



April 1, 2018

*Easter Baptismal Service at the
Toronto Christian Community Church
100 Acadia Avenue, Markham
ON L3R 5A2*



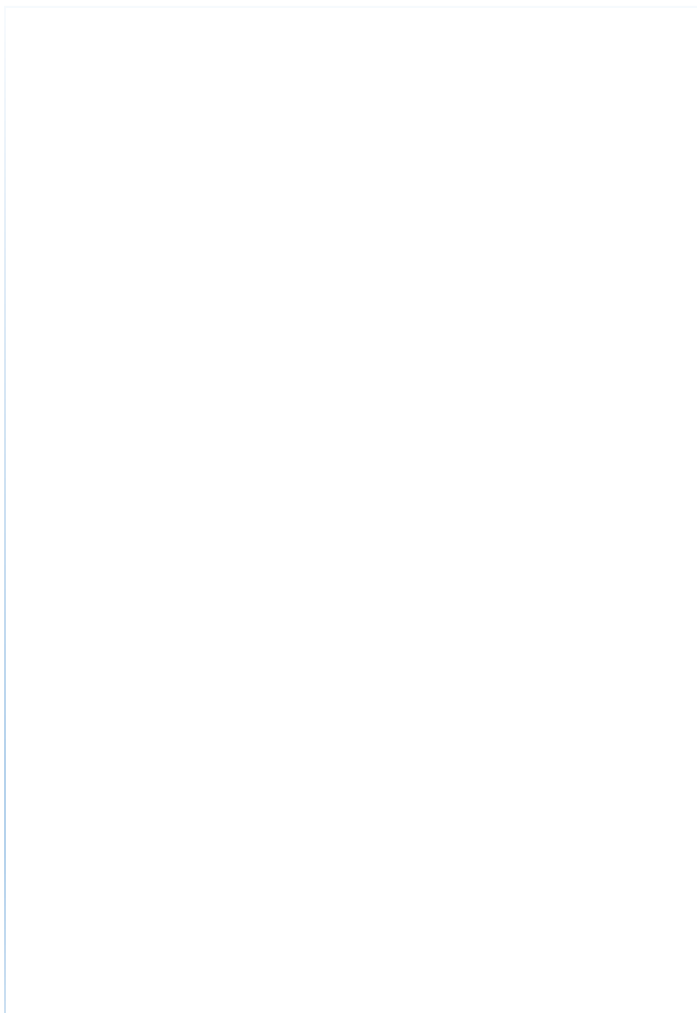
OFFICIATING PASTOR: REV. EDMUND WU



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and, lo, I am with you
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Sharon Chan

I have known Jesus Christ ever since I was raised up in a loving Christian family but putting my full trust with God was something so distant for me before I came to fully accept Christ as my Saviour. The lack of trust and faith that I put in God was one of the biggest challenges I struggled with growing up.

During university, I questioned where my faith stood and why my relationship with God felt so distant compared to other Christians. Until one day, I realized I focused too much on myself with a desire to always pursue perfection. It was through God that I had learned how imperfect I was which made me realize I was undeserving of his grace.

So, I started to begin a journey where I wholeheartedly put my trust and faith in God. Devoting myself to God, I came to a better understanding that God's grace and love for me is eternal and that there is nothing I can do to repay Him for what He has done for me.

As a Christian, I learned that it was easy to fall into a mistaken assumption that my relationship with Christ would mean a trouble-free life and there would be times where my emotional connection with Him will not be perfectly consistent. But through God's sovereignty and unconditional love, I know that I can walk my spiritual journey knowing that Jesus will bring great meaning to my life in times of darkness.

Being baptized today testifies that I have put my faith in God with nothing to be afraid of; knowing that Jesus Christ will always be in control of my life yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

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Vivian Feng

I grew up going to church, yet it never meant anything to me. It was easy to appear as a Christian because I had been exposed to Christian principles my whole life. Though my parents were genuine believers, that didn't make me one. While I could call Christ 'my Saviour', I didn't know him as Lord. So, I spent a good chunk of my life saying "Thanks, but no thanks".

My story doesn't have a specific turning point but rather, it's about the one true God pursuing, chasing, and calling me His own, time and time again.

I knew God loved me, but if I'm being honest, I didn't believe His love could be enough for me.

Naturally I sought from people, approval and acceptance. I was searching for my accolades and "atta-girls".

It didn't seem like it then, but I was running away. Though I was faithless, God was still faithful to me. God pursued me like only He could. With a relentless and unconditional love, He began to tear down the earthly crowns that I wore so proudly.

Through hardship and heartbreak, the Lord slowly taught me to let go of the idea that anything or anyone will complete me, but instead, to trust that His love is more than enough for me. It was during the darkest of nights that I tasted the sweetness of the Gospel – a love I didn't deserve and could never merit.

To me, baptism is a response to God's love in obedience to His command; it's a powerful proclamation of my need for the Gospel. I am acknowledging that Jesus is not only my Saviour, but Lord and King of my life.

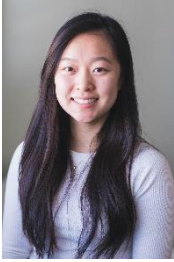
In light of this, I would like to invite you all to keep me accountable as I continue to pursue Jesus.

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Pei Zhi Lin

My mom and I are the only Christians in the family. My siblings were raised by my Buddhist grandparents teaching them that church was synonymous to a bad place. When I was younger, my mom made sure she brought me to church every week because she didn't want me to turn out the way my older siblings did.

In high school, I entered a relationship that took a toll on my faith. I put God aside and created idols, prioritizing my relationship with people. Because of this, I lost the joy that was once in my heart and tried replacing it with the temporary happiness I got from others. I was disappointed from what I received, and I tried telling myself that all I needed was God's love, but I didn't truly believe it. Going into University, I struggled finding a community. I was nervous to meet new people, and I made many excuses. I started pushing away people that were closest to me, and relied on one person. It wasn't until I hit rock bottom that I knew how much I needed God. I made changes that were necessary for me to rebuild my relationship with Him.

Eventually, God revealed Himself to me by placing opportunities allowing me to grow. I started seeing God reshape my life. God gave me the heart to go on a missions trip to Africa with MCF and during this trip, I heard the testimonies of many of the children and witnessed pure happiness through them. It made me understand God's sovereignty and that these hardships that we've endured allow us to truly experience His greatness.

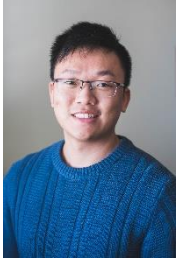
For a long time, I struggled with giving God control of my life. I ignored His commands, thinking that I knew what was best for me. When I finally started obeying God, that's when I felt joy from God's love.

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Ming Mo

I was born in Costa Rica and came to Canada with my parents when I was 2 years old. At the age of 10, my parents divorced. It was one of the most difficult moments of my life.

I started going to church with a friend at school who lived about 5 minutes away from me. His family would pick me up every Sunday. One day, I had to move away and I no longer went to church. In high school, I had an English teacher who took me to hockey practices and he would come all the way from downtown to where I lived. This man was Rob Dawson and he was like a father to me. I stopped playing hockey when I was 17. It was also when I started using drugs and lost control of my life. I was in a very dark place far away from everyone including God. Until one day, I decided to put an end to my drug use and decided to go rehab but it was not successful. I did not give up and somehow I was able to find the family who first took me to church after all these years. They introduced me to Operation Dawn.

I feel Jesus Christ has been in my life all along taking care of me and pulling me from danger. When my father was absent, God was there by sending different people to take care of me. Now I am ready to go all the way to follow Christ.

Before I went to Operation Dawn, I had no hope and I thought I was never going to stop using drugs. My life was heading nowhere. I struggled when I first arrived at Operation Dawn, but my life changed when I met Jesus again. I was able to find peace and salvation through the Word of God. I met God at Operation Dawn and started to have a relationship with him.

I want to get baptized because I accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour, and I want to follow Him.

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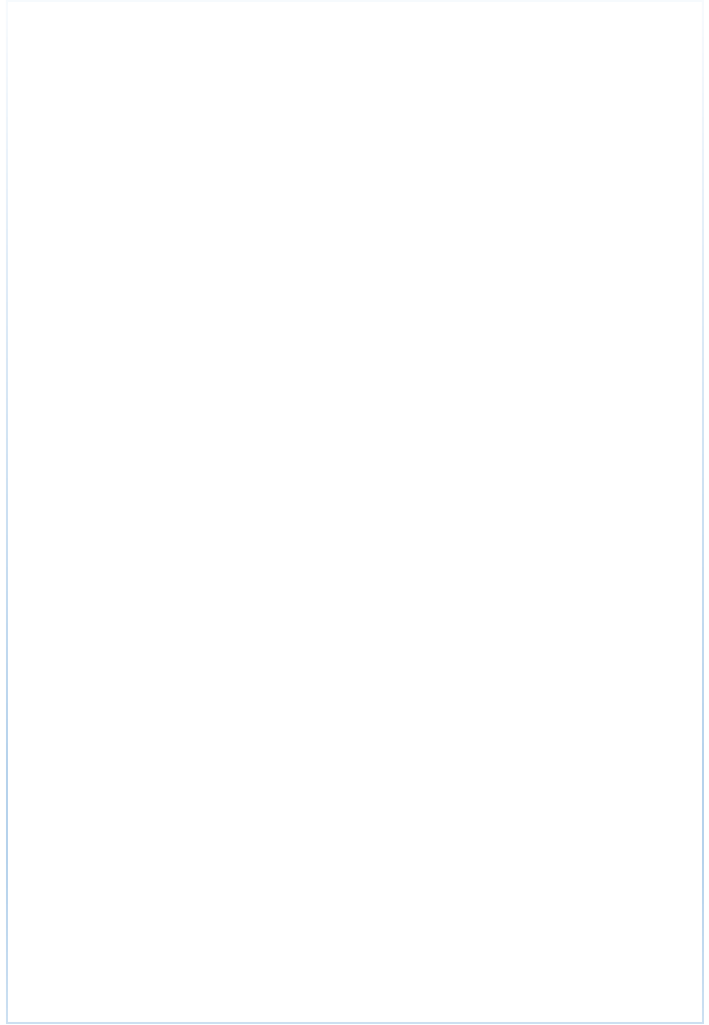
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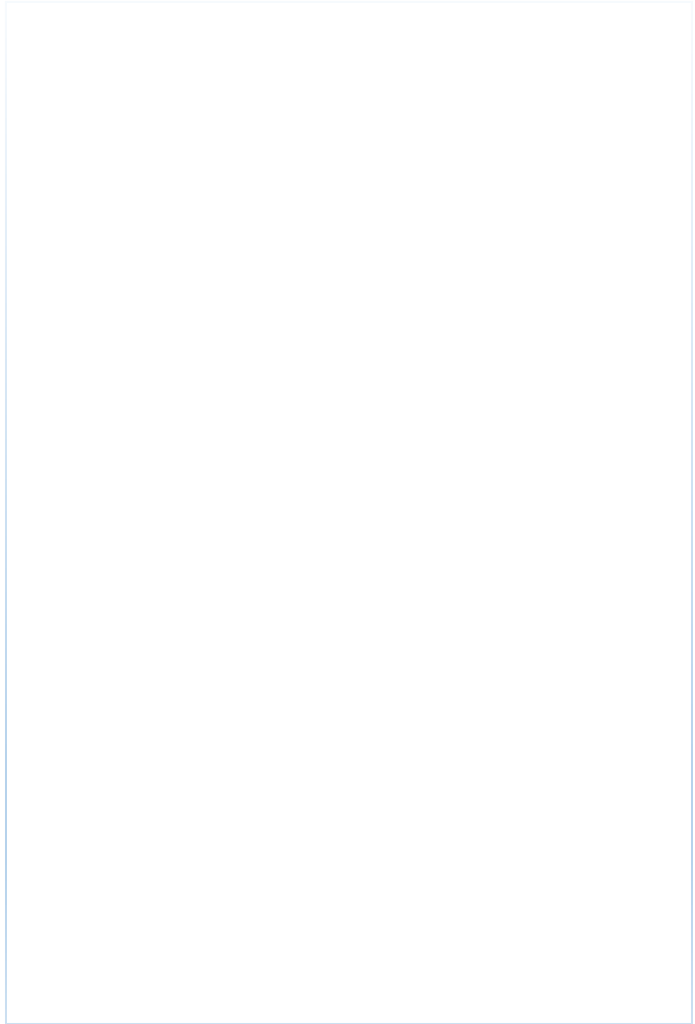
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