



PALM SUNDAY  
BAPTISMAL SERVICE  
13 APRIL 2025

# *This is my Story*

a booklet of testimonies



# THIS IS MY STORY

TESTIMONIES OF BRETHREN WHO WILL BE  
RECEIVED INTO CHURCH MEMBERSHIP  
ON 13 APRIL 2025

## **Paedo-Baptism**

1. Beatrice Chiong Jing Ting  
(Daughter of Timon & Charissa)
2. Micah Kwek Xuan  
(Son of Pastor Moses & Gan Ann)
3. Sophia Xiu En Ng  
(Daughter of Jonathan & Sheryl)
4. Theodore Lai Ming You  
(Son of Alvin & Cynthia)

## **Baptism**

1. Oh Cheow Chang, 吴秀欉  
(Mother of Lay See)
2. Tse Wing Yan
3. Tan Wen Hui Cynthia

## **Transference**

1. Lai Guanda (Alvin)
2. Zhu Lihui

## **To be baptized by:**

Pastor Charles Tan

Pastor Charles Tan

Pastor Charles Tan

Pastor Eugene Seow

## **To be baptized by:**

Pastor Moses Kwek

Pastor Mitchell Tan

Pastor Eugene Seow

## **To be baptized by:**

Pastor Eugene Seow

Pastor Jonathan Jacob

## **Reaffirmation**

1. Elliott Chan
2. Hannah Hoo Si En
3. Amanda Lai Jia Xuan
4. Zachary Lai

## **To be prayed for by:**

Pastor Jonathan Jacob  
Pastor Jonathan Jacob  
Pastor Mitchell Tan  
Pastor Mitchell Tan



# BEATRICE IN POETRY

TIMON & CHARISSA CHIONG  
(PARENTS OF BEATRICE CHIONG)

Beatrice, her name specially chosen – one who brings joy and blessings,  
Earnest, is our prayer for her – may her life for Jesus be shining.

Another challenging pregnancy, multiple hospitalization,  
Trusting God for perseverance, character, hope; with each tribulation.

Rich are God's mercies, she was delivered barely in the nick of time,  
In the womb He covered her, fashioning her days with thoughts so divine.

Committing to trust not in ourselves, but God's higher ways and thoughts,  
Every step of the way, to raise her up in the fear of the Lord.

(Inspiration: Psalm 139:13-24, Romans 5:1-5, Isaiah 55:9)



# WHO IS LIKE GOD?

PASTOR MOSES KWEK & GAN ANN  
(PARENTS OF MICAH KWEK)

## Who is like God? ("Micah")

Having a child may come naturally for many,  
Yet we have, like some, struggled aplenty.  
Faith in the Lord taught us to trust in Him,  
His unfolding plan then, was yet to be seen.

The gift of a child came not once but twice,  
The grace of God does more than suffice.  
Beyond human efforts and understanding,  
Came grace upon grace, never exhausting.

We commit our child to the Lord,  
A most natural response to our God.  
For Micah belongs to the Most High,  
Entrusted to us under His watchful eye.

We seek and pray for help divine,  
To raise up Micah in God's design.  
For we are reminded - who is like God?  
Seeking Him daily, we must not stop.

Moses Kwek & Gan Ann



# OUR PRECIOUS GIFT FROM GOD

JONATHAN & SHERYL NG  
(PARENTS OF SOPHIA NG)

We thank our great and wonderful God for the gift of our darling daughter, Sophia. When we found out we were expecting, beyond being overjoyed, the enormity of our new role as parents to this little one dawned upon us. Ever since, we have been driven to seek the Lord constantly in prayer, not just for her, but also for the Lord to mould us each and every day to be better parents to her. We give thanks to our great God that the pregnancy went smoothly and her delivery was uneventful. Since her arrival into this world, our lives have completely changed. Each day is a new adventure as we get to witness her growth first hand and experience new joys and challenges along the way. We find ourselves marvelling at creation and how the Lord in His infinite wisdom has made each one of us so fearfully and wonderfully. Truly, what a privilege it is to be parents to her; something that we do not take for granted.

It was after much prayer and contemplation that we decided to name her Sophia Ng Xiu En (秀恩). The name Sophia means wisdom. Wisdom goes beyond knowledge. Also, Biblical wisdom is vastly different from that which the world deems as wise. The type of wisdom we pray Sophia will have is Biblical wisdom; *wisdom that is pure, peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy James 3:17* Meanwhile, 秀 (from 优秀) means excellent and 恩 (from 恩典) means grace. Putting it all together, it reflects our hearts desire that Sophia may be both wise and excelling in the grace of God.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 reads “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.” As we continue to watch Sophia grow, we hope to impart as much Biblical wisdom as we can to her. Through our daily interactions with her at home, we seek to introduce the faith to her and how we have a great big wonderful God who created all things.

However, we recognise that as her earthly parents, we cannot always be with her all the time. As the saying goes “it takes a village to raise a child”. We hope to surround Sophia with a community of God fearing believers who will also help impart their faith and Biblical wisdom to her, so that she may find faith real to her in time to come.

We have had the opportunity to grow up in God fearing families and doctrinally sound churches. Similar to how our parents took the step to commit us to the Lord to be baptised as children, we also would like to take the opportunity to commit Sophia to the Lord. We are conscious that Sophia has been entrusted to us by our heavenly Father and we are, but stewards of this little one. Our role as her earthly parents go beyond caring for her physical needs and it is certain that one day, she will stand at the crossroads of faith to make the personal decision whether to accept salvation. Till then, we ask the Lord to be gracious and keep us faithful, shepherding her heart in the way of the Lord.

Jonathan & Sheryl



Madam Oh Cheow Chang is my mum. She is 83 years old. She often says that her taxi driver father who was usually drunk had named her as “tree branch” in Hokkien! She was born in a big family of 10 children and she had to help out with household chores. She had even gone on to work as a maid for a British family.

Life was not easy even after marrying my dad who was a crane driver. She would sew clothes for her neighbours to supplement household income. When she was 42 years old, my dad met with a tragic work accident. My mum had to shoulder the challenging task of providing for her 5 children. She would babysit children in the daytime, and then rushed to clean office in Orchard Road at night. Four of us were privileged to have received tertiary education through her sheer hard work.

My mum was diagnosed with dementia in 2018. She knew what dementia was because her own grandmother suffered from it. Mum has always been keeping herself active - taking care of grandchildren, cooking, singing in the Community Center, reading newspapers & having coffee with relatives & friends. Little did she expect to suffer dementia!

It suddenly dawned on me that the window for her coming to know the Lord would soon be closed. I desperately sought help from various specialists - neurologist, neuropsychiatrist and geriatrician but to no avail. Her condition was getting worse and she could not remember the names of her dear grandchildren!

Thank God for His grace that as Victor and I deep dived into this problem, we discovered this is caused by her diabetes (dementia also known as Type 3 diabetes) and we managed to stabilise her condition through low carb diet & regular exercise.

Ironically as a result of her dementia, she stopped protesting when I shared with her short passages of Bible with her, and the testimonies of aunties & uncles in Bethany and praying with her.

Thank God for the commencement of Special Seniors Program and Chinese Worship Service in 2022 after the COVID pandemic was over. Victor and I saw this as the best opportunity and perhaps our last-ditch attempt to reach out to our mothers. Mum was initially resistant to coming and needed much bargaining, cajoling and persuasion. As time passed, she has become very comfortable in Bethany and looked forward to coming every week! Thank God for many from Bethany who befriend and talk to her. Special thanks to Nancy Ang who will come by to talk to her after Sunday lunch and visit her at home with my mum's favourite chicken feet dish!

Mum's original intention was to continue coming to Bethany but would continue with her ancestor/ idol worship. No matter how much Victor and I and many in Bethany explained to her, knowing the Lord Jesus was not her focus. However, on her birthday last year, the Lord worked a miracle in her heart! She prayed with me and received the Lord Jesus into her life! Frankly, I was not fully sure of her decision because of her mental state, but the



following morning on 21 Dec 2024, she told my brother (who stays with her) most definitely that she wanted all her idols removed from her house! We were elated! Pastor Moses was very kind to help her do so the following Sunday on 29 December!

We have encouraged mum to seek baptism in April 2025 and she agrees to it. On Chinese New Year Eve, mum sought my brother's opinion about her baptism. Of course, my brother who is a Christian, readily agreed.

Although my mum has short term memory and tends to forget many things, I believe that at the point of her clarity, she understood & believed in the Lord Jesus. Our Lord will not forsake her.

In Isaiah 46:4, God has promised that He will take care of the old when they come to Him. Although it is not easy to reach my mum, I am very grateful that the Lord reached out to her. It is never too old & never too late for the Lord to deliver!

“Even to your old age, I am He,  
And even to gray hairs I will carry you!  
I have made, and I will bear;  
Even I will carry, and will deliver you.”



# COMING TO REAL FAITH: IN HIS TIME

TSE WING YAN

Hello brethren, my name is Carmen and I am seeking baptism at Bethany this Easter.

I first learned about Bethany in August 2018 during a summer exchange. Uncle Oliver and Auntie Amy invited me and a friend to join them for the Anniversary Worship Service. The message and praise singing were uplifting, and the young people showed great hospitality. Although God and salvation were not personal to me at the time, the experience planted a seed in my heart.

I returned to Singapore in 2020 and started attending Bethany regularly in 2022. Fitting into the Young Adult Group felt natural. The people were friendly and approachable, just as I remembered. Because of this, I felt a sense of belonging and believed I was good enough to be called a member. At that time, I valued friendship over salvation and thought that fitting in with the church simply meant having a good vibe and upholding moral standards. Looking back, I realize I had little faith and understanding of who the Lord truly is and what He means to me. So, when I approached some members of the pastoral team about my intention to be baptized, they advised me to wait and spend time focusing on deepening my faith first. I took the advice the wrong way and felt discouraged. I reacted emotionally, feeling as though I had disappointed others. However, I understand that I was wrong to feel that way. God never forsakes me.

Fast forward to August 2024. I was facing a challenge at work when what was supposed to be a team of three became just me. I worked around the clock for months, and the pressure took a physical and emotional toll. I did not know how to cope with the expectations and, instead, internalized everything. Thoughts of quitting and seeking “greener pastures” crossed my mind. Tempting offers came my way, leading me to a crossroads. I found

myself drawn to worldly rewards and immediate gratification. I even convinced myself that these opportunities were God-given and wondered why I was hesitating. But as I reflected on Proverbs 16:9 and Matthew 6, I realized that my heart had been focused on earthly treasures. Anxiety about my physical and financial well-being consumed me. Matthew 6 reminded me to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and trust in the Lord's provision. I recalled how God had faithfully provided for me during difficult times. It has been five years living abroad, and His provision has been constant and sufficient.

During this challenging season, God also placed wise counsel around me. Bethany has remained a place of safety where I could share my struggles, receive correction, and find encouragement. One piece of advice that stood out was from Pastor Mitch, who encouraged me to turn to Psalm 46. The chapter speaks about stillness and trusting God in difficult situations. It reminded me that God is my refuge, and He is in control. I need not be overwhelmed; instead, I should allow His strength to help. With His wisdom, I found the refuge and strength I needed. Truly, God is a present help in times of trouble. In retrospect, I was able to carry out my responsibilities every day, and whenever I felt low, I remembered His goodness and trusted that He would see me through. The Lord's Word uplifted me.

Another key lesson I have come to appreciate at Bethany is the value of fellowship. We are all called to be part of the body of Christ, and it is not about forming friendships with people who are just like us. The body of Christ transcends age, gender, and background. At Bethany, it has been joyful to interact with brethren of all ages, listening to their faith stories, and edifying one another in our faith walk. Fellowship also goes beyond weekend programs and ministries. In the Young Adult Group, we are challenged to be a source of encouragement to one another by keeping everyone in prayer. It is a great exercise to cultivate a prayer life and deepen the bond within the group. I am grateful to receive words of encouragement mid-week from friends, and it is equally wonderful to be able to share that same encouragement with them. It is truly a blessing to know we have each other's backs in our day-to-day lives.

During a recent Morning Worship session, Pastor Mitch shared about the

woman in Matthew 9:20-22 who had been suffering from bleeding. Her story resonated with me. Like her, I once had a covert faith, but through praying, fellowship, and even penning down this testimony, my faith has become clearer and more affirmed. Though I am far from perfect, His grace and mercy reached me even before I fully understood Him. The Lord Jesus is my Savior, and He welcomed me into His Kingdom when I truly accepted Him as my Savior and Lord, according to His timing, not mine. And now, I want to be identified with Him as I seek baptism and to be part of His church.



## FEAR NOT, FOR I AM WITH YOU

TAN WEN HUI CYNTHIA

Hello everyone, my name is Cynthia. I grew up in a non-Christian family and had never given much thought about faith. I was skeptical of faith-driven friends and had believed that one should always take matters into their own hands. It was until I met Alvin, who introduced me to knowing a little more about God.

My journey of faith began 1.5 years ago during a particularly difficult season in Alvin's and my life. After years of trying to conceive, we were faced with disappointments, including two miscarriages. Determined to increase our chances, we turned to assisted fertility treatments. Yet, they were unsuccessful. After undergoing numerous procedures, my heart grew weary, and life seemed to stand still. I struggled to support Alvin as well, especially as work weighed heavily on him during this challenging period. For the first time, I felt lost and could no longer 'take matters into my own hands'.

In search of strength and guidance through faith, Alvin prayed consistently and invited me to join him. This was also the time when we found Bethany and I started attending Sunday School to learn more about God. As I sought comfort and peace through God's word, I felt a weight lifted from my shoulders. God's abundant grace moved me. I learnt the futility in relying on earthly strength and that we can cast our anxieties on Him for He will provide in His good timing. With trust in Him, we committed our treatments

and procedures into God's hands. At last, I conceived. While the procedure was successful, we were cautious, too afraid to rejoice given our history of loss. We prayed continuously, taking each step of the pregnancy one day at a time, leaning onto God and relying on His strength.

Looking back on my pregnancy journey, I clearly see God's hand through it all. Isaiah 41:10 reads: "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." This verse, lovingly shared by Teacher Chiew Yen, was kept close to my heart through my pregnancy, reminding me that God is always walking alongside me. The pregnancy was not without its challenges. I endured cerclage surgery, shingles, a sprained lower back, and more. But through it all, I saw God's protection over both the baby and I every step of the way till delivery.

Today, we give thanks to God for the answered prayers, the arrival of Baby Theodore, and for bringing Alvin and I closer together during this challenging season of life. Having realised how great He has been good to me, I no longer fear. We are also thankful for the love and grace shown to us by the Bethany community. With gratitude in my heart, I look forward to living out my newfound faith faithfully.



Hi everyone, I'm Alvin and thank you for this opportunity to share God's faithfulness in my life. I'll briefly share my testimony in 3 parts: Why God, Why Bethany, and What's next.

### **Why God? God is good**

As a mischievous child left largely unsupervised due to my parents being overseas, I often found myself in trouble in and out of school. I had a bad reputation with family, relatives and teachers, and I felt unloved, unwanted and like a failure. A turning point came during a church camp where I encountered God's love, acceptance, and a sense of belonging that led me

to embrace Christ. This transformation fuelled my active involvement and service in church. Before long, my family and teachers noticed a marked improvement in my attitude, character and my grades improved incredibly too.

However, when I failed to gain admission to the university and course of my choice, I was overcome with disappointment. Watching my peers succeed without serving God as much as I had caused my faith and trust in Him to waver, and I gradually drifted away.

The many years I spent apart from God were filled with emptiness, leaving me questioning if there was more to life than the secular path I was on. I often thought back to the joy and fulfilment I experienced in my youth, walking closely with God. Deep in my heart, I always knew He is good. It was only in recent years that I found my way back - reading the Bible once again and attending church, now with a renewed sense of hope and purpose.

### **Why Bethany?**

I was drawn to Bethany's deep commitment to the Word of God. I recall the service on September 3rd, 2023, Pastors Charles and Mark emphasized the Word as the foundation of Bethany and focus for all its ministries, symbolized by the pulpit's placement at the centre of the stage. He urged us to delight in and treasure the privilege of being fed God's Word, pointing to Jesus' response, "It is written," as a model for anchoring our lives in the Word. I also noticed the deep hunger for God's Word among the congregation as they took notes intently during sermons. When I joined SSS2, I was deeply moved by the living testimonies shared, inspired by the profound teaching, and the dedication of other members to the word. Hence, I knew that at Bethany, the Word of God would be the foundation and bedrock of both my life and my family's life.

My faith grew significantly in Bethany, especially during a challenging season of my life. My wife and I faced two miscarriages and went through various assisted fertility treatments, leaving us weary from the repeated disappointment and failed attempts. At the same time, I was navigating a particularly difficult period at work. What strengthened my faith were the numerous lessons I learned in SSS2 and church, the Godly standards

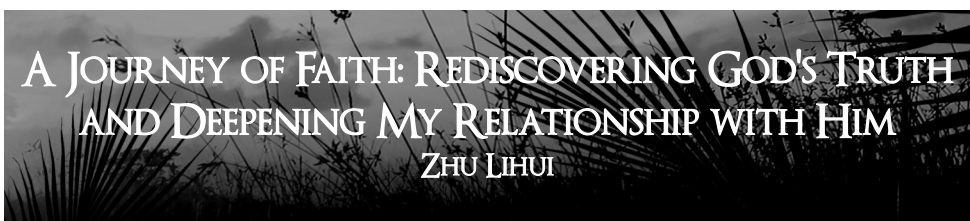
modelled by men like Teacher Chung, and the living testimonies and encouragement of church members like Teacher Chiew Yen.

### **What's next?**

I want to continue seeking God, living according to His will and purpose, a life that would be worthy of the gospel of Christ.

As for our baby Theodore, we are so thankful to God and want to commit him to the Lord. We named him Theodore, which means Gift from God. His Chinese name, 明佑, reflects our hope and prayer for him, that he will shine brightly for God and protect His people.

Thank you.



I was first introduced to Christianity in secondary school, but it felt more like a social gathering and a way to uplift my emotions. My faith was simple and superficial. It wasn't until 2017, after drifting away for some time, that I decided to return to the Lord and seriously pursue a deeper relationship with Him.

Even after returning, I struggled to strengthen my relationship with God, as I had grown so comfortable with my previous church and its environment that I resisted growing in my understanding of God. My faith was limited to attending services and occasionally joining Bible study classes.

Things changed when my fiancé, Nicholas Khoo, introduced me to Bethany. Although I started attending regularly last year, the differences in church practices and interpretations of God's Word often caused confusion, as I came from a different denomination. After months of discussions with the pastors, I understood the importance of seeking God's truth over focusing

on practices.

I then made the decision to refocus my attention on God, humbling myself and seeking His guidance to pursue His truth. Given Bethany's strong emphasis on studying God's Word and grounding our lives in His truth, it became clear that this is the right place for me to make a change and transition, allowing me to learn the correct way to seek the Lord and receive the truth through His Word.

The messages from this year's Family Camp had a profound impact on me and served as a wake-up call. One key takeaway was the reminder that returning to the Lord doesn't simply mean attending church and serving Him, thinking that's enough. It is about desiring a personal relationship with Him and living as His witness.

Hosea 11:1 says, "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son." God knows how sinful we are, yet He continues to love us—not because of who we are or what we've done, but simply because He is God. His immense love compels me to serve Him. Even though I know that I will falter many times, I trust that as I honor the Lord and seek Him with all my heart, soul, and strength, He will graciously provide the strength to live well for Him.



Though the past couple years of my life have been filled with many challenges and setbacks ranging from school to family issues, I can truly say that God has been there with me faithfully at every juncture and crossroad that I had to face.

In 2022, I was not able to focus on my studies and ended up having to repeat my fourth year in SOTA. Upon hearing this news, I did not take this well as thoughts such as, "now I am a year behind all my friends" and "how am I going to catch up with them?" filled my mind. Thinking in this way had



really led me into a mindset that kept spiralling, straying further and further away from God.

Despite this, it was through the many Sunday school lessons where we were taught from the book of Romans that I learned of both how much God truly loves each person and of the power He has. In Romans 8:29, Paul wrote of the foreknowledge that God has and it was because of this he could trust in Him. Paul continued to write further in verse 30 about how God has predestined those who love Him, calling them, justifying and moreover glorifying them.

This passage made me look at my life from a broader picture, allowing me to truly see God's hand in my life. The wakeup call of being retained has helped me to get a better grip of myself, forcing me to really focus when it comes to studying. Furthermore, being placed into a new cohort allowed me to open up and make many new friends whom I hold close to me even now, many of whom share a similar faith.

Through these experiences, I have come to see firsthand the love, guidance, and faithfulness of Christ in my life. His presence has not only been with me through my struggles but has also carried me to where I am today. Because of this, I want to take the next step in my faith—not just to be identified with Christ in name, but to live in a way that reflects His role in my life, acknowledging His grace and sovereignty in all that I do.

Daniel 1:8 states that Daniel had purposed in his heart to not be defiled despite being in a foreign land, allowing him to be able to bear witness of the Lord. Even though I am fearful of straying away from God as I take this next step in my faith, I am encouraged by the example of Daniel to remain faithful to Him, just as He is to me. Hence, I will no longer remain ignorant to the fact that it is only through Christ who has saved and redeemed me that I can be standing where I am today!



# UNDESERVING, YET JUSTIFIED BY GRACE

HANNAH HOO SI EN

Hello everyone, my name is Hannah. I am 20 years old this year and currently in my first year of university. I had the privilege of growing up here in Bethany—attending Bethany Kindy, Sunday School classes, Worship services and Youth Conferences. Yet, I struggled to find my own personal faith in the Lord.

## **Struggling to Find Personal Faith**

First, I had this misconception that faith ought to be a major “turning point” in my life, when suddenly I would be “near” to the Lord and find faith real. Second, pursuing a genuine faith was not my priority. When I was in Junior College, I prioritised my studies and school commitments over knowing the Lord. Slowly, faith became something that I was no longer interested in. There even came a point when I even considered not going to church anymore. This struggle to find faith and this “turning point” left me feeling discouraged. Despite being in Bethany for so many years, I was ashamed that I had not found my own faith and I allowed myself to drift further away from the Lord, thinking that I will never be able to find this faith for myself.

## **Returning to the Lord**

During a Youth Conference two years ago, in one of the Bible Study sessions, Pastor Mitch drew a comparison of the life of someone who belonged to the Kingdom of Heaven and one who belonged to the Kingdom of Satan on the whiteboard. As I reflected on what was written, I was ashamed to realise that my life reflected almost everything on the list under the Kingdom of Satan. I saw how deep in sin I was, and how far I had strayed from God. Yet, this gracious Lord still wanted me to turn back to Him and would lovingly forgive me of my sins. It was then that I decided that I wanted to take my walk with the Lord seriously and return to Him. I also came to realise that faith is not something that I would find without doing anything, but it is something that is strengthened as I put in the effort to learn more about the Lord and walk with Him through life.

## **The Lord's Great Love**

During Sunday School, I was deeply impacted by the text in Romans 3:23-24: *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."* As I read this, I was struck by my unworthiness before God. He is One who is blameless and holy. Who am I to come before Him? I am nothing but sinful, constantly falling short of His glory time and time again. I am so undeserving and will never be deserving of His abundant grace. And yet, in His great love, the Lord justified me, through His Son's death on the cross to save me from the wages of my sins which is death. I am not and never will be deserving of this great Sacrifice. God's love for me has moved my heart and this truth has made me appreciate His love for me even more. My response is to want to serve the Lord in whatever way I can and to live a life well that reflects the love of my Saviour.

## **Peace in Uncertainty**

An experience that deepened my trust in the Lord was when I collected my A-Level results two years ago. Many of my friends were anxious, and as we were waiting to go to the hall, one of them turned to me and asked, "Are you nervous?" My friend was shocked when I told her that I wasn't. There was a deep sense of peace in my heart as I held onto the Lord's Word from Proverbs 3:5-6: *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."* The Lord graciously extended His peace to me which was unlike anything I had ever experienced before. I felt that the Lord was so real to me and I knew that I could trust Him with whatever plans He had for me and I did not have to worry.

## **Moving Forward in Faith**

This Easter, I am seeking reaffirmation as my commitment to continue following the Lord and to grow deeper in my faith. I am grateful that the Lord has given me this privilege to get to know Him and I trust that He will continue to do a good work in my life.



# RETURNING TO GOD

AMANDA LAI JIA XUAN

## Growing Up

Hello everyone, my name is Amanda Lai. I'm 22 this year. Since birth, I had the privilege of growing up in Bethany, where I experienced God's love shown through my spiritual family. Even though I attended Sunday Schools, YPGs, and Worship Services since I was a child, these became mere routines to me over time. When Bible stories and lessons from the Word were taught, I often found them uninteresting, and thus I did not really bother to listen well and understand. Instead, I was content with taking away just a few Biblical facts. From young, I was taught that God loves us and will always be there for us. However, I solely relied on my own strength, only turning to God for His help and grace out of desperation. This "knowledge" that I had of God and His Word did not result in faith that could be applied in my life. Upon reflection, I realised I lacked true knowledge and understanding of God. Neither did I have a personal relationship with Him.

## Realisation Of Backsliding

Back in 2023 before starting university, I was committed to beginning this new phase of life in faith and with God. Very quickly, I found myself succumbing to the deadly influences of the world. It was then I began to realise how much I had backslidden in my faith. Despite the many warnings from my teachers at Bethany to guard my faith and stand firm, I had allowed the distractions of the world to pull me further away from God. I surrounded myself with foolish company, developed wrong perspectives of life, and allowed sin to take root. I neglected time with God, prioritised fleeting pleasures and found myself trapped in a cycle of regret and guilt.

## Returning To God

At this low point in life, God graciously reached out to me through His word and ultimately led me back to Himself.

Romans 8:12-13 reads:

*"Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the*

*flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”*

This passage forced me to ask myself: Was my life reflective of a Christian? What was I living according to? As I took an honest look at my life, I was greatly rebuked. I realised that my way of life was leading me towards destruction and death. Although I was setting aside time for God to be in church and to serve on weekends, I was living according to the flesh for the other days of the week. Even my friends couldn't tell that I was a Christian from the way I lived. I was leading a double life, and I knew I needed to change. It was then that I cried out to the Lord earnestly, seeking His forgiveness and pleading with Him to change me. Looking back, I realised how much I had taken God's grace for granted. He had carried me through every storm, mercifully guiding me even when I strayed. I was filled with regret and guilt—how could God give His beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, for a sinner like me, and yet I did not heed His Word?

### **Restoration From God**

But God, in His mercy, turned my eyes away from worldly pleasures, and I began to realise that His Word was speaking to me in ways I never imagined.

In Romans 8:14-15, it reads *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.””*

Instead of remaining in bondage to sin, there came a desire to live as a child of God. There also came a consciousness to be led by the Spirit and not by my own flesh. I recognised there is nothing greater than the privilege of being a child of God and to lead a life that honours God. Now, there is a new desire within me to read God's Word and to know Him so that I may walk according to His ways, and learn to commit all things to my Heavenly Father through prayer. I recognise that this change could not have been possible with my own will or strength. Thank God for His mercy and grace shown to me in drawing me back to Himself and working in my life!

## Re-affirmation: What It Means To Me

As I seek reaffirmation this Easter, I hold fast to Philippians 1:6:

*“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ”*

This verse reassures me that my journey of faith is not my own doing but God’s. It was only through Him that I was changed and corrected from my sinful ways. I want to commit my life to Him, that I may continue to grow in my faith, discover His plan for me and be used by Him for His work. My prayer is that I will walk closely with the Lord, continue seeking Him, and follow Him so that my life may bring glory to His name.



Hi, my name is Zachary. I am 19 years old, and I am going to start my third year of poly soon. I have been in Bethany since birth and have grown up here.

I grew up being told of the Bible stories and God’s love for me. However, for the first 17 years of my life I had never thought about growing my relationship with God, in fact I felt it was a hassle to come to church except to play and have fun. There was hardly any space for God and His Word in my heart and even thought that such things were unexciting and ‘boring’, questioning why I have to praise and worship someone that had hardly done anything for me.

One of my lowest points in life was after O’ Levels, I got my result 2 years ago on my birthday, and it was the worst birthday gift ever. The results were far from what I had hoped for, due to this setback I began to ignore everyone and everything, I became easily irritable and separated myself from friends. I felt alone and sad almost all of the time.

The theme of family camp 2024 was “I Will Lift Up My Eyes”, and it was at the camp where my spiritual perspective first turned around. It was at this

camp where I learnt to look to the Lord, especially in times of despair or trouble, and to build a strong unmovable faith. I realized I needed to change; I started taking the Bible lessons more seriously. However, I didn't do enough to grow this faith. Faith was not easily developed, as I was distracted by the many sins of the world and God was not a priority for me. I came to church on Sundays to 'recharge' my faith but on the weekdays, I go back to the real world and face many temptations. Despite this I thought that I was growing in faith, and that just thinking about God is all I needed to do. I hadn't put in the effort to seek and create a relationship with God. Thus, this little faith that I had had stagnated.

"By Faith" was the theme of the 2024 Youth Conference. In the camp we were asked hard-hitting questions, like 'Do I have genuine faith?', or 'Are we happy with how our life is now?'. My answer to both questions was certainly 'no' at that point in time.

Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, evidence of things not seen."

Throughout camp this verse stayed in my head. What is it that I truly hoped for? In Hebrews 11, the 2 words 'by faith' is repeated many times, followed by great works done by people. These great works are works that can only be done through faith, and I knew that I didn't have this great genuine faith to speak of.

Looking back, I can say that I have received more of God's blessings than I had initially thought, He has given strength during difficult times in school, and even though I pushed Him aside the past, He had given me Bethany from birth, a place where I have people I can lean on. In fact, maybe the worst birthday present was one of the greatest blessing for me so far.

As I seek reaffirmation, Matthew 7:24-27 comes to mind. I now realized that I am the foolish man, who chose not to listen to the words of God taught by those around me, building my 'house' on the sand and when problems and struggles came, I crumbled down. Instead, I want to be like the wise man who builds his house on the rock. Using faith as the foundation, to sustain me even in difficult times.

The Lord has been by my side and watching over me my whole life. And my response is that I want to commit my life to knowing Him and His Word better and continue to grow my faith to be one that can withstand any challenges that come my way and create a strong relationship with God, so that I can be of service to Him.



# BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*God's Kind of Church...*

*Where God is touching lives...*

*And people care for people.*

*Bethany IV ... 13 April 2025 ... Palm Sunday!*

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## MEDITATION

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REV DR CHARLES TAN

**Text: Romans 5**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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## ABUNDANCE OF GRACE

### ENTERING INTO OUR EASTER MONTH

Let us take time to read and recall the matchless grace of God given to us so abundantly. We must learn never to take the Lord's grace for granted.

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# MEDITATION

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<sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

<sup>13</sup>(For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

<sup>14</sup>Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

<sup>15</sup>But the free gift *is* not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.

<sup>16</sup>And the gift *is* not like *that which came* through the one who sinned. For the judgment *which came* from one *offense resulted* in condemnation, but the free gift *which came* from many offenses *resulted* in justification.

<sup>17</sup>For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

Romans 5:12-17

## 1. Features of grace that stand out

- a) Grace is a gift from God
- b) God's grace is given in abundance
- c) This is a gift of righteousness

## 2. Appropriate response to the abundant grace of God

- a) Let us appreciate the Lord Jesus Christ afresh
- b) Let us treasure the Lord Jesus as the One who made God's blessings possible
- c) Let us draw nearer to the Lord Jesus this Easter

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Write to me at: [charlestan@bethanyipc.sg](mailto:charlestan@bethanyipc.sg)

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## WELCOME TO BETHANY

We are glad that you have chosen to worship the Lord Jesus with us today. May your heart be uplifted through worship and fellowship!



## HAPPY PALM SUNDAY

May our hearts sing “Hosanna” to the Lord Jesus Christ as we commence Holy Week. Special Easter Devotions begin in ICARE today.



## EASTER BAPTISMAL COMBINED SERVICE

### List of Baptismal Candidates this week

#### Paedo-Baptism

1. Beatrice Chiong Jing Ting (Daughter of Timon & Charissa)
2. Micah Kwek Xuan (Son of Pastor Moses & Gan Ann)
3. Sophia Xiu En Ng (Daughter of Jonathan & Sheryl)
4. Theodore Lai Ming You (Son of Alvin & Cynthia)

#### Baptism

1. Oh Cheow Chang, 吳秀欉 (Mother of Lay See)
2. Tan Wen Hui Cynthia
3. Tse Wing Yan

#### Transference

1. Lai Guanda (Alvin)
2. Zhu Lihui

#### Reaffirmation

1. Amanda Lai Jia Xuan
2. Elliott Chan
3. Hannah Hoo Si En
4. Zachary Lai

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## **MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE**

17 April 2025 | 8.00pm

Title: "That your faith should not fail" Luke 22

## **EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**

20 April 2025 | Shangri La | 10.30am

To register for Easter Lunch, please scan the QR code below.



## **GIVING OF FELLOWSHIP MEALS**

**BREAKFAST: SHERLYN HO**

**LUNCH: LIANG FAMILY (MR. & MRS. LIANG AND HWEE MING), TAY XIAOHAN**



## **JUNIOR CAMP 2025** **"MY LITTLE CHILDREN" 1 JOHN 2:1**

We are glad to announce that Junior Camp 2025 will be held in the first week of the June Holidays!

At this year's Camp, we will be learning more about the Lord Jesus and what it means to live as children of light.

We look forward to an exciting time of learning, growing, and building bonds of friendship together!

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Details:

Dates: 2 - 5 June 2025 (Monday - Thursday)

Time: 8.30am - 4.30pm daily (Lunch will be provided)

Venue: Bethany IPC

Junior Camp 2025 is open to children aged 7-12.

Please sign up using the QR below.



## THIS WEEK IN BETHANY

1. Seniors Program
  - a) Combined Seniors Program  
Tuesday, 15 April 2025 | 9.30am- 11.30am
  - b) There will be no Seniors Program on Thursday, 17 April 2025
2. Maundy Thursday, 17 April 2025  
Communion Service | 8.00pm
3. Holy Saturday, 19 April 2025
  - a) No YPG/ YAG
  - b) No Youth Worship
4. Easter Sunday, 20 April 2025  
Easter Worship Service  
Shangri La | 10.30am



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# BIBLE MEMORY WORK

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**TODAY: 13 April 2025**

**Text: “Add to your faith”**

*But also for this very reason, giving all diligence,  
add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge  
2 Peter 1:5*

1. Faith is of vital importance
  2. We must seek to add to our faith
    - a) Virtue
    - b) Knowledge
  3. This work of adding to our faith must be done with diligence
- Read 2 Peter 1 to consider other things that must be added

**NEXT SUNDAY: 20 April 2025**

**Text: “Work of faith”**

*Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labour of love, and patience  
of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father  
1 Thessalonians 1:3*

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# WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

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## Psalm 6:1-3

<sup>1</sup> O LORD, do not rebuke me in Your anger,  
Nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure.

<sup>2</sup> Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I *am* weak;  
O LORD, heal me, for my bones are troubled.

<sup>3</sup> My soul also is greatly troubled;  
But You, O LORD—how long?

1. Recognition of feeling greatly troubled
  - a) Fear of God's anger
  - b) Dread of God's displeasure
  - c) Sadness for the weakness felt
2. Returning to the Lord
  - b) Praying for mercy
  - c) Praying for God's mercy to be healed
  - d) Hope in God that He would be compassionate

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## POETRY CORNER

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### ABUNDANCE OF GRACE

The sin of Adam brought devastation;  
But the Son of God brought redemption.  
Through the Lord Jesus we have abundant grace;  
Our challenge is to seek His glorious face!

Through grace we will have God's forgiveness;  
Through grace we will be given His righteousness.  
How abundant is the grace of God so freely given;  
We must not allow sin to spread like leaven.

God's abundance is freely promised to all;  
Our part is to respond to God's gracious call.  
He will cleanse us from all our sins in His grace;  
May we return to God and offer hymns of praise!

God's abundant grace must not be taken for granted;  
The Lord Jesus as our Saviour ought to be treasured.  
Let us draw near to our wonderful Saviour with love in our heart;  
From the proclamation of "Hosanna," may we never depart!

Charles Tan  
Inspiration: Romans 5:12-17



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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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## PRELUDE

"Just Because He Lives" | Handbell Ensemble

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Mr. David Kwok  
Mrs. Evangeline Kwok

## PRAYER

## HYMNS

CP 341 | Knowing You  
CP 322 | The Solid Rock

## MESSAGE

"O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"  
Texts : Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:15-21  
*Rev. Dr. Charles Tan*

## CLOSING HYMN

HWC 408 | Have Faith in God

## BENEDICTION

## OFFERING

## POSTLUDE



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# HYMNS

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## CP 341 KNOWING YOU

GRAHAM KENDRICK

1. All I once held dear, built my life upon,  
All this world reveres and wars to own.  
All I once thought gain I have counted loss,  
Spent and worthless now compared to this.

Refrain

Knowing You, Jesus, Knowing You,  
There is no greater thing.  
You're my all, You're the best,  
You're my joy, my righteousness,  
And I love You, Lord.

2. Now my heart's desire is to know You more,  
To be found in You, and known as Yours.  
To possess by faith what I could not earn,  
All surpassing gift of righteousness.

*Refrain*

3. Oh, to know the pow'r of Your risen life  
And to know You in Your sufferings.  
To become like You in Your death, my Lord,  
So with You to live and never die.

*Refrain*



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# HYMNS

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## CP 322 THE SOLID ROCK

EDWARD MOTE

1. My hope is built on nothing less,  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain

On Christ the solid Rock I stand,  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.

2. When darkness veils His lovely face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale,  
My anchor holds within the veil.

*Refrain*

3. His oath, His covenant, His blood,  
Support me in the whelming flood.  
When all around my soul gives way,  
He then is all my hope and stay.

*Refrain*

4. When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in Him be found.  
Dressed in His righteousness alone,  
Faultless to stand before the throne.

*Refrain*



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# HYMNS

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## HWC 408 HAVE FAITH IN GOD

B. B. MCKINNEY

1. Have faith in God when your pathway is lonely,  
He sees and knows all the way you have trod;  
Never alone are the least of His children;  
Have faith in God, have faith in God.

Refrain

Have faith in God, He's on His throne;  
Have faith in God, He watches o'er His own;  
He cannot fail, He must prevail;  
Have faith in God, have faith in God.

2. Have faith in God when your pray'rs are unanswered,  
Your earnest plea He will never forget;  
Wait on the Lord, trust His Word and be patient,  
Have faith in God, He'll answer yet.

*Refrain*

3. Have faith in God in your pain and your sorrow,  
His heart is touched with your grief and despair;  
Cast all your cares and your burdens upon Him,  
And leave them there, oh, leave them there.

*Refrain*

4. Have faith in God though all else fail about you;  
Have faith in God, He provides for His own;  
He cannot fail though all kingdoms shall perish,  
He rules, He reigns upon His throne.

*Refrain*



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