



NORTHVIEW BAPTISM TESTIMONIES
SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

WHAT IS BAPTISM? _____

Baptism is a teaching Jesus Christ gave the Church to practice. He taught that each person who would confess their faith that He is Lord and Saviour must be baptized.

When a person is baptized, it is an act that symbolizes what is already true of a person. When a person is put under the water, it represents that they have been united with Christ in His death for the sins of the world. When a person is brought up out of the water, it is a reminder that Christ was also raised from the dead to defeat death and sin. Because of this work, that only God himself can do, our relationship with God has been made right again and our sins are no longer counted against us.

We also are baptized before others in order to have people observe, and to be a witness to the fact that this person being baptized is claiming to be a Christ follower. Many of these witnesses will also take seriously their role to support the one who was baptized. This is where the Church is vital. The Church is an "outpost" for Christians where we gather consistently to worship God, and throughout the week we connect as friends who now share both the final destination and the journey to get there.

See Baptism: northview.org/statement-of-faith/

We believe that Christians should be baptized in water by immersion upon confession of their faith in Christ. Baptism is a public declaration that the believer identifies with Christ and has become part of His body, the Church.

Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:2-6; Col. 2:12-13;
1 Thess. 5:23-24; 1 Pet. 3:21

MEGAN BARBER

Baptizer: Sarah Verwoerd, Sister | Downes Road Campus



I grew up in a Christian home and attended church regularly. I remember making the commitment to follow Jesus when I was about 8 years old, although I feel like I never took the time to completely dive into what it means to be a Christian. Over the years, I felt myself growing further away from God. Throughout middle school, high school, and university I developed friendships that drew me even further away from God and I lost my way in my faith. I didn't feel a sense of peace and I only turned to God in prayer during the bad times of my life. In the first few years of university, I reflected on the friendships I was creating and began to realize I was pushing God away and was not living the life I knew God had called me to live.

In the last year and a half, I have taken the time to create godly friendships and understand what it means to truly be a Christian. I have decided to devote my life to following the Lord. During this time I've felt God calling me to Himself; to learn from Him and profess my faith. I know the next step for me is baptism. God has continued to show Himself to me and lead me towards a Christian life. He has led me to have a different perspective on life, one where I see Him and lean on Him and turn to Him through both the good and the bad. It is evident since I have begun following Him that I want to strengthen my faith and relationship with God and live my life through Him and for Him.

AMAR DHALIWAL

Baptizer: Eric Heath, Northview Pastoral Intern | Downes Road Campus



I was born into a Sikh family and grew up visiting the temple regularly with them. I always felt my family followed religion for the peace of mind it provided. Growing up, I was always into sports and I never cared about doing good in school or in anything else. Throughout high school and university, God began putting people in my life who introduced me to Jesus. After graduation, one of my best friends asked me to come to Alpha at Northview Church (I have now been attending here for 12 years). I agreed to go because the Christians around me had invited me because they loved me and wanted to share something that they thought was so amazing and special. I had wondered about Jesus for years but I kept it to myself all throughout my college years. Soon after Alpha - I believe I was 22 - I asked Jesus to be my Saviour. I gave my life to Jesus because I strongly felt he was the one true God. All his lessons in the Bible were so pure and true.

I have been surrounded by so many amazing people in my life. I am a part of the business impact leaders group at Northview and I attend theology classes on Thursdays. My family is very close to me but at the same time they are very disappointed in my decision to follow Christ; however, it's the best decision I have ever made. It's hard to describe how good the Lord has been to me. I have been successful in all aspects of my life - I have travelled the world, I have loyal friends, I have been given the ability to sponsor many kids, and to donate to charities and support missionaries. There are many verses that I relate to strongly but recently I have been reading Colossians 3:12-15. Being chosen to follow Christ, I should dress myself with humility, compassion, patience, and love and, most importantly, let the peace of Christ rule in my heart.

LAUREN DRIEDGER

Baptizer: Ditch & Janice Driedger, Father & Mother | East Abbotsford Campus



I was born and raised in a Christian home, and gave my life to Christ when I was four. I grew up in the stereotypical “Christian bubble” – going to MEI, attending Sunday School regularly, and reading Bible stories every night. Life was easy and I didn’t really put much effort into my faith until my mom was diagnosed with cancer when I was eleven. Then things began to get rocky, and I was challenged in my faith to make it my own.

During the three years that my mom was sick, God taught me to trust Him and His ways, knowing that He wants what’s best for me. He showed me that He is a God of both hills and valleys, and that being a Christian includes both but that I am never alone. It was a confusing and unpredictable time, but I learned to rely on God for comfort and perseverance. I was so happy when He answered my prayers and my mom was finally healed.

Since then He has blessed me in many ways, placing amazing friends in my life, a supportive family, and using youth and Bible study to further my growth as a follower of Christ. My life is far from perfect, but I can look back on what God has done for me and know that trials will only strengthen my relationship with Him. I’m excited to see where God takes me, and he has shown me that even when things seem out of control, He is using them to shape me as His child.

DAVE ELFORD

Baptizer: Jon Morrison, Brother-in-Law | East Abbotsford Campus



I was raised in a Christian home and asked Jesus into my heart at a young age. Growing up, I was involved in youth group and attended church weekly. I feel that I coasted through my teenage years without diving deeper into my faith. I have grown up living a Christian lifestyle but life gets busy with school, sports, and work and my faith was not always my number one priority. I was fortunate to start dating my wife in Grade 12 and we have been married for 17 years and have 4 children.

It is wonderful to have a spouse that loves the Lord and walks through life with you. I know that I am a sinner who is forgiven by God's grace. God has shown me through worship songs, sermons, and prayer that I do not need to be perfect in order to get baptized and that He is with me on a daily basis. I have realized more and more as I have gotten older that I need to rely fully on God and get to know Him better. I want to be a better example of Christ in our home as a husband and father as we raise our children to follow Him. Getting baptized is long overdue for me but a step in my faith as I serve and follow our heavenly Father.

HAILEY FLIKKEMA

Baptizer:Jonah Sikma, Fiance | Downes Road Campus



I grew up in a very loving Dutch Reformed family and was baptized as an infant. I was involved in my church's Sunday school and catechism classes growing up, and I did my profession of faith in the Reformed church as a teenager. While I have always been a Christian, I do struggle with anxiety as well as trust issues due to my relationship with my father. This meant that I was a control freak who didn't trust God to handle all of the situations in my life.

Between my confession of faith classes at my previous church, and the sermons that I listened to when I transitioned to Northview, I really came to appreciate the fact that I have the most perfect Heavenly Father. God is the one Father who will never abandon, never forsake, and never ignore. He loved me so much He sent His Son to die for me, and once that revelation really sank into my heart and took hold, my anxiety and trust issues lessened.

I have begun to trust God and go to Him for help with big decisions in my life, even though I still struggle with mental health issues and my need to be in control. He is the first one I talk to about everything. Although I have a hard time accepting that I am actually not in control of my life, I know God is. God has shown me that through His perfect Son who died for me, I am a part of His family. I have chosen to be baptized now because it is a physical sign of my new relationship with God and my promise to follow Him. Despite having already confessed my faith, I want to be baptized to signify this new step into membership at Northview and as a turning point in my faith. God has adopted me and will never let me go, and I want to signify my commitment to Him via adult baptism. He is my forever comfort and strength.

KRISTEN KANDT

Baptizer: Wendy Kandt, Mother | Downes Road Campus



I grew up in a Christian family and gave my life to Jesus at a very young age. However, I never really loved God for myself, it always just felt like it was my parents' belief. That all changed in grade 9 when I worked at Stillwood Bible Camp for the entire summer. During this summer, I really started to feel like I could believe in God for myself. When I was 15 years old I started struggling with depression and anxiety. I questioned my self-worth and felt very alone. Trusting in God has been something that was hard for me, but with the help of my family and close friends, I am working towards growing closer to Him. They encourage me to pray, read my Bible and spend time diving into the word of God. Even though I am still dealing with these difficult things, God has always been there and provided for me. I hope that throughout the next couple of years I can continue growing in my faith and learning how to be a light in the lives of other people. I want to be baptized because I am ready to take my faith more seriously, and I believe baptism is the next step in my walk with God. One verse that I really love is Romans 8:38-39, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." This verse is important to me because I struggle with trusting that God will always be there, but when reading this verse I realize that God is with us no matter what happens.

SPENCER KANDT

Baptizer: Terry Kandt, Father | Downes Road Campus



I committed my life to Christ at the age of 6; it is one of my earliest memories. In the years since, I have been blessed to have a very consistent walk with Christ. All of my walk has been through two channels - school and church. I was homeschooled for most of my kindergarten to grade 10 years through various Christian-based schools. In my grade 12 year I was enrolled at Abbotsford Christian School. During these years, I took part in Bible classes as part of my studies. Northview has been my church since the beginning. My family has consistently attended weekend courses for as long as I can remember. My father, mother, and sister are all Christians themselves and there has been very little strife in my home. My parents have supported me through my entire walk of faith, answering any and all questions I have had. I have had no hardships that have made me question my faith. However, my faith has grown stronger through being able to see God working in my life constantly. There have always been coincidences throughout my life that seem odd. Things that changed or altered my path in ways that I neither wanted nor expected. And yet, events always seem to turn out for the best. I believe all of these have been the hand of God guiding me along. I truly believe that God's providence has been guiding me in every aspect of my life, and will continue to as I walk alongside him.

JENNIFER KLEINGELTINK

Baptizer: Sam Kleingeltink, Sister-in-Law | Downes Road Campus



I was born and raised in a Christian home and grew up attending South Abbotsford Mennonite Brethren Church. I was involved in kid's choir, Sunday school, and Vacation Bible School there and always had a strong foundation and understanding that Jesus loved me. I was your average Christian kid, who followed the rules, played sports and went to church. Because of sports, my schedule often conflicted with times that youth group was available, so I didn't have much of a Christian community around me. In 2009, I attended Stillwood Camp as a volunteer working in the kitchen. At the age of 16, while working in the kitchen and sweating over an incredibly hot stove and making Rice Krispy squares for over 300 people, I met a group of girls who showed me God's grace and God's love. During this time, I truly felt and knew that God was real. Our summer was full of prayer, Bible reading, and serving. During worship on the last evening of camp, I found myself on my knees, crying my eyes out and giving my heart and life to God. Things changed after that. Church wasn't boring for me anymore but rather somewhere I looked forward to going to. I finally had a group of people who supported me in my faith, who challenged me, and who prayed for me when I needed prayer through the difficult teenage years and I was blessed to do the same for them. To this day, my heart loves camp and children's ministry and I still volunteer my time serving with Northview Kids. My husband and I are challenged daily in our faith and have a strong group of Christian friends and family that hold us accountable as we seek to look more like Jesus every day.

JOEL KLEINGELTINK

Baptizers: Jeremy Kleingeltink, Brother | Downes Road Campus



I grew up in a Christian home. My parents introduced me to the Church and to Jesus at an early age. For as long as I can remember I have known the story of Jesus and its meaning. I attended church on Sundays and went to a Christian school.

The church I grew up in went through a lot of leadership changes while I was a youth group attendee, and there was some instability within the youth ministry. In my heart, I still loved God but didn't necessarily enjoy going to church. Fast forward a few years and I wasn't living the life that I (now) believe a Christian should live. I would attend church and leave feeling motivated, but I wasn't giving back and I wasn't involved. I started attending Northview as an adult and began to enjoy attending church again. Through prayer and attending church I felt a sense of conviction and my wife and I are now involved with a community group, and both have started to serve at Northview which has been a complete blessing for me.

I always thought baptism was something you did when you felt totally confident in your faith, but now I realize that baptism is a commitment to your faith. It is a commitment to study the Bible, worship God, and become a disciple. This is only the start of my journey to a stronger, deeper, and more meaningful relationship with God. I look forward to the challenges, opportunities, and blessings that are yet to come.

MANDI PAUL

Baptizer: Kenton Paul, Husband | Downes Road Campus



I was born into a loving Christian home and accepted Christ into my life at a very young age. I grew up attending church regularly, going to youth, etc., but I never felt that I had a personal relationship with Christ until after high school. It wasn't until I went to Bible school that I really started searching for why I believed the things I did and over this time my faith really became my own. I grew a lot, not only in my faith but, in being outside of my comfort zone, I learned what it meant to fully put my trust in Christ.

Since then I have seen God's work in my life so evidently. I have been blessed with an incredible husband and have two beautiful children. I daily feel that God is continuing to show me how to be more like Him and shaping me into who He made me to be. The greatest desire of my heart is to raise my children to know and love Jesus, and that as they grow they will put their hope and trust in Him.

There have also been many hardships in the last few years that at times have felt very stressful and overwhelming. Even though there have been many times where our future has felt uncertain and we haven't known what the right decisions are, we rely on the truth that God has a plan and works all things together for good. I am so thankful that I can put my hope in a faithful Father.

I am excited to be baptized and to publicly declare that I choose to follow Him.

MORGAN PETERS

Baptizer: Erin Peters, Mother | Downes Road Campus



God has been present for my whole life. Since I was born, God has worked in my life to bring a loving family around me who supported me and taught me about Him and His work. I accepted Him into my heart when I was seven, and for many years I lived without many real trials.

In middle school, however, things in my life began to grow harder. Thankfully, though, my loneliness only prompted me to lean closer to Him for comfort and company. Looking back, I can also clearly see how He brought people around me to carry me through, like parents, youth leaders and a healthy group of friends, making grade 9 one of the best years of my life.

I have come to realize that while I might not always have the strength to go on, God does and He will give me His strength when I need it. All I have to do is call on Him.

CHANDRA PHILIP

Baptizer: Danae Friesen, Northview Pastor | Mission Campus



I was born and raised in a Christian family, but we never went really deep with our faith. I was baptized as an infant and thought I was a believer but looking back my faith was only lukewarm. In my heart, I have always known the Gospel to be true even though I did not always live out that truth. During my university years, I continued to live a selfish, lukewarm Christian life. My idea of the Christian life was very legalistic. I thought if you followed the rules, you'd be saved. Still, there were things that I did which I knew God would not approve of, but he never gave up on me. One of those was to marry an unbeliever. Several years after we married, I faced a high-risk pregnancy with our third child. It was a very scary time full of reflection. God saved my life and that of my son. He proved to me that he still loved me despite everything. Not too long after that, I finally bent my knee and accepted Jesus as my Lord. That is why one of my favourite stories is the one of the Prodigal Son, where the father runs to meet his child. Since that day, our family has been through some very trying times, but God has been there with us every step of the way. He has blessed my children and me with a good home and a great community. I have earned a certificate in Christian apologetics from Biola University and am learning to love God with all my mind, heart and soul.

ANDOR SAWATZKY

Baptizer: Thomas Dekker, Friend | Mission Campus



I grew up going to church and hearing the gospel preached. I knew the Nativity story and that Christ suffered and died for me, but apart from being a good story, I never understood what it meant. When I was 14 I attended a 3-night evangelistic crusade where I began to understand the Gospel message. On one of those nights, I was deeply convicted and surrendered my life to Jesus. As the years went on, however, I traded my devotional life for the love of the world. I followed and pursued my own lusts and desires, which inevitably ended up causing myself and my loved ones much stress and grief. All the while, I knew deep down that the way I was living was not in alignment with how Jesus called me to live. As the years went on, a greater conviction of my need for God began to take place in my heart. Over time I began attending church more regularly and had a desire to study the word of God in a way that I had never experienced before. I began to notice that God was putting people in my life who explained the gospel and its message, less as good stories and more as how they related to a personal relationship with Christ. Slowly I began to feel a profound inward draw towards God until the summer of 2019 when it became so great that I fell on my knees and recommitted myself to him. I still had many questions about my faith and began attending Thursday Morning Theology. I sought answers for many questions, but the assurance of my salvation weighed heavily on me. It was during the classes on justification, sanctification and glorification that I began to realize the legal implications of what Christ had done for me on the cross. Gradually, I began to understand the profoundness of the Gospel. I want to be baptized to publicly declare my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as the perfect atonement for my sins and to live the rest of my life, as obediently as I am able to.

LEANNE STOKES

Baptizer: Tommy Stokes, Son | Downes Road Campus



I was born into a family of mixed ethnicities. My father was an older Ukrainian man and my mother (half his age) was a German woman. She was the daughter of a Mennonite minister and we adored our German grandparents. Growing up was often not a pleasant experience as my father was a cruel, mean man and we always feared him. However, my German grandparents always made sure we attended the daily Vacation Bible School at their church every summer and perhaps this was my first recollection of God.

As a teenager, I moved out and met my husband, whose parents both had a strong, Christian faith. I couldn't help but want what they had - the peace, hope, and faith in a higher power, our Lord. It wasn't until after I gave birth to my two children that I knew they had to be raised knowing our Lord and Saviour and the way that would happen was for me to give my life to Him as well. Our family faced a tragedy two winters ago when a terrible car accident claimed the lives of two people and left one of the young ladies in critical condition for months. We knew the people involved and prayed constantly for the family members left behind from this tragedy. I witnessed all of these prayers being answered. This tragedy brought me closer to God and His healing hands through the many answered prayers. I just said over and over again, "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

I can't say my walk is easy but He gives me the strength and peace I need to continue that walk. I often struggle to let Him take over my cares and worries and to be faithful in that. I look forward to the many things that are in store for me walking in His Grace.

JASON TIEGEN

Baptizer: Brenden Sharp, Nephew | Downes Road Campus



I was brought up in a Christian home. Sunday mornings and evenings we went to church. As a young teenager, I made the decision to follow Christ and asked Him into my heart. I knew it was my destiny in life. There was a time as a young teenager when the things of the world become much more intriguing and I started to stray. As I headed into my early 20's I become enthralled in these things and found myself making some poor choices. I met my wife in my mid 20's and we married 3 years later. For a time I was back on track, but again I began to lose my way. In my early 30's my father passed away quite suddenly. His death shook the entire foundation which I had built my life on, I made a very big change in my life. I felt the blinders come off and I saw the world from a whole new perspective. I had just lost my father, business partner, and best friend. My heart was broken and I knew deep inside the only person that could mend it was Christ. This is what I call my great awakening. I realized life was short and I needed to return to the path and commitment I had made as a child.

Over the past 13-14 years, Christ has been working in my life in many different ways. He has directed me on a path that has shown me and taught me to be patient and loving towards others. First of all with my immediate family, and secondly with others around me. At this time, getting baptized is my commitment to Christ to follow Him the rest of my days and to let others know of that commitment.

GABRIEL VAN DER WESTHUIZEN

Baptizer: David van der Westhuizen, Father | Downes Road Campus



I grew up in a Christian household and I remember attending children's ministry and being surrounded by my loving family and God's grace. My parents dedicated me to the Lord when I was young and I have always believed that there is a God who is in control of everything. I didn't stress too much as a child because I knew that He would never let anything bad happen. I committed my life to God at a young age but I didn't really know what that meant.

My family was forced to leave South Africa when I was 7 years old. We kept moving around until I was about 13 years old. Even though we were moving houses and apartments, and my parents seemed stressed and scared about not knowing the next step and where we were going to end up, I felt like the situation never really hit me. I started trying to attend church once we had settled down, around the age of 14. I remember confessing to the Lord that I could not do my life without Him. It wasn't until I went to Chubb Lake Camp with my high school youth group that I truly understood what it meant to be a Christian, and I decided to rededicate my life to following Jesus. After that, I felt as though something in me had completely changed and I had a deep conviction that my next step was baptism.

I met my fiancé and as we have grown closer together I started to realize that I want God to be at the center of our relationship. Neither of us have been baptized and we wanted to grow together with God at the center. Baptism is the next step for me to declare what I believe to everyone.

KATHERINE WEIHER

Baptizer: Danielle Erber-Weiher, Mother | Mission Campus



Growing up in a Christian household, I was exposed to Christianity right from the start. Each summer I attended local Vacation Bible School (VBS) weeks and every Sunday I attended church with my family. My faith felt rocky, with times where I felt distant from God. Throughout middle school, I felt an emptiness while struggling with anxiety. Fast forward to high school when I became more involved with our youth group and began to spend time reading the Bible. I had a desire to learn more at church each week and about what living out your life as a Christian meant.

At the start of my Grade 12 year, I lost a close friend in an accident. Her faith in Christ was strong, and it forced me to step back. My world was shaken more than ever, and I realized I couldn't continue on in my own strength. I accepted Jesus into my heart as my Lord and Saviour, and haven't looked back since.

I have been volunteering with middle school students this past year, which has increased my faith and desire to learn and grow in Christ. God has challenged me this year, especially these last months, but I find myself digging deeper into His Word, learning about His love for me, and leaning on His strength. I know that I have a purpose amidst the chaos. I am so thankful for how the Lord has worked in my life, and how He will continue to work through me in this next chapter of my life.

EMILY WIEBE

Baptizer: Laura Wiebe, Mother | Downes Road Campus



Being raised in a home of believers, Christianity has always been something that I was comfortable with. I knew all the Sunday School answers, and have never known my life without God. I could recite all the memory verses, sing all the songs, and check off all the boxes, but my faith wasn't mine.

Growing up, I went through seasons where I felt distant from God. He was always there, but sometimes got pushed to the side, and I would focus on other things. When I see myself without God, chasing after the things that my flesh wants, I hate that person. I have realized that I am incapable of living a good life on my own and that I need God living in me. I can't recall a specific time or place in my life where I came to accept Christ as my Saviour, but as I grew up, my faith developed into my own. I started to become aware of His presence in my life and as I matured, I desired to know and love the Lord even more. I could start to see Him working in my life, and see the ways He was changing my heart.

With my plans (and the rest of the world's) being flipped on their heads this past season, God has taught me that only He remains steadfast, nothing else has that ability. Plans that I thought were sealed and definite have vanished, and the only thing that remains true is God. Hebrews 13:8 tells us, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Whatever challenges I face in my life, I know that I am not walking through them alone, but walking with the strength of Jesus in me.

ELISABETH WILLETT

Baptizer: Patti Gerbrand, Friend | East Abbotsford Campus



I was raised in a Christian home and my parents had me dedicated as an infant. I was fortunate to grow up in a Christian bubble and attended church, a Christian school, and a Christian summer camp.

As a young child, I accepted Jesus into my heart. In high school, I went on several school-led missions trips during my March breaks. My identity was not rooted in Jesus, though, so when I graduated, my Christian school safety net was gone. I was not plugged into my church and felt disconnected from the people and the sermons. From here, my church attendance became irregular and then stopped.

God got my attention with a brain tumour diagnosis. My busy life became suddenly still. The Holy Spirit was convicting me to get right with God. I felt like something was missing. I knew I wasn't living the way God intended me to. My Mom kept reminding me how she was praying for me and kept telling me that God still loved me. I realized that I knew of God but didn't really know God. My relationship with Him needed work and I was ready to make a change.

We moved to BC and I was invited by a friend to women's Bible Study. I am trying to learn from my mistakes and grow by surrounding myself with Christian women, attending Bible study regularly, and reading the Bible on my own. I attend church regularly with my children and we volunteer together. I want to follow Jesus and be a godly example to my children so that they know that having head knowledge about the Bible is not the same as a personal relationship with Christ. I am choosing now to be baptized so my children can witness me following Jesus' example.



Northview

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