

Baptism Testimonies

December 4 - 5, 2021



Clara Driedger



I am in grade 12 and go to school at Yale. I moved out to Abbotsford with my family last year. I learned about Jesus from my Mom & Dad, brother and sister, and teachers at Sunday School. I have gone to Church ever since I can remember, but I don't remember when I accepted Jesus into my life. However, I know that he loves me. He has given me friends and family that love and care for me.

I don't fully understand everything about sin and salvation, but I am slowly learning. I know that Jesus loves me and wants me to learn more about him and put my trust in him. I want to get baptized to let other people know that I want to learn about Jesus and share his love, joy and big hugs with other people.

Elijah Chan



I think life would be terrible and full of sadness if God is not with us. I learn about God from my mother and churches and my school. I want to follow Jesus Christ because I want to be a good person. Jesus took our sin and died on the cross. I accept as my Saviour so I would be saved.

Kyle Weir



Without Jesus, I am a lost sinner. I probably would not be as kind if I didn't have Jesus. Without Jesus, I would end up in hell and I don't want that. That would be my worst nightmare and an eternal nightmare.

My Mom and Dad always attended church so I grew up knowing who God was. I also went to Christian school and heard about Jesus. When I got to around middle school age, I started to pray on my own and saw God answering my prayers. So then I knew He was real. My favorite bible verse is Psalm 23:1 – "The Lord is my Shepherd" because it feels so warm and comforting. I know that I will have eternity with Him. And every day He gives me health and gets me through my day. God always helps me when things are bad. I always have someone to talk to.

Trevor Schellenberg



When I was 3 months old I came to live with my mom and dad. My birth dad Ted came and asked my mom if she would take care of me because my birth mom and him couldn't. So now I have two families that love me. I just started to work at my dad's work washing vehicles. I work 1 ½ hours a week and I enjoy it. Some things I like to do are play video games, camping at Manning, quading, and hanging out with cousins.

When I was young I accepted Jesus with my dad talking to me and helping me pray. I learn about Jesus when my parents pray. I really like going to Imagine to learn and be with friends. God has helped me to talk about Him to my friends online. He is also teaching me honesty so I can be more trustworthy.

Saturday, December 4th | 5:30pm

Kailee Mcbratney



I grew up in North Delta, in a secular community and family. I had very little exposure to Christianity until I began dating my husband. We were married 10 years ago and started a family 8 years ago. Sadie attended MEI preschool, and this was the start of my Christian journey. I was unsure about her attending a Christian school; Did I want my kids learning and maybe believing this worldview I knew nothing about. I connected with her teacher April on one of her first few days and asked how I could start learning alongside Sadie. She provided me with 2 children bibles. Sadie and I made a nighttime ritual of reading story after story. I eventually began attending church.

It wasn't until a Sunday at Central Heights with my middle daughter Reese did, I really hear from the Lord. The message was for me, and it turned a light on in me. I connected with that pastor and his wife, she then met with me weekly answering questions, praying, teaching and guiding me. I began noticing the blessings in my life and "coincidences". The Lord surrounded me with some encouraging, faithful women who walked alongside me. My heart was all in now, but my head wasn't on board yet. Until one day I finally heard him. I was out on a run, and he had my full attention. I needed strength and I asked him for it he asked me to believe and for the first time I did.

I knew in my head and my heart that I believed in the life the death and the resurrection of Jesus and because of this I could have this intimate relationship with my heavenly father and an everlasting life. This was April 1st, 2019, April Fool's Day and April (Sadie's teachers) Birthday!! This was and still is a gift for us from the Lord.

Kristy Parsons



I was raised in a non Christian home filled with chaos. My parents divorced when I was thirteen. I started getting in trouble, skipping school and rebelling. Always felt like I never belonged. I was alone and abandoned.

Trying to figure out my purpose, I started following the New Age movement, the law of attraction and meditation but something was still missing. I thought something was wrong with me. I had unhealthy relationships, living an extreme and destructive lifestyle.

In my guilt and shame, I prayed to a God I didn't know, to take this pain away. God met me when I needed him. God healed my addictions and gave me a new life. I started reading the bible and getting to know Jesus. Life started to get better. I was healthy and at peace.

I turned away from God and was living life on my terms. I stopped believing and fell back into my old ways. I was depressed and angry. Slowly the anxiety and stress set in. The fears and negative thoughts were running rampant. I was empty and broken again. I cried out to God and He filled me with his spirit and gave me a new heart.

Before I gave my life to Christ, I was a broken, lost soul searching for something to fill the void. Now I choose to surrender to God and put my trust in Him for the rest of my life.

I read the word, attend church and pray in thanksgiving. God is in control. God has always been taking care of me. Even though I still have rough days I'm God's workmanship and he is changing me. My life is in Christ. Getting baptized is my outward declaration that I'm committed to Jesus and I've been washed of the sins, freed from the chains and made into a brand new person.

Iliah Lum



I grew up in a Christian home with loving parents. I went to church, Sunday school, VBS, summer camp, Youth and Jesters Theatre. I invited Jesus into my life early in my life. Now as a young adult, I know and understand my need for God and want to continue to grow and walk with Him everyday. I have struggled with different things in my life that God has helped carry me through. I have lost a lot of people in my life and I have some learning difficulties. I didn't know why God let them die but I had to believe that he had a purpose and a plan. It was also hard for me having to deal with my learning struggle. I thought why would God make me that way and how can I learn more about God with these struggles. No one is perfect and God makes us all in his image. It might take longer for me to learn about things and God but I am fortunate God has given me friends and family to help me. As a young adult, I have a good group of friends that I can talk to and learn from. I have learned so much with my NYA community group.

This past year, I have learned patience and to trust that God has a plan for my life. Also to take the time that God gave me to spend with my loved one. I am learning I don't have to go through things alone, I have God, my friends and family. I am so thankful for my NYA community group that God gave me. My favourite bible verse since grade 4 is Psalm 100. I'm here today to publicly declare I have asked forgiveness for my sins, accepted that Jesus died for my sins and want to live my life for Him.

Vincent Webb



I was born and raised in Abbotsford into an amazing Christian family where I accepted Jesus as my Lord and saviour at a young age. I spent my younger years defining and testing what my Christian worldview and lifestyle looked like. This often meant making decisions that were either way to legalistic or without license. Recently, COVID drastically altered my life and career leaving me jobless and after six months without hope. It was at this low point in my life that I started digging in and reading the Bible.

The word of God since then has continually challenged and refined me to make healthy daily Christlike lifestyle changes and decisions. I finally was able to understand what God's liberty in my life meant. It was through this that Hebrews 10:23-25 really grabbed a hold of me as it directly applied to what I was going through and what many Christian believers in the church are experiencing today. I want to be baptised not only as a symbol of how Christ has transformed my life but as a sign to all fellow Christians believers that our work is not yet complete as the day draws near.

Hebrews 10: 23-25

Let's hold firmly to the confession of our hope without wavering; for He who promised is faithful; and let's consider how to encourage one another in love and good deeds; not abandoning our own meeting together, as is the habit of some people, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Matthew McClelland



Throughout my life I always knew about God and Jesus. I live in a Christian home and have an amazing family who has always stood beside me and has been a great influence in my life. My extended family has also been a big part of my life with my walk with Jesus. When I was young I remember my Dad asking me if I had accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour. I thought about it and eventually prayed and invited him into my heart.

My faith grew over the years as I went through middle school and high school, I always struggled in school and often prayed to God and asked why I suffered so much during those times, and never heard an answer. Right around the time I was about to hit my graduation year I realized that these years were all a part of God's amazing plan to build a stronger faith closer to Him. My faith blossomed and I have never felt closer to Him.

I remember my brother always talking about how awesome his community group was, and asked me if I wanted to join. I met incredible people in the group and have made amazing friends. When I was in high school I had no idea how hard God was working in my life to make me a better, stronger person without me even realizing and now I see what He has done for me. I am taking one step further in my journey by being baptized.

Joshua Petrescu



I'm 11 and a half and I was born in a Christian family and raised by Christian parents. I read the bible and prayed every night. I was pretty stubborn though; I was selfish and I didn't really care about others. Sometimes, I cheated in math or in other things and I wasn't really representing Christ. I often forgot God because I went to a public school where they didn't really talk about God. I was a hypocrite, in many ways. I did try to share the gospel to my friends but they didn't seem to care.

Soon my life would change; when my mom and dad found this Christian private school called Cornerstone Christian School. I didn't want to leave the public school but now, looking back, I am glad that I switched schools. I just started 4th grade when I got to private school. As I got older I started to be more godly, and I learned a lot of godly things. I found out in career education class at school that not many children are as privileged as me, that in Canada we don't have Christians dying because of believing in Christ like in some other countries where Christians are persecuted for their faith.

After that experience, I was more polite and more believing in our God. I will never forget God again. Right now, I am getting baptized in obedience to God's word and to symbolize a new life in Christ, and a desire to live for the glory of God and to serve Him until death. I am a new creation in Christ and I know that God has forgiven me of all my sins. When I grow up, if the Lord does not come by then, I want to be a fisher of men, a preacher preaching about the bible and spreading it to others.

Julie Sanderson



I was born and raised into a traditional family that knew of God and we considered ourselves christian, however we did not attend church, practice prayer or read the bible. My parents were open to me attending Sunday school with my friend where I learned the basics about Jesus, the 10 commandments, the Lord's prayer and how to have good moral character of being honest, truthful and treating others as you would want to be treated yourself.

Throughout my busy adult life of working, raising children and thinking I was enjoying my life, my connection with christianity was forgotten. Eventually, my fast paced, controlled life came and slapped me in the face. I read the writing on the wall. I needed to reestablish that connection with God. I surrendered myself and begged Jesus to come into my life and take over.

Since that day, bit by bit God has guided me through a gentle steady release of my internal pain, sin and guilt. For every ounce of fear, shame, guilt and weakness that I had let go of, God filled my body and soul with calmness, love and sight. God did not forget about me. He waited patiently. I am in awe of His power and His amazing love. I look forward to my continual journey following God in all his glory and beauty.

Sunday, December 5th | 9:00am

Whitney Artime



I was born into a Christian home and accepted Jesus into my heart at a young age. I have always believed that God sent His son Jesus to live a perfect life and die on the cross for our sins. Though growing up, I sometimes struggled in my faith as I often felt my relationship with God was distant.

It wasn't until I walked through a difficult season in my marriage that God really spoke to me and my relationship with Him became much more real. When I felt my world crumbling around me, God was there pouring out His love and strength to me in a very real and powerful way. He was my anchor, my provider, and my refuge. I was then able to understand what it truly meant to trust him. I believe that God brings us through these hardships to refine us, to reveal His grace, to test our faith and show His power, so that we may surrender to Him. Oh, how he loves us and carries us through our darkest days. Through His grace and by His Holy Spirit I was shown how to walk in His ways and how to love and show kindness – something I know would not have been possible by my own strength – not I, but through Him. I know that God is the great redeemer and restorer and longs to make beautiful things out of ruins. He did just that in my marriage and I give Him all the glory for what He did! He changed our hearts and made a way where there was no way.

I'm choosing to be baptized now to publicly confess that I need God every day, I am an imperfect person who's in need of a Saviour. Thank goodness for a kind, forgiving God who will never leave us and gives us strength to face each day.

Caleb Gosselin



I gave my life to Christ at an early age so its hard to say where I was before I received grace. However, up until grade 12 my life was far from reflective of my faith and the idea of a personal relationship was seemingly out of reach. Although I called myself a Christian, I was merely searching for things to keep me satisfied at whatever stage I was at and if that was church, friends, experiences, or anything else then I would live my life accordingly. I never received the satisfaction I desired, and my emotions and attitude were subsequent to my experiences which resulted in a dichotomy and a lack of consistency embedded in my life.

Thankfully, God presented himself to me through the identification and realization of how fragile the foundation for my satisfaction and overall well-being truly was. After graduating, the number of experiences and friendships I was normalized to in high school was condensed which led to me feeling empty and alone. In that stage of depravity God presented himself as the only consistent and everlasting answer. However, it was far from an instant solution, and I have and continue to work through what that tangibly means for my life and how my actions can be reflected in accordance with that truth.

I am far from having Christianity figured out and my faith walk often seems volatile and nowhere near consistent; however, I have grown to realize that only God is truthful and reliable to his promises and the only thing I can do is learn to depend on him and let go of my desires to do it on my own. The last few years have been influential to my faith and God's providence and His answers to prayer have been such an encouragement for me to continue seeking him in every way I can.

Elyssa Campbell



I was blessed to be born into a family of Christ-followers who raised me to believe in Jesus. I accepted Jesus into my life when I was barely old enough to go to Sunday School. As a kid, Sunday School was just a routine. I grew accustomed to a wonderless picture of God, where God was my Father and Jesus loved me, but those facts weren't yet personal or special.

It was at an Apologetics Conference in my early teens that I truly became inspired to learn about the intellectual side of Christianity, and that, in turn, helped me appreciate the personal relationship I could have with God the creator.

Jesus loved me, but Jesus was also the Word, the great and mysterious Second Person of the Trinity. God was my Father, but He was also a scientist, philosopher, and King. This omnipotent God became like me, human, and died so that we---I---could have a relationship with Him. I hope I never forget to be in awe of that fact.

I'm learning to trust God to give me the strength for battles I'm not meant to fight on my own. I was recently diagnosed with an anxiety disorder and ADHD. Another challenge in my life is my writing journey. I've been writing books for six or seven years. Trying to get a book published is a million times harder than even writing a book, so those have been six or seven years of praying that God will take my manuscripts---my five loaves and two fish---and feed thousands.

Through anxiety, ADHD, writing, and the ordinary stress of becoming an adult, I've found a new love of Philippians 4:6-7: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Amy Campbell



I grew up surrounded by a loving Christian family. We regularly attended church and prayed together, and I asked God to enter my heart at age 6. I knew that God loved me but it was not until my later high school years that my faith truly became my own. I started attending a youth group with friends and through this God began to teach me how incredibly valuable it is to be surrounded by Christians, challenging one another and growing together. I became more and more confident in my relationship with Jesus and started to actively pursue him in my life.

After I graduated high school my life was slowly taken over by mental illness that destroyed both my physical and mental health. However through this God has revealed his goodness, and my faith has had the opportunity to grow in ways that I am so grateful for. My whole life I have struggled with pride and insecurity, spending all of my energy thinking about others' opinions of me and trying to be in control of every aspect of my life. Now, God is teaching me to not rely on my own understanding, but to trust that he is in control of all circumstances. He is showing me how faithful he is at all times!

Everything good I have is a gift given to me by my Saviour. I cannot wait to see how much more God has to teach me and to increase my relationship with him as I continue to grow in my faith and follow the journey that God has set before me, led by his guidance.

Audrey Mills



From the beginning of my life I remember being taught the bible and the “who, what, where, and whys” of God and Jesus, but I didn’t understand why I was learning about a person I couldn’t see, but being five I just went with it.

At the age of five my dad asked me if I wanted to be a christian. This is a big question for a child who didn’t understand why I was learning about God. I said yes. I really didn’t know what I was doing and just knew two things, God loves me and wants to live in my heart.

Fast forward, I went to Abbotsford Christian School and learned more about God and why I was in the world. The words “go and make disciples” have always stuck with me. I tried to figure out ways I could make people change their minds and lives because I tell God’s word. I learned that it’s not easy to tell someone that God loves you and sent His son to die on a cross for you, while I was having a hard time wrapping my head around the topic of Christ.

It wasn’t until I got to high school that I started to trust in God, that I was a daughter of a king and was fearfully and wonderfully made. Like every person I had obstacles that I went through. One of those was healing from childhood trauma. I had a hard time with the “how could God let this happen?” questions. It’s something that I still need to heal from today, healing never ends, but through this I would remind myself that in the highs and lows God is still taking care of me. Now that I have made the decision to be baptized I want to keep on being more like Christ and try making more disciples in my life.

Paige Thiele



Growing up I would sometimes attend church and youth hearing stories of Christ but never had a solid understanding and knowledge of the Gospel. I always felt that there was more to life than what I could see from the surface. This led me to have many questions about God and creation. When I turned 16 I received my first bible. In my teen years I became so caught up in my life that my focus was on myself and whatever I wanted, I started to become lost in the ways of the world. But God always brought me back to the thought that there must be more.

Matthew 7:7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” Once I started to look into Christianity for myself God revealed the answers to questions I always had and there’s no denying it . Over the past two years I’ve experienced many highs and lows in my faith. But when I started putting in the effort and taking my faith seriously I saw the work God was doing in my life. Even when at times He doesn’t feel close I always know He’s there. God continues to use the good times and the hard times to grow and solidify my relationship with Christ. I’m so grateful for the people God has placed in my life from whom I’ve learned from, been supported by and grown my faith with. I want to commit my life to God and baptism is the next step in my journey.

Cole Van Laare



I grew up in a Christian home, with a loving family. When I was 5 years old my parents first told me about Jesus and I accepted him to be my Lord and Saviour, but for most of my childhood Christianity was just going to church on Sundays and trying to be a good person. In high school I went to youth group called Young life. Young life was a place where I could truly learn about what it meant to be a Christian. But even then I never gave God full control of my life. I lived as a Christian but still wanted to follow my own life plans and rarely sought God's guidance in life decisions. And that leads us to 2019 the beginning of Covid. At the beginning of Covid I went through a very painful break up where I was left lost and broken. I had put too much hope in past relationships and not enough in God. I felt scared and alone.

Because of Covid I was unable to seek out friends and activities to help me get through it. But God was there, he showed up and provided in a way I had never experienced before. During that time Jesus Led me to try something called freedom session. Freedom session took so much pressure off me to lead my own life, and gave me hope in the future and a goal to aim for. I didn't have to worry about the present because I knew God was there guiding me the whole time. Freedom session showed me that I had to give God full control of my life. This is why I'm being baptized today, to give God full control of my life for the rest of my life.

Raylene Neill



For as long as I can remember, I have believed in God. However, I didn't fully devote myself to God until after high school. Before I gave my life to Christ, I felt very lost. I always knew I believed in God, but never understood the weight of what it meant to be a Christian. For most of my life I thought being a believer of God was the extent of Christianity. Although God was always there when I needed Him, I never pursued a relationship with Him. Whenever I questioned God, He found ways to make his existence known. He was always there, yet I struggled to prioritize Him.

Not knowing what I wanted to do after graduating high school in 2018, the Lord put bible school on my heart. Many things nearly prevented me from going but I ended up doing it anyway. Spending a year fully dedicated to God, without any other priorities, was the best thing I could've done. In that time, I learned just how near God is to us. Since then, God has been teaching me how important it is to continue that growth. It can be easy to be stagnant in a world that pulls us away from biblical principles, morals, and even the Holy Spirit.

Being a Christian means not just believing, but following God and you can't follow God without moving forward with Him. Time and time again, the Lord brought me through trials and strengthened as a result. It's been made clear to me that His plan is better than my own. We live in a world that constantly disappoints us, and yet we can look to a God who never lets us down. I now understand what it truly means to be a Christian and that is following Jesus.

Sunday, December 5th | 11:00am

Jolie Borg



I grew up in a Christian home and school where I was continually taught about Jesus' love and the sacrifice He made for me. I have gone to church my entire life and have always been exposed to the gospel message, but it wasn't until I was 10 years old that I truly gave my life to Christ and realized that my sinful self was in need of a saviour.

For years I didn't take my faith very seriously. I didn't prioritize reading my Bible or praying regularly, and spent a lot of time worrying about little things instead of trusting in God. Then in my first year of high school, I found myself asking a lot of big questions about Christianity, wanting to learn more about God. I felt an urge to know God better and to intentionally study His word.

Looking back, this was a huge turning point in my faith where I was reminded that I couldn't live my life without having a solid foundation in Jesus. Since then, there have still been ups and downs where I lack trust in God or don't feel as motivated to study His word. However, reflecting on those times, God continually pulls me back towards Him and reminds me of His constant grace and love.

Now, reading my Bible and praying daily has become an extremely important part of my life. I know that through times of worries and difficulties, God is with me and is sovereign over all things. He has shown me His grace again and again, even though I am so undeserving of it. I want to continue growing in my faith, striving to walk in the ways of Christ for a lifetime. I am ready to take this step of public commitment to my relationship with Christ, as I openly confess my need for Jesus as my Lord and saviour.

Caleb Kampen



I have grown up in a Christian home and have gone to Northview my whole life, regularly attending church and youth. I accepted Jesus when I was five years old at Sunday school. My first year in middle school was hard. I attended public school; the atmosphere was challenging, and other kids did not always treat me well. I have autism and ADD, and these have been challenges for me as well. I have always had to work hard at my social skills, making friends and being focused. In Grade 7, God opened a door so that I could switch schools and attend MEI.

This was a great change for me, with a much better atmosphere and a place to be encouraged to learn and grow in my faith. God has provided people in my life to support me with my challenges. He's helped me to make some friends. He's given me strength and helped me persevere through. I love being a part of this church, attending the weekend services and youth group during the week. I have loved being a part of a community, learning and growing in my faith. This is an important part of my life.

Another important part of my life is my family. My parents have supported and encouraged me. They have helped me to grow in my walk with God. They have taught me about God's word, prayer, serving, and how I can follow and live my life for him. I also enjoy listening to preaching on the radio in the evenings. I am learning to grow in my own personal walk with God, reading his word, spending time in prayer, and seeking to live my life for him. I would like to take this step of baptism because it is an important part of following Jesus, and he calls us to do this. I want to follow Jesus and I want to be baptized.

Adam Knodel



I grew up in a Christian home, with a family that loved me and a great friend group. Since grade 1, I have had the privilege to go to a great school (MEI) surrounded by teachers and staff that truly cared about my faith. In grade 10, I had the opportunity to travel to the Philippines on a mission's trip with my Dad. Before this trip, I had taken all the things I mentioned at the start for granted. Seeing how children lived in the Philippines radically changed my perspective and outlook on my own situation, and I became far more grateful for the things I had in my own life.

As I have gotten older, I have grown a lot closer with the lord, and faith has become a far bigger part of my life. Leading worship has also been a huge part of my life. I have had many opportunities to lead worship here at Northview which is something I am very passionate about.

Northview church is also something I am very grateful for in my life, not only for the worship opportunities I have been a part of, but Northview youth has been an integral part of my faith journey. My leaders have poured hours into my life, correcting me and giving me their wisdom. Baptism is something I have always wanted to do, but I thought I had to reach a certain point before I took the step. I now realize that I will never get to the point that I am "good enough" for anything in regards to my faith, but yet God still loves me even for the sinner I am.

Ben Bergen



I became a Christian when I was very young (as old as I can remember). My family and I always went to church and followed what I knew of the bible and what my parents taught me about Jesus. This led to my faith being very stagnant and not really my own. My family and I proceeded to move overseas, and it did not help much in my faith journey. I saw how blessed I was and it was great to see what the rest of the world was like, but my pursuit of Christ was not focused or grown, which led to me falling into some deep sin for a long time. Towards the end of our time overseas, my grandpa passed away which made the pit I was in grow deeper and deeper.

This all changed when we finally moved back to Canada, and I started to be more intentional with my faith and I started going to church and youth group every week. This was when God started calling me to make my faith my own and to become more involved in the bible as I could be. While the past year has been hard due to Covid I am still fighting against the sin that tempts me a lot and I have begun to see my faith as my own and something that I can turn to when I am tempted or discouraged. God helped to show how to pave the way for me to find peace and confidence in him and he saved me from my sin.

Ayden Wickens



My name is Ayden and I am in grade 9 at MEI. I asked Jesus into my heart when I was 5 after a Good Friday service. My parents helped me pray the prayer. After that, I pretty much just lived my life and things didn't seem that different for me cause I think I did it just to get the attention. I didn't really know what I was doing and what it actually meant. I continued living my life but didn't read my Bible much or pray as much as I should have.

Then I remember one Sunday after coming home from church, the sermon just hit me and I saw my sin for what it was. I went to my room and cried and asked that God would fully become the centre of my life. Ever since then, God has been showing himself to me through hearing his word preached at church. I started actually listening to the sermons at church and got involved in youth group, and have recently joined the men's bible study at church with my dad which has really helped grow my faith and has given me the desire to know Him more.

I have come to realize how amazing and powerful He is and His deep love for me. I want Jesus to be the foundation of my life and now I believe it's my time to take the next step in my spiritual life and be baptized in His name.

Graydon O'Reilly



I One family service Greg was preaching Ephesians chapter 2 and I was asking my mom all these questions about what being dead in my transgressions meant. Later my mom told me about how to invite God into my life but because I was four, she didn't ask me if I wanted to do that.

That night I invited Christ into my life. In the morning I said "yesterday I prayed god into my heart" my mom was super happy for me but she was surprised and asked me more because she thought that my dad prayed with me but I did it all by myself so I said "I did it all by myself can we read Elmo now?" "Ever since I have seen God working in my life helping me tell people about God.

Then recently I felt a prompt to get baptized. I believe that we are all sinners and that only God can save us, and that God sent his only son Jesus to save us from sin by dying on the cross and rising again. I also believe that one day he will come back.

Kelly Kristy



I spent the first 40 years of my life denying the existence of a higher power. I grew up with Christian values (even though I did not realize it at the time) and attended summer bible school a few times with my cousins, but I had a big ego and would dismiss all stories of our God and of Jesus as “obviously” made up. My ego has gotten me into quite a bit of trouble over the years, looking for love and acceptance in all the wrong places. I have a hole in my heart and I believe that space is for God.

Once I opened my heart to Him, I felt a positive shift in my life. One of my favourite worship songs has a lyric, “no guilt in life, no fear of death”, and that idea has so much power. Believing in our Holy God has brought me a better understanding of my weaknesses and imperfections, a restored faith in humanity, comfort in my times of despair, and a community that inspires and that has opened their arms to me and my son. During one of the first Sundays I attended, the pastor said “Serve God, serve others, then yourself.” I will let that be my guiding light as I dedicate my life to the Christian faith.

Thomas Fast



I grew up in a Christian home in Alberta and attended church regularly. I asked Jesus into my heart at a young age and have been on a few mission trips in my teenage years. I came to realize the importance of having a servants heart and to always show compassion for people in need. My life got pretty difficult during my parents divorce in 2012. I was constantly angry and bitter and asked God why my parents couldn't just work it out. I turned to drinking and partying to try and distract myself from reality. I thank God that during that time I had friends and family that encouraged me with scripture and let me share how I was feeling with them.

Currently in my Christian walk I am learning how to be loving and empathic towards people and I'm focused on keeping in close relationships with my church community group and others in my life. I am excited to see how God will use me in the future to be a light for him and to show others what it means to love like Jesus did. I feel that it is time for me to be baptized because I want to make a public declaration that I love the Lord and want to live for him.

Melanie Verhoef



Before I knew the Lord, I was deep in sin trying to run my own life. I had grown up knowing of God and attending church but had no conception of what a relationship with Jesus was or looked like. I was rebellious and turned from my family, friends, and church. I began to drink alcohol and gave in to other temptations as well. My conscience hardened and I fell further and further away. It was an endless cycle of guilt, shame, pain, anger, and loneliness.

About two and a half years ago God gave me the courage to attend a 12-step program. This began the process of being lifted out of darkness. I learned the only solution to my problem was God and I had to allow myself to approach Him when faced with that reality. During the journey of recovery, I came to believe and trust that He would help me when I surrendered to Him. In the spring of this year, I was really drawn to try and attend a church. I had been reading my Bible and wanted to learn about Jesus.

I wanted so much to believe that He also died for me but struggled with this because of the way religion was presented to me growing up. I began attending a local church's online services and got connected with a women's Bible study. I was shown the gospel and led to the simplicity and truth of God's Word. I was encouraged to trust Jesus at His Word. I prayed my doubts and fears would be relieved and indeed they were! I love learning about God and am so grateful for everything He has given me.

Matthew Jimenez



I was born into a christian family and have always known about Jesus. When I was younger I said I was a christian, but my actions did not show it. At school I was cool and popular, so I thought that I didn't need God. I lived for myself and God was just for Sunday school. When the coronavirus started I had to leave my school because of my dad's health problem, and I went into homeschooling. In homeschool it was like a big reset button was pressed. All of the friends, popularity, and attention disappeared. My parents did devotions with me daily, and I finally started listening instead of hearing. I realized that the only way to live my life is to live it for God. I devoted my life to Him later on and decided to get baptized.

Now that I have accepted God into every part of my life, I have been trying to live out the truth so that others can see Christ in me. I have learned to accept that God's will is best and want to live my life in honour of Him.

Natalie Sawyer



I have grown up in a Christian home and have always known about Jesus. I accepted Jesus into my heart when I was almost 3 years old. When I was 12 I went to Stillwood Summer Camp. During one of the worship services I was challenged to consider whether I was a Christian because I didn't want to go to hell or because I actually truly wanted to follow Jesus. This was a turning point for me and I came to the realization that my faith was influenced by my fear of potentially not being able to go to heaven. My motivation was changed by the Holy Spirit and the encouragement from my Parents and Family. Since then I have strived daily to live out my life for him because of what He's done for me.

The past couple years have been difficult, from friendships dividing to family members passing away, but God has been teaching me that He has a plan and will always work out everything for good and His glory. I never really had the time or place to consider taking the next step of my faith. But I have decided to get baptized now because Jesus commands us to believe and be baptized, and I want everyone to know that this is my faith.

Abby Friesen



There was never a moment in my life where I didn't follow Christ, it was something I was born into, but I didn't exactly know what it meant to be a Christian and I viewed it more as a chore. There wasn't much passion or faith because I never put a ton of thought into being a christian.

I've always had this idea in my head of what a perfect christian looks like, and I have never lived up to the standard that I had set for myself. I didn't read my bible enough, I wasn't active enough in my community, and it wasn't until I could get past this idea of the perfect christian that I could actually start growing in my faith and make the move to be baptized.

I believe God worked to bring me to Him in many different ways, one of the main ones being through my youth group. Throughout middle school youth, I didn't really enjoy it because I never really had any super good youth group friends that I could connect with on a deeper level. I feel like this year and last year, God has really made youth something that I enjoy and learn from. He has also provided me with people who I can talk to about my faith and encourage me to better myself and be a better christian.

I have seen so many opportunities to serve Him and to demonstrate His love to others. I have found that while God has provided me with so many good friendships, He's made me realize my worth and has given me the courage to separate myself from those who never really treated me with respect, and He has given me reason to love them unconditionally still. He has really been looking out for me and has given me the strength to reflect His love onto others.

George Dumitrascu



I was raised in a Christian home, meaning I never really had that revelation moment that new converts have, where they can pinpoint the exact moment that they believed in God. For me, it was much more gradual and spread out. Over my whole life, I grew in strength in Christ until the conviction grew so strong that I could no longer shrug it off as family tradition.

I first truly felt the presence of God when I was in Turkey as my parents worked in missions. Though I was only attending school there, I still got to see firsthand what God is doing there. Turkey is 99% Muslim and very hostile to the Christian word, but I still saw lives transformed. I was reluctant to go, to say the least. I was very comfortable in Canada, I had good friends, and I didn't want that to change. And for the longest time while I was in Turkey, I refused to see the world around me and only focus on my own sadness for a home I had lost. But as I grew more accustomed to my surroundings, I got to meet new people that I never would have if I had stayed in Canada. I made great international friends that I keep in touch with to this day. I felt God's presence through this stormy period of my life and once I gave in and trusted him, I enjoyed my time there.

I am choosing to be baptized because it is the first step I must take to confess my faith, a public declaration that this is the path I want to go down.

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