

**HOPE PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

**TESTIMONIES OF CANDIDATES  
FOR  
BAPTISM,  
CONFIRMATION OF FAITH  
AND  
TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP**

**19 DECEMBER 2021**

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# **BAPTISM**

## **KWAN SWEE WAH**

Since young, I was exposed to Christianity as my neighbours were Christians. They attend church every Sunday. However, as my parents were inclined towards Taoism, we visited temples on Sundays. My idea of God were those statues in the temple that people kneel down and pray to. However, it was only during my secondary school days that I started to attend the morning praise sessions before class start. I also joined the YFC activities such as AGAPE day where we went around the Bukit Timah neighbourhood to collect canned food to distribute to the needy. But nobody had approached me regarding the need to receive Jesus Christ in my life, as my personal saviour.

It was only during my JC days that I started to be exposed to Christian teachings. I joined my class BS group. This group comprises 6 classmates (all girls) led by a more mature classmate. This classmate asked me often about my decision to accept Christ. I usually politely brush her off whenever she pops this question. Until one day, she quoted a verse from Revelation 3:15-16 “I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth.”

The scary thought of being ‘spitted’ out from God’s mouth woke me up! It was good as only then did I realise that I needed to make a decision. And I finally made a decision to confess my sins and receive Christ. I was blessed to meet Christian friends who encouraged me in my walk. (Till today, I am still in

contact with this classmate who shared about the 'spitting' verse!)

After I got married, I attended church regularly with my family. I started to serve in the church's Children Ministry. This went on for about 20 long years! As I look back, I am indeed very grateful to God who carried me through the difficult moments in my life. He was my source of hope especially when things got really tough. In 2013, I went through a major op (artificial hip replacement). It was quite a scary experience for me. But I was grateful for Christian friends who prayed for me and visited me often during my medical leave.

Some may wonder why I took so long to undergo baptism. Well, I struggled for many years on my church membership. Was torn between Bartley and Hope, as both are equally dear to me. But finally, I decided that whichever church I join is not so important, as we all belong to the same kingdom of God.

I strongly believe that we need to always be thankful and contented with what we have. I constantly remind myself to seek to please God, not man. It is easier said than done, and I am still learning to be an obedient child of God. My aim is to be a true disciple, not just a believer.

In 2019, I thank God for the privilege of joining BSF (Bible Study Fellowship). It has been a wonderful experience, as I met fellow Christian sisters who encourage and pray for each other. I would encourage anyone who reads my testimony and have not

experienced this special relationship with Jesus to take this important step of faith. You will get to enjoy having this wonderful relationship with God who is ever faithful and who will never leave us, but will always be with us.

# **CONFIRMATION OF FAITH**

## **LAI BAO LING, GRACE**

Hello everyone, I am Grace Lai and I would be seeking reaffirmation of faith today.

I was born into a Christian family and brought up as a Christian. I am thankful for my mother and grandmother who have played an important role in shaping my faith.

As a young child, I attended Sunday school every week in my former church. However, even though I was taught the Gospel and went through the fun activities, I didn't understand it. I was clueless on who God was, what were Christian values, the purpose of being a Christian and wondered why I had to commit. I thought that church was just a place to socialise. I also struggled in school, both with my studies and being ostracized by classmates. This was a difficult period and I faced many obstacles.

When I was in Primary 4, I was baptised together with my fellow family members in my former church. This was accompanied by a breakthrough in my academic life, and I found that I was able to do well in several upper primary subjects. With a better grasp of languages, this allowed me to better understand the Gospel and to explore the true meaning of Christianity. I realized that I am now a new creation and I am free from past burdens, as apostle Paul said:

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)*

Baptism was when I received my name, Grace. It's a timely reminder of God's grace to me.

I came to Hope Presbyterian Church (HPC) when I was in Primary 5 under the HPC tuition ministry. Tutors Julianne Lee, Janice Yeo, Ivan and Christine Yang provided motivation, encouragement and care in a Christ-like environment. Julianne introduced me to the youth service, Powerhouse. I enjoyed building my faith through interesting and meaningful activities such as bible study sessions, prayer groups, fellowship, as well as young adults' service and I look forward to worshipping God together with them. The youth camp encouraged me to know God better and to get along as a body of Christ. I started to study the bible, memorise bible verses with my friends and pray for each other. I finally understood that Christ sacrificed Himself just to save me from my sinful nature, and I acknowledge that I have to confess and repent from my sins to receive salvation from Christ.

My faith has encouraged me to show God's selfless, unconditional love through serving in church and society. My encouragement is from the book of 1 Corinthians 13:4-5, which sets out what Godly love is like. During my tertiary education, I continued to build up my faith by taking part in the Navigators programme in polytechnic, as well as Campus Crusade & Christian Fellowship in university. Through these, I was reminded of the need to confess, repent and surrender to the Lord, so that He can cleanse away all of my sins. This is echoed in 1 John:

*“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)*

I am grateful for the support given by my family, church friends and my other half, Danny Kong, for accompanying me through ups and downs in my personal spiritual life and witnessing my significant milestones. I have experienced the transformation from a girl who once just went through the motions of attending church with family without knowing the purpose, to a young adult who reveres God and appreciates the importance of the Gospel in her life. As such, it is with joy that I would like to take the chance to reaffirm my faith today in the presence of the church community.

# **TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP**

## **KONG CHUN FON, DANNY**

Hello everyone, I am Danny Kong and I have been coming to Hope Presbyterian Church (HPC) for about one year now.

### My life before coming to faith

I was brought up in a Buddhist family, with emphasis on values such as filial piety and thrift. I am thankful for being brought up by two loving parents who took great efforts to care, provide for and protect their only son.

Since young, I found myself pondering about the purpose of life and I started to lose confidence in myself as a harsh world loomed ahead of me. As I continued to grow up, these thoughts got worse, and I slipped into greater worry and despair as more needs and responsibilities sprung up. I have tried to find solace through other religions, but “God” was distant, and I found little comfort, because I realized that I can never attain the standards required to become “good” just by my own efforts. Yet amidst these struggles, I acquired a liking for Precious Moments figurines during my late teens, for they contained inspiring messages based on the Bible, giving me much hope and peace during a period of darkness. One of my favourite figurines is a praying boy seated next to an angel. It reminded me that there is a God who watches over me. But...who exactly is this God? I wanted to know more!

## Taking my first step of faith and coming to faith

With the seeds of faith sown, I embarked on a journey in search of this God. I started to look through the internet at various religions practiced in Singapore. During my research, Christianity stood out to me, because the words from the Bible carried much wisdom, truth and inspiration.

I then signed up for an introductory course to Christianity under my University's Campus Crusade in 2014. During the course, I learnt about the symbolism of the cross and the work of Jesus. I was moved to approach my cousin about Christianity, who invited me to her church. I was thankful for the brethren who took time to address the spiritual questions that I had, always bringing me back to the scriptures. This stood out as this meant that the teachings and practices were not based on blind allegiance but on sound doctrine. I also discovered that while the other religions which I have been exposed to place an emphasis on becoming "good enough" for "God" based on personal efforts, Christianity is about God coming to me despite my sin and inadequacies. The following verse has been pivotal in my early journey of faith, reminding me of God's presence and help despite my weaknesses.

*"For I, the Lord your God, will hold your right hand,  
Saying to you, 'Fear not, I will help you.'" (Isaiah  
41:13)*

Being fully convinced about the Gospel, I decided to take the step of baptism in 2018 back in my previous church. However, opportunities for meaningful serving

and growth were limited, and I felt my faith stagnating after baptism. I was praying for a breakthrough to grow my faith further. I wanted a faith that is not just based on theology alone, but also looks out for the needs of others, just like our Lord Jesus.

### My journey in HPC

The breakthrough came when I was introduced to HPC in 2020 through my girlfriend, Grace Lai. I am grateful for the opportunities given to lead CG and to participate in programmes such as Cancer Care Ministry and Prayer for The People despite being new to the church. I was moved by how people were genuinely concerned in growing the faith of the community, rather than focusing on oneself.

I am thankful for the answered prayer and breakthrough that has given me a new sense of purpose and confidence in life. The encouragement that I received from the HPC brethren has helped me to better grow my faith and empathy, providing me with practical ways to love and care for others. As such, I would love to take the step to identify with HPC and with God, as I have seen a glimpse of His loving community and would like to be a part of it.