

Baptism Testimonies

June 12-13, 2021



**Saturday
4pm**

Andrew Mclelland

I was raised in a Christian home and a part of a long line of Christians that dates back to my great grandparents and earlier. As a result, I was always surrounded by many Christian influences and people in both my home and extended family. When I was ten years old, I attended a VBS camp where I prayed to the Lord, inviting Him into my heart and accepting Him as my saviour.

I went to public school from start to finish, and my experience was that I struggled to find Christian influences in my peers and did not attend a regular youth group. As a result, my faith was young and simple, and did not see much growth during those years. When I finally graduated high school, I found myself feeling without purpose at a crossroads not knowing what I wanted to do with my life. Because of this, I walked my own way without thought of God, as I felt God was silent at that time.

I decided to join a community group, and the relationships I formed there kept me anchored to the Lord through the study of his word and the relationships I formed there. Eventually, after a conversation with my Dad who shared with me that the Lord had said to him that He was calling me, I prayed obediently and turned myself back to God. Since then, the Lord has blessed me immeasurably with dear friends, allowed me to grow as a follower and a youth leader in His church. Trusting that God has a plan and would lead me to where he wanted to me to be in relationships, work, and life has been a difficult challenge to overcome. But God has shown me that even when you don't know it, He is always working in and guiding your life with careful precision and meticulous planning.

Nicolas Jimenez

I have known about God and Jesus for as long as I can remember, but I never really believed it until I was around 14 years old. Before I really became a believer and follower of Christ, I was getting in trouble at school, keeping secrets, and struggling in some other parts of my life. Then, God used Covid-19 to remove me from my regular environment and to develop a deeper understanding of what matters in life.

Over the last 12 months I had a lot of opportunities to reflect on my choices and I decided to open my heart to Jesus. I have chosen to be more transparent and be accountable to my dad, who has been part of this process, and that helped me to stop the secrecy and focus on what is important. There were many times during this process that I felt God very close to me, guiding me and protecting me on the journey. I had never felt anything like that before and it was very encouraging and impactful for my faith to have those moments.

Then, in September last year I started going to Bible study at Northview and it helped me a lot because from the beginning of Covid until September, I hadn't been connecting with any other believers besides my family. We studied 2nd Corinthians and answered questions about Christianity which greatly impacted me. Another thing that we did this year that led me to get baptized, was the Alpha course through Northview. We did that as a family and it really helped answer a lot of questions that I had.

This process has transformed me, and I want to live a life that resembles more what Jesus wants me to do. Now, as a person committed to follow Jesus' example, I recognize that I will still struggle, but I have a new sense of purpose and I know God is always with me through it all. I am doing much better than when I was trying without God and without an accountability partner.

I want to get baptized so that I can publicly show that I am a Christian and that I believe and trust in Jesus. He is at the center of my life.

**Saturday
6pm**

August Enns

I was born and raised in a loving Christian family, and I accepted Jesus into my heart around the age of five. As early as I can remember, my parents and grandparents told me about the Bible and Jesus' love for me. As I got older, I didn't really have a personal faith in Jesus apart from my family. In middle school, I wasn't really focused on God or actively pursuing a relationship with Him.

However, in grade 9, I had the desire to have my own faith, and see for myself what living for Jesus looked like. But I struggled with trusting God. These last few years, a lot of my time was spent stressing about other people's perceptions of me. These thinking patterns led me away from God and towards anxiousness, and it was hard to see why God was letting me go through this for so many years. But God revealed Himself to me, and I realized that I needed to trust that God does all things for a reason, and I needed to trust Him even when I couldn't see the whole picture.

I am continually being taught to trust in His plan even though I can't see the outcome. Since God took that weight off my shoulders, He has shown me peace and joy like never before, and I have such freedom in having a personal relationship in Him. God led me to baptism as the next step in my faith journey, and I'm excited to deepen my relationship with Jesus.

Deanna Enns

I grew up in a Christian home. I remember around the age of five praying with my dad and asking Jesus to be in my heart. I went to a Christian high school and, once I graduated, I got married. Now I have three amazing kids.

After my husband and I were married for a few years, we went through a heartbreaking miscarriage. Shortly after, I found out we were expecting again, but seemed as though I had miscarried for a second time. I prayed to God to help me through this, and to give me peace. I had opened my bible and Isaiah 34:15 was the verse he gave to me. Well, He sure answered my prayers because when I went to the hospital to get an ultrasound they saw a baby with a very strong heartbeat. Even though there were complications along the way God gave me a healthy baby girl.

I have seen all the good things God has done in my life and the prayers he has answered and I am so thankful he has given me friends and family that are so encouraging. I believe Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sins. I have always known I want to get baptized but never had the perfect opportunity until my daughter recently asked if we could do it together. So, together we will take that step and publicly declare our faith.

Sean Nolan

When I was around 5 years old my parents explained salvation to me and I accepted Jesus into my heart so that he could let his light shine through me.

I never really understood what a personal relationship with Jesus Christ was until two years later when I was at day camp, that's when it all clicked in.

I knew that everyone was a sinner and that Jesus died to save us, that he died for me..... and that he loves me.

When I was 6yrs old I broke my arm, 2 days before my family and I were going on a mission trip with Northview(Children of Hope) to an orphanage in Mexico(Pan de Vita). When they cast my arm it hadn't set right and my trip to the orphanage was in jeopardy, I was scheduled for surgery the next day, but overnight my arm had healed and the surgery wasn't needed, that was a miracle in my life, and an answer to prayer.

There has never been a moment in my life where I felt God wasn't by my side.

Getting Baptist is the next step in my relationship with Jesus to fully surrender myself to Him.

Katherine Klassen

Faith, hope, and prayer are the three values that have helped shape my journey into Christian life. My faith has taught me to believe in a God that we cannot see but can be seen through the evidence of His creation. Just taking one look at the details of nature surrounding me, I cannot help but believe that someone incredible has designed everything so uniquely, for it to all work together. Even the complexity of our human bodies and emotions, it is all written in the word and points to God. Anchored to my faith is hope. My hope is found in Jesus, who saved me from my sins and gave me a new sanctified life. Whenever hard times do come in my life, I can rely on and trust God to bring me through it.

It is during the lows in life, that I find praying gives me peace of mind and strength to endure. During these times, I learn to persevere and grow as a person in faith.

Currently, I am in a time in my life where I want to take the next step in my Christian life; Baptism.

For the longest time I have lived as a quiet 'closet' Christian. I have felt the push to surrender and let go of my 'old life' and to start living as a faithful follower of Christ. What has held me back is not so much fear, but I believe my divided attention. I often find myself spending time not on God or His word, as often as I should. Instead, I am either wrapped up with spending my time on social media, TV shows, my friends and family or within myself, rather than fixing my eyes to what is truly important, Jesus.

This opportunity of Baptism and the idea of surrendering, letting go of my 'old life' and starting to let God take the lead and not me. I want to no longer be a quiet 'closet' Christian and keep the wonderful news of the Saviour to myself. Instead, becoming a true follower and sharing the Lord to others without shrinking back. Tying the values: faith, hope and prayer together, is my love for God. My love for God and for the desire to serve others through everything that I do, has led me to the decision of Baptism today.

**Sunday
9am**

Jesse Bruins

My name is Jesse Bruins and I am 9 years old. I don't really remember life without Jesus because I was very young when I accepted Him into my heart. So I am very blessed to be in a family that loves God and trusts in Him. My mom and dad love reading the Bible and studying it and I can ask them about Jesus whenever I have questions. They are a great example for me. My sister Chloe knows a lot about Jesus and the Bible too.

Having Jesus in my life feels good because it feels like someone is there when I have a problem. Sometimes I pray and ask God to help me solve my problems. Eventually things always work out because God is in charge. People in my school who are not Christians are not as kind because they weren't taught to be. I hope that I am acting like a Christian because I am kind and respectful in school and to my teachers.

Sometimes I need to be careful what I say because some things would be inappropriate and that's a bad example as a Christian. I hope that when I get older I find a wife who believes in God and is kind and then teach our kids about Jesus. I am so happy that Jesus is in my heart!

Jessica Friedenstab

I was born and raised in a Christian home where at the age of 5 I gave my life to the Lord and decided to follow him. Through my journey as a Christian, I cannot remember a time where I didn't know who Jesus was and what he has done for me. However, it wasn't until high school that I started to make my faith my own and grow deeper in my relationship with God.

My struggle with anxiety and depression led me to question and challenge what I believed and how my relationship with God was being impacted. But I was surrounded by friends and family who encouraged me to go deeper in my relationship with God and I started to grapple with the questions and challenges I had, as well as, understanding what my faith means to me and how I should live my life.

Through those experiences, I made my faith my own and felt equipped to face the hard challenges of life. God has since been challenging and teaching me how to trust him and even in the hard and unexpected times, he is my rock and strong foundation. My decision to get baptized is to make a public declaration of my faith and declare that I will follow him wherever he calls me.

Leah Willms

I grew up in a Christian home and committed my life to Jesus at the age of four. Although I grew up going to church and youth group, it was not until middle school that I started to make my faith my own. At summer camp in grade eight, I encountered the Holy Spirit and felt an overwhelming sense of peace. I recommitted my life to Jesus that night and I remember falling asleep with the biggest smile on my face.

High school brought the end of a lot of friendships and I struggled with loneliness. However, I drew nearer to God in that time and often found myself praying when I was alone. My biggest prayer was for a Christian friend.

After high school, I attended Columbia Bible College and it radically changed my view of the Bible and Christian life. I was confronted with aspects of my faith I had never considered before and I grew a lot in my relationship with God. I was blessed to have the opportunity to travel to Israel for three weeks with a group from CBC and so many Bible stories came to life by physically walking the Holy Land. God also answered my prayer for a Christian friend while at Bible school and I have the most amazing best friend who is also getting baptized with me!

As someone who prefers to be in control and is a perfectionist, God has taught me a lot about surrender and trust, as well as grace. I am excited to take this next step in my faith and declare my commitment to God and His plan for my life.

Kaelin Bergstresser

I was fortunate to be placed by God in a strong Christian family. My parents introduced me to God and brought me to Northview's Sunday school program. At the age of four, I invited Jesus into my heart and life. I have always known who Jesus was because I was a Christian at such a young age. There wasn't really a time before I knew Christ, I have always known Him and have grown up with a strong faith.

There have been good times and rough times. In grade six I had anxiety. I reached out to God during that trial and it was a point in my life where I realized that I needed Him more than anything. He is everything. When I look back at that trying time in my life, I am very glad I got the opportunity to go through something like that. If I didn't have that experience, I wouldn't have learned to completely rely on Him.

God has always been working in my life trying to mold me into someone more like Him. Sometimes when I am having a bad day mentally, I will find myself reading a devotional or an article online that applies to my situation perfectly. Coincidence? I don't think so. He works in big and small ways, but He is always working. I am super excited for the journey ahead. I know there will be bumps along the way - some big, some small. I know that when I rely only on Him those bumps will shape my character.

I find comfort in James 1:2-3 knowing that God uses trials for my good: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance."

Levi Bergstresser

I was born and raised in a Christian family and I attend church and youth group. I was baptized as a baby but always wanted to declare my faith. I accepted Jesus at a young age and learned the key points of Christianity. Around 13 years old, my family participated in a course on the Christian worldview. The course was called Lightbearers. This significantly helped me on my Christian journey because I learned how to defend my faith and how God expects us to live our lives.

Over the last couple of years, I have had many questions that I could not answer. One big question was, how could God create Satan? I looked more deeply into this question and realized that Satan was a fallen angel. God created him good and then he rebelled. My questions drove me to open His Word to find answers, and this led me to develop a habit of reading a portion of the Bible daily. During this time, I felt that I grew closer to God. Many of my questions were answered but some were not. I have realized that I don't have to know everything. I felt reading God's word not only brought me close to Him but also made me reflect on all that He has done for me. I am blessed to have a great youth group that talks about the struggles of the Christian life.

One of my favourite verses is Psalm 37:23-24. It says this, "The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand."

God will be with me in the hard times, but I will not fall, He is forever with me.

Rebecca Toews

I grew up in a Christian home and school. Bible stories and adventures in Odyssey were classics in my household. I think I accepted Jesus into my heart around 10 times while I was growing up but it wasn't until I was 12 or 13 when I started to take my faith into my own hands. I was going through the motions of a good Christian girl; I did and said the right things but I had no relationship with Christ. During my 8th grade year my Christian bubble had been popped. This struggle led me to evaluate my faith, to try to understand if I actually believed what I said I did.

At the same time, I had entered high school and got involved with my high school youth group and leaders. I learned how to read my bible and how to pray and I really felt God's presence as I decided to pursue this relationship more. In the last three years I have learned how to shift my priorities to glorify Christ and how to be confident in my beliefs. I

In March of 2020 I was planning to be baptized shortly after a mission's trip. Due to Covid-19 the mission's trip and baptism never happened. As I look back on that decision, I realize that God's timing is far better than mine. I had misconceptions about baptism and my reasoning wasn't what it should have been.

I believe now that Baptism is my own personal declaration of faith, a step taken in obedience to God. I don't have to be perfect, I just have to understand that I am committing my entire life to Jesus Christ. This is the beginning of a lifetime of being continually loved and sanctified towards Christ through God's good grace.

Richard Heriot

I come from a large family who didn't regularly attend church. My father was an avid fisherman so weekends were spent fishing and camping. After graduation I left home and my life revolved around having a good time with a secular crowd with little thought about religion.

My career involved working with offenders to become law abiding citizens. I worked with a number of pastors and Christian organizations who provided services to offenders and it helped link my beliefs more towards Christian teachings and understanding.

I met my wife Darlene; who is Christian, and we were married in 1980. We raised three wonderful daughters providing a Christian home, Christian education and we continue to encourage them and the grandchildren to develop a relationship with God.

Throughout our marriage of 40 + years, my wife has always been the mainstay for encouraging me and the children to develop a better relationship with God. She has provided tireless support for the family. We regularly attend church and have made Northview our home church for over 10 years. We have done Missions trips to an Orphanage in Jamaica which I found very rewarding.

So you're probably thinking "what took him so long to decide to get baptized? Although I have had a relationship with God for many years, I found it difficult to know when I was ready to be baptised. It's hard to explain. I always wanted to be a perfect role model but my early non-Christian lifestyle, coupled with working with offenders a good part of my life, has left scars with respect to empathy, anger and compassion. I simply didn't believe I was worthy to be baptized. However; since I retired, I feel that I have been growing spiritually and I can see the difference God is making in my life.

In a way, the fact that I am standing here about to be baptised is an example of the faith and trust I have in the Lord.

As Jesus said "baptism is an important step". I now see that my baptism is both a symbol and a celebration of my sins being washed away. I have accepted Jesus into my heart, and through his actions of dying on the cross, my sins have been forgiven and I have the promise of eternal life. I know that God loves me and is always willing to listen and guide me.

**Sunday
11am**

Hailey Bosch

I was born into a loving Christian home. My parents are both very involved in the church, so Christianity has been a part of my everyday life since before I can even remember. I don't even know when I first committed my life to Christ. I know it was when I was 5 or 6, but I only did it because it was what everyone else was doing.

I didn't prioritize my relationship with Christ for the longest time and just saw it as a mundane addition to my regular routine. But over the years, I have seen God working in my life. Nothing big or crazy, but through little things. My family has been in the process of building a house for the last 6 years and His involvement in different parts of it all has been obvious. Whether it was finally getting our permit approved after months of waiting or a certain trade showing up and finishing a job earlier than expected, His hand has been obvious in all of it.

I didn't really consider baptism for the longest time. I thought that there needed to be a significant event in my life or that I needed to reach a certain level of Christianity to get baptized. But in a conversation with my dad, he helped me realize that it is a commitment to doing my best to following Jesus. When people came to Christ in the book of Acts, the first thing they did was get baptized. They didn't know all the theology or have a bible reading routine, they just knew that the Gospel was the truth. So I figured I could make that commitment as well.

My story isn't very exciting... there wasn't a specific event in my life that forced me to realize my need for Christ. But I have been constantly reminded of His power and sovereignty. He has shown me that He is in control, even if I only notice it in the little things. And I am so incredibly thankful for that.

Sam Bosch

My life without Christ is non-existent as I grew up in a Christian home and am very thankful for that.

I have always known and believed in God but never really cared or pursued his love until middle school. I am trying more and more but I know that I will not know the answer to a lot of different things but I am ok with that because God is far greater than any of us.

Right now I am studying his word and trying to live the life of Christ and I know that the next step and one that I should've taken a long time ago is baptism.

Stephanie Orozco

I grew up in a Christian family and heard about Jesus and his stories all the time however because I had Jesus already in my life I did not feel his presence or knew much knowledge of the Bible.

Of course, I heard the famous bible stories but it did not feel like I wanted to follow him or what a Christian should do. Then God opened my eyes and got me the desire to follow him and live a life like him. God helped me see him through my friends and family; they have been supporting and are such an inspiration in my life.

The hardest part that I struggle with in my life is trying to become perfect and having control over everything and because of that it becomes stress and goes through stomach pain and headaches. I recognized that I am a sinner and that I know that I am not perfect; no one is perfect except Jesus. I didn't want to be living a life full of stress but to follow God and know that he will be with me through the tough times and know that I am not alone.

God has shown me that even if I make a mistake or if things don't go the way I plan it. I have to trust in him and know that he has greater plans for me.

Gabby Marazzi

I grew up in a Christian home and school. Bible stories and Adventures in Odyssey were classics in my household. I think I accepted Jesus into my heart around 10 times while I was growing up but it wasn't until I was 12 or 13 when I started to take my faith into my own hands. I was going through the motions of a good Christian girl; I did and said the right things but I had no relationship with Christ. During my 8th grade year my Christian bubble had been popped. This struggle led me to evaluate my faith, to try to understand if I actually believed what I said I did.

At the same time, I had entered high school and got it involved with my high school youth group and leaders. I learned how to read my bible and how to pray and I really felt God's presence as I decided to pursue this relationship more. In the last three years I have learned how to shift my priorities to glorify Christ and how to be confident in my beliefs.

In March of 2020 I was planning to be baptized shortly after a mission's trip. Due to Covid-19 the missions trip and baptism never happened. As I look back on that decision, I realize that God's timing is far better than mine. I had misconceptions about baptism and my reasoning wasn't what it should have been. I believe now that Baptism is my own personal declaration of faith, a step taken in obedience to God. I don't have to be perfect, I just have to understand that I am committing my entire life to Jesus Christ. This is the beginning of a lifetime of being continually loved and sanctified towards Christ through God's good good grace.

Kailynn Harris

I grew up in a non Christian family, moving around a lot. I tried to search for something that would stay instead of disappear all the time. I went through so many friends before I accepted Jesus Christ as my lord and saviour. I was in a rough place with my family, I would listen to all the fights during the middle of the night.

I would wake up the next morning and go to school wishing things would change. I even tried moving households to live with my other parent, but I never felt at peace. I remember being so drawn towards my cousin's family, I found myself spending the weekends with her and sleeping over. That was the only time I truly felt at peace.

I realized that the reason I felt so happy there, was because I could feel the strong presence of God in their house. I could sense that He was calling my name. I started to follow Him, spending more time with Rachel and her family at church.

Each sleepover I would go to, I would hear these incredible stories from the bible about Jesus and His disciples read by my amazing aunt. Sometimes I would spend the night at my childhood best friend Ally's house where we would both pray together before eating and before going to sleep. Slowly I felt as if I fit perfectly into the lifestyle they live, with God.

Since then God has given me so much; from new friends to peace in both homes. I've been given the strength to battle and push through all the challenges that have come towards me. I have never felt so much love in my life then when Jesus was brought into it.

Rachel Beaulieu

I was brought up in a christian home. I went to church every Sunday with my family and learned Bible stories in Sunday school. Then, one night when I was eleven years old. I had a sleepover with my cousin. The next day my family took her to church for the first time.

After that, whenever I saw her, she was always asking me hard questions about who this saviour is? and why would he save me? I didn't know how to answer them, so I went to my parents for answers. And as my cousin learned, I learned.

I learned the God sent his son from heaven to die for us on the cross for our sins. I learned that he has a plan for me, and will help me and walk with me throughout my life. I also learned about this new hop God has promised us that when I die I will go to heaven and be with my creator for all eternity. I am still growing in my faith and I am encouraged by my familiy and friends.

Josiah Driedger

I've grown up in a Christian home and I became a Christian when I was twelve. Even though I had heard all the Bible stories while growing up it didn't really mean anything in my life until I went to a summer camp. While there, my eyes were opened to Jesus' love, grace and mercy. Opened to the fact that Jesus died the death I should have died when I was in no way deserving of His love.

Through my years of middle school and early high school I struggled a lot with self-confidence and feeling alone. Even though I went to church, youth group, and a Christian community group called YoungLife, I always felt like an outsider and that I was alone in my struggles.

Although God was still a part of my life, I never read the bible on my own and my prayers didn't have much thought put into them. I strived for the approval and acceptance of others, while just trying to fit in. Over the last couple years I have grown tired of striving for these things that give me no real satisfaction. I knew I had to turn to God but I was struggling on my own.

Last year, in the midst of a pandemic, my family moved to Abbotsford. I was going into my grade twelve year and had no idea what to expect with a new school and all that was happening. My parents just kept telling me to trust God. I clung on to those words and I can't believe where they have taken me. My family started attending Northview and here I was able to meet great youth leaders and friends who have helped me on my journey in strengthening my faith.

God gave me the courage to share my struggles with these people and they have been super inviting and made sure that I know that I'm never alone in my struggles. I have been reading my bible consistently and prayer is an important part of my day. God has been teaching me to trust him through all things and when I feel like striving for worldly things or feel alone, to remember that Jesus is everything I need.

Reagan Wiebe

With being born into a fantastic Christian family, I was 4 years old when I believed in Jesus and what he had done for me on the way back from church one Sunday, and I prayed with my parents confessing my belief and need for Jesus. I am very thankful that my faith journey started at a young age even though my faith could be a lot stronger knowing God more. Going into grade 10, God showed me that I can lean to him for decisions and for it to be for his good will. I left my school to play hockey, but I had an injury for the whole year. My identity had been in hockey and with this injury, The Lord taught me that my identity should be in him and I should be okay with losing anything if I have him.

Before my senior year, I had my faith but if I were to look back during that year I had very little growth and I wasn't super solid with decisions. It felt like I just existed with God. My faith was weak and if I were to express what I believed in, my actions would not follow my words. All my struggles were either hidden and not talked about or they were oblivious in that somehow, I didn't realize it was bad. In grade 12, the day my youth leader went out with me, God showed me how broken I was and How I needed to depend on Him and flee from my sins.

My life turned drastically, and I learned how desperately I needed God in my life. God showed me the importance of community and how you cannot handle your problems on your own and you're not the only one to struggle. Having this real talk about how actually you are right now with Jesus was huge and I never had these deep powerful conversations until having a group growing together loving God more and more every day. I learnt how important bible study really is and being involved equips you for the world and in my case going to hockey. God used my weaknesses to reach to others to show his glory and bring them closer to God or stir their hearts. Growing deeper in my faith has also taught me to be bold and I am not worried about proclaiming my faith to anyone because I know that the spirit will use me and it's not me changing the hearts of people.

Because I have this faith, getting baptized is the next step to showing a public commitment to walk in Christ. It will show that I have given up myself and left it behind and will live for God. It will show that I openly confess that Jesus is my saviour, and I will continue to grow in my faith through God's good will and that my sins are already washed away on the cross and that I will live in repentance.

Sunday
530pm

Makenna Van Muyen

In middle school and high school, I often cared about what others thought about me and never really acknowledged what God says about me. I never wanted to talk about my faith and now looking back on it, I was ashamed when people who were not Christians asked me about it. I grew up in a Christian home and had gone to Abbotsford Christian School my whole life. I never spend time reading my Bible unless it was for a school assignment.

In grade 11, I had an opportunity to go to Belize and I felt what I thought then to be an urge telling me to go but now I know it was the Holy Spirit. While in Belize, God pulled at my heart and tore it apart. I had never experienced God like that and after that I began reading my Bible a lot more often. In grade 12, I had another opportunity to go to Central America, to a country called Nicaragua, once again I felt the Holy Spirit saying, "Makenna, I want you there." So, I went. With this trip being in the middle of a global pandemic and the unknown of our return home, I really had to trust that God was in control of my situation and trust that, even though I did not know what God was doing, He did.

Since coming home from Nicaragua and graduating, I have learned that no matter what is going on in my life, it has no comparison to God's unfailing love and security. I have come to know how much He truly loves me and how far He was willing to go in order to prove it. I know wholeheartedly that I cannot go through life without Him and am so ready to follow God, in every aspect of my life.

Jenny Postma

I grew up in the Church and have been a Christian for as long as I can remember. I accepted Christ early on in my life, but I didn't truly understand what it meant to follow Him, and so my faith was shallow and immature. When I reached high school, I fell into a dark period as my home life had become increasingly dysfunctional, and my mental health was rapidly declining. God seemed far off and absent - I could no longer comprehend what the purpose of my life was. My prayers were sparse and short, and as time went on I was convinced that I was totally and completely on my own.

In my later teens, God convicted me of the sin in my life. That was the first time I was fully aware not only of how lost I had been, but how great His gift of forgiveness was. My struggles did not immediately vanish, but I finally felt like there was someone standing beside me to help me walk through them. I recommitted myself to Christ, and started seeking Him, through prayer, literature, and solid Christian teaching.

Over the years I've had to navigate relational breakdowns, mental health challenges and fears about the future. Most recently I walked through the sudden and unexpected loss of a parent. The only explanation I have for coming out on the other side of that trauma has been the constant, relentless pursuit and presence of Jesus. He continues to soften my heart, to open my eyes to the wounds that still need healing and the sin that I will forever need saving from. My decision to be baptized is part of an acknowledgment that I want God, and not fear, to have full control over my life.

Tiana Beirnes

I attended Sunday school as a young child as my mom wanted my sister and I to learn about Jesus and who he was. As we grew older, we could make a personal decision to continue our journey of faith. Unfortunately, my desire was lost because I was involved in many extracurricular activities.

Throughout my childhood I found myself praying and talking to God, although I did not understand what these meant for my faith and trust in God. I never knew if God was listening, but I realized this was something I wanted to explore further.

When I went on a Rotary club-sponsored trip in Grade 11, I reconnected with the pastor of my childhood church, bringing me back into the Christian community. Then, during my Mexico Missions trip in Grade 12, prayer and talking to God felt much stronger to me. This was unquestionably a turning point in my journey. Once I returned, I wanted to discover my faith and relationship with God and became involved in a local church. Yet, while building my Christian community, I did not feel as connected to that church. I was shy and wanted a place where I could ask questions without judgement.

I then moved to Spain for a year and saw God working in my life in the smallest ways. Upon returning to Canada, I continued my search for a healthy church. Thankfully, my friend Anita led me to Northview three years ago. My time at Northview has provided a strong connection within a community group and I have seen God direct me in interesting and fulfilling ways, which have been the best opportunities. It has been a long journey towards discovering my faith on my own. Throughout this time, I have deepened my understanding of the gospel and have overcome my shyness when sharing my faith with others. I am confident I am ready to be baptized and am overjoyed to grow closer to Jesus and publicly declare my relationship with him.

Kaed Funk

I grew up in a christian home and “accepted” Jesus at a fairly young age. Like many others at my age, I didn't know what that meant. So, besides following the rules and occasionally feeling guilty about certain things, it didn't have much of an impact on my life really. From the time that I “accepted” christ, and then all the way through high school, I don't even think I could call myself a christian. I would have said that I was. You would have seen me at church on the weekend, but by the way I would speak and act, I was no different than the rest of the world. To me, Christianity was such a small part of my life, and my view of it was so twisted. To my understanding, the bible was just a big boring book of rules that I couldn't follow and ultimately ended up making me feel nothing but guilt and shame when I couldn't live up to it. So for most of the time leading up to graduating high school, I had a weak, shallow faith. And unfortunately, that was okay with me.

After high school I went to New Zealand for 6 weeks on a short Capernwray program, and that 6 weeks brought me so much closer to God and helped me to understand that Christianity is so much more than just rules. I learned how much I need God and found joy in the fact that Jesus died for me so that I don't have to feel guilt or shame all the time, and that I can have comfort knowing that the loving God forgives me. Since then I've been getting more involved in community, and serving my church and also spending more time in the word. And now I'm so pumped that I get to be baptized to publicly declare my surrender and full commitment of my life to God. I'm so excited to take this next step and see where the Lord takes me.

Mitchell Vanderlinde

I was born into a loving Christian household and had a good relationship with Jesus throughout my life. Like any person I fell into temptations that grew and consumed my lifestyle. I didn't give up on Jesus but I didn't pay attention to him either. I would say I was going with my fleshly desires.

A little back story to my life would be, I was born with a heart condition and have had to undergo 4 open heart surgeries which changed my life. Things were definitely not easy and it didn't get easier as I had to also undergo a hip surgery sometime later. God was always with me and I knew he had a purpose for my life however, grabbing onto that purpose was tough. There was a moment in my life where I struggled through depression and thoughts of not being good enough kept filling my mind, through this I felt the Holy Spirit comfort me and tell me that things would be better and that these earthly things did not matter.

I also struggled with an addiction that I believe most men struggle with however it was one that I knew I needed rescuing from and it was something that with the help of the Holy Spirit I was able to overcome.

I felt my walk with God pick back up and I felt a new hunger for the word that I had not felt before. I know God has a plan for my life and he has been teaching me great things, one in particular is about the Armor of God and its importance in daily putting it on. The reason for wanting to take water baptism is because I want to acknowledge what God has done in my life and I felt the Holy Spirit's promptings to take this next step.

Brayden King

Before I gave my life to Christ, I was completely lost. I had just graduated high school and re-took my old job on a whim. I had no idea where I was going or who or what I wanted to be.

At that time, God brought himself to me through a slew of new Christian co-workers who all shared the Gospel to me in different ways. They told me stories of their faith, and it was through them that I decided to pick up a Bible for the first time. As soon as I began reading I couldn't stop, and it felt like every passage had a new lesson for me to learn.

I've believed ever since. Everyday God teaches me new things through His word, the people around me and the events that take place in my life, and even helping me come to revelations by myself through prayer and meditation. God has been there with me in times of loneliness and solitude, and in times of togetherness and happiness. Most recently He has begun to help me process the emotions of a break up with the person I thought I was meant to marry. I don't know where I'd be without Him.

Tanner Geary

I did not grow up in a Christian household, but I always held a belief in God, the idea of some sort of “higher power”, and I found myself turning to him in times of need or when I was feeling a strong sense of gratitude. I took a step further when my grandmother gave me a King James bible as a graduation present. In the following months, I would read that bible every once in a while.

When I was 19 I found myself falling apart, doing things I wasn't proud of and without a sense of what to do or where to turn. At my lowest point, I found myself in the middle of the night praying to God, asking for forgiveness and direction, and that if he helped me then I would follow without question. When I think about that now it seems clear to me that He answered.

Several months later, I met my now girlfriend, Chelsea, and she invited me to my first church service. I was nervous but the sermon had a theme of something that was a huge part of my life and I just felt like I was supposed to be there. I felt that same feeling later when I invited my mom and sisters who came for a very similar service.

All these experiences come together to strengthen my belief in God. My girlfriend and I switched churches and started attending Northview about one year ago. After we switched, I started to find myself increasingly interested in getting baptized. I read my bible, a devotional, watch church online (something I never would have considered myself doing), and find myself now looking for more ways to become more involved with the church. I feel I'm at the point where baptism is my next step.

38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

Acts 2:38-39

