



THIS IS  
MY STORY

A Booklet of Testimonies

Christmas  
Baptismal Service II

SUNDAY **14** DECEMBER





# THIS IS MY STORY

TESTIMONIES OF BRETHREN WHO WILL BE  
RECEIVED INTO CHURCH MEMBERSHIP  
ON 14 DECEMBER 2025

## **Paedo-Baptism**

1. Dave Goh  
(Son of Qing Yang & Yuanli)
2. Laina Cheong Jie En  
(Daughter of Samuel & Danae)
3. Tobias Low En Le  
(Son of Gibson & Rachel)
4. Eliza Leong Hui Xuan  
(Daughter of Will & Joanne)
5. How Rui Ze, Nathaniel  
(Son of Ivan & Evangeline)

## **Baptism**

1. Lim Moy Kia (Mother of Kelley)
2. Betty Goh Eng Bee
3. Kwek Chay Hiah Alice
4. Karen Yap
5. Sarah Chua Li Xuan

## **Reaffirmation**

1. Nathan Ong

## **To be baptized by:**

- Pastor Charles Tan
- Pastor Charles Tan
- Pastor Charles Tan
- Pastor Benjamin Quah
- Pastor Benjamin Quah

## **To be baptized by:**

- Pastor Moses Kwek
- Pastor Jonathan Jacob
- Pastor Jonathan Jacob
- Pastor Mitchell Tan
- Pastor Mitchell Tan

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

- Pastor Benjamin Quah

# BEHOLD! WHAT MANNER OF LOVE

GOH QING YANG AND YUANLI  
(PARENTS OF DAVE GOH)

Behold! What manner of love our Father has bestowed,  
He sent His Son Christ Jesus, salvation He has shown  
In God's supreme love, He has called us His beloved children,  
What blessedness it is to relate to our Father in Heaven!

The love of God is expressed in definite and marvellous ways,  
He gives to us a precious boy whom we gratefully name "Dave."  
To be loved and favoured by the LORD is life's greatest blessing,  
May he grow to comprehend the love of God everlasting!

The love of God undergirds His divine and profound Plan.  
What Dave can and will become, we trust in His loving hands.  
The Scriptures read, "It has not yet been revealed what we shall be,"  
God will do a special work in His children, to His own glory!

Our hearts overflow with praise as we dwell on God's immense love,  
Abiding in His Word and Love remains our commitment and endeavour.  
As a family, we need God's grace and mercy to walk in His ways,  
May He grant us strength to love and serve Him all our days!

Inspired from Junior Camp 2025 "My Little Children";  
1 John 3:1-2; Deuteronomy 6:5

# GRATEFULNESS AND HOPE

SAM & DANAЕ CHEONG  
(PARENTS OF LAINA CHEONG)

Dear Pastor and dear Brethren,

Please allow us to share some thoughts as we commit our daughter, Laina Cheong Jie En, to the Lord for baptism this Christmas 2025.

## Gratefulness

As we reflect on our journey thus far as new parents, our hearts are filled with thankfulness and gratitude for how the Lord has shown us His great mercies. Danae's pregnancy was generally smooth, and so was the delivery. Laina was born on 05 August 2025 at 1241 hrs.

We are deeply grateful that God indeed is faithful, not testing us with uncommon struggles that exceed what we can bear (1 Corinthians 10:13). Our parenthood struggles remind us that we are not sufficient within ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God - just as He has called us to be parents, He will also supply His sufficient grace for the task (2 Corinthians 3:5-6). We also trust that God is able to purify and transform us in the process.

God's faithfulness is also demonstrated through the support from our biological and spiritual family

- Family members are a phone call or text message away, if we ever need help, day or night
- We are abundantly blessed with baby supplies
- We are specially blessed with our own 'KKH care team' in Shu Yi, Kevin and Keith whom we can consult for any medical matter concerning Laina
- Bethany mothers community: For being such a wonderful source of encouragement to Danae in her adjustment as a first time mother
- So many other church brethren have reached out, to visit, to ask about us, to share encouragement and advice, to pray alongside

## Hope

We chose Laina's name, drawing inspiration from 2 other names. The first, "Lena", a diminutive of the Greek name "Helena," has the meaning of "shining light". Our hope is that she would discover the Lord Jesus as the Light of the world (John 8:12) and in turn, reflect His light to others (Matthew 5:14).

The second name, "Ilana", can be traced to the Hebrew word for "tree". Our hope is that she would grow up well like a tree, loving, fearing and serving the Lord in time. Dwelling on Psalm 1:1-3, we pray for Laina that she would:

- Choose not the ways of the world
- Delight in the Lord's word
- Be like a tree planted by the rivers of water
- Be fruitful for the Lord
- Be resilient and steadfast in the Lord amidst life's challenges

Her Chinese name, 洁恩, reflects our hope that she would place her trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, that she may be purified by His grace.

Isaiah 43:1

But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob,  
And He who formed you, O Israel:  
"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by your name;  
You are Mine.

We give God the glory for His marvelous work in creating and forming our little baby. By His grace, we hope to be effective ambassadors of Christ to Laina, teaching her to place her trust in the Lord who has redeemed her and called her by name.



# GRATITUDE AND JOY

GIBSON & RACHEL LOW  
(PARENTS OF TOBIAS LOW)

Our hearts are filled with gratitude and joy as we commit our beloved son, Tobias Low En Le, to the Lord in baptism.

We were overjoyed when we found out we were expecting, and even more so during a season where God became real and personal to us. In His perfect timing, He revealed Himself as our Light and our Hope, amid the challenges we were facing. During this season, both of us came to know the Lord and were baptized. Tobias' arrival is a precious reminder to us of God's goodness, mercy, and sovereign grace over our lives and our growing family.

The name Tobias is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Toviya, which means "God is good." His name serves as a daily reminder of our deep gratitude, trust, and reverence for the Lord who first loved us.

His Chinese name, 恩乐, expresses our response to the Lord and reflects the heart of our desires for our son's life:

- 恩 means *gratitude*, a heart we pray he carries throughout his life, rooted in thankfulness for God's faithfulness and love.
- 乐 means *joy*, not merely happiness in a worldly sense, but the deep and lasting joy that comes from knowing and walking with the Lord.

Together, our prayer for our son is that he may grow up to know the Lord's goodness, respond in gratitude, and rejoice in the joy of His salvation.



# PLEGGED TO GOD

WILL & JOANNE LEONG  
(PARENTS OF ELIZA LEONG)

God is good. We've been blessed with another daughter and it is our utmost joy to dedicate her to the Lord this Christmas. The responsibilities of bringing up two young children are immense, but in spite of the challenges each day that keep our hands full, the blessings from the Lord are also full, and so are our hearts!

We chose the name "Eliza", a variation of "Elizabeth", because of its Biblical significance. Meaning "a promise to my God", our prayer is that Eliza will be a reminder to our family of God and His promises to us - and in turn, what we have pledged to God as a family. The Lord has kept all His promises to us, especially the ones to sustain and keep, and to care and love us with abundant grace and mercy.

Eliza's Chinese name is Hui Xuan (慧宣). 智慧 means wisdom - our prayer is that Eliza will always seek after godly wisdom in this turbulent world. 宣告 means to declare - we pray that Eliza's life will bear testament of how the Lord has kept her under the shadow of His wings since she was in the womb. It is also our prayer that she will boldly and unabashedly declare God's love, goodness and faithfulness to those around her.

With the complications of the first pregnancy, our gynaecologist had forewarned us of the high possibility of having cervical incompetency once again. We sought the Lord in prayer about the decision to grow our family and prayed humbly that our faith would stand a second test, if it were in His will. Although the same issue returned, in God's amazing grace, Joanne's cervical incompetency did not reach a dangerous point where she would require complete bedrest like before. Each time we went for our checkup, our gynaecologist marvelled at what a miracle it was that the issue did not worsen with the second pregnancy. We can only attribute this to the Lord's mercy and keeping! Each trimester brought its own set of complications from

having a hematoma (internal bleeding) to a fainting spell and gestational diabetes. The Lord's presence and strength were with us through every uncertain moment, and we clung to the deeper lessons of faith learned. Where challenges abound, peace, joy and trust in the Lord filled our hearts and minds even more! Just as it was with Elizabeth of old, we are firsthand witnesses of God's promises fulfilled, and we hope to in turn encourage others to believe in the things which God has spoken.

We also considered solemnly what our promises are to God. As part of this beloved Bethany family, we are cognisant of the God-given role that we need to fulfil within the church - to be part of this community of faith. Our prayer and responsibility is that we will bring up our children, Hannah and Eliza, in the fear of the Lord, so that they may one day find personal faith in Him and take their place as His servants. Our children have been and will be loved by many in Bethany, and this is something that we appreciate and treasure greatly.

The things which God has declared to us are unmistakable - His gracious love, His guiding Light, His gentle leading, His great goodness and much more. We cannot but respond by declaring His glory and testify of who the Lord is to us. May the Lord's name be praised!

Psalm 92:1-2

It is good to give thanks to the LORD,  
And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;  
To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning,  
And Your faithfulness every night.

# SAVED BY GOD'S GRACE AND MERCY

LIM MOY KIA

My name is Lim Moy Kia, I am 77 years old this year. My daughter is Kelley and my son-in-law is Jen Chian.

I come from a Buddhist background but I don't go to the temple. From young, I didn't want to go into the temple. I was afraid, and I wondered why there were so many gods. I never prayed to any of them.

I worked as a Health Attendant in the Polyclinic. After I retired in 2016, Kelley invited me to Bethany every week. I would take the MRT from Jurong MRT station to Paya Lebar MRT station and Jen Chian would fetch me to Church from there. In church, I was introduced to many friends, like Joanna and Patricia.

I would carry my Bible to Church with me and try to understand what Pastor said. When I couldn't understand, Kelley encouraged me. She told me that, one day, I would understand. She also told me that I must believe that the Lord Jesus is God, and that I should not pray to other gods.

In 2019, Kelley left for UK as part of her job training. I felt lonely without my daughter. One day, while Kelley was away, I fell down in the toilet and was badly bruised. Min-Yi brought me chicken soup and visited me while I waited for Kelley to return to Singapore.

## COVID

After Kelley's return from UK, COVID came and church services went online. Kelley invited me to watch the online services with her. I agreed and we watched the online church services together when she visited me on Sundays.

During the COVID pandemic, I suffered a severe gout attack which led me to be hospitalized. Although I recovered and went home with Kelley, I fell at home again while trying to get to the toilet in the wee hours of the morning

and sustained a head injury. Because I was on blood thinners, blood was oozing from a deep cut at my head and I felt extreme pain. Kelley called for an ambulance and the paramedics arrived quickly.

### **God's Grace Experienced**

I was rushed straight to the Emergency department and MRI was swiftly done. A blood clot was discovered in my brain. I was immediately transferred to intensive care for close monitoring. My children were informed of my condition and immediate plans were discussed with the medical team.

2 options were offered - either go for brain surgery to remove the clot or undergo a 2nd MRI scan to reconfirm the blood clot. I went through the repeat MRI and the blood clot was not seen after a thorough scan. It is definitely God's grace and mercy extended to me.

Chiew Yen and her class prayed for me when I stayed in ICU. I stayed in an isolation room for one month as I had an infection. At this time, I could only see my children through video calls and missed them very much. I cried every day and wanted to go home. I turned to God in desperation and prayed to Him to ask Him for His help, "Please God, I want to go home. Please help me." 3 months later, God answered my prayers. My helper came to Singapore and I could finally go home.

### **Finding personal faith – I believe!**

Because of my physical limitations, I am not able to attend Church. I feel so happy that friends from Church come to visit me. Friends such as Lay See, Victor, Joanna, Chiew Yen, Pastor Moses and Min-Yi.

Along the way, I began reading the Gospel of John with Min-Yi. Although I cannot understand the Bible when I read it by myself and I cannot remember all the verses that I have been taught, I feel happy because there is someone to explain the Bible to me and remind me about what the verses mean. Through reading with Min-Yi, I find that I can understand. God helped me to understand the Bible. One Sunday, after watching the online Morning Worship Service with Kelley, I told her that I believe in the Lord Jesus.

This is what I believe:

John 1:1

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

I believe that the Lord Jesus is the Word and the Lord Jesus is God.

John 1:12

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name”

I know that when I believe in the Lord Jesus, I can be God’s child.

John 1:29

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

All have sinned. I believe that the Lord Jesus came to take away my sins and I’m so happy to hear this.

Since coming to faith, I had been hoping to remove the idol and my husband’s ancestral tablet that was in my house. I didn’t know how to get this done and I was worried that I would have to pay the temple a lot of money to do so. One day, Pastor Moses, Joanna and Chiew Yen came to my house to visit me. Pastor Moses took the idol and my husband’s ancestral tablet away. He shared 1 Corinthians 8:4 “...we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one” with me. He removed it without any fuss or cost. I was so happy that this could be done for me. I feel at peace.

I would like to be baptised because I believe in the Lord Jesus. I feel happy whenever I hear what the Bible says. Although there was a time when I could not understand what was written in the Bible, God now helps me to understand what is written in the Bible.



# GOD CARRIED ME THROUGH

BETTY GOH ENG BEE

I was educated in a Methodist school where I first learnt about Christianity - through religious knowledge subjects, weekly chapel and religious emphasis week services.

Since then and through my adult life, I have always believed there is a God and that He is my guiding light.

Over the years, I was introduced to various Christian denominations and attended church with friends and colleagues. I eventually attended a Catholic church as it suited my family's Sunday schedule.

I would turn to God amidst the trials and challenges faced in the family/home, financial, health and other issues in life. My prayers to God helped carry me through the challenging times.

At the same time over the years, my sisters invited me to Bethany's special occasions, Worship services and SSP.

Since post-Covid, I have been worshipping and attending SSP at Bethany. It is here that I see God's Word clearly taught.

At Bethany, I begin to learn and understand that it is the Lord Jesus who has made it possible for me to come to God in whom I have always believed.

I believe in the Lord Jesus as my Saviour and He forgives all my sins and that I am a child of God.

It is a great privilege to be part of the Bethany family and I pray that I can continue to grow in my faith in the Lord Jesus here.

# DISCOVERING THE LORD JESUS AS MY PERSONAL SAVIOUR

KWEK CHAY HIAH ALICE

I grew up in a Buddhist family. When I got married to my husband, I stayed with my mother-in-law who was a Buddhist too. Because of my mother-in-law, I continued to practise Buddhism but she could tell that I put no heart into it. I continued to practise Buddhism only out of regard for my mother-in-law.

When my mother-in-law passed away in 2007, I began to look for a church. I searched for a church for many years because I wanted to know what would happen to me after I die. In my search, I found 3 churches to attend but I did not feel comfortable in these churches and left shortly after.

In April 2022, my niece Yvonne invited my brother Johnny and me to Bethany's Special Seniors Program (SSP). I agreed to come because I wanted to accompany my brother and personally, I wanted to discover what Bethany was like. At SSP, we got to know more friends and we got to enjoy the art and craft activities. The church brethren who attended helped us as well. I have been at SSP for 3 years now.

As the months went by, I started to attend Bethany's Worship Service on Sundays. I feel that Bethany is a spiritual family and people care for people. This was something I couldn't find elsewhere. The touching part is that we have lunch together after the services just like a very warm family.

In January 2025, I started to attend Catechism Class. I am thankful that I could learn about the Lord Jesus. One lesson I have learned is that the Lord Jesus is my personal Saviour. I know I am a sinful person and only the Lord Jesus is able to save me from sin and its consequences. When He died on the cross, He paid the penalty for my sins. Through my baptism, I wish to identify with the Lord Jesus Christ publicly as He is my personal Saviour. I humbly acknowledge that I am saved only by the grace of God and not by

my works. I will keep praying for God to open my eyes that I may see, open my ears that I may hear, and open my heart that I may respond appropriately to God's call to draw near to the Lord Jesus Christ.

## 《认识主耶稣为我个人的救主》

郭静霞

我从小在一个佛教家庭中长大。结婚后，我与丈夫的母亲同住，她也是一位佛教徒。因为家婆的缘故，我继续跟随佛教的做法，但她看得出我并没有用心。我只是为了体谅她才继续这样做。

2007 年家婆过世后，我开始寻找一间教会。我之所以寻找教会，是因为我一直想知道：当我离开世界后，我会去到哪里。在多年的寻找当中，我曾去过三间不同的教会，但在这些教会里我并不感到安稳，也没有留下来。

2022 年 4 月，我的侄女 Yvonne 邀请我和弟弟 Johnny 一同参加伯大尼的年长人士特别节目（SSP）。我答应来，是因为想陪伴哥哥，也想亲自看看伯大尼是一间怎样的教会。在 SSP，我们认识了许多新朋友，也很享受艺术与手作的活动。参加的弟兄姐妹们都很热心地帮助我们。我参

加 SSP 至今已经三年了。

几个月后，我也开始参加伯大尼主日的崇拜。我感受到伯大尼是一间属灵的家庭，肢体之间彼此关怀，这是我在别的地方找不到的。让我最感动的是，崇拜后我们一起吃午餐，就像一个温暖的大家庭。

2025 年 1 月，我开始上教理班。我很感恩能在其中学习认识主耶稣。我学到的一课是：主耶稣是我的个人救主。我知道自己是一个罪人，唯有主耶稣才能救我脱离罪和罪的后果。祂为我钉死在十字架上，替我付上罪的代价。

如今愿意受洗，是因为我盼望公开地与主耶稣基督认同，承认祂是我的个人救主。我谦卑地承认，我得救完全是靠着主的恩典，不是因为我的行为。

我也会继续祷告，求主开我的眼睛让我能看见，开我的耳朵让我能听见，开我的心让我能对主的呼召有正确的回应，更加亲近主耶稣基督。



# MY STORY - FROM ANXIETY TO PEACE & JOY

KAREN YAP

## 1. How I came to Bethany

I grew up in a non-Christian family. Being a worrier by nature, I remember my teenage years were wrought with anxieties – about exams, friendships, family and much more. I sought answers in the religion I was raised in, but nothing ever felt concrete or real. Back then I thought that perhaps life was just meant to be filled with anxieties and worries. Looking back, I realize that I had been searching for an inner peace that had always eluded me because of my anxious nature from many decades ago.

I first stepped into Bethany II many years ago, at the invitation of my then-boyfriend (now husband Yong Cho) to a Bethany Christmas Concert. I still remember the sanctuary and stage vividly. Over the next few years, I returned occasionally for Christmas and Easter concerts and even attended some Worship Services when Bethany III was under construction. After we got married, we began attending Bethany regularly from 2006.

## 2. My Journey of Faith

Before coming to Bethany, I had attended worship services in other churches at the invitation of friends. Many of those services focused on outward expressions of faith, which did not resonate with me as someone still new to the faith and introspective in nature.

Bethany, however, felt different. I remember the first worship service I attended, it felt quietly comforting – I loved the hymns, listening about the Lord's Word and the calm reverence. I can see now that back then, tiny seeds of faith began to take root.

As I continued attending, listening to messages by Pastors Charlie, Mark, and Mitch, my heart gradually opened. I started to pray – sometimes asking God questions during the prelude and postlude. To my surprise, I found many of

those questions answered through later messages.

I remember one of my first prayers, after a particularly heated argument with my mum which I later regretted: I asked God what it truly meant to be a Christian and whether it was really possible for me to become a “nice” person and good daughter. The message that followed in another service spoke about how believers should be living their lives - being like Lord Jesus, meek and gentle – I had no doubt that God was answering my question that day.

Through the years, prayer became my refuge. I prayed for peace, wisdom, and strength, God answered in many ways. I faced miscarriages, constant worries about my sons’ health and development, and stressful work demands. Yet, through every storm, I could see God’s Hand guiding me and His many provisions.

One defining moment was when my younger son was hospitalized for severe asthma while my husband was away on a month-long business trip. I had to juggle caregiving, demanding peak-season at work, mental and physical exhaustion. In despair, I prayed for strength and less than a day later, I felt a calmness and “borrowed strength” that was clearly not my own, this carried me through the various demands I had to juggle. This peace I felt stayed with me since.

As years went by, God continued to be very real to me – His presence and answers were always unmistakable. Yet I struggled to fully grasp *why* He would grant me salvation. Reading about Jesus’ resurrection sometimes felt like reading a history book, rather than something deeply personal or holding deeper meaning for me. Despite this, God remained faithful.

I continued in my own human ways, trying to understand God and my salvation better, but with limited success. It was only when I began studying the Book of Romans with Pastor Mitch that everything started to come together.

Learning how God’s plan from the very beginning included a way for Gentiles like me to be part of His Kingdom moved me deeply. I am in awe of

His painstaking and detailed plan to bring me into His family. As someone who tends to worry and plan a lot, realizing that God had already orchestrated everything – down to the finest detail – in a way no human could and He even sent His Precious Son Jesus to sacrifice Himself for sinners like me, helped me truly grasp and appreciate the depth of His love. And how the Lord Jesus lived His life when He was amongst us, His sufferings and sacrifice in order to bear my sins so that I can be saved, just overwhelms my heart.

Coupled with the many prayers God has answered over the years, my faith journey began to take shape. Perhaps God, who has been patiently journeying with me all this time, saw that my heart was ready – and moved Pastor Mitch one day to ask why I hadn't considered baptism. That question brought me to a place of reflection: looking back on my journey, my growing understanding of salvation and the path ahead.

### 3. Why I want to be baptized

For years, when people asked about my religion, I would simply reply, "I attend church," but I always felt compelled to add truthfully, "But I'm not baptized." As my faith deepened, this admission began to sadden me – because I believe in God yet could not openly proclaim that I am His child.

After studying Romans and reflecting on Pastor Mitch's question, I realized that baptism IS the next clear step in response to God's faithful and patient Hand over my life – a step of obedience and gratitude, a declaration that I belong to Him. The verse that impacted me the most is Romans 5:1-2 because of my faith, peace which I felt deeply was granted to me by God through our Lord Jesus Christ. "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

As I came to grasp the depth of Jesus' suffering and the immense sacrifice He made at the Cross to save undeserving sinners like me, I could not help but be deeply moved. And the way the Lord Jesus lived His life when He was amongst us, is my daily inspiration on how I should live mine – meek, gentle

and always seeking ways to glorify God.

Having spent many decades slowly discovering the reality of God in my life and understanding my Salvation, I now desire to spend the rest of my days walking closely and quietly with Him – sensing His presence daily and recognizing His hand at work in all things. It has become my joy to see God’s hand in my life: to count my blessings, commune with Him, and reflect on how He has provided for me time and again.

#### 4. What it means to be baptized in Bethany

My entire faith journey has been intertwined with Bethany. It was here that I first felt at peace in worship, began to pray, and experienced God’s presence and had prayers answered through life’s hardest moments and difficult seasons of life.

To me, Bethany is not just where my faith grew – it is where I found God. Being baptized here means affirming that journey and giving back, in whatever small way I can, to the church that nurtured my faith. I hope that through serving humbly at Bethany, I can, in a small way, help others find Salvation and the same peace and joy that I have found here.

From a Used-to-Be-Worrier

# LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO

SARAH CHUA LI XUAN

## **Before faith**

Hello everyone, my name is Sarah, I am 24 years old this year and am currently working. I am blessed to have known of God and the Lord Jesus from a young age through my parents, and I remember how my mum would pray together with us before bedtime. Our family first came to Bethany when I was 6 through the invitation of Aunty Lipin's family, as her children Audrey and Aaron were my good friends in kindergarden. Unfortunately, I was quite indifferent about attending church and felt little connection to Bethany. God wasn't real to me and the Lord Jesus' sacrifice held no personal significance.

## **Initial faith**

I cannot pinpoint an exact moment where I came to faith, but I began to understand my sinful nature and how salvation is solely through the Lord's grace, not something I could earn by cleansing myself. I believe that the Lord planted seeds through many wonderful people and ministries in Bethany that grew into faith over the years.

God's people bore testimony to the reality of God through the way they lived their lives and loved others. God's power was evident in the way He could change peoples' lives and fill them with much love, joy and purpose. Through the various ministries in church, I learnt lessons that formed the content of my faith, and met Pastors and teachers who provide spiritual guidance and are living examples of faith. The Youth Conference in 2017 was the start of taking faith more seriously when Tr. Joanna prayed with me to accept the Lord Jesus into my heart, and till today she lovingly continues to check in on me and guide me when I stumble.

However, for a long time my relationship with God was very one-sided, where I only sought Him when I needed Him such as before exams or during stressful times. I was also constantly stuck in a vicious cycle of making sinful choices, seeking forgiveness, but repeating it again. I was hesitant to fully commit to God and loved the world more. As I got busier,

especially during internships which left me with little free time, spending the weekends in church felt more like a chore.

### **Convinced faith**

This changed after God brought me out of a period of reclusion where I avoided people and did not attend church for over a year, because I chose to run from my sin problems instead of dealing with them. During that time, there was no hope, joy or purpose in life, instead there was sin, fear and shame. The longer it dragged on, the more I felt like I was a lost cause and could not return to God or church.

However, God mercifully intervened by showing His love for me through His people, including my family and those in church, who did not give up on reaching out to me even when I did not respond. Although I had grown cold to feeling God's love, I could tangibly feel the love shown by His people and could no longer ignore it. Sunday school teachers who taught me many years ago still cared for me. I thank God for teachers and friends whom I could open up to and who guided me to return to God personally by instructing me in His Word. Isaiah 55 was a call of action shared by Tr. Joanna to turn from my sinful ways and return to the Lord, for He will abundantly pardon in His mercy. The Lord helped me to set aside my pride and humbly return to Him, and I'm deeply grateful that in His love He has never given up on me and would receive me back.

Returning to God and to Bethany brought much hope and peace into my heart, and I'm thankful to Pastor Mitch who took the time to run alongside each week while I was still looking for a job after graduating. He taught me how to be stronger in my faith and to walk out of darkness into God's light. The Lord has convinced me that living for Him is the best way to live, and has been working in my heart to love Him over the world. Although I still falter, I know to return to Him instead of running away.

### **Thoughts on Baptism and becoming a member of Bethany**

I would like to seek baptism because it is my commitment to the Lord to love Him and live my life for Him. Having experienced the Lord's great love which has not given up on me despite my many weaknesses, I am moved to respond. I recognise that God has saved me from darkness and my sins

through the Lord Jesus into newness of life with Him, and has given me the privilege to relate to Him as my Father. I want to treasure the Lord Jesus for all He has done to give us this gift of salvation bought by His precious blood.

Although I have fears that I might fail the Lord again, I was reassured when Pastor Mitch shared his view of baptism as a spiritual milestone. In the road of life, we may stray from the path and lose our way, but we can come back to this milestone and remember this commitment we made to God, then continue in faith without giving up.

I would like to be a part of Bethany because this is the place where I experienced God's love displayed by His people and came to know God through Pastor's focus on the Scriptures. My heart is also encouraged through the warm fellowship with His people each week. I will seek to find my place here and learn how to serve God as one body of Christ.



# RELYING ON THE LORD

NATHAN ONG

Hello everyone, I am Nathan and I am 19 this year. I have been attending Bethany since young, learning as much as I can from my Sunday School Teachers and the Pastors as well. Being around the loving community of Bethany for so much of my life, it has never been a challenge for me to see God's power and impact in others' lives. I always admired the testimonies of the aunts and uncles in church during chairings and when they were sharing their faith, seeing how they were completely confident in God's leading and power in their lives, and how God was always a key factor in anything they did.

However, I struggled to lean on the Lord in the same way, as I tried to find my own way in life, and at many times doubted that He would help me, and even scared to go to Him for help, always feeling like I did not deserve it as I was not a good enough Christian. This resulted in me relying on myself even more, and just not really developing a real relationship with the Lord. Whether it be during my exams or competitions, I always found myself relying on my own merits, and just trying to figure everything out on my own, also never really changing as I felt that whatever I did worked out in the end.

A turning point was when I started National Service. I struggled to cope with all the new routines and lack of autonomy, and falling sick, not being able to relate well to my coursemates. These challenges made me feel overwhelmed and mentally trapped. I realised that it was almost impossible for me to find joy in my situation even though I was in a relatively good place in NS. It was my first time really struggling in a situation and being unable to find my own way out of it. It felt like a slap in the face, making me realise that it was impossible for me to go relying on life just through my own understanding.

Through the tough times, reading Philippians with my mum helped me to gain a deeper understanding of how the Lord can work in my life. Verses like Philippians 4:6-7 and seeing Paul's example through the entire book, it

helped me to realise that there was more to my faith and my relationship with God than just asking Him for help and hoping something would come out of it. There was the comfort and joy of knowing that He would always be there for me, and that during the troubled times He could guide me and give me hope.

In addition, during Sunday schools and YPG, we were learning from Romans, about sin and being saved and justified by the Lord. A lesson that really spoke to me was from 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”. Even though I do not deserve the Lord’s blessings, it is because of His grace and glory that I can be redeemed. It is this knowledge that encourages me to seek the Lord in prayer and build a strong relationship with Him, and just to find out more about our wonderful Saviour who would give His life to save me.

I am also extremely thankful to be a part of Pastor’s discipleship class, where we are taught vital lessons on how to apply our faith and grow it. This, and the many other lessons, as well as first-hand experience on how God gives strength and comfort when my own spirit fails, gave me the faith and trust to rely on the Lord and not myself, and to develop a real relationship with God as Father.

As I seek reaffirmation, I want to practise the verse Proverbs 3:5-6 in my life, “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”. To lean not on my own understanding is to let God guide my thoughts and decisions, trusting in Him and not myself when facing life’s challenges. I also seek to acknowledge Him in all things, seeing His hand in my life and being ever grateful for His leading and blessings. It is my prayer that I will continue to grow in faith, and involve Him in whatever I do in my life, that He will do a good work in my life.

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# BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*God's Kind of Church...*

*Where God is touching lives...*

*And people care for people.*

*Bethany IV ... 14 December 2025*

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## MEDITATION

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REV DR CHARLES TAN

Text: Isaiah 12

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meditation	1
Announcements	3
Worship	7
Bible Memory Work	8
Poetry Corner	9
Order of Worship	13

## SING TO THE LORD

### A CALL TO PRAISE GOD

A strong cry to offer praise to God was sounded. There was every reason to sing to the Lord!

<sup>4</sup>And in that day you will say:

"Praise the LORD, call upon His name;  
Declare His deeds among the peoples,  
Make mention that His name is exalted.

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# MEDITATION

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<sup>5</sup> Sing to the LORD,  
For He has done excellent things;  
This *is* known in all the earth.

<sup>6</sup> Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion,  
For great *is* the Holy One of Israel in your midst!"

Isaiah 12:4-6

1. Expressions of encouragement to offer praise
  - a) "Praise the Lord"
  - b) "Sing to the Lord"
  - c) "Cry out and shout"
2. Reasons to offer praise
  - a) God has performed many deeds among His people
  - b) He has done excellent things
  - c) Great is the Holy One of Israel
3. Manner of speaking about God
  - a) To declare
  - b) To make mention
  - c) To proclaim all that God has done for His people

## OUR CHALLENGE

1. To offer praise in the same spirit
2. To offer prayers in faith and gratitude

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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 Christ with us today. May your heart be encouraged and enlightened through worship and fellowship!



## **THE ADVENT CANDLES**

1<sup>st</sup> Advent Candle: The Prophecy Candle  
30 November 2025

2<sup>nd</sup> Advent Candle: The Bethlehem Candle  
7 December 2025

3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Candle: The Shepherds Candle  
14 December 2025

4<sup>th</sup> Advent Candle: The Angels Candle  
21 December 2025



## **CHRISTMAS BAPTISMAL COMBINED SERVICE**

List of Baptismal Candidates this week

### Paedo-Baptism

1. Dave Goh (Son of Qing Yang & Yuanli)
2. Eliza Leong Hui Xuan (Daughter of Will & Joanne)

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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3. How Rui Ze, Nathaniel (Son of Ivan & Evangeline)
4. Laina Cheong Jie En (Daughter of Samuel & Danae)
5. Tobias Low En Le (Son of Gibson & Rachel)

## Baptism

1. Betty Goh Eng Bee
2. Karen Yap
3. Kwek Chay Hiah Alice
4. Lim Moy Kia (Mother of Kelley)
5. Sarah Chua Li Xuan

## Reaffirmation

Nathan Ong



# CHRISTMAS AT SHANGRI-LA 2025

Our special Christmas Service and Christmas Lunch will be held on 25 December 2025.

Let us anticipate a glorious time of extolling the LORD our God!

## DETAILS

Date: 25 December 2025, Thursday

Venue: Shangri-La

Time: 10.30am

Christmas Worship Service will commence at 10.30am, followed by Christmas Lunch.

Please plan to sign up early!

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Kindly scan the QR below to register for Christmas Lunch. If you've any inquiries, please approach us at the booth in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays and we will assist you.



## **THIS WEEK IN BETHANY**

### 1. Seniors Program

There will be no Seniors Program during the month of December

### 2. Saturday, 20 December 2025

Post Youth Conference Special II | 3.00pm

A Christmas Special "Good tidings of great joy" Luke 2:10

### 3. Sunday Ministry, 21 December 2025

a) Sunday School | 8.30am

b) Combined Worship Service | 10.30am

c) Children's Worship I and II | 10.30am

d) Crèche I and II | 10.30am

e) No Catechism Class



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## CONDOLENCES

Heartfelt condolences to Mr. Tan Siew Tiong and family on the demise of his mother, Mdm. Ng Ah Lee. The late Mdm. Ng was called home to be with the Lord Jesus Christ on Friday, 12 December 2025. She was 90 years old.



## GIVING OF FELLOWSHIP MEALS

BREAKFAST: JOSHUA & CHERYL PHANG

LUNCH: NATHANAEL, JANELLE & BETHANY; NICHOLAS & LINDA;

YVONNE KWEK



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# WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

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## Psalm 20:1-2

<sup>1</sup> May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble;  
May the name of the God of Jacob defend you;

<sup>2</sup> May He send you help from the sanctuary,  
And strengthen you out of Zion

1. "May the Lord"

- a) This was a wish and a prayer
- b) Prayers are not to be taken for granted

2. Things wished for:

- a) That God would help us in the day of trouble
- b) That He would be our defence
- c) That He would send help from His sanctuary
- d) That He would grant us His strength

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# BIBLE MEMORY WORK

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**TODAY: 14 December 2025**

**Text: His marvelous light**

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light*

**1 Peter 2:9**

1. What we are to God
  - a) A chosen generation
  - b) A royal priesthood
  - c) A holy nation
  - d) His own special people
  
2. What we may do for God
  - a) Proclaim His praises
  - b) Speak of how we have found light amidst darkness

**NEXT SUNDAY: 21 December 2025**

**Text: The Dayspring from on high has visited us**

*Through the tender mercy of our God,  
With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us*

**Luke 1:78**

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 1

## SING TO THE LORD

The Call to sing to the Lord was loud and clear;  
This word was proclaimed to all, far and near.  
The heart must take time to remember God's deeds;  
Grateful praise from the heart will certainly proceed!

The Name of God is truly great and exalted;  
It has triumphed against those who have revolted.  
Great power is associated with His great Name;  
To remain unwilling to praise is a great shame!

Excellent Things have been done by the Lord;  
His deeds reflect that He is a truly faithful God.  
The heart cannot but sing and offer praise;  
Matchless is His ever-abundant grace!

All who belong to Zion must raise their voice to sin  
Great anthems of joy to the Lord we must ever bring;  
The Lord's praise must be in our heart this Christmas;  
May we proclaim the Lord's love and His goodness!

Charles Tan  
Inspiration: Isaiah 12:4-6

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 2

## CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

Christmas is often associated with revelry and feasting;  
Finding new meaning to celebrate each Christmas can be challenging.

Yet, it offers a great opportunity to reiterate the gospel story;  
To thank God for the gift of His Son, His grace and infinite mercy.

Amidst the injustice and darkness that prevail in the world today;  
The vulnerable suffer and are driven to dismay.

How imminent it is to speak of Salvation and a hope for tomorrow;  
To claim God's promise that His Spirit would lead us if only we would follow.

A Christian's faith journey cannot stop at just believing;  
About the knowledge of God and His word, he ought not to stop learning.

God gives the fountain of the water of life to all who are thirsting;  
To sincerely repent and continuously seek His truths, he must be willing.

This Christmas, let us renew the desire to drink from the fountain of living  
waters;

To reflect the light of the glory of God which He has risen upon believers.  
To persevere to overcome the world for ourselves and our future generations;  
To win the intended inheritance from God as His deserving children.

Dr. Sng Li Wah

Inspiration: Isaiah 59:21; 60:1-2; Revelation 21:6

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 3

## IN CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

We celebrate Christmas because a Saviour has been born to us  
In humility He took on the nature of a servant for our sakes  
He has come down into the world of darkness to rescue us  
Let us rejoice for the birth of the Lord Jesus is good news

We celebrate Christmas with giving gifts because of the gift from our Father  
A priceless gift out of the mercy and grace of the Lord  
Sing out loud to express our joy and marvel with wonder  
How can it be an undeserving sinner to be a child of God

We celebrate Christmas by stringing lights around the tree  
From on high the Lord Jesus is the Dayspring bringing us light  
Granting spiritual sight with greater clarity from sins to break free  
Follow the Star of Bethlehem showing the way to our Saviour with delight

We celebrate Christmas for the Lord Jesus is the mediator of the New  
Covenant

Under the New Covenant those who believe in Him are no longer under the law  
He has fulfilled the law for believers and atoned for our sins in judgement  
In joy celebrate the magnanimity and grace of the love from God forevermore

Jessie Quek  
Inspiration: Luke 2:1-20

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 4

## THE POWER OF THE PROPHETIC WORD

Zacharias was humbled and chastised by the Lord;  
Nine months of not speaking, he quietly endured.  
This long season would have seen him searching;  
The plan of God he must be deeply contemplating.

To His people, God promised to send a Redeemer;  
The prophets of old spoke of a Messianic Saviour.  
As Zacharias studied what had been passed down,  
His faith came alive and restoration was found.

Zacharias was blessed with the Holy Spirit's filling;  
The Spirit gave him insight and understanding.  
He was now able to appreciate God's divine plan;  
The future work of his son, he came to understand.

The prophetic word and its great power is like light;  
Amidst a sinful and dark world, it shines so bright.  
May we give earnest heed to the prophetic word,  
And tell others what we have known and heard!

Yvette Seow  
Inspiration: Luke 1:70-71

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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## PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Moses Kwek

## PRAYER

## HYMNS

VIP 733 | God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen  
CP 140 | The First Noel

## MESSAGE

“To remember His holy covenant” | Text: Luke 1:72  
Rev. Dr. Charles Tan

## CLOSING HYMN

HWC 151 | Good Christian Men, Rejoice

## BENEDICTION

## OFFERING

## POSTLUDE



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# HYMNS

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## VIP 733 GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
Remember Christ our Saviour was born on Christmas Day;  
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.

Refrain

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

2. From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;  
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.

*Refrain*

3. "Fear not, then," said the angel, "let nothing you affright,  
This day is born a Saviour of a pure virgin bright,  
To free all those who trust in Him from Satan's power and might."

*Refrain*

4. Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface.

*Refrain*



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# HYMNS

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## CP 140 THE FIRST NOEL

1. The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds In fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the East, beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.

*Refrain*

3. And by the light of that same star,  
Three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a King was their intent,  
And to follow the Star wherever it went.

*Refrain*

4. This star drew nigh to the north-west,  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay,  
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

*Refrain*

5. Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our Heavenly Lord  
Who hath made heav'n and earth of naught,  
And with His blood mankind hath bought.

*Refrain*



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# HYMNS

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## HWC 151 GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE HEINRICH SUSO

1. Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Jesus Christ is born today!  
Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now:  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

2. Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door, and man is blessed forever more:  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace!  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall:  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

