

**HOPE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

10 APRIL 2022

CONTENTS

BAPTISM	PAGE
----------------	-------------

Ng Wei Hoon Britney	4
---------------------	---

TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

John Chang Wen Jun	8
--------------------	---

Dawn Looi Shu Hui	9
-------------------	---

BAPTISM

NG WEI HOON, BRITNEY

My name is Britney. I have been attending HPC for about 2 years. I have 2 sisters, one elder and one younger, and I am the middle child. My parents got divorced when I was 3, and I stayed with mom. I grew up in a Buddhist household, following my mom to different Temples over the years. On the other hand, my dad is an atheist. After the divorce, each of us lead independent lives despite me and my sisters being very young. I was a difficult and rebellious child growing up, often running away from home.

When I was younger, a pair of Jehovah witness' used to read to me daily at my doorstep till the day my mom drove them away, so I was familiar with the book of Genesis. Later, I came to know more about the Christian faith through Joshua Liau.

Over the course of our relationship, we had a lot of arguments and tension about the faith. Seeing the pain and suffering around me in this world, I couldn't accept the idea of a loving God allowing all of these to happen. Regardless, Josh asked me to follow him to church to discover more about the faith. I agreed, as I wanted to be nice and accommodating. However, after a couple of visits, I felt like it was a waste of time as I wasn't getting the answers I wanted.

Due to the emotional baggage from my childhood, I struggled to feel care and concern from the church.

Thus, I decided to isolate myself from the church community and even the cell group members. Subsequently, I fell ill and was hospitalised multiple times. To my surprise, the cg and church members came all the way to visit me and to check on me. During my lowest point, I experienced the love of God through those around me.

After that episode, I came to the realisation that we were all born with sin (Rom 3:10). The suffering that I went through broke down my pride and changed “my way or the highway” attitude I always had. Suffering in illness humbled me and made me cling onto God, declaring that I need a saviour (Luke 1:47) and that is only in Christ (Rom 5:8).

Life before knowing Christ was living in sin — believing there were no consequences, seeking acceptance and validation from the world, through various means - career, performing good deeds in hopes of receiving good things in return. I also believed that there was no afterlife after we die, which meant there is no purpose here on earth – but I was wrong.

Deciding to become a follower of Christ enabled me to let go of the anger and resentment I harboured since my childhood (2 Cor 5:17). God allowed me to break free from the guilt of my past sins (Psalm 103:12). Looking back, I am truly blessed for the circumstances that eventually led me to God.

The Lord's mercies are new every morning, and each day, I am constantly renewed, in the spirit of my mind (Lam 3:22-23). I have found hope, purpose and identity in Him. Despite whom I am, I know that I am deeply loved by the creator of the heavens and the earth (Isaiah 54:10). For that, I am grateful, and I pray that as I journey on, I continue to do his will that glorifies him (Heb 13:21), to love my neighbours (John 13:34), remain faithful to him as his steward (1 Cor 4:2), and in whatever challenges that lie ahead (James 1:2-4).

TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

CHANG WEN JUN, JOHN

In the past, whenever someone asked me about my testimony, I would be almost ashamed to talk about it because there was no “big event” that happened in my life that made me a believer. We always heard all the stories of how various individuals had his aha moment that led them to Christ and many seem to be very extravagant.

Well, for me, like many others, I was born into the faith. My dad was a pastor and my mother was very involved in church, so I naturally went along, attended Sunday school and here I am now still attending church. Yes, it may seem mundane, boring almost. But at some point along my Christian journey when I became more mature, I realised that actually my entire Christian life has been a testimony in itself.

Being led by the Holy Spirit all this time and not losing faith? I've spent 1/3 of my life overseas, surrounded by very colourful people and, honestly speaking, I could have fallen away from God at any point of time. But yet, I can gladly still say that I am a Christian.

I'm sure all of you can relate in one form or another that as we journey through our faith, there will always be crossroads in which we must decide certain difficult things, highs and lows that we may face, or even doubt about all this. But lest we forget that God will always be constant and it is in these situations where we can attest to God that, yes, I am a Christian.

He has sent me encouragements in the form of other believers and this has been so prevalent in my career.

Outside my clinic door, is my name tag and on multiple occasions, I've had patients ask me "Oh John, Christian name, you're a Christian?" And they would go on to encourage me knowing how drained I might be. And that is exactly how we can be testaments to both believers and non-believers.

We have been tasked to be the salt and light of this world and I hope that my testimony and all our testimonies will be a continuous one and not just defined by how we came to know Christ but how we can continue living for Christ.

LOOI SHU HUI, DAWN

(1) The grace and favour of God upon a small young girl to know Him.

I grew up in a Christian family, attended church and became familiar with Christian teachings, but it was only when I experienced God in a personal way that I came to really know God. This started for me when I was just 10 years old – I was at a missions conference, the children's programme, and during one of the sessions, I sensed the Holy Spirit moved and touched me, and the Spirit taught me to pray, in a way that a 10-year-old girl definitely would not know how. I remember the moment of spiritual awakening – when I realised the reality of the spiritual realm, the connection I could have with God, and subsequently, the overflowing joy, and the hunger for more. Who was I but a small, young, innocent girl who hardly knew anything about the world, God or even myself? But

God in his great grace and love looked upon me and allowed me to know Him.

(2) The comfort of the promises in His Word, and of His ever-abiding Spirit

Through my growing-up years, I delved into the Bible as God expanded my hunger for Him. It was also through the confusing and dark times of adolescence, that I was driven to find Him in His Word. I remember having stayed up many nights, just flipping my Bible, desperate to find verses of encouragement or promises of God that I could cling to, and I did. I continued to experience God as I found Him to always be near, always watching over me and guiding me. These were years when God built the knowledge of Him through His Word so I could stand on His truths, and I experienced His Word to be real.

(3) The releasing from doing to being, the freedom of grace and sonship. And thereby the future calling and subsequent obedience

After Junior College, I took a year off to explore missions. At the time I thought God was leading me to become a missionary, so I joined a missions programme, hoping to learn about missions and be equipped. That did happen eventually, but through a painful way – God had to first tear down all the wrong ideas I had of Him and of myself. I realised that throughout my Christian life, I took a very legalistic approach to my relationship with God, thinking that God will be pleased with me and speak to me only if I was a good Christian – if I did my devotions every day, if I went to church consistently, served in ministry, etc. I realised there was a lot of guilt and unforgiveness towards myself, and resentment towards the people

or situations in the past that made me like that. I was a very hard person, judgmental, and self-righteous. I had believed God to be a demanding Father with full authority to do as He wished, and I actually did not trust His love. So God had to tear all of that down and show me that it was not about what I did, but who He is, and who I am to Him. He is my Father and I am His child. It is only by His grace that I am who I am, and there is no good within me apart from Him. This was very humbling for me, and freeing as well, to obey God because of His love and holiness. God subsequently revealed to me clearly about my future vocation, and I could not refuse.

Here I am now, trying to stay obedient to the calling, married into the Seow family, and importantly – led as well to move to Hope, where I know is a family that God calls to Himself, out of His love for all of us.