Testimony □□□

Testimonies from brothers and sisters sharing how they know and experience God personally.

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- 2025-04-19 Baptism Testimonies ????
- 2026-08-02 Testimonies ??
- 2026-10-11 Thanksgiving Testimonies ????

2025-04-19 Baptism Testimonies □□□

Maria Liu

A Call of Love

Hello, dear brothers and sisters. My name is Maria Liu from Shenzhen, Guangdong.

Falling into Darkness

About a year ago, I found myself in a deep crisis while in the U.S. I felt lost and confused, my days and nights flipped upside down. After moving to Canada last August, I occasionally came to church with my parents. People noticed my unusual silence and my mom's visible worry—and that's when love began pouring in from the church family.

Love Like Sunshine

Many brothers and sisters reached out. Pastor Jian and Auntie Sinnie welcomed me with warmth each Sunday. Auntie Zhuling, Sister Jialing, Uncle Jiakun, and their daughter visited me, brought me gifts, and prayed for me. Others like Uncle Zhou, Auntie Amy, Uncle Xie, Auntie Xiaoying, and many more came to care for me with prayer, meals, and heartfelt encouragement.

Back when I was still in the U.S., Uncle Shidan helped us connect with Pastor Lin from the Chinese Baptist Church in the Northwest. Pastor Lin and his wife supported us even after I left the States. A whole group of church members, including Uncle Ken, Uncle John, and many others, came together in love and prayer for me.

When my mom thanked them, they all said the same thing: "Don't thank us. Thank the Lord!" It moved me deeply—how could people who barely knew me treat me like family? I later understood: it's because we're all part of God's family, and this love comes from God.

Love Like a Lamp

Uncle Junfei and Auntie Lily have been praying for me for a year. They brought me gifts, handmade cards with Bible verses, and prayed with me over 30 times in the past couple months. When I was anxious about my work permit, they led nightly prayers for three days. On the coldest day this winter, Uncle Junfei accompanied me for five hours through doctor visits and medication pickup.

They've constantly checked on my health and comforted me with words, hugs, and joy. I quietly told myself—I want to become someone like Auntie Lily: gentle, loving, and strong.

I'll never forget Uncle Junfei reading Psalms aloud when I was afraid, or the time he helped me burn all my tarot cards and false teachings in the snow, helping me let go of darkness and turn back to God.

Finding the Way Out

Now I understand: the meaning of life is to love God, love others, and live for His glory and people's good.

Once trapped in darkness, I was without hope. But love woke me up like spring, and the light of heaven welcomed me home.

Amen. Thank you for listening.

Jessie Yuan

A Journey Toward New Life

On the morning of April 13 last year, during an Alpha retreat, I experienced something I'll never forget. While we were at camp, I suddenly felt an indescribable stirring in my heart. I didn't yet understand what it meant to be moved by the Holy Spirit—I just felt an overwhelming warmth and peace. I responded to that voice and made the decision to believe. That was the beginning of my relationship with God.

Like many newcomers to Canada, I soon got caught up in adjusting to life and work in a new country. Although I had already come to faith, I hadn't built a true relationship with God. I was still self-centered, living no differently than before.

But God didn't give up on me. In His own way, He helped me see my weaknesses and showed me that our Heavenly Father had always been watching over me and my family. One day, it hit me like a wake-up call—I longed deeply for a closer relationship with God. He knew my heart, and He responded.

The brothers and sisters in church began to walk with me and help me grow. I'm especially thankful for Sister Niu Hui, our pastors, and every single person in the church who has guided me. Through you, I came to understand that God must be first in our lives. He has been with me all along, shaping me into a better wife, a better mother, and a better daughter.

The change in my life has been profound. I used to think my achievements came from my own ability. But now I know—every ability is a gift from God. I've learned to hand everything over to Him. I pray about all things, and God answers—sometimes through people, sometimes through Scripture, sometimes through a message. But most often, it's the peace and joy the Holy Spirit places in my heart.

Now, I have a deep desire to participate in every church gathering and Sunday worship. My heart longs for God. To those of you who feel lost or overwhelmed like I once did—I want to say this: We often strive to build our lives on our own wisdom and strength but forget the importance of drawing near to God. Many times, our efforts are in vain because we forget that we are created by Him—and He has a perfect way and timing for leading us.

True wisdom is building a relationship with God, following the leading of the Holy Spirit, and living out the life He has prepared for us—not chasing our own plans blindly.

Today, on this very special day, I sincerely praise God! I'm thankful He brought my family to Saskatoon, and that my sister introduced me to the church, giving me a chance to know Him and witness transformation in my life. I'm also thankful for my husband's support during my early faith journey, and for my son, who often reminds me, "God is the greatest, so you have to put Him first." His simple faith has touched me deeply—helping me realize how precious it is to follow God like a child, without distractions.

Today's baptism marks the beginning of my new life journey. I am full of faith and joy and look forward to every moment ahead with God.

Let me end with a few verses from Psalm 23:

> The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
> He makes me lie down in green pastures,
> He leads me beside quiet waters.
> He refreshes my soul.
> He guides me along the right paths for His name's sake.
> Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
> I will fear no evil, for You are with me.

To God be all the glory!

Lisa Wang

In the Valley of a Foreign Land, God Personally Led Us Out

At the end of August 2024, our whole family arrived in Canada and were immediately struck by a heavy blow. We didn't know a single person here—it felt like our entire world had collapsed. We were shocked, desperate, and afraid, as if our lives had been shattered.

At our most helpless moment, Auntie Fan came into our lives. She cared for us like a parent, listened patiently to our pain, did everything she could to help us, and most importantly, led us into the church, guiding us step by step out of the darkness.

Pastor Jian, the preachers, elders, and brothers and sisters in the church helped me come to know God's love. They were all sent by God to help us walk out of the valley. They cared for us quietly, helped us, and prayed for us. Every time we gathered, my heart was surrounded by a warm and comforting power.

One day, I suddenly realized that even though I haven't had a specific experience of being "filled with the Holy Spirit," God has long been at work in my life. What I felt was not just surface-level help, but a deep, heartfelt acceptance and unconditional love. I began to learn to rely on God, and I found hope and strength again.

When I heard the words "God loves you," and looked back at how everything had changed, I knew it was God's grace that led us to where we are today. It was God who never abandoned us in our darkest moments, who carried us through it all.

Through these experiences, I have come to understand that none of this was by chance. I want to be baptized—not because I've become better, but because I'm willing to hand over my life, believing that God will guide me every step of the way. I believe that no matter how many challenges lie ahead, I no longer need to be afraid, because I know God is with me. May my life be a testimony of God's grace.

Thank you all. Wang Yiming

Ruby Wang

I first came into contact with Christianity last November, shortly after I moved to Saskatoon. It's been less than six months, so some people have asked me, "Why did you decide to get baptized so soon?"

Maybe it's because I'm more of a humanities person? (No offense to science students!) I noticed that when science-minded friends wrestle with the logic behind miracles, I actually don't feel the need to. I just naturally accepted it.

But that doesn’t mean I didn’t struggle or think deeply. Because of my personality, I’m someone who really lacks confidence. I know I have major weaknesses—I often question whether I’m capable, and I’m afraid to try new things. I’m afraid to say, “I can do it.” It’s like living inside a box. Fear keeps me from acting, and it also keeps me from hoping for more. I know I need to break free from this box, but I just can’t do it on my own. I’ve lived in constant anxiety and fear.

When I learned about how God loves us, and how Jesus Christ is our shepherd who leads us in life, I was deeply moved. On the day I made the decision to follow Jesus, I was genuinely happy—because I felt like I had seen light. I believed that Jesus is the one who could guide me and help me.

But that doesn’t mean I’ve fully stepped out of that box. I still wrestle with fear. Am I good enough? Can I live up to what God asks of me? Am I even worthy of salvation? These questions kept circling in my heart. So when people asked if I wanted to be baptized, I didn’t know how to respond.

Then came the first baptism class. Pastor Huang said, “We are baptized because of faith.” That one line gave me clarity. Even though I’m unsure of my ability—even if I can’t trust myself—I asked, “Do I trust God?” And the answer was yes. I believe in God. I believe in Jesus. So I chose to be baptized.

Still, that wasn’t the end of my internal struggle. Even after deciding to get baptized, I kept bouncing between doubts. But the encouragement from Pastor Huang and Sister Lily helped me. So I made the decision.

Then more questions came. After baptism, what will actually change? What does this decision truly mean? What about all my unresolved fears and doubts?

One day, while riding the bus, I was pondering all these things. I reflected on the Bible passages I’d read and the things I’d learned at church. And I realized—yes, I don’t know how to figure it all out. I still don’t believe in myself. But I believe in God. I believe He will lead me, strengthen me, and walk with me. Because I believe in Him, I can also begin to believe that I can follow through.

I’m so thankful for God’s guidance. These realizations didn’t come from me—they were a gift. I know the journey ahead is still long, but I want to keep following the Lord one step at a time.

That is my testimony. Thank you for listening.

Henry Chan

Having gone through Catholic elementary and high school in Canada and Hong Kong, I have never been detached from God. Nonetheless, although I have believed in God and often engaged in silent prayers in times of difficulties the relationship yet felt like I knew Him but at a distance. MP Arnold Viersen, at the departure gate at the Ottawa airport, when I was coming back to Saskatoon to run for the provincial nomination that I should go to church. So, I went. When I came to church I started to renew the relationship and got to know God better. It gave me a great sense of guidance, moral anchor, and inner peace.

Jerry Wang

At first, I didn’t really understand what church was all about. I just knew there was a group of people called Christians, always singing and reciting poems. That was my first impression of church—vague and unclear.

Not long after we came to Canada, my wife wanted to check out a church. In her eyes, it was a mysterious and sacred place. So, a friend brought her to our church. After just a few visits, she realized church was nothing like what

she had imagined. She told me it was a place full of love, where people cared for one another like family—as children of God.

I thought she might've been brainwashed. How could people truly love one another like that? But at her request, I came to church too. That visit changed my perspective. I realized there really is a group of people in this world who genuinely care for and love each other. I thought, "Believers must be pure people—people who have risen above shallow pursuits."

My wife and I attended the Alpha Course together. Though I didn't attend many sessions, the words of the pastor and his wife left a deep impression on me. The videos we watched also made me reflect: What is the meaning of my life?

In April 2024, my wife made a decision to follow Christ—she officially became a child of God. I didn't join her at the time. I felt I still had too many unanswered questions and wasn't ready to join God's family. I didn't think I was good enough to be a true Christian.

Then came June 15, 2024. I witnessed the baptism of brothers Lei Bo and Fu Lin. Hearing their testimonies moved me deeply. I was truly happy for them. And God didn't give up on me—He gave me the same opportunity.

The pastor asked if I wanted to make a faith decision. He said Pastor Jian could lead me in prayer right then. Without hesitation, I reached out and took the pastor's hand. At that moment, I felt I was ready. As someone who believes in God, I count it an honor to believe in Him and serve Him.

Later, I attended the foundational doctrine classes and came to understand God more deeply. I recognized clearly that I am a sinner. When I heard that baptisms would take place on Easter, I no longer hesitated or wavered. Today, I am justified. Tomorrow, I will be sanctified.

I'm thankful to the pastors who helped me know God. I'm grateful to all the brothers and sisters who have shown me love and care. You've helped me walk this path of faith with strength and encouragement.

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2026-08-02 Testimonies □□

Sophia

Hello everyone, my name is Sophia. I have just graduated from Grade 12, and this September I will be attending McMaster University. I hope to pursue a career in the medical field in the future.

I am grateful for God's grace and guidance. On December 28 of last year, I was baptized here and had the privilege of becoming a sister in Christ—a daughter of God's Kingdom. Through the church, I have received God's provision and discipline, experienced Him, grown to know Him, and learned to depend on Him more deeply.

I have been part of Saskatoon Chinese Alliance Church for almost five years. During that time, I have grown from a young and inexperienced child into a young adult.

I would especially like to thank the pastors of our church, including Pastor Kaan, Pastor Chu, Pastor Huang, and Pastor Zhang, for their continued pastoral care and teaching. They have always been role models for me in my faith.

To every brother and sister here, you have all been spiritual mentors to me. Thank you for your care, support, and guidance over the years, especially for the encouragement and advice you gave me while I was waiting to begin university.

I would also like to give special thanks to Uncle Thian-Peng for his spiritual companionship and guidance. He even prepared a series of discipleship training courses specifically for David and me and patiently answered our many questions. Beyond this, he has invested so much time and energy in supporting us in our daily lives and guiding us in church ministry. I am deeply grateful.

I am also thankful for Angie and Gordon from the youth fellowship, as well as all the brothers and sisters in the youth group, for accompanying and encouraging me along the way. I am grateful that I have had the opportunity to serve in the church and experience the joy of working together with God.

There are so many unforgettable people and experiences, and God's blessings are far too numerous to count. There is also one more thing I will never forget: the church potlucks. The food prepared by all the uncles and aunties was truly amazing!

Whether it was a church meal or time spent in the homes of families who warmly welcomed us, these experiences left a deep impression on me and allowed me to feel the warmth of a large family. Through your thoughtful and constant care, God showed me just how deeply He loves me.

As I prepare to move to a new city to live and study, I will carry with me the blessings and encouragement I have received from this church. I will also share the love and warmth I have experienced here with others without holding anything back.

At university, I will actively look for a local church and youth fellowship so that I can continue seeking God and growing in my Christian faith. I am willing to entrust the road ahead completely to the Lord. I pray that He will continue to guide me and help me follow Him faithfully throughout my life.

Finally, I would also like to congratulate the grandparents who are being baptized today. As you entrust everything to the Lord, may He give you peace, joy, and strength from above. May you experience even more of His grace and

faithfulness in the days ahead.

David

Hello everyone, my name is David. I am very happy and honored to have another opportunity to share with you today. Like Sophia, I will be moving to Hamilton this September to study Engineering at McMaster University.

I would especially like to thank all the pastors, ministers, brothers, and sisters in our church. I still remember when I first came to this church in October 2021. At that time, I did not know very much about the Christian faith. It was through your patient teaching, companionship, and care that I gradually came to understand the gospel and build my own faith step by step.

I will always remember the moment when I made my decision to follow Christ in front of Uncle Thian-Peng. I am deeply grateful to Uncle Thian-Peng, Auntie Sinnie, and their family for preparing the discipleship training course for us, supporting us in our daily lives, and guiding us in church ministry. May the Lord remember everything you have done. Through your example, I learned that faith is not only about listening to sermons or gaining knowledge, but also about learning to depend on God and follow Him in our everyday lives.

I am also very thankful to Pastor Zhang for his careful teaching and guidance. Through the baptism classes and membership classes, I began to think more seriously about my relationship with God, and I made the important decision to entrust my life to Him. By God's grace, I was baptized at the end of last year and publicly declared my faith before God and the church.

I would also like to thank Pastor Chu for baptizing us. To me, baptism was not simply a ceremony. It represented my decision to follow the Lord throughout my life and to place both my present and my future into His hands.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Angie and Gordon for their leadership and companionship in the youth fellowship, Uncle Edward, and everyone who has cared for, taught, and supported us throughout these years. I am also thankful for all the brothers and sisters I have served alongside, as well as every friend in the youth fellowship.

There are also many brothers and sisters who have quietly served the church in different roles. Whether you maintain the church building, prepare the rooms, or take care of the many responsibilities that others may not see, your service allows us to worship God and grow in our faith in a warm and peaceful environment. Although I cannot mention everyone by name, I will always remember the kindness and support you have shown me. May the Lord remember the service and dedication of every brother and sister.

Proverbs 3:5–6 says:

> "Trust in the Lord with all your heart
> and lean not on your own understanding;
> in all your ways submit to him,
> and he will make your paths straight."

As I prepare to begin university, I know that there will be many unknowns, new environments, and new challenges ahead of me. However, I want to continue learning to depend on God instead of relying only on my own abilities and understanding. I believe that no matter what lies ahead, God will continue to guide me and give me the strength and wisdom I need at every stage of my life.

Finally, I would also like to congratulate the two seniors who are being baptized today. May God continue to guide you, help you know Him more deeply, and allow you to experience more of His grace in the days ahead. May all of us continue to trust in the Lord faithfully and follow Him throughout our lives.

Thank you to every pastor, minister, and brother and sister at Saskatoon Chinese Alliance Church. No matter where I go in the future, I will always remember the teaching, companionship, and love I have received here over the past five years. I will carry your blessings with me as I continue working toward my dreams, and I pray that the Lord will continue to guide the path ahead of me.

Thank you, everyone.

Xiaoying's Parents

Dear brothers and sisters, peace be with you!

Today is August 2, 2026, my wife and I were baptized, officially becoming disciples of Jesus Christ and accepting Him as our Savior. This is the most memorable and unforgettable day of our lives. At this moment, with a heart full of gratitude and joy, I would like to share with you our journey from being atheists to fully accepting Jesus Christ as our Savior. Praise to the LORD!

1. Our Story — Before Believing

In May 2018, my wife and I came from China to Saskatoon, Canada, to visit family. Led by our daughter, we attended the Chinese church almost every Sunday and began to encounter the Bible.

At first, we could hardly understand anything — it felt like listening to a completely foreign language. But whenever the worship team sang hymns, the beautiful melodies deeply drew us in. Later, the church held a Xiao Cao (Little Grass) hymn concert, which gave us a new appreciation of the Christian faith.

In November of that year, we returned to China. Back home, without church life or anyone to guide us, we no longer had any opportunity to engage with the Bible.

In April 2023, we came to Canada again and returned to the Chinese church. By then, in addition to the Sunday sermons, the church had added the Saturday "Five Loaves and Two Fish" learning program. There, everyone studied the Bible together, watched gospel films, shared testimonies with one another, and discussed questions of faith. Through this rich learning, we began to know God little by little, and to think about the true meaning of life.

However, because of visa and time constraints, we returned to China in October 2023, and once again lost the opportunity to attend church gatherings and study the Bible.

2. Our Testimony — How We Were Saved

At the end of July 2025, we came to Canada for the third time.

This time, we returned to the Chinese church. Every Sunday we listened to the pastor's sermon; every Saturday we joined the "Five Loaves and Two Fish" study; and we were placed in an Alpha group, learning and sharing the Bible together with brothers and sisters.

Through one lesson after another, and one real, living testimony after another, God kept opening our hearts. We gradually came to see that Jesus Christ is the true God, the Lord who created heaven and earth and all things, and the Savior of the world.

We also began to understand the truth of the Trinity — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — and to recognize that the center of the whole Bible is Jesus Christ. As the Lord Jesus said:

John 5:39 says:

> ❝ ... These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, ...

The Bible transcends culture, time, and place. It satisfies the deepest needs of the human heart, gives true wisdom, and has become the spiritual food of our lives.

Looking back on these years of coming to know God — from not understanding and not accepting at first, to fully believing today — we could not have walked this road without the teaching of the pastors, ministers, and elders, and without the care, help, and companionship of our brothers and sisters all along the way.

For this reason, this past February — on my birthday — my wife and I made our prayer of commitment to Christ, led by one of the church elders.

Today, witnessed by our brothers and sisters, we have been baptized and have officially become disciples of Jesus Christ.

This is another major turning point in our lives. From now on, may we let the Lord's word govern our speech and conduct, follow the example of Christ, and keep growing in our faith.

3. God's Promise to Us — After Believing

Our study of the Bible has only just begun, and our understanding of God's word is still very shallow. We plan to return to China this October. Although we may not have the same good learning environment and church life after we return, we will take the Bible back with us, keep reading Scripture and praying, continue to study earnestly, and strive to be rooted in God's word.

Finally, we thank the pastors, ministers, elders, and all the brothers and sisters for their constant care, companionship, and prayers.

May all glory be to God!

Amen!

Sophia

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2026-10-11 Thanksgiving Testimonies



Adam · Cantonese Congregation

2026 Cantonese Congregation Thanksgiving Highlights

Hey everyone, looking back at this past year at church, there are a few awesome things that I think we should all stop and count as real blessings together.

- First off, we're now running a Communion service on one Monday night every month. This is huge because it gives brothers and sisters who can't make it on Sundays a chance to hang out, worship, and take Communion together. Our church has wanted to do this for decades, but we could never quite make it happen until now.
- Second, starting next week, the Cantonese service is trying out a Saturday morning worship time. Honestly, it's a total miracle that a church with fewer than 100 people has three different services! We actually ran out of space on Sunday mornings, meaning some of us had to switch to a different time slot just to fit. That's a pretty amazing problem to have.
  - Think about it this way: a church with tons of empty space is God's reminder that we need to work harder to bring people to Christ.
  - But a church that's running out of room is proof that God is pouring out His grace on us—and it means we need to get smarter and more flexible with how we use what we've got.
- Third, for such a tiny group, we somehow have three pastors and an advisory pastor (Pastor Emeritus). Whether you look at Chinese churches or Western churches, having that many leaders for a group our size is just mind-blowing.
- Fourth, we're actively encouraging our younger generation to get trained up, with the hope that they'll step up as future church leaders and pastors and willing to be used by God.

Lastly, I want to remind everyone not to just say thanks for the "happy" stuff. We also need to be thankful for the brothers and sisters in our church who are going through tough times right now, whether with their health or their finances. You might think, Wait, is this guy crazy? What is there to be thankful for when people are hurting? What I mean is: because some of us are suffering, it gives our whole community the chance to learn how to go through hard times together, share what we have, and truly look out for one another.

Life is full of ups and downs, and bad times never last forever. But having the love and care of your church family when things get rough. That's the greatest happiness right there.

So, let's not just celebrate the easy wins. When we give thanks, let's thank God for making us a family that sticks together through thick and thin—celebrating with those who are happy, and crying with those who are hurting.

David · English Congregation

> “Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7)

- Pastor Stephen Chu asked me to share some things the English congregation is thankful for this past year.
- I can think of both good and unpleasant circumstances to be thankful to the Lord for.
- God brought many new faces to us: newborns, families, college students, foreign workers. We are thankful for all of them, because our church is about our people. The new people are our family, and their different cultures and backgrounds bless and enrich us.
- We are thankful for the many challenges, because they are opportunities to learn. Pastor Stephen challenged the English congregation to embrace his vision to mentor future leaders, and to develop pastors and licensed workers from our congregation.
- We are thankful for our Next Generation leaders, who are committed to the Lord and to each other to study, learn, and be transformed.
- The English “Bible Sharing ????” preparation group meets every Thursday to study and prepare the Sunday message. We have seven young adults (Alexander, Enoch, Tim, Joanne, Cecilia, Shiny, Nikki), plus others.
- ?????. The future is bright.
- Come to the English service, hear their messages, get to know them, walk with them, share their burdens, and we grow together.

The hymn “I Know Who Holds Tomorrow”:

> “ Many things about tomorrow
> I don’t seem to understand,
> But I know who holds tomorrow,
> And I know who holds my hand.

- Many of us are dealing with uncertainties and illness. I think of Gordon, Mike and his family, Liu Pei’s mom, Catherine’s mom, and the ??? family. We cannot fix their challenges, but we love them and walk with them.
- We are thankful that God holds their hand, and He knows their future.

Amen.

Thian-Peng · Mandarin Congregation

This is the full version of my sharing. On Sunday I read a shorter version to keep to time.

Peace to you, brothers and sisters. I'm Thian-Peng.

This week has been construction season at our church. I've been coordinating a lot of moving parts while juggling family, church, and work. So when I was first asked to share today, I'll be honest: I struggled. I already had enough on my plate. Why say yes to one more thing?

But God recently reminded me of two things. In Romans 1, Paul writes:

> “ “I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome.” (Romans 1:14-15)

God entrusted the gospel to Paul. That grace was never meant to stay with him, so he was eager to pass it on, even to believers who were already in Rome. What God has been doing among us is the same. If I should speak of God's work and stay silent, I'm holding back a debt I owe.

And 1 Thessalonians 5 says:

> “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

All circumstances includes the busiest ones. So I chose not to decline.

The freshest reason to give thanks: the next generation

There is so much to give thanks for, but I want to start with the most recent, because it's still fresh in my heart.

Over the last few years, our church has shifted its focus to walking with people and nurturing the next generation: those who are young in faith, and those who are young in age. We have chosen to put our ministry and our resources there first.

Recently we've seen more clearly how important it is for young parents to bring their babies and toddlers into worship with the whole church family, instead of being set apart in a nursery crowded with crying children. We want them to stay connected with their church family and to worship God together with us.

At the same time, at Five Loaves and Two Fish, the Lord has brought us many new brothers and sisters, so that together we can reach and disciple the next generation. Through this ministry, more people are serving, and more newcomers are exploring the faith and tasting real fellowship.

The Lord brings these people to us so that we can keep practising loving and serving one another.

But that has brought a happy problem. Five Loaves and Two Fish now fills almost every usable space we have: every room, the foyer, the sanctuary, even the nursery. We simply ran out of room for more groups for seekers and young people.

Building together

So the church came together, with one heart, to build new space for young parents and for small groups. Brothers and sisters have given their time, money, energy, and resources to build something for the next generation. The two rooms still under construction in our sanctuary are the evidence.

God prepares His people to build for Him.

My little faith

I have to admit that sometimes my faith is small. When Brother Ron told me the glass windows had arrived, I didn't sleep well that night. I knew the big job was about to begin.

I was clear about one thing: this had to be the church's project, carried out by brothers and sisters who love the Lord and love His church. It could not be a commercial job or an organizational project. It had to be done the biblical way, not the secular way. I had never done anything like it.

And that raised the question: where are the workers? I prayed, and I asked Sinnie and the church to pray with me.

God answered our prayer

God answered our prayer. Many brothers and sisters poured out their time and energy in the middle of busy lives. Every day someone came to stain the wood, and every evening people came to set up, drill, cut, and carry.

There was also work no one saw. Spouses and children made it possible for their husbands or wives, their dads or moms, to come and build during a very unusual week. That meant less family time and less rest. Our church values family, and this week brothers and sisters made a conscious choice to put this work first.

Another part went unheard, yet was just as important, perhaps more: the prayers for this work. Many of our caregivers couldn't come, so they supported us with prayer and care instead. Some brought food so the crew had energy to keep building. Some simply dropped by to cheer everyone on. Others took photos and videos to record the journey. All week long, the church was filled with laughter, along with the sound of drills and saws.

Their responses

This week I had the rare chance to thank each person who came to help. I meant it from the heart, because they were the ones who helped me sleep a little better. Their answers moved me. I won't name anyone, and I can't list them all, but here are a few:

> “You're welcome. I suddenly saw the need, so I adjusted my schedule to join.”
>
> “Can I come help stain in the morning? I have to leave at noon, though. I start work at 2.”
>
> “Not sure we'll finish staining today. I can find a few hours tomorrow too.”
>
> “I can give the sister a ride to the staining at 1:30, but unfortunately I can't drive her back because of the kids' classes in the evening.”
>
> “It's our home.”
>
> “You're welcome. It's what we should do. The church's work belongs to all of us, me included, because it is the Lord's house, and even more, our home in Him.”
>
> “It's only a small part. The church is the body of Christ, visible and invisible, so having a share in building it is an honour.”
>
> “No need to thank me. Being able to do something for the church is our honour, and God's grace to us.”
>
> “Thank you for giving us the chance to help.”
>
> “I'm glad I could do my part for the church's ministry, and I learned a lot along the way. I'm thankful.”
>
> “Thank the Lord for giving me this chance to do my small part in building His church. May the Lord remember what every brother and sister has offered.”

> “I'm so thankful to see brothers and sisters working together as one. Just being among everyone makes me happy.”

And many, many more.

Closing

Brothers and sisters, this is what I saw this week: **God's people treat the church as their spiritual home.** They are not spectators. They are part of this family. They offer what they can, and more importantly, **they offer it willingly.**

At first, I almost declined to share today. But looking back on this week, I have so much to be thankful for. Thank the Lord for bringing people to us. Thank the Lord for preparing His people to build for Him. And thank the Lord for making us a family that willingly serves one another. Even in the busiest season, we can still give thanks in all circumstances.

All glory to God. Amen.

Adam · □□□

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