



HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**TESTIMONIES OF CANDIDATES FOR
BAPTISM AND TRANSFER OF
MEMBERSHIP**

20 DECEMBER 2020

CONTENTS

BAPTISM	PAGE
1. Cheok Ke Sheng, Joel	4
2. Lee Mei Hui, Selene	5
3. Yew En, Hayley (child)	-
4. Lim Wan Min, Ashley	7
5. Tay Ming Yi	10

TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

1. Chong Hui Zhi, Amanda	13
2. Choo Chieu Lian, Rosalind	14
3. Lee Xin Yi	16
4. Tay Ming Ya, Paige	18

BAPTISM

CHEOK KE SHENG, JOEL

I am really grateful to God who has repeatedly guided me in my life even though I had steered out of the path that He has set for me. I can now proudly say that I'm on the path that God wants me to take and I believe that God will continue to guide me in the future.

I came to know Christ about 10 years ago when I was in Junior College. A friend of mine brought me to church where I eventually attended service every week. I had a great group of friends whom I hung out with regularly, but I stopped attending church during my army days because I felt that my weekends were more important, and I did not want to wake up and spend $\frac{3}{4}$ of my day in church. This was the moment where I've put my own desires above God. Looking back, I was actually more interested in having fun with my group of friends rather than knowing and studying the word of God.

Then I started to attend HPC last year when Paige brought me along. Initially, I was still exploring about Christianity, and Alpha really helped me to get to know more about Christ. I was actually still skeptical at that time. Then Paige and I were introduced to our current care group where we meet up weekly to do our Bible Study. I was impressed with the sort of in-depth discussion we had about the word of God and how everyone was so passionate.

How I came to realise that I need to follow Christ was during the downtime when I was unemployed. Multiple interviews came really close but I just didn't get the job. I was so reliant on my own abilities and I thought that everything that happened was due to my own abilities. I didn't have the faith to trust God to know that He has it all under His control. I was doing my own way with no

thought of God. I was desperate, so I turned to God and told Him that I was lost and I needed His guidance to lead me in my life, and I surrendered all that I have to Him alone. I recognized my disobedience to God and I started to read the word, prayed for forgiveness and direction. God spoke to me through conversations and His word. Eventually, I got an offer from a place I least expected and I really enjoy my current job.

I came to realise that God really has it all planned and He does what is best for us as promised. God has worked in me powerfully and continues to put new interests in my heart to know Him more. Reading Counterfeit Gods (Tim Keller) made me realise the problem of idolatry. Now that I believe in Christ, I find myself wanting to do better, to improve myself and also to show my Christianity through my work. In times of mistakes and failures, I would pray to God and reflect, and seek Him for strength and guidance. *1 Peter 5:7 “cast all your anxieties on Him because He cares for you”* is a verse that was always stuck with me and however much problems or failures I face, I always have God by my side because He loves me.

LEE MEI HUI, SELENE

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come; The old has gone, the new is here!
2 Corinthians 5:17

I came from a family of staunch Buddhists. None of my friends in school ever spoke to me about Christianity, nor invited me to a church for service. However, from the age of 7, I was somehow exposed to Christmas carols as my parents sent me to join the People Association children's choir. I became aware of Jesus Christ's birth story through

singing but that was it. I did not know who God truly was, who Jesus was and what the Holy Spirit was all about. On hindsight, I think God had me in His plans. It was just a matter of time before I would know Him.

In 2010, my future husband invited me to church and, in the beginning, it was just more of being supportive of his Worship Ministry that I attended church. After five years of dating, we decided to get married and it was then that I made a life-changing decision to share the same faith as my husband, Jason Yew. Before our wedding in 2015, I accepted Christ. My faith journey wasn't easy as my parents were staunch Buddhists, especially my mum whom I'm extremely close to. Eventually, she accepted my faith and sometimes even offered to send me to church on Sundays. However, after I accepted Christ, I kept falling sick, to the extent that my mum questioned my faith. Because of my weak health, I relied a lot on healing scriptures when I prayed. In terms of personality, as I look back, I used to be more self-centered, less generous, less caring, and pretty stubborn (my way or high way). Sin had a hold on me but I wasn't aware, not until Christ came into my life.

As a Buddhist, we were also taught to pray, however, the distinct difference was we prayed to ask for what we wanted, whether it was good for us or not. We behaved so that we do not reap anything bad to ourselves. But I realised praying to God wasn't like that. It was about surrender, submission, obedience; and even when life was hard, God's word teaches us to rejoice always, pray continually and give thanks in all circumstances. I felt a change in me and even though I still struggle with sin, shortcomings and weaknesses, I no longer feel easily despondent, unlike before, when I faced failures or disappointments or when things did not go my way.

My husband often reminds me that I am his testimony as he had prayed hard for me to accept Christ and God answered his prayers. It was in our 4th year of marriage that I prayed to God for a personal testimony too. I asked God for a child. (*"I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."* John 11:42) This scripture was what I based my prayer upon – because I wanted a testimony to share with my non-Christian family and relatives how good God is. Our baby girl, Hayley, came into our lives in the 5th year of our marriage and she is my personal testimony.

Words cannot express how thankful I am, how in awe I am of God, my Lord and Savior. I know I am a new creation, and I hope all that I am, whether as a newly-minted mum, a wife at home, a servant in church ministry, a worker in the marketplace – everything that I do, would glorify God!

LIM WAN MIN, ASHLEY

The Christian faith is something that has played a huge part in my life ever since I was born. When I was younger, it was never a foreign term nor something I had to think about when someone asked me about my faith. It was a default answer since I grew up in a Christian home. But unlike many other Christian homes, I was not baby baptized. My parents wanted me to make a choice and take the step of faith myself when I grew older. So here I am – 17 years of age and ready to make a public declaration of my faith.

As a child, I never really questioned why Christianity was my family's belief, nor was mine. It was very standard,

growing up in this church, from Praise Babies to Praise Kids to Praise House, and now finally to Powerhouse – adding on the fact that I went to a Christian Kindergarten, Primary and Secondary schools. So, going to church on Sundays, praying before meals and every night before I sleep, doing daily devotions in the car on the way to school every morning, to be honest, were somewhat more of a routine to me than anything else.

However, once I entered Powerhouse, it was a change for me. When we were at Changi Bethany Church, Powerhouse was held on Saturday evenings instead of being on the same day as the main service as it is now. Hence, I had to dedicate more of my time going to church as it was twice a week and not once. This got me thinking as to why am I committing so much time to something that didn't really mean anything to me, other than purely out of habit. With that, I started to go deeper in my faith and learn more about God. This journey of discovery was made a lot easier when I had my CG and CGLs right beside me, each of us constantly supporting one another through our walk with God and building up each other in Christ. Every week I learned something new about our Saviour and I gradually understood what I had been doing all those years, and how will I continue with what I had been doing, but looking at it from a different perspective, not as a routine but as something that is intimate between me and God, making sure to do it intentionally.

As my faith continually grew, I started to get more involved in Powerhouse activities. Taking part in skits, playing and singing regularly for worship, I learnt what it meant to serve God and to glorify Him while doing things that I loved and had a passion for.

There was one point in my spiritual journey, however, that made me doubt and lose faith in Him. It was around late April last year. There was a huge complication at school that took a huge blow on me. I kept asking God, even blaming Him, "Why me? What did I do to deserve all these? I thought you were supposed to help me in times like this but why are things just getting from bad to worse?" I was really upset at Him for letting me go through all that, knowing it was totally undeserving and wrong. But, after calming down and going for a few counselling sessions, I realised that after that situation, I definitely came out stronger and learned a lot of things that could help me in the future. It took me a while but I finally was able to trust Him again and understand why He had put me through all that and that it wasn't for nothing.

A verse that I find a lot of comfort in is Romans 8:37-39: It says, "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

God sent His very son to die for our sins. I've heard that sentence so many times when I was younger but it means so much more to me now. Thank you, Jesus, for saving me. Thank you for showing me what it means to love, and how I can live the rest of my life in Christlikeness. I will do my best in living my life to glorify you and fulfil my purpose you have tasked me.

TAY MING YI

I was born and raised in a Taoist family. I would occasionally visit temples with my family and there was an idol in my house that we prayed to. My first experience with Christianity was when my tuition teacher brought me to church for a children evangelistic musical. I remember the message stirring something within me, so I raised my hands when they asked for who accepted Christ. But as a Primary 2 kid, I didn't really know what's next or what I signed up for, so I didn't tell the adults and moved on.

All these exposure to different beliefs also developed my curiosity and confusion about God. But being a young child, amazed by nature and its complexities, I believed in a higher being. As I grew older, I became more involved with community work and interested in environmental conservation. But I often found myself getting angry with the world. I was frustrated at how we harvested earth's resources for profit and how we take these things for granted. In doing community work, I often wondered to myself if we are doing things out of love for people or our desire to feel good and feel valuable. I felt that almost everything we do is for ourselves. At that point in time, my relationship with my sisters was also not great as I felt hurt by some things they said in the past.

By God's grace, it was also at this point in time, I was surrounded by Christian friends who were willing to share with me about Jesus and God gave me the courage to ask my parents for permission to visit church. As I attended services and read the Bible, my understanding of God and who He is grew deeper too. He is the Creator of the universe. He is kind. He is loving. He is righteous. I understood that the reason for my feeling so frustrated with myself and others is that sin is so entrenched within

our nature. I also learnt that I have no right to be angry because I am the same, I am as sinful as everyone else.

In Romans 3:23-26, the Bible says: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness and because in his divine forbearance, he had passed over former sins. Being righteous in his nature, God has to judge our hearts. Actions require consequences.

I also learnt about the message of Jesus who was sent by God to face this judgement for man. If the Son of the Most High, a perfectly sinless person, loves me so much that He would die and suffer for me, then who am I to be angry? Who am I not to forgive others? Little by little, through His love and transforming word, God began to invoke a change in my attitude, my mindset and my actions.

So, I thank God for loving me and sending Jesus to save me. I thank God for teaching me how to forgive others and to love others. I also thank God for humbling me, making me realise that just as I have been hurt by others, I have also hurt other people. Because of God, I was finally able to let go of my resentment towards my sisters and seek to love them. I am still not perfect but I pray that going forward, the Lord will continue to spur me in seeking His kingdom and experiencing His transforming word.

TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

CHONG HUI ZHI, AMANDA

I was born into a Christian family and brought up as a Christian, religiously attending Sunday school weekly. I never really questioned who this God that I grew up believing was, and always identified myself as Christian when someone asked me for my religion. Growing up, I struggled with anxiety. I felt a constant need to perform, to study hard and get good grades at school. I worried endlessly especially when things did not go my way. The turning point came when I was in primary 6, during Sunday service when we sang the song, "Still", for worship. I remember feeling a wave of peace filling me, and suddenly I felt a burden lifting from me, and knew at that point that it could only be God. On that day, I was led to say the sinner's prayer with my Sunday school teacher.

My journey of walking with God has not been a bed of roses. My parents stopped attending church when I was in secondary school and I left church a few years after. I entered JC and found a group of friends who set up a prayer group in school and invited me along. We would meet weekly at a random quiet corner of the school and to do devotions and pray together. I entered university after JC and started attending Medical Christian Fellowship (MCF) / Varsity Christian Fellowship (VCF) together with some friends. I found a community in VCF and started serving together with a friend who then brought me to Wesley Methodist Church and we joined a CG together. A couple of years later, I got to know Josh and he eventually brought me to Hope PC. Looking back, there were many instances where I could have fallen away from God, without any accountability to anyone, but God always sent someone into my life to bring me back to him. I am greatly

humbled at the grace that God extended to me whilst I was walking in the wilderness.

I am reminded each day of his faithfulness. He has walked with me through the valleys, and never once forsaken me. He has shown me time and time again, that his ways are better than mine, should I only trust in him. It is my prayer that the Lord will continue to shape me into the woman who seeks after his heart, glorifying him in all that I do. I am thankful for the people that God has placed in my life, and for the family he has given me in HPC. I pray that as we continue growing in our knowledge of God as we journey together through life, holding each other accountable to our faith.

CHOO CHIEU LIAN, ROSALIND

I was a free-thinker and was quite contented with the simple pleasures of life, so long as I have sufficient resources to meet my needs and wants. Life was pretty comfortable during my younger days. Unknowingly, I sinned badly and had fallen short of God's glory! I was self-centred, rather than God-centred. God was never on my mind. I did not have any Christian friends who could sincerely and seriously share with me about God and the Gospel. As such, I was not interested to pursue Christianity and swerved away every time the topic of God was raised by some unknown persons or strangers. I was just happy and contented with my life, without God, during those days before I knew Christ.

When I was in Secondary 2, my form teacher brought a group of us to her church for Bible Studies. I participated on the persuasion of some of my classmates and that was

the first time I stepped into a church. As I began to show some interests in the scriptures, the term ended and the group dispersed. Sometime later, I came across some Christian correspondence courses, where I participated in the questionnaires. This went on for a while but soon diminished after I started working. Opportunities to build a relationship with God seemed to have slipped away time and again. After many years, nothing happened and God was almost forgotten.

One day in 2004, a friend of mine brought me to church. After attending several services, I felt the presence of God and enjoyed the worship segments and the sermons that followed. I was excited that my relationship with God was beginning to bear fruit. However, not long after, that friend of mine left the church and, strangely, nobody followed up on me and I was left alone. Eventually, I too left that church. But I had the urge and eagerness to attend church again as I wanted to strengthen my relationship with God and not let another opportunity slip away. So I started church-searching via the internet and visited several churches, but to no avail.

During that period, emptiness crept in and I felt lost with no direction, no one to turn to and nowhere to go. I then started to pray for the first time, humbly seeking God for his guidance and direction. Amazingly, God answered my prayer and I eventually found a small church. After a couple of weeks, I felt the grace and love of God and the fellowship, warmth and care of the brothers and sisters-in-Christ. This was the church that I stayed on for many years, where I served in the Ushering and Communion Preparation Ministries. As my faith grew and my love for God strengthened, I began to experience His goodness, unfailing love and faithfulness. I knew then that this was the one true God whom I love, trust and obey; the God

who would never forsake me and I could call him Abba Father! I believed in Jesus and accepted Him as my Lord and Saviour. I was finally baptised in December 2007 through water-baptism.

Life was never the same again. It was a great turning point of my life after knowing Christ. I was saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ who died on the cross for the forgiveness of my sins. By God's grace, I was transformed as the self-centred nature of mine totally disappeared as I began to care for others, like Jesus cares for me.

Through the transfer of my membership, I will be able to commit better to serve God and His people. I believe it was God's calling for me to work in the church office for the past seven years and I have enjoyed every bit of it. I praise God for his goodness, grace and mercy and will continue to do "My Utmost for His Highest" ... All Glory to God!

LEE XIN YI

My parents, brother and I were first introduced to Christianity during a gospel camp that my father's colleague invited us to. I was about 5 years old then. Shortly after, we began attending church on Sundays. However, it wasn't long before we stopped, and I subsequently came to understand that my father was concerned about how my grandmother, who was a Buddhist then, would respond if she were to find out that we had thoughts of 'converting'.

God, however, had His plans for my family and also my grandmother. Back then in Kindergarten, my grandmother

would walk me to school. On our way to school one morning, my classmate's mother saw us on the road and offered us a ride. Since then, this happened several times and created the opportunity for my classmate's mother to share the gospel with us. She also invited my grandmother to church where my grandmother subsequently received Christ and got baptised. This gave my parents the confidence to later accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. By God's grace, my family was baptised within the next year. I was 7 then, and barely understood what baptism meant. I only knew that I enjoyed Sunday School because I could see my friends!

Since then, I started attending church weekly. But God's work of redemption in my life did not end there. As a student, I always had high academic expectations of myself and spent most of my time studying. Much of my self-identity was rooted in my academic achievements. When I turned 16, I even relinquished my church ministry involvements to focus on my studies. It was the year of my 'O' Level examinations and I was under the pressure to perform. Leading up to the National examination, my relationship with God was the last thing on my mind.

A week before the 'O' Level examinations commenced, I was in church as usual on a Sunday morning. I could not wait for the service to end because all I wanted to do was to return home to study. With a half-hearted attitude, I sang along with the congregation to the first song '有一位神' (English Translation: There is a God). As the lyrics sank in, I started choking on the words and tears began streaming down my cheeks. In that moment, a great sense of guilt overwhelmed me. In my desire to pursue good grades, I had forgotten who God is and the significance of His sacrifice. For the first time, I began to

grasp the measure of God's love for me. How ungrateful I had been! My sense of identity and focus had clearly been misplaced. Right there, I confessed my sin in prayer and repented. I had never once felt that way and knew it could only be the conviction of the Holy Spirit that my heart was moved to respond in that manner. That was my turning point.

Had it not been God's relentless love and continued discipline, my worldview, purpose, and life trajectory will be vastly different today. One of the greatest spiritual lessons I have learnt in my faith journey is that God demonstrates His love not by letting us have our way, but by constantly pointing us to the cross - because He really is all we need.

Indeed, in the words of Timothy Keller, 'we are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted than we ever dared hope.' I am humbled and grateful to be a child of God.

TAY MING YA, PAIGE

I first got to know about Christ when I was in Primary 3. At that time, my Chinese tutor invited my sister and I to a Christmas event. They shared about the gospel and I accepted Christ. Being a 9 year old kid, I didn't really know what was going on but seeing multiple people raising their hands so eagerly to accept Christ, I did likewise.

When I was in Secondary one, I had a conversation with my elder sister. She told me that I am actually a Christian since I accepted Christ when I was 9.

I recalled my action, so I asked her “what’s next”? She told me to attend a church camp and that was when I began my journey with God. My first church was Spiritual Grace Presbyterian Church and everyone was friendly and welcoming. My friends and I often sang and studied God's word together as I had decided to learn more about Christ.

There were many ups and downs throughout my journey with Christ. As a secondary school student in the rebellion stage, it was a struggle because none of my friends was a Christian; and to act like a Christian in front of them was difficult because it was easier to conform to the clique’s mindset than following how a Christian should behave. I would turn to Christ whenever I was faced with an insurmountable task or difficulties in life at that time, and often found myself having peace in my heart after seeking God’s grace. That was when I realised that I really needed God and understood I am nothing without Him.

Looking back, I felt really lost and was grateful to God who continued to guide me, even though I was rejecting God and being disobedient to Him. Now I’m thankful for the community I have who is able to keep me grounded and learn the word of God together. Thank you, God, for being ever so patient with me and I hope I will continue to have the same burning desire to get to know you more and, eventually, get to see God when I’m in heaven.