

## **My Journey from Doubt to Belief**

(Baptised on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2017)

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!



Jeremy together with his mother, younger brother and Rev. Anthony  
(Photo taken after the baptism)

My baptism on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2017 has been a very precious and memorable event personally. It took me almost twenty-one years to make the final decision to recognise Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. Jesus is the best gift of my life. I am also glad to have become a part of this greater family at JCC.

I accepted Christ in early January. As you might have heard from Rev. Anthony in July or August, although he did not mention my name, my aunt had wanted to tell my parents about my decision for Christ and my grandma had offered to let me stay at her place if my parents decided to kick me out of the house because of my conversion in faith.

I came from a traditional Buddhist family. The elders in my family are either Taoist or Buddhist. As such,

growing up, I was very accustomed to those beliefs and practices even though I do not really understand them.

During the start of my volunteering journey in grassroots, I met this sister who is a member of JCC. Back in 2014, she started inviting me to evangelistic events in the church. However, because of our differences in religious views, we often debated about what was the “true religion” and wanted to prove each other wrong. I remembered how I used to make her so frustrated during our arguments that she cried and did not want to converse further. But to me, little did I know that it was the start of meeting Jesus when He decided it was time to make Himself known to me.

Since then, I got approached by a lot of Christians doing evangelistic outreach at MRT stations, shopping malls, bus interchange, etc. I would be stopped by them and they would ask me if I were a Christian. I would of course reply in the negative and they would converse with me further about the tree of good and evil, eternal life through Jesus Christ and so on. Very often, they would invite me to leave my particulars with them so that they could invite me to their services. I would leave fake contact details or ignore their attempts to contact me. I just was not ready at that point of time, but I continued to meet up often with this sister and she helped me to clarify my doubts and questions about Christ. From time to time, I would meet Reverend Anthony in youth evangelistic events and pose him questions as well.

Late last year, my grandpa passed away after suffering a stroke and cardiac arrest, coupled with lungs and kidney complications. Growing up, he was very dear to me because he was my caregiver when I was still a child as both my parents worked. While I struggled to cope with the loss of a close family member, I was struck with another bad news just a few months later. During my pre-enlistment medical check-up with CMPB, they detected an abnormality in my heart and referred me to a heart specialist. I underwent some tests and I remembered clearly that night when they infused a drug into me as part of the medical assessment. I was told that the drug might cause cardiac arrest although the chances were low. After messaging my friends and family at night, I stayed up a little and started reading encouraging bible verses and started praying unknowingly. Morning came and the test results returned with a positive.

I was diagnosed with Brugada Syndrome – a disease that causes an increased risk of cardiac-related death. It does not have an available cure. This news changed my entire life. My scholarship to become a Fire and Rescue Specialist with SCDF was immediately affected and I was told to return the pay-outs and allowances they had given me, which had accumulated up to about \$60k with interest, although it was none of my fault or within my control.

I was confused and lost at that point of time. I didn't know who or what I could count on. I isolated myself from others to give myself some time to address the different issues and trials. During this time, all that truly remained was my family and this faith that my sister introduced to me. I began reading up the bible more frequently, doing devotions from ODJ, and told Reverend I wanted to meet up with him to learn more about this person called Jesus.

I started meeting Reverend at least once a week and went to the chapel every single day to pray. Literally, I would spend at least an hour in the chapel praying till the point that I have become best friends with the caterpillars in the

church roof garden. At that one point of time, I just decided to open the door of my heart where Jesus was knocking for the past twenty years and I told Reverend that I was ready to accept Him in one of our 1-to-1 mentoring sessions.

Acceptance of Christ was a relief to me but at the same time I needed the support of my family. I have dropped hints at several occasions asking my mom what she would think if I ever convert to become Christian. Each time, she would flatly reject that, and our conversation would somehow turn cold. I did not dare to confess that I have accepted Him into my life and secretly studied the bible through the mobile application.

Over the months, I continue to pray each day, visiting the chapel and meeting up with Reverend for bible studies. Things did not seem to change, and it went on for many months. But I did not realise that God has already started to put His Plan into actions. After accepting Christ, my outlook in life changed.

I began volunteering with Pioneer Generation Office and Institute of Mental Health. I met many people who are in worse circumstances than me and I tried to bring joy and comfort to as many people as I can. I volunteered in the day and came home to spend the evening with my family for several months. I was also called to respond to several emergency cases around the location of the Church; cases of cardiac arrest, stroke and seizures which I received via the SCDF's MyResponder application. As a certified Community First-Aider, I rushed to resuscitate the casualties, sometimes in the midst of our Sunday services. Some of them were reunited with their families but often I would pass by and see new wakes being held at those void-decks or multi-purpose halls. I would sometimes question God why He did not save them, but I believe that in His plan, there is always a greater purpose not known to me. And I continued serving, believing that perhaps that is my calling from God, responding to distress calls and assuring the families who needed someone to be there to hold them.

After a while, I realised a change in my character too. I used to be impulsive, selfish, hot-headed, and not a very understanding person. After these months, I would not say I am a perfect person, but I think I have made improvements to self and how I treat others. Because He first loved me, that's why I am able to love others – even strangers whom I meet along the way.

My aunt learnt about my new faith through my cousin, and wanted to tell my parents about it because she thought it was not really a good idea to keep it from them. And so, the time has come for me to confess my faith to my parents. In the night before I confessed, I continued to pray for God's help, knowing that things could really get bad between my family members if I did not

handle the situation well. When I finally confessed, I broke down, not because my mom said “okay” but because finally that tension and suspense were broken with the help of God. It was something I did not expect, because my parents were so resistant to the idea of me converting into other faiths. And when I finally did open my mouth, they accepted it right away. Praise to Jesus!

And the big day (of my baptism) finally came when I said “I do” at this very place. Through all, I have learnt how to be patient with God, because He will never forsake anyone. Days may seem dull and nothing seems to be making sense, but I stand here today to testify that God is working – so there’s no need to be too “*kan chiong*”. He loves all of us and wants every man to be saved. Know this in your heart regardless if it rains or shine.



Today, I am serving in Singapore Civil Defence Force for National Service. Although I did not become a Fire and Rescue Specialist, I have found peace and joy at where I am posted to and continue to mentor youths in my capacity. I am often deployed to exercises and events; hence, I may not be able to attend many of the church services, but I am still one with everyone here in prayers and spirit.

I thank everyone who have constantly prayed and cared for me. I also thank God every day for keeping me close to Him and have this chance to share my story with everyone here. I have trusted Him with my family and with my life, how about you? Will you re-commit yourself to Him and trust Jesus in all that you do and in all circumstances? Will you allow Him to take your hand and to guide you through 2018 and beyond?



As Proverbs 3:5 states: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

Have a blessed year ahead!

*Jeremy Chua Han Xiang*