at the open sky. I didn't know much about prayer, but I opened my heart and asked for one thing: a white Christmas — not for myself, but for my family, so we could have a joyful day together. The next morning, I woke up to snow. It felt like something special, something more than coincidence — and to this day, that moment has stayed with me.

Fast forward to when I met my now-wife, Miao. When I was thinking about proposing to her, I found myself talking to God again. Each time I prayed, I didn't ask for her to say yes — I simply asked for the strength to face whatever came next. Each time I prayed, I was filled with a sense of peace, joy, and confidence — as if God was reminding me that no matter what happened, He would be with me.

Strength has become a core part of my prayers — strength to trust God, to love others well, and to keep going even when things feel uncertain. At first, those moments of comfort felt like coincidence, but over time, there were too many 'coincidences' to ignore. I knew God was walking with me.

One verse that has deeply shaped my faith is 1 Corinthians 13:4-7: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud... It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." While many see this as a verse for marriage, I believe it's a guide for life — a reminder of how God's love calls us to live, not just with our spouse, but with everyone we meet. I try my best to carry that love into all areas of my life.

All these past experiences — and the experiences yet to come — have led me to this moment. Today, I stand here ready to openly accept God and put my faith in Him. I know now that His love has always been with me, guiding me, strengthening me, and shaping who I am. I'm ready to declare my love for Jesus and my trust in Him as my Saviour.

Leanne Cheung

360 Student Fellowship (Soho)

Hi, I'm Leanne and this is my testimony. I once thought that writing this testimony would be much easier now that I'm older and more mature in my faith. But the truth is, it has been anything but easy. For a long time, I believed that because I had never faced any life-altering hardship, one that shook the foundation of my faith, I wouldn't have anything truly awe inspiring to share. However, as I have walked this journey with Christ, I've come to realise that even what seems like a smooth and uneventful path carries its own blessings and trials.

Like many who grew up in a Christian family, I have spent my entire life in CCiL Soho, from Kids Church to Youth 4 Christ, and now as part of 360 Student Fellowship. I have never really known a life without God. But despite always being in church, I often felt like I was just going through the same motion every week. Many who know me would describe me as quiet and shy. I never liked answering questions in small groups because I felt like my answers weren't good enough or 'biblical' enough. I also lacked the curiosity and courage to ask deeper questions. Over time, I simply got used to sitting there, speaking only when called on. Without realising it, church had become more of a routine than a relationship. Sundays felt like a social habit rather than a time to seek God. My prayers weren't sincere – they were just signals that the session was coming to an end. I believed in God, but I wasn't actively pursuing Him.

During Covid I really felt myself drifting away from God. With the inability to physically attend church, it became an easy excuse to neglect reading the Bible and pursuing God. Even though there were online sermons and youth group sessions, I didn't attend after the first one. I chose to sleep in or focus on other leisure activities, thinking I could take a break from God. However, everything started to shift during the first Youth Easter Camp post-Covid (Rooted 2022). It was there that I began to open my eyes to the state of my relationship with God. I took a leap of faith and allowed my heart to be open to Him again. Just like in Ephesians 3:17, where Paul prays that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith, I've come to realise how important it is for Christ to be more than just a fleeting presence in my life. He must be my constant foundation.

That revelation was exactly what I needed to hear after such a long period of distance from God. Through my growing faith, I've learned to let His love deeply root in me, and that love has given me the strength to stay steady, even in the face of temptation and sin. I'm reminded of one of my favourite verses, 1 John 4:8: 'God is love.' It's not just that He loves us, but that He is love. Understanding this has changed me in the way I live and in how I love others.

Being grounded in His love has given me the stability and purpose I needed, and I'm forever grateful for His unwavering presence in my life.

I first started serving in church after YEC22, beginning with the worship team for youth group and then joining the AV team for Soho English, where I still serve today. At first, I didn't think much about the deeper meaning of serving, I saw it as a way of giving back to the church and to help in church. But during my final YEC in 2024 (Wake Up!) I was challenged by Colossians 3:1-4. It says, 'Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above.' This verse made me realise that serving isn't about recognition or approval from others, it's about setting my heart on what truly matters, Christ and His Kingdom. I had to ask myself, why am I serving? Was I doing it for praise, or was I doing it to honour God and be part of His eternal plan? I realised that my service had to be for Christ, not for personal gain. I began to understand that every act of service, no matter how small, has eternal value when done for Him.

As I continue on this journey of faith, even though I may not be perfect – Philippians 1:6: 'Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus' – I trust that God is still working in me, and I'm looking forward to seeing how He will continue to shape me as I serve Him and what He will continue to do in me and through me.

Leo Yin

360 Student Fellowship (Soho)

Throughout the past 18 years, I have always wondered about one question. What is the purpose of life? Suffering, enjoyment, all these things around us seem so fleeting and temporary. In the grand scheme of things, they are meaningless. And so, I fell into this mindset of nihilism, pushing through every day for no reason apart from because I was told to do so.

I recall the first time I truly felt the Lord's presence, in Youth Easter camp. It was the first Christian camp that I had been to, and the first time my eyes were truly opened to Him, despite having been raised in kids church all my life. I had been too blind to see the answer to my question, which had been presented to me on a silver platter directly in front of me the whole time, but the Lord helped me see. However, I grew doubtful a few days after the camp, and eventually I wrote the feeling off as just feeling the presence of the music/live atmosphere.

This cycle of spiritual highs and downs continued for many years, with me making little to no progress. Even when I started to ask more questions, digging deeper into theology, some of the answers I found were unsatisfactory to say the least. Although there was a lot of evidence for God's existence, some things about the Bible and Christianity to be inexplicable and illogical to me, but I was foolish. Who am I to declare whether things are inexplicable or illogical. We cannot possibly hope to fully understand the logic behind God's actions, and so it is not by logic alone that we can decide whether or not to follow Jesus. We cannot fully prove the existence of the Lord. We must have faith.

And so, I came to the realisation that we have a wonderful purpose. To glorify, to love and to be loved by God. But was I really deserving of this love? A wicked and sinful creature like me? I mean, none of us are perfect that's for sure, but I was still a long shot away from being the stereotypical "Christian". It would be disrespectful of me to think of myself as one, let alone get baptised. Once again, I had made a severe lapse in my judgement. No matter how much good we do in our lives, our sins heavily outweigh every ounce of righteousness in us. It is only by faith alone, cloaked in Christ's righteousness, that we can be saved. Being a Christian isn't about already being perfect like Him. None of us are. It's about accepting His grace. It's about starting our journey with Him, to become more like Him.

I am extremely blessed to have been raised as a Christian, and I am very thankful for my parents and to the Lord for raising such a stubborn soul as myself, but above all else, I am thankful to the Lord for giving me a glorious purpose in life, and for being so gracious, patient

and kind to such a flawed person. I intend to use these gifts to grow closer to Him, and glorify Him.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” – Ephesians 2:8-10.

May (Mei Ling) Wong

Truth and Grace Congregation (Hammersmith)

I can hardly believe how quickly time has passed — 23 years since I first accepted God into my life. Today, I am deeply grateful for His grace in leading me to this moment of baptism. You might wonder, “May, why did it take so long to decide on baptism?” Trust me, I’ve asked myself the same question. Reflecting on these decades, I see a journey marked by profound personal and spiritual growth.

As a mother and a full-time academic, my early years were a relentless balancing act. Juggling the pressures of publishing research while raising a child meant constantly absorbing knowledge—from academic journals to child development books. When my son began school, I immersed myself in his curricula, guiding him through each subject until his undergraduate years. Back then, my life revolved around books—but rarely the Bible.

Before moving to the UK two years ago, my days were consumed by teaching and researching strategies for organisational success and individual achievement. My focus was worldly: How could my students stand out? How could employees meet their goals? Yet amid this hustle, I realise now how much I overlooked God’s wisdom.

Relocating to the UK became a divine turning point. Here, I found space to study Scripture deeply, and with each page, my conviction grew: I wanted to fully surrender to God’s guidance and serve Him humbly. A pivotal moment came after an outing with my Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) group. When I shared photos with my son, he remarked, “Mum, I’ve never seen you this happy compared to when we lived in Hong Kong.” His words struck me. Through Christian friendships, weekly TAG fellowships at CCL, and collective Bible study, I’ve discovered profound joy in belonging to God’s family.

These experiences have reshaped my heart. I’ve learned to release my reliance on self-sufficiency and academic accolades, embracing instead the peace of trusting Christ as my Saviour. Baptism, for me, is not just a ritual—it’s a declaration of faith forged through years of seeking, stumbling, and finally surrendering to God’s unfailing love.

Nathan Yin

Ignite Youth Group (Croydon)

Hello, my name is Nathan Yin. I am here to share my testimony with you all, about my journey with the Holy Spirit. It was at Youth Easter Camp 2022 that I first heard that Jesus died for my sins. A bit late, I know, considering my family has been Christian for about 13 years. But it was there that I instantly knew that, hell is real, and in fact more people go there when they die rather than heaven. My first reaction when coming back was, "I need to tell my friends about this, as soon as possible". I ended up telling them, but they didn't seem to care though. Fast forward to now, and the LORD has been changing my life, bit by bit, like Theseus's Ship. If you didn't know, Theseus's Ship was replaced plank by plank, as it was quite shattered when it came back to shore. It kept getting replaced until it was brand new. Just like in the verse, "...if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire." (Mark 9:43) and "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17) It is like how my body is becoming new through my workouts, where I have to persevere and keep adjusting my routine according to the schedule of the school day as well as other activities. On a deeper level, another example was how I learned to deal with my rage and anger. Since childhood, I have been known to have a short temper with other people, and got into fights where I ended up in a lot of trouble. Since knowing about Jesus, I have felt my rage leave me bit by bit, instead replaced with patience and humbleness. Recently, some girls I knew at school and had been on their good side for about a year had accused me of stalking them. They kept hurling insults at me whenever I sat next to them at lunch, and one day it got so bad I felt like my anger was about to get out of control again. But by God's grace, I remained calm and did not give in to my old self. At that moment I knew, the mercy that Jesus had given us when he was carrying the cross, which weighed over 130 kilograms, being whipped, flogged and mocked, falsely accused like I was, but at a much larger scale. Jesus had every right to call his 12 legions of angels to destroy his enemies, and there was so much suffering he had to endure when he was carrying the cross and being nailed onto it. It only took 1 angel to carry out the tenth plague of Egypt, when every firstborn child of each Egyptian household and livestock was slaughtered. Imagine the sheer destruction that 12 legions of angels would cause, a single legion being worth around 4500 angels. In that moment, I knew to let go of my transgressions and move on from false friendships which are nothing compared to a fulfilling relationship with God, because of the love that Jesus had shown towards me that day. And that is way I am here to declare my love and devotion towards the Holy Spirit. Thank you for listening.

Priscilla Chau

Colindale Congregation

I'm blessed to be born into a Christian household and my parents have raised me in (this) church my whole life. I'm familiar with the Good News and spent my childhood at Sunday school learning about God, and have always believed that Jesus died in our place so we have the chance to be close to God.

Yet, I never felt that I was ready to commit to my faith. I felt that calling myself a Christian came with a lot of responsibilities and regulations that I was not ready to give up living my life for. I wanted to have fun with life, travel, have non Christian friends, date non Christian guys, and basically chose to live how I wanted. Quite honestly, I thought Christian life was boring and I wanted to have fun.

One Sunday at church, a group of missionaries close to my age came to visit and this guy shared his testimony. He said something which really moved me. He said "how blessed are we that we can lay all of our burdens at your feet".

What unconditional love! God loves me so much that even though I chose to live my own way and actively reject him, He still blesses me with so many opportunities and successes and amazing people around me who love me. I just felt 100% foolish and undeserving of His grace, especially as He has laid such a strong foundation for me to follow him but I had chosen to reject it my whole life. But yet, he never gave up on me and constantly showed me that he loves me. In the midst of my foolishness to run away from God's love for me, He still looked after me and blessed me with no burdens in my life. How insane that I still have the privilege to lay everything down at his feet? I just felt a huge surge of love and peace and urge to give my life to him. He's shown me my whole life that he loves me, and I want to live for the God who loves me.

Sharon Ip

360 Student Fellowship (Soho)

For as long as I can remember, I've always believed in God. Growing up in a Christian family and a Christian school in Hong Kong, I think it's safe to say that I was constantly surrounded by God. As a kid, I followed my parents to church every Sunday, and the Bible was merely stories of God's people that I had to memorise in order to get free snacks from the teachers at Sunday school. My relationship with God was pretty stagnant for the first 15 years of my life, but now I look back and realise how much of a blessing it was to grow up in an environment where I was surrounded by His love, even when I didn't recognise it.

It wasn't until I was invited to attend a retreat at school when I was 16 that I truly made a personal commitment to follow Christ and live for Him. At the retreat, I felt personally connected with God for the first time and had learned so much about His character and how much He desires to have a personal relationship with us despite our sinful nature. I was also reminded of faith as a believer in this retreat, as we are called to be faithful as God continually shapes us through trials and successes that we go through. The importance of faith really spoke to me in this retreat because it didn't feel like I was walking alone in life anymore, but rather God was leading me with His plan. After this retreat, I made more commitments to serve in my community such as being in worship team and leading the same retreat that I had been so blessed to be a part of. Serving in these roles really helped me grow closer to God at the time, as I was able to grow in more Christ-centred friendships as we served together as a team, and much more of my time was spent reading and reflecting on God's word instead of watching YouTube and Netflix for hours on end. By the time of graduation, I had felt very content with everything around me; my close relationship with my family, my friends who meant the world to me, and the place I've called home for the past 18 years. This all made the anticipation of university so difficult as I remember feeling anxious when I realised I wasn't going to live in this bubble of safety and comfort anymore.

Moving to a completely new environment here in the UK felt like I had a million things on my plate at once all the time. I had to balance the struggle of making new friends, handling my course load, doing my laundry, and making sure I cooked at least some edible meals. And to be honest, finding a church community was pretty low on my list of priorities when I got here. I remember the first weekend I arrived in London my mom had asked me to check out a Chinese church she heard about from a friend. Shortly after, a friend told me about 360, a student fellowship at that same church. I had rejected my mom straight away saying that I had other things to take care of, but since there was hotpot at 360 I decided to check it out. Funnily enough these were both at CCiL, and I don't think this was a coincidence.

Juggling all of these priorities throughout my first year was really difficult, as I found myself relying on my own strength as I solely focused on what I wanted for my own benefit and not

on God's plan. I prayed for God to provide me with academic validation, friends that I thought were good for me, and it was kind of like I wanted Him to grant my wishes like a genie. This led me to be greatly disappointed when things weren't going along with what I had in mind. I constantly compared my life back to high school, which further increased my loneliness and homesickness, causing me to turn to worldly things to make myself feel better. By the end of the year, I didn't make many Christ-centred friendships and felt quite disconnected with God as I didn't really spend time with His word or reach out to Him wholeheartedly. Up until this point I had only expected good things to come from my relationship with God.

In the summer of my first year, I was placed in a situation where it was the first time I felt angry with God. I was flooded with many questions on why He allowed me to go through this, even when I had tried everything to prevent it from happening. I blamed God, even when deep down I knew that His will for me is good and perfect, and that He only wants the best for me. I was unwilling to accept that sometimes, that "best" is difficult. Despite my doubts, my parents reminded me of Job's story; that sometimes we don't know why there is suffering, but God is undoubtedly still working in us. After this event I truly tried to open my heart to allow God to speak to me. And He did, right away, when I visited my sister's church in New York, where I was reminded of God's call for us to remain faithful despite all the suffering we grow through, not letting the enemy compromise our call (Jeremiah 29). I felt that God was really providing me peace through this sermon, as I found comfort in His word.

After coming back to London, I realised that God had already planted me in a community, 360. Through intentionally building Christ-centred friendships this year, I was really able to experience God's love through others. Despite setbacks, God still provided so many people in my life, especially in fellowship, to experience His love in many ways that I didn't expect which I will forever be grateful for. Looking back now, I see so much of God's work in my life; changing my heart and bringing me back to a close relationship with Him where I am able to bring all my anxieties to Him first and live according to His will for me. I've also found so much peace in my heart following being intentional in my prayers with God- thanking Him for the blessings and surrendering my challenges to Him daily. I used to place my identity and self-worth in worldly desires, believing they defined who I was. But now, I know that above all things, my identity is in Christ. Even when I face challenges in the future, I am confident that His love for me will never change. No matter what comes my way, I trust that God always wants the best for me, guiding me with His unfailing grace.

So, you may be wondering- what led me to baptism? I had a conversation recently that changed my perspective on the meaning of baptism during the 360 retreat. After working through my thoughts, I was left with just one question: 'What was stopping me?' And in that moment, I realised that nothing was actually in my way. As Acts 22:16 says, 'And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptised and wash away your sins, calling on His name.' I knew it was time to take that step in faith, fully surrendering my life to Christ.

Wilyn Mae Villafuerte

Truth and Grace Congregation (Hammersmith)

I grew up in a Catholic household in the Philippines and was born into the ideology that as long as I went to church on Sundays and did my seasonal confession to a priest is good enough to secure my salvation. It was never imposed on us to read the Bible as part of our daily lives, I remember the only time I allocated to God is a one hour mass on Sundays that I would even miss when life got busy or the lazy prayer before sleeping.

When I was 16 years old I enrolled at a Baptist University for my nursing degree and that's where I got to experience a different level of truth. Through different university activities I learned how important it is to have a personal relationship with the Lord. It dawned upon me the significance and the power of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and claiming Him as my Lord and personal saviour. This phase of my life was when I first surrendered my life to Christ and received Him as my Lord and Saviour. I felt such freedom and peace confident that the Holy Spirit now dwells in me to guide me and basically my new best friend. As my thirst for the Lord grew, slowly by slowly I realised that I no longer enjoyed the worldly activities I used to engage in. I was an active member of the small group consisting of old and new believers. I made time to read my Bible and to join my peers with Bible discussions and worship.

However as life unfolded, my senior peers and co-believers who had built us up as newbie believers in the Lord had graduated. We all went through personal struggles brought about by adulthood. Each one had goals to achieve and trying to tackle major life decisions forgetting that God is in control. We all got our faith tested and sadly we wavered. My relationship with the Lord got colder, my Bible was seldom read and I got preoccupied with my career and adulthood. I still pray and worship not realising that the fire and power in my words and convictions are as not as hot as it used to be. I prioritised the idols of my life and instead of surrendering them before the Lord.

In 2020, when Covid hit, I saw the unfolding tragedy of death and loss with people dying left and right, I started to return to my secret place and intercede for the world through prayer and supplication. I had, I may say a personal revival remembering the words of apostle Paul that indeed we are nothing but sojourners in this world and this is not our home. I reclaimed my position as a child of God through faith and through the merits of the Blood of Jesus Christ shed for me for the remission of my sins. By this time in my walk with the Lord, I had a firmer grasp of the importance of my spiritual life and how to fight and win the spiritual warfare that wages against us believers on a daily basis. I had since desired to be baptised as a part

of my obedience to the Lord. I desire to publicly convey that indeed "It is no longer I that live but Christ liveth through me".It is still an ongoing journey of dying daily to self but as long as I hold fast to the truth of Jesus' word before dying on the cross.. "Tetelestai" It is done, indeed the debt has been paid and our sins forgiven. Through Jesus Christ our Lord and his finished work on the cross, we have the sure confidence of victory already won.