

Testimonies



Baptism not only signifies resurrection to a new life in Christ, but it is also a public commitment to walk in Christ's way.

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. 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

T E S T I M O N I E S

Saturday

5PM

Brielle Dahl
Hayden Voth
Brielle Dueck
Chase Dueck
Carly Fleming
Amalia Hutchison
Felicia Hutchison

Sunday

9AM

Grace Thurmer
Karl Toews
Geoffrey Kuiken
Kayla Savage
Payten Whittome
Sara Fast
Ruth Van Egmond
Cassidy Gerbrandt

11AM

Sanaa Musonge
Ella Tecklenborg
Rachel McClelland
Sam Friesen
Emil Martinez
Kierlene Krahn
Rachel Born
Janae Born
Len Houweling

S A T U R D A Y



Brielle Dahl

I've always been a Christian, I've grown up in the church with my parents but recently I have been exploring my faith more on my own. I used to have to be reluctantly dragged off to church, and I would never look forward to Saturday evenings.

Through the rough patches in my life, I have grown closer to God. Things like issues with friends have only drawn me closer to Him. He's blessed me by surrounding me with great friends and family who love me. My youth leader, my grandma, and my parents are all very good Christian role models that I have in my life. As I've grown in my relationship with God, it has helped me to grow in my relationship with those around me. He has helped me to focus my life on loving those around me. I have been a Christian for a long time, but I always thought that baptism wasn't for me, that I wasn't ready or I wasn't good enough.

During a recent reading about baptism in the New Testament, I learned that I don't have to wait till a certain point in my faith, or wait until I'm good enough. In the New Testament, it says they believed and were baptized. The two went hand in hand. I believe in the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus, which is why I am getting baptized.





Hayden Voth

I am 16 years old and I have been a Christian for 13 years. I grew up in a Christian home and accepted Christ into my life at the age of 3 but I didn't know what I truly meant to be a Christian. Little 3-year-old Hayden thought that being a Christian just meant showing up to Sunday school, praying before eating dinner, and the Christmas story but as I grew up, I realized that it is so much more than that. As I started to learn more about my faith, I started understanding what it meant to me as a Christian and how I was supposed to live my life.

Between the years, 2015 and 2016, my auntie Laurel was diagnosed with breast cancer and that's when my faith started to be tested. Yes, I was only seven years old but trying to navigate this journey was life-changing and it really did strengthen my faith. Praise Jesus that my aunt beat cancer and is now living a healthy life. More recently, the year 2020 was hard for me but, also they were the most impactful years of my life. In March of 2020 Covid hit and I was terrified. I was so scared I didn't know what to do with myself. Fast forward to October 12, 2020, Ron Voth, my grandpa, passed away at the age of 69. This was hard for me because he had a huge impact on my life and helped me to grow closer to Christ.

I was dealing with anxiety, grief, school, and Covid all at the same time. I started going to counselling and that truly helped me get through everything that hit me. Even though I went through one of the worst years of my life, I grew in my faith in Christ and now through Him, I am living a Christ-centered life and I have been set free from all of the weight 2020 put onto my shoulders.





Brielle Dueck

When I was 8 years old I accepted Jesus into my heart. At that time I didn't really know what it meant for bringing Jesus into my life and I didn't know what struggles I would have to face. I always followed my parents' footsteps. Meaning since they were Christian, "I was too". There were lots of struggles from moving school to friends and having trust issues. Finally, after a long time of struggle, I came to a christian school. I met great people and did worship as well as bible class. I kept going to church and started going to youth. I met lots of christian girls at my school. I started reading my bible more and really got to know who Jesus is.

He worked so much through me and helped me through my struggles. My own struggles I had have made me a stronger person and also helped me through my faith. God has really helped me learn that it's okay not to be perfect and it's okay that I make my own mistakes because Jesus is Lord and He forgives me and died for me, for my own sins so I can have peace in my heart and be free. I know He loves me for who I am and that He will keep loving me for the rest of my life.





Chase Dueck

I grew up in a loving Christian home and would go to church every Sunday. I accepted Christ into my heart at the young age of six but didn't really know exactly what it all entailed. And through my middle school years including the first part of high school I felt as though I was just doing my own thing and not focussing on God or putting in any effort in getting to know him better.

In grade 10, I started thinking more about my spiritual life and what I actually believed. My dad noticed me pondering some of these things and asked me what I wanted to follow. To follow the world or Jesus. He said "if you're sitting on the fence you need to get off it...Satan owns the fence." I really struggled with an overall sense of guilt. Even when I didn't do anything sinful. It's like I just felt as if I couldn't measure up or wasn't good enough for Gods grace. This has always held me back from accepting the free gift of salvation.

I think recently I've come to realize that no one's perfect and that we all fall short. Baptism isn't about being the perfect Christian but rather about choosing who I want to follow.





Carly Fleming

Change for me has been a gradual one, nothing extreme or black and white. When I say this, I am thinking of someone like the Apostle Paul, who experienced such a stark contrast when he became a Christian versus his former life. I have grown up with Christian teachings and influence for pretty much the entirety of my life. Went to church as a kid and attended a Christian school, but it can be so easy to just do it because that is what you are used to. Growing up with that influence, however, has certainly made an incredible difference in my life. I have always been a worrier and struggled with many anxieties.

I feel like it wasn't until my college years when things really started to change for me. Attending both Capernwray and Columbia Bible College was a very revealing and informative time. It was there that I realized that life is broken because of sin. I had the chance to form some really great connections with my peers. I also had the constant support and Christian influence from my parents, which really made all the difference.

Through these experiences, I have come to better understand who God is, the broken state of the world, and God's redeeming plan—that Jesus came and is coming again to restore. The difference is, when times get tough, or overwhelming I have a hope that a lot of people may not have. And God is the reason for that hope. There is not a doubt in my mind of His, His Son's, and the Holy Spirit's existence. That they have been here since the beginning and will continue for all of eternity. He is the reason for the hope and the belief that I have, and only He is capable of saving me from myself and changing my desires to desire Him and His word. Baptism, I feel, is the next necessary step in my faith and in following Him.





Amalia Hutchison

I was a sinner, a nobody. When I was about 5 I decided to ask Christ into my life even though I am not perfect (nobody is). My parents read the Bible and we pray every night. I feel that God has really used a certain devotional to help me. It happened to me a lot where either I was wondering about something or me and my siblings were fighting about and I found the answer in the bible devotional. I believe that baptism is the next step on my Christian life, because it's a command, and I want to obey all of Jesus' commands.

My favourite verse is John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life."





Felicia Hutchison

I was a sinner and God came into my life. He gave my mom the idea of taking me to the true girl event. There was a song that showed me how sinful I was with sin in my heart and told me that the only way to get rid of that was with Jesus!!!! So, ever since that I have believed in Jesus. He helped me through my concussion and He gave me peace when I had covid. He helped me through when it was hard. To get baptized is an important next step in my faith because the bible says to get baptized, and I want to do what God says always.

My favourite verse is Isaiah 40:8 "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever."



S U N D A Y 9 A M



Grace Thurmer

Before I became a Christian, I thought I just had bad luck. I was rude and didn't want to believe someone was watching out for me and had a plan for me. I knew someone was there as I grew up in a christian home, but struggled to know that he cared for me, just like he does for all his children.

I always knew God existed but it was always my parents faith, not mine. I went to church on Sundays and youth. In middle school I had a youth leader that always made me feel welcome and helped my parents faith become my own. During the covid lockdowns she strengthened my faith by reaching out and praying for me. I started listening to sermons, not because I was there, but because I wanted to and felt moved to. And God put the people in my life to point me towards Him.

Since I began following Him, I know I have a plan and meaning to be here. I have struggled with mental health for a while and God put people in my life to support me. He has also given me a love of helping others, from volunteering in the church to wanting to help others however possible in the community. He has strengthened my friendships, our walk together, and my want for everyone to know who He is.





Karl Toews

I grew up in a Christian home, where we attended church regularly, went to Christian schools and did all the Christian programs like youth and young adults. Because of all this, I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour at a young age, but I never really had a full understanding or concept of what that actually meant.

Growing up I was a fairly good kid and never really got into much trouble. I followed most of the rules and worked hard to excel at sports and in building relationships with friends and family. In my later years of high school, I didn't really have much of a personal relationship with Christ, it was more of a "Hey God, I'm just gonna kinda do my own thing over here if that's cool" kinda thing. As I graduated and went into full-time work, my personal life was a pretty big mess and I realized I was missing something. I decided to go on a missions trip to Uganda with my grandparents and a buddy. We had an amazing time, and God made me realize how blessed I am and that no matter how many times I fall short of His grace and His goodness, He loves me and accepts me for who I am in Christ. I attended Columbia Bible College the following year, and during that time I learned a lot and recommitted my life to Christ. The journey hasn't been simple or easy.

Today, I have an amazing God-fearing wife who helps me remember that I am loved and cherished by the Lord and that even though I fall short of living up to God's standards, He has made His promise to redeem us if we believe in Him, practice, and persevere. I want to make the outward step of an inward reality - that God is my Lord and Saviour, and that He died on the cross and rose from the dead to redeem me from my sins. AMEN!





Geoffrey Kuiken

I relied so heavily on my own understanding about life, I somehow knew anything and everything. I believed, I knew what I was doing, and what the outcome would be. In turn I ended up replacing God with myself. This came to a very humbling conclusion when I watched the women I love and my daughter walk out on me. I was so frustrated and disappointed in myself I essentially gave up. Over the coming days and weeks I successfully convinced myself that there is a better man out there to raise my daughter, instead of me. I told myself my daughter doesn't need me anymore. I so desperately wanted the selfish way out of life.

When I was at my lowest, accepting the idea that my daughter and loved ones don't need me anymore. My brother, on that day, was very determined that he was coming over. He called me 20 or so times in like 10 minutes just to say he was coming over and he's on his way. That day my brother let me borrow some of his strength. He shared all these moments we had together and will have in the future together. After many apologies, intentional healing, time and ultimately the grace of God, the women I love and my daughter are back in my life.

God has been renewing my mind. Gave me a massive dose of humility. Understanding that I don't know everything nor should I know everything. I prayed to get my family back in my life and I got it (lots to learn and struggle with but praise God) I prayed for wisdom and He gave me passion and a desire to hear His word. I now accept that if I'm going to struggle in this life then I'll do humbly with God and my family. Ultimately all of this can be summed up with, I hear you Lord. Here I am. Praise God.





Kayla Savage

I accepted God into my life when I was 4. I grew up in a faithful and loving home surrounded by people who love and praise God. As I grew older, I began to question my faith and who God really was. From these questions came friendships that led me to make poor decisions, sneakily drawing me away from my faith. I made amazing relationships that made me feel like I was on top of the world and for the next 9 months I felt untouchable! However, to my surprise, it did not last. For the next 3 months I felt alone, hopeless and judged with the urge to change everything about myself because I wasn't good enough, however I just didn't have the strength to do so.

January 22nd, 2022. I sat in my room, crying, unable to sleep because I just couldn't live with myself anymore. After nearly 2 hours I gathered myself enough to write down everything I hated about myself and everything I wanted to change, my last question being "why can't I pray anymore?" Then everything went silent. I was unable to hear. I tried so hard to fight the silence until I realized this was God calming the storm. I began to pray over everything I wrote on that paper. As I finished, everything went back to normal, although this time I felt completely changed, called to proclaim His name, and filled with His strength.

I see my past as a necessary building block to regain my faith in God. I took God out of my life and searched for something to fill the void, however nothing quite fit the hole until that night. The only person, the only thing, to fill this void is God. He sustains me and keeps me well. Since this day, I read the bible, write in my journal, and pray daily. I no longer live in fear as I cast my worry to Him. I sing songs from church to praise Him, feeling happier than I have ever been. I am choosing to be baptized in honour of this day, this amazing feeling, and to start this new journey alongside Him.





Payten Whittome

I can't remember a lot about who I was before I gave my life to Christ. I was very young, maybe four or five. I grew up in a christian home, going to Christian summer camps and being homeschooled. I never really knew how to be anything else. As I got older, being a christian became routine. Probably like lots of children, I was a christian because it was what I had always done, not because I really understood why it was so important. Even as I got older though, I didn't take any steps to try and grow my relationship with God. Apart from the things I did with my family, I didn't have much of a personal relationship with God at all. I'd think a little bit about it, but never act on it.

It was only these past two years in particular that I started to realize how much I needed God to help me. I started to really want a stronger, personal relationship. Yet, I struggled to be motivated and disciplined to try and achieve that. I was bad at carving out time to spend with God, and often prioritized other things. I wasn't reading my bible, or even praying very much. When I did pray, I would often ask God to help me get better at these things.

Over time it did start to get better. I started to read the bible more, and had conversations with my parents about the things I found confusing, or interesting. I also started to attend youth more regularly. I know I can still grow and learn so much, and I'm excited to do that. Getting baptized is an important step in my journey, and I'm ready to profess my faith and take it.





Sara Fast

I had the privilege of growing up in a Christian home, going to church, Sunday school and youth group, so God has always held an important place in my life, but even though I did all these things I still didn't feel as though I have made my faith my own.

For the past few years I have felt a nudge to get baptized, but I never followed through, because I thought I should be feeling some great emotional pull or go through some profound struggle before I could commit to being baptized. I kept waiting for a sign, for God to tell me if I should get baptized or not, if now was the right time. But what I was missing was that He had already told me in His word. He was just waiting for me to realize that He had already given me His instructions and that He was waiting on me to follow them.

I believe that Jesus is the son of God and He died for my sins, and I want to follow God's call on my life and express my love for Him. 1 John 5 states "This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome." It is time I publicly declare my intention to follow God's instruction and see what He has in store for me.





Ruth Van Egmond

I am 18 years old, and I have decided to give my life to Christ. I was born and raised in Abbotsford into a loving, Christian family. My family consists of my most favourite people in the world. They have been a constant support and have taught me how to love, giving me a glimpse into what it is like to be loved by a Heavenly Father who loves every single being. My faith walk has been pretty anticlimactic as I have never faltered from it, which I guess is quite great. I have always known of God and that he is big and mighty as I learned that in kids church as a child and I constantly heard it from my parents growing up.

In grade nine,, my focus shifted from leaning on my parents' faith to seeing God through my own eyes and developing my own faith. This happened after my youth group had watched the Alpha series which explained to me how being a Christian is not about being religious, but it's about being in a relationship with a loving Father. Hearing this opened my eyes as I was finally able to see that I am made to be in a relationship with God and that his love is even vaster than the oceans.

I have discovered that this love has directed me through life and has healed me in more ways than one. Since grade seven, I have struggled with anxiety and it was constantly weighing me down. Anxiety is hard because it felt like I was trapped in a pit where I could see the way out, but I did not know how to get out. However, this changed when I realized that God knows the way out. He is the way out. He has given me peace through the hard times. When Zoe died, I felt his arms around me. I would not have been able to make it through without Him holding my hand all the way through. I have put my trust in Him because I know that He holds tomorrow, and He has a plan for me that will ultimately lead me to use the gifts He has given me to share His love and further His kingdom.





Cassidy Gerbrandt

For as long as I can remember I have always believed in God and considered myself a Christian. I occasionally read my Bible reluctantly and prayed only when I felt I needed help. I never understood what it meant to be a follower of Christ and even though I knew He was always alive and there with me I could never fully give myself to Him.

As I'm sure many can relate, the past two years have been so extremely difficult, for many reasons. Fighting with anxiety and depression, my body & mind were so tired, I was defeated. Ephesians 6 says 'for our struggles are not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers' and I have never believed that to be more true. I have struggled so much with surrendering myself to Christ because the enemy had such a hold on me, I felt I needed to fix my life before I came running back to Him. It only took hitting rock bottom to realize that this mindset was a complete lie.

Through all of my struggles, God has shown me His grace time and time again. Through every trial and tribulation I face I know that He works for the greater good. I am continuing to learn every given day what obedience in the Holy Spirit looks like and how to follow His steps in the path He has set for me instead of running ahead and creating my own. God instructs us to be baptized & through obedience I believe this is the next step for me.



S U N D A Y 1 1 A M



Sanaa Musonge

My parents told me that, when I was 3 years old, I accepted Jesus into my heart. However, I never remembered this moment in my life. As I got older, my parents explained that believing in Jesus was a choice I should remember and make for myself, but I didn't believe I needed to accept Jesus again, so I didn't listen seriously. I continued to live as a "good Christian," however. I liked going to church, hanging out with Christian friends, and attending youth, but those were the only times I felt close to God. At the rare times that I turned to my Bible with my worries and troubles, I wasn't comforted or changed by what God had to say about the issue I was facing.

It wasn't until 3 years ago that I decided to accept Jesus again. My family was watching an online sermon about the death of Jesus, and I was following along by writing the key points: 1. There's No Question This Happened, 2. There is No Need For Crying, and 3. There Is No Way We Can Stay The Same. The third point, about never staying the same, really spoke to me. The preacher went on to say that when the Holy Spirit enters you, you become filled with boldness. When the service ended, I told my parents that I wanted to accept Jesus into my heart. After a prayer of confession, acceptance, belief and many tears, I became a child of God's family.

Now that I accepted Christ as my own decision and belief, I find joy in everything there is in being a Christian. I find comfort and strength in God's Word, with the Holy Spirit opening my eyes and heart. I am getting baptized today to start living my life with and for Christ so that I can proclaim to others the Holy Spirit's gift of peace and boldness.





Ella Tecklenborg

Before I gave my life to Christ I was confused. Unknowingly I lacked a purpose, or any true comfort. I was content as I was. I did not realize that faith took work, that we have to give our whole life for Christ. I was selfish (still am obviously) with my time & my life - I didn't serve, spend time in my Bible nor did I have any sort of commitment to my religion. And I was a little hopeless - there was no greater hope to look to, I was terrified of death and wasn't striving to be a better person. I sinned regularly and continually brought others down to make myself feel better.

God opened up to me what Christianity really was by putting me in a new school. Christian friends showed me what being a believer was truly like- more than just a title but a constant, undeniable practice! It was something you fought for and worked on. Youth group-youth leaders worked at showing us more of God's character and encouraging me through all my struggles. God also worked in my life through missions trips - seeing deep, desperation and necessity of God, a completely different perspective than the western view of God.

Since I began following Christ, I began youth leading and serving to impact people's lives just like my youth group influenced mine. I've been dealing with the fact that a lot of people close to me are not believers and to be bold in my faith despite that. I now have a strong commitment to my spiritual practices and giving me people in my lives who encourage me in teaching me to evangelize - how can I work this into my life all the time? He's teaching me to release my hold on earthly things and value 'heavenly things more than everything and to be a better reflection of Christ.





Rachel McClelland

I grew up in a Christian home. I have two amazing parents that have always been great Christian influences in my life and provided me with an endless amount of support during my walk of faith. At a young age I accepted Jesus into my heart. For many years I experienced self-conflicts in regards to fear, anxiety, and not understanding where my worth came from. I would often pray to God asking Him for relief from intrusive and overwhelming thoughts that would overtake me. I also struggled with valuing God and putting Him above my regular day to day activities.

After trying to battle life on my own, I realized that I needed to fully pursue my walk with Christ and lean on Him to provide my comfort and aid in the midst of despair. I changed my focus to Christ and I continue to learn to lean on Him for hope, strength, courage, and wisdom. God gives me the power to turn away from sin, and gives me strength to fight my fear and worry. Although I still fall short, I know that I am forgiven because of the price Jesus paid for all mankind. This sacrifice still puts me in awe to know that God has such a deep love for us that He sent His one and only son to give up His life, taking our place to save everyone!

By the Holy Spirit, God is working in my life by showing me and continuing to teach me how I can live my life with love and kindness pointing other people to the Lord. God has given me joy in my heart that I am forever grateful for. He has shown me that there is no other way, no other fulfillment, and no other solution in this life other than Him. Because of this, I want to take the next step of my faith publicly declaring that this is the beginning of my life long journey with Christ.





Sam Friesen

I am very thankful to have grown up in a loving Christian family. I accepted Christ when I was 6 years old. My parents have been very influential for me especially since I'm homeschooled. My mom has been doing devotions with my brother and I almost every night for as long as I can remember. She has taught me and continues to teach me about Jesus, the Bible, and what it means to be a Christian. My dad has shown reliance on God and constant forgiveness to others for their actions in business and legal battles. I am very thankful for the good teaching and leaders that I have at youth group.

I am sometimes amazed at the peace God has given me when there's craziness around me - whether situations in my dad's businesses or family stuff. When I have struggles with sin I've learned to repent and trust in God for His forgiveness and for His strength to overcome it.

I have increasingly become convinced that the Bible is true, and that a Christian worldview is the only one that truly makes sense. I am a sinner, in need of God's forgiveness for my sins. Jesus died the death that we should have died, so we can be saved. Through Christ I have hope that one day all things will be made right.

I want to get baptized because the Bible calls us to get baptized as a symbol of being united with Christ in His death and life, and I want to live my life for Him.





Emil Martinez

Before I gave my life to Christ I was a very judgemental person I felt like I was always looking at the negative side of things in my life. I was always constantly putting myself down and thinking less of myself. I saw myself not going in the right direction once I compared that lifestyle to Gods way. God has worked in my life in many different ways I feel like including my family.

I grew up in a Christian household and have known about the gospel for basically my entire life, I am very thankful that God is giving me the experience of knowing about Him from a very young age. Even though I didn't start beginning to believe the word until I was eight years old and have had ups and downs and still do but am very much a believer of God.

Since I've started following God I feel like God has been putting me through some trials on my own, I feel like I've had a lot of time to think about my life and all the choices that I've made and to look back on my life and realize that I need it as change which is following God my Saviour.





Kierlene Krahn

I was raised in a Christian home and attended church with my family regularly. I participated in Christian camps and youth events in hopes of one day experiencing the passion and excitement of my mentors when talking about Jesus. I understood that to be a Christian I needed to apply Romans 10:9 to my life, “because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved”.

Since I was so familiar with that verse and knew who Jesus was and the sacrifice he made, part of me thought that was good enough to call myself a Christian, even though it didn’t seem right. It wasn’t until 2018 in my grade 9 bible class that I had a deeper understanding of who God really was. For the first time, I gained a sense of fear in Him. I may not have dedicated my life to Christ during that time, but it was definitely a wake up call. Over the next three years, I struggled with knowing my worth and trusting that the Lord had a plan for me. Although I was constantly reminded through church services and songs, I still found it hard to believe and began to feel hopeless in a future with Him. There were times where I doubted there was even a God yet one who loves and cares for me in spite of all my failures.

Looking back now, I can see that God was working through every second of my life during the good and the bad. I’ve noticed the selfishness of my own heart and witnessed the brokenness of our world and because of that the Lord has opened my eyes to see the truth in Him and He’s made me realize just how much I need Jesus in my life.





Rachel Born

I grew up in a loving Christian home and have been surrounded by Christianity my whole life. I've gone to MEI since pre school and have grown up learning about the Bible and Jesus through my parents and grandparents. I accepted Jesus into my heart at a young age but at the time I didn't fully understand what that meant.

Throughout middle school and the beginning of high school I was very far from God as I didn't spend any time on my relationship with Him. I always told myself one day I'd focus more on Him and I thought it'd be best if I waited until I was more mature before having a personal relationship with Him. In grade 10, I had an amazing opportunity to go on a missions trip with my school and was planning on getting baptized with some friends before we left. It got cancelled due to covid and at the time I was very disappointed but looking back I'm thankful it didn't happen. God's plan couldn't have been better as I would've gone through with the baptism not really understanding what baptism was all about. At that point I didn't realize how little time I spent in the word and as I look back, I can see how I wasn't doing it for the right reasons since I was just doing it as a fun thing to do with my friends.

Since then I've noticed how little time and effort I put into my relationship with God and how I didn't have a personal faith in God apart from my parents. I knew I needed to change this as I wanted to depart from my old ways and start living for Jesus. I recently re-committed my life to God and started making my faith my own. God has led me to baptism as the next step in my journey and I'm excited to continue growing closer to Him!





Janae Born

I was born in a Christian home with my mom, dad, and younger sister. The Lord has always been present in my life throughout my journey with Him. Growing up, I attended MEI for 12 years. After graduating from high school in 2020 in the beginning of the covid pandemic, I went straight into university at TWU in Langley. I asked Jesus to be in my life when I was 8 years old, although I do not really remember what my life before Christ was like, which was a blessing in disguise. What I do know is that if I would not have made that decision 11 years ago, I would have felt alone and would not know my purpose in life. Christ has made a significant impact in my life.

Growing up as a Christian, I never really understood what my own faith mean to me and how I could apply it to my own life. This caused my faith to become unsteady and not genuine since I was not putting in any effort into it or in Jesus. Over the past 2 years, God has presented himself to me in ways I did not know I was missing. Through that, I have grown in my faith immensely and have realized the influence of Gods faithfulness and His sovereignty while allowing myself to completely surrender and depend on Him. My life was so simple and easy growing up, I never understood how much the Saviour meant in my life. I am declaring this next step in my spiritual journey because I am ready to fully commit my life to God starting with baptism. I am so excited to outwardly declare my love for Jesus and continue life with Christ my Saviour.





Len Houweling

I was brought up in the Dutch Free Reformed Church, a church full of rules that I chose to rebel against in my teenage years. I married young, a girl with the same background. I had four wonderful children. I divorced, remarried, and divorced again. Alcohol became my best friend. In 2013, my third oldest son, Jesse, was murdered, shattering life as I knew it. About a year later, my sister from Ontario and her whole family (husband, kids, grandkids, there were sixteen of them in total) came to visit. It was an amazing time. The first Sunday of their visit my brother-in-law asked where I attended church. I did not go to church, but I said we could go to Northview. The only connection I had with Northview was that Jesse had attended there.

By "coincidence", Pastor Ezra preached that morning. He had officiated Jesse's funeral. I was undone. I wanted to leave right away but my brother-in-law persuaded me that we needed to find Pastor Ezra. We found him, he recognized me, and we spoke. He said, "Let me show you where Jesse, our brother, used to sit every Sunday". This was the beginning of my turnaround. I started attending church in Mission where Ezra preached. God was speaking to my heart, but I struggled. My daily life was ungodly and I continued drinking too much. But friends and family were praying for me the whole time. The years went by and I ruined another relationship. Fast forward to May 28, 2021. I broke my hip, had a hip replacement, and on my way home from the hospital I knew I had to change my life. I stopped drinking and have not had a drop since.

I phoned Northview, wanting to meet with Ezra, who was not available, but Fredy was. I met regularly with Fredy. I started attending Bible study and gave my life completely to Jesus. And now I know that Jesse did not die in vain, but saved his father, and one glorious day I will see him again.



If you or someone you know is interested in getting baptized,
visit northview.org/baptism for more information

Northview Community Church

