

Hunter Street Baptist Church
Lake Baptism Service
Testimonies

Shocco Springs
September 21, 2025

Mackenzie Allinder

Lucy Bailey

Meredyth Boatwright

Charlie Boone

Evie Boswell

Rush Boswell

Mark Brinton

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Pete Buchwalter

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Max Reid

Matthew Schwarz

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MACKENZIE ALLINDER

Hi, my name is Mackenzie Allinder, and I'm a freshman at Helena High School. I grew up in a Christian home with parents who loved Jesus and brought me to church on Sundays and Wednesdays. They always took the time to pray before dinner and to teach me the true meanings of special holidays like Christmas and Easter. Over time, I've come to realize that I really do need God and that I can't go through life on my own. I'm so grateful for His grace and mercy, because no matter how hard I try, I will always mess up and sin, but God has forgiven me for that. At first, I thought I was alone in life, and that I had to go through hard times by myself, and that I had to constantly live with the guilt that came from sinning again and again. But now I know that God is always with me, through both the good and the bad. One day, I realized that all I had to do was truly open my heart to God and ask Him to forgive me, and I did. I repented and asked God to change my heart and the way I think, and He did. I also want to share a verse that is really important to me. That verse is Nahum 1:7, which says, "The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; He knows those who take refuge in Him."

The idea of being known by God and that He truly hears every word I say in prayer has been incredibly meaningful throughout my faith journey. I believe this verse can be very calming and encouraging to any believer. The impact of having a relationship with Jesus and being able to go directly to Him throughout my day has been incredible. That is why I'm here today to share that Jesus is my Lord and He will forever be a major part of my life.

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LUCY BAILEY

Hi. My name is Lucy Bailey, and I am in ninth grade at Hoover High School. I grew up going to church and having a concept of what God was, but I never had a true faith. I thought that I had already checked off all the boxes. I went to church, I sang the songs, and I took the notes, but after accidentally breaking down my faith, I realized that I never had any. This really threw me off, and I decided that I was no longer a Christian. I went for about a week without God, and it was the worst week of my life. But in the midst of this time of anxiety, stress, and worry, I realized how much I needed Christ to save me from my sins. I asked him into my heart, felt the relief and joy of the holy spirit, and knew that this was the best choice I had ever made.

Although I still struggle with anxiety and worry, because of my faith, I can see it through the lens of the gospel, and “Cast my anxieties onto the Lord” Looking back at how far I have come in my walk with God, I am incredibly grateful for the hardships I faced on the way because without them, I would’ve never come to know Christ.

In honor of this decision, I am being baptized today to show my true identity in Him and my wholehearted devotion to him.

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MEREDYTH BOATWRIGHT

I grew up in a Christian home. We may not have gone to church every weekend, but my parents did a great job of bringing me closer to God. I have always had a relationship with God. I grew up in the Methodist church and was baptized when I was a teenager, but it wasn't baptism by immersion. This was a very meaningful experience for me, but I now understand that baptism is by immersion.

I always knew God had his plan, even when the road got rocky or if I strayed from him. It is still so amazing to me what sacrifice Jesus Christ made for us. My salvation from my sins is through Jesus Christ, and that is why I have repented of my sin and put my faith in him and what he accomplished for me that I couldn't do for myself. I know how much God loves me. He has blessed my life in so many ways by giving me my beautiful daughter, healthy son, and amazing husband. I'm so excited to be baptized by immersion as a public profession of my faith and to keep strengthening my relationship with God.

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CHARLIE BOONE

Hello, I am Charlie Boone. I have grown up in a Christian household and always attended church. Baptism was something that I thought about a lot. When everyone around me was getting baptized I felt the need to do the same. So, I started writing my testimony, but the paper stayed blank. I felt as if my story wasn't good enough and it wasn't worth telling. As time went on, I kept making excuses to put it off. I convinced myself I wasn't good enough or that I wasn't ready. My thought process was that one day I would be a good enough Christian or that I would just feel ready to be baptized. This all changed after a conversation with Bryan Howell. He helped put it into perspective that baptism wasn't about feeling like I had a good enough story.

My story is that I was a sinner who needed the forgiveness that Christ offered to me. I repented of my sin and trusted Christ to forgive me. I also realized that baptism wasn't about feeling ready to be baptized but it was about being obedient to Christ. So, I took the first opportunity to be baptized. Recently, as Christ has worked in my life more, I have experienced

a deeper love and respect for God's people and His creation. Today, I'd like to publicly profess Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

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EVIE BOSWELL

My name is Evie Boswell. I am 8 years old, and in the 3rd grade this year. I've been learning about God from my parents and small group teachers at Hunter Street since I was little. I know I'm a sinner and make mistakes that keep me from God. I know that God sent Jesus to be the savior. Jesus died on the cross to save me from my sin and so I can be with God in heaven. One night me my dad and I were praying, and I asked Jesus to forgive me and to come into my heart. I'm getting baptized to tell everyone that God is the one true God and that Jesus saved me. I want everyone to know that Jesus is my Lord and Savior.

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RUSH BOSWELL

My name is Rush Boswell. I am eleven years old and in the 6th grade. I've been attending Hunter Street since I was born. My parents and church leaders have always told me that my sin separates me from God. Because of my sin, I can never be perfect enough, and that is why I need a Savior.

I was at camp at Lake Forest Ranch this past summer when I had a one-on-one talk with my leader about my relationship with God. He asked if I had accepted Jesus into my heart. I told him I had not. The next morning, during our quiet time with God, I prayed to God and told Him I wanted to follow Jesus. I am thankful that Jesus died for me so that I can be with God forever.

I'm getting baptized to show the world that Jesus is my Lord and Savior.

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MARK BRINTON

I was 12 when I was baptized out of a sense of pride. My younger brother was 9 and wanted to be baptized, and I was not about to let him upstage me. At 18 years of age, a leader at a very small youth event asked me what I had done to enter Heaven. Having thought of several positive actions I had taken during my short life, I was caught off guard when the youth leader said I had done nothing to deserve salvation. It was then that I realized that I could only be saved by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. No actions I had ever taken would suffice to save me. I repented of my sins and asked for Christ's forgiveness. However, was never baptized at that time. Over the last several years, the Holy Spirit has nudged me about being baptized, but I kept resisting.

Listening to Buddy's message about baptism several weeks ago, the Holy Spirit convicted me that I should come forward to declare publicly that I have trusted in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior for the past 53 years.

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GREY BROCK

My name is Grey Brock, and I am 11 years old at Bumpus Middle School.

I accepted Jesus Christ as my lord and Savior one night at home. I had thought about it for the past couple of weeks, and I asked my parents, how do you accept Jesus into your heart? I thought you had to say something special, but my parents told me that you can mostly say whatever you want. I was in my room alone because I got in trouble, and I was so mad. I had prayed for a long time that God would help me with my anger, and one of the verses I would say when I got upset was “Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”

When I was constantly talking to God, I felt like it helped, but when I stopped, the anger became bad again. I realized that God was helping me, and I needed Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I prayed that night and accepted him as Lord of my life. I told my mom a couple of nights later because I wasn't sure if I did it correctly. She explained to me that I couldn't do it wrong but asked if I wanted to pray again with her,

so we did. I am here to be baptized and to tell others about Jesus.

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JIM BUCHWALTER

Growing up, my family was not that religious. We prayed before meals and went to church every so often, but did not really embrace a strong connection to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As a child, I was very sick and spent a lot of time in and out of the hospital and even lived in a bubble for periods of time. That was a pattern that followed me throughout my entire life, with periods of good health and some periods of very bad health. When I was fifteen years old, my parents divorced, and I was forced to grow up very quickly. When I was 20 years old my health problems took a terrible turn for the worse, and I experienced an extended period of great suffering and endured a major stomach surgery that changed my life forever. It was during this time that I started to really feel the presence of God and a desire to live closer to him. I started to look for people who could help me understand the bible and the connection to God that I was feeling and needing. I never really found a local church that I felt passionate about at that time, but I continued to further my studies into scripture and watch pastors that inspired me on television and later on the internet.

In 2019, I was working for a company that was going through a hostile buyout, and the new owners were sending their new managers from Iowa to Birmingham to help the transition. I became good friends with one of those managers, and he introduced me to a Pastor named Mike Householder from his local church in Iowa. I was immediately drawn to his sermons and his way of sharing the Gospel and became a loyal watcher of his weekly sermons and eventually got my older brother and mother interested in his sermons as well. Six months later, I traveled to Des Moines, Iowa to meet him in person and thank him for bringing me closer to God. After speaking with him, he encouraged me to find a local Church so that I could worship and do communion in person.

Shortly after that, I attended Hunter Street Church for the first time. I immediately felt the presence of the Holy Spirit and was very uplifted by Pastor Buddy and his way of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I continued to attend services, and after a very brief time, a new neighbor moved in next door to me. His name is Royce Collins, and he is a Deacon here at Hunter Street. Royce helped encourage me to continue to get more involved with the Church and answered

a lot of questions that I had about religion but did not have the right people in my life to ask. That helped me to feel like I actually knew people when I attended services, and I would like to thank Royce for that encouragement from the bottom of my heart.

Royce later introduced me to another neighbor of ours by the name of Barry Daniel, who is an Associate Pastor at Hunter Street. Barry and I hit it off immediately and have since become good friends. Barry has helped me with a lot of deep questions about Christianity, and I always felt like he did not judge me as he helped me dig deeper into my questions. Royce also knew that I was a handyman by trade, and he later asked me if I would like to get involved with a volunteer group by the name of Sleep in Heavenly Peace that built and delivered beds to kids who did not have them. I agreed, and he introduced me to Hunter Street members Jerry and Carolyn Murray, who were the chapter leaders for this group. I attended my first bed build and went on my first bed delivery all in the same week, and it drastically positively changed my life and helped me feel like I was giving back to the local community and doing God's work. I have since become a core member of Sleep in Heavenly Peace and

participate in bed builds and deliveries on a regular basis. Recently, Sleep in Heavenly Peace became a Mission partner with Hunter Street. As I continued with this group and continued to attend services at Hunter Street Church, I met some of the best Christian people that I have ever known in my life, and they have become my family and my Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

As I continued to attend Hunter Street, my brother Pete and my mother Carla saw the change happening in my life and started to attend services with me, and have since become loyal attendees and have been welcomed with the same loving arms that I was. When I come to Hunter Street now, I feel like I have found a home and a place where I am loved and surrounded by people who truly care about me and can help me with my pursuit to serve and understand God better and follow the teachings of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. My life has been filled with sin, and as I grow in my understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, I am learning to live a life that is more pleasing to God. I understand that it is man's nature to sin and that Jesus Christ was the only person to ever live free from sin. I aspire on a daily basis to be more like Jesus Christ, and

I will follow him until the day that he calls me home!
Today, I make a declaration in front of my Church
family that I publicly accept Jesus Christ as my Lord
and Savior!

Corinthians 2-5:17

Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a creature: old
things are passed away; behold, all things are new.

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PETE BUCHWALTER

Hello, my name is Pete Buchwalter. I've been coming to Hunter Street for just over three years. Before I started coming to Hunter Street, I had not been attending church. Although I had been successful in many areas of my life, I began to realize that something was missing. I went down many paths trying to find the missing something. Many things provided a temporary sense of fulfilment, success, and happiness, but I continued to feel a sense of lostness. Although I was aware of many of the stories from the bible, and did believe in God, I did not have an accurate concept of God or an understanding of the significance of the sacrifice that Jesus Christ had made for sinners like me. I also had never spent any time seriously studying the word of God. One Sunday morning, I sat down to watch a church service that my brother was watching. The message seemed to speak directly to me. The pastor was encouraging those watching to find a good bible-based church in their local community. Soon after that, I started attending Hunter Street. The seed was sewn. I started reading the bible.

The good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ started to

lead me out of the darkness and into the light. I had not decided on a church to attend yet. At just the right time, probably not a coincidence, Royce and Jennifer Collins became our neighbors. I was invited over on Good Friday to listen to the reading of scripture and have some conversation about the resurrection of Jesus Christ. I felt like a starving person who had just been fed. Almost immediately, I started attending Hunter Street for the Sunday worship service and Wednesday night bible study classes. I now understand that without the sacrifice that Jesus made for us, there is no forgiveness of sin, which means an eternity separated from God, who loves us and wants us to love him back and dwell with him in his kingdom forever. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I believe that he became flesh and lived among us. I believe that he was crucified and died for the forgiveness of our sins. I believe that he rose from the dead, ascended to heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, and will return to judge the living and the dead. So today I stand before you to publicly proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

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BRICE COX

My name is Brice Cox. I am in third grade at Briarwood Christian School. For the last few months, I've been reading through the gospels, and I've realized why it's so important to trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior. I want to get baptized to show that I'm a follower of God; that means I love and trust in Jesus. Jesus died on the cross and saved me from my sins. He was buried and rose again. Baptism is a picture of being buried like Jesus and being born again into a new life in Jesus Christ.

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ANSLEY DAVIS

My name is Ansley Davis, and I am in the 7th grade at Bumpus Middle School. I grew up in a Christian family and went to church every Sunday, so I knew about God since I was little. I knew that I was a sinner, which separated me from God, and I wanted to be saved from death as soon as I could. I professed my faith at a young age, but I never felt secure in my salvation. I kept asking Jesus into my heart all through 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade, and then I realized that I wasn't doing it the wrong way- I just didn't understand grace and what it meant. Since I started coming to Hunter Street last year, God helped me see that Jesus paid the price for my sin on the cross, and that I don't have to do anything to earn my salvation except receive it as a free gift. God has been working in my life over the past year by changing the way I think and pray. I now know that God has created me to share the gospel and show others his grace and glory. I am being baptized today to show my church family that I have put my trust and faith in Jesus as my Savior and Lord.

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RYDER DAVIS

Hello, my name is Ryder Davis. I'm 14 years old and I am from Hoover, Alabama. I grew up in a Christian home, going to church on Sunday mornings and being taught about God in my home. I have also been to VBS and Bible studies over the course of the years.

About a year and a half ago, a friend of mine passed away. During his prayer vigil at The Station Church, the Hoover baseball coach was speaking and preaching the Gospel. He explained how we are all in need of a savior because we are all sinners. In mentioning that, he explained how no matter how unfortunate and devastating this event was, God always uses His people for good. That is when I realized I needed a savior to forgive my sins.

Once I got home, I told my mom and dad that I had decided to give my life to Jesus Christ. Since then, I have wanted to get baptized. So today I am publicly professing my faith in Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior.

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STEELY DODD

Hi, my name is Steely. I am in the 6th grade at Bumpus Middle School. I grew up in a Christian home, going to church almost every Sunday, learning about Jesus. I just never knew what it really meant to trust in Jesus. One day at school, my friend asked me who Jesus is and why he is important, then I realized that I was a sinner and that I also didn't know the truth, and that I needed a savior. When I got home that day, I told my parents that I truly believe that I need a savior and that Jesus died on the cross to save my sins. That day, my parents talked me through the process of getting to know Jesus, and I asked him to be my savior and forgive my sins. Now I know the truth, and I can tell all about Jesus wherever I go. I thank my parents and Mr. Jeff for teaching me about Jesus. Today I am getting baptized to show the world that Jesus is my savior and I want to live for him.

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CONNOR ELROD

My name is Conner Elrod. I did not come from a Christian home, and we were not religious at all. I'm grateful for that only because it opened my eyes to what actually being a Christian is to a believer and being able to repent.

I want to say maybe a little over a year ago, I gave my life to Christ because I was tired of always trying to satisfy myself, and I was finally ready to die to myself. God kept making everything fall apart until finally I just gave in. Lee played a part of helping me give my life totally to Christ.

Without being forgiven, my sin would earn me eternal Hell, and I can't nor want to imagine that. I needed to learn that you must give your life to Christ to be saved. I know I must be saved.

I try my best every day to repent, to turn the other way, and trusting God forgives me. Repenting means to turn away from evil/wickedness. Genuine faith saves me from Hell, and I am ready to become a fully devoted Christian and being baptized today.

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TAYLOR FLYTHE

I grew up in a small-town Baptist church in South Georgia where the expectation was to be baptized at a young age. No vetting. No counseling. The thought was if you're baptized, you're saved. Through the years, I have come to the realization this is not the case.

As a 10-year-old boy I was baptized and continued with an empty life, driven by my own pursuits, following my own dreams and desires. I had the knowledge of Christ, but I did not know him at all, yet I believed I did. I said a prayer here and there. I believed the deception that I had attained salvation even with a lifestyle of greed, arrogance and overall sin.

After my mother died in 2018, I turned away from what I believed to be my "faith". If anyone knows me, they know I am a student of science, I've been obsessed since a young age. So naturally that was the first place that I turned trying to find answers about life, about death, about everything. Recently, I have had two profound realizations. The first was that I never personally knew Jesus. The second is that my initial baptism at a young age was meaningless. Where I believed I would find a god in science, I found an

amazing creation, governed by a divine blueprint by an amazing Creator. I found that science belonged to God, not the other way around.

My former self knew the story of Jesus. That he died for our sins. I am being baptized today not because I know the story but because I believe in my heart that Jesus was crucified, buried and raised three days later to save us from our sins. Today is my open confession that Jesus is my Lord and Savior.

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ISABELLA GIUVENDUTO

My name is Isabella Giuvenduto. I am 13 years old, and I am an 8th grader at R. F. Bumpus Middle School.

I grew up in a Christian family. I've been attending church since I was born. My parents have always taught me about Jesus. In 2018, we moved to Hoover from Greenville, South Carolina. We started attending Hunter Street when we moved here. I was part of the Lead Team in Kids Worship when I was in 4th grade, and I enjoyed it. As I grew up, I understood more about what it means to be a Christian, and I realized that even though I was a good kid, I was a sinner, and I needed Jesus to forgive me because that wasn't enough to save me.

One night before bed, my mom and I were reading the Bible, then she asked if I wanted to accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I said "Yes!" and we prayed together.

I understood that what Jesus did for me on the cross was an act of love because He cared enough about me to die for my sins.

Romans 5:8-9 “But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God’s sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God’s condemnation.” This verse helped me understand what it means to be saved.

Even though I never went through a hard or difficult time myself, my family has, and we talk about how God helped them get through it. He promised to never leave us or forsake us, and I truly believe that. I know that I can trust God to guide my life and help me when I face challenges. I know that even when I make mistakes, He will forgive me and help me make the right choices for my life. I don’t need to fear the future because I trust in all His promises.

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JENN HANDROP

I was raised in a non-Christian home, with a Jewish mother and a Catholic father. While I understood that there was a God and religion existed, I did not attend church regularly. My fascination with religion began with childhood friends who attended weeknight activities and occasionally took me along with them. Unfortunately, my attendance was rare and informal.

One day, when I was about 15 years old, my sister and brother-in-law invited me to attend church with them at a local Church of Christ. I felt welcomed into the youth group, where I soon found a home. In regularly attending church and eventually experiencing Christian summer camps, I realized that I am a sinner who could only be redeemed by the one true God through the death, burial, and resurrection of His son, Jesus Christ. I learned that continuing to live in my sin without accepting Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior would earn me certain death and eternity in Hell. In the Church of Christ, I was told that I could only be saved through baptism, by repenting for my sins, and fully placing my trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. I embraced Jesus Christ when I was 16 years old to be saved, and I

was baptized in front of my church and family.

I now know that salvation is by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone and works and rituals are not required for my salvation. I humbly present myself before God by turning away from my sin and placing my faith in the one true King, Jesus Christ. I am being baptized in obedience to God, where I am publicly declaring my faith and commitment to Christ.

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ANN HAWKINS

I grew up in a Christian Home. My parents were wonderful examples. Each night, my daddy would read from the Bible and lead us in prayer. My mother served the church in all the various activities. At the age of 6, I asked Jesus to be my Lord and Savior. I knew I was a sinner, and I wanted to spend my life with Him. On an Easter Sunday, I was baptized at Trinity Presbyterian Church. I remember every detail of that day. Especially when my parents asked me over and over asked me what and why I wanted to be baptized. At 6, I knew Jesus had died for my sins. I wanted His forgiveness, and I asked Him to be my life's guide. And He has been with me through everything, even when I tried to do things my way. When I would fail, He would lead me to better ways.

I've always wanted to be baptized in a river like Jesus. I'm here today as another prayer has been answered. I declare to you, Jesus, He's my Lord and Savior! He is the way, the truth, and the life! I'm humbled by His Almighty power and His everlasting love.

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NATHAN HAYNES

My Name is Nathan Haynes, and I am in 7th grade. I am homeschooled, but attend Brook Hills co-op. During COVID in 2020, we were watching church online, and I started asking questions. I realized that I was being called to ask Jesus to be my Savior. I prayed with my mom and dad to become a Christian, but I was not ready to be baptized. In 2024, I felt called to get baptized, but my family decided to change churches. Through Hunter Street Preteen Choir and other preteen activities, I felt the calling again to get baptized. After getting baptized, I pray that I can set an example to others so they will become a believer too.

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ABIGAIL HINELY

I grew up in a Christian home, where we attended church every Sunday and heard Bible stories regularly. Jesus has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. Sometime during elementary school, I started to realize that I am imperfect and will be forever. By participating in small groups, worship, and discussions with my family, I learned about the gospel and came to understand that I am a sinner in need of Jesus. The consequences of my sin are eternal death and separation from God in hell. From a young age, I have been told that repenting saves you from your sins, but “repent” can be difficult to understand. I learned that it means turning away from your sins and toward Jesus. In 5th grade, I went to preteen camp at Lake Forest Ranch. While I was there, I repented of my sins and committed my life to Jesus. I am able to do this because Jesus died on the cross and rose three days later, defeating sin and death. Jesus took my spot on the cross, and because of him, I will be able to spend eternity in heaven. I am being baptized today to publicly profess my faith in Jesus Christ.

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PAULA HINELY

I grew up in a half-Christian home - my mother and her family were believers and my father, and his family were not. My mom took my brothers and I to church “whenever the doors were open.” Eventually, she worked at our church, and we were there more than ever. I don’t remember a time not knowing about Jesus.

In middle school, through interactions in my youth group and at church camp, I came to realize that Jesus was more than just the subject of the many Bible stories I’d heard throughout my life. I realized that I was a sinner, separated from God by my sins against Him. I know that my sins have earned me eternal death, and that my sins nailed Jesus to the cross. I repented of my sins, put my faith in Jesus Christ, and accepted his gift of grace and mercy towards me, so that I am saved and seen as righteous in the sight of God. Even knowing I am a sinner and accepting Christ’s gift of salvation, it has still taken me a long time to let go of the guilt and shame of my sins. I now understand that I will always be imperfect, but my faith is in Jesus because He is my substitute and died in my place!

Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life, but still took on my sins and the sins of the world, suffered God's wrath, and died, taking the punishment that was meant for me. Three days later He rose from the dead, defeating sin and death forever! My faith in Jesus Christ saves me from eternal death and separation from God and guarantees that I will have eternal life! I still struggle with sin and will on this side of Heaven, but I know that through Christ I am a new creation.

I am being baptized today to publicly profess my faith in Jesus Christ!

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HANNAH HINTON

My name is Hannah Hinton, and I am in eighth grade at Excelsior Homeschool Co-op. Raised in a Christian home, I learned about God through church and family devotions. When I was young, I was exposed to the fact that I am a sinner and need a Savior. As I grew older, I began to more fully understand the weight of my sin and how it produces eternal death and separation from God. When I was in third grade, my mom was diagnosed with leukemia, which is a type of blood cancer. Staying with my cousins, I learned that she would have to lose her hair, and I suddenly felt alone and scared. Realizing God was still in control, I remembered that I could pray to him for help in hard times. As I prayed, I believed that I needed a Savior and that I desired to follow Christ. Christ died for me so I can repent and turn from following my own ways to following Jesus. As a believer, I am allowed into God's family and can live with him in eternity. Jesus died for those who will follow Him, so they can repent and turn from a life of sin and fear to a life full of joy. A verse that has impacted me is Psalm 23:4. It says, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with

me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” This verse is comforting because it shows us that we don’t need to live with fear of death, but joy that God is with us. I am getting baptized today to declare my public profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

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EVA HUERTAS

Hi, my name is Eva, and I'm in 9th grade at Evangel Christian. I grew up in a Christian home, always going to church, on Wednesday nights, and Bible studies. I lived in Portland, Oregon, my whole life until April of 2021. When I found out we were moving, I didn't want to trust God or my parents when they said we were going to be okay and that we would make new friends. I didn't want to leave my family or my friends behind. Moving across the country was scary, but now, since I've lived here for almost five years, I can say that it was one of the best decisions. My parents trusted God and what He had in store for us when they decided to move us to Alabama.

Growing up in a Christian home meant that we always went to church and talked about God. I thought that because my parents were Christians, that automatically made me a Christian too. Well, I was wrong. I didn't realize that I had to choose and trust God on my own. Since moving here and growing up, I've realized more than ever that I need God to be the most important part of my life.

In 6th grade, I gave my life to Christ at Lake Forest Ranch. One night, in worship, the speaker invited anyone who felt God pulling on their heart to leave the room and pray that He would come into their heart and in their life. I felt God in that moment and realized that I really was an imperfect sinner who needed salvation.

A verse that really led me to give my life to Christ is Romans 10:10: “For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

I am being baptized today as a public profession of my faith in Jesus Christ.

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JESSICA HUGHES

I grew up in a Christian home and asked Jesus into my heart at a very young age. Even though I believed in Him, I didn't always feel like I had a true church home where I could grow in my faith. Since coming here, I've found a place where I belong. Hearing God's Word on Sundays and Wednesdays has encouraged me to grow spiritually, and being part of the orchestra has given me a way to use my talents in worship alongside a great group of believers.

One of the biggest struggles in my life has been anxiety and worrying about the future. But I know that God is in control and that He has good plans for me. Jeremiah 29:11 reminds me of His promise, and Philippians 4:6 encourages me to bring my worries to Him instead of trying to carry them on my own. These verses assure me that I can trust Him in times of uncertainty.

I believe that Jesus died for my sins and rose again, offering me forgiveness and eternal life through His love and grace. My faith is not in myself, but in what He has already done for me.

Today, I am being baptized to publicly declare my faith in Jesus Christ and to show that my life belongs to Him.

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CALEB HUTTO

My name is Caleb Hutto. I am a 7th grader at Heritage Christian Academy. As a kid, I grew up going to Hunter Street and grew up in a Christian home. I didn't really enjoy church, but I knew it was something we did every week. In 6th grade, I started attending Heritage, and it helped me understand more how important it is to put your faith in Jesus. At the chapel services each week, they would talk about the gospel and encourage us to put our faith in Jesus and ask questions if we had any. One of the verses we talked about that stood out to me was John 14:6, where Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

I began to feel convicted that I needed a Savior to forgive me of my sins. I thought about it for a few months because I was nervous about making this decision. On February 22, 2025, I was spending the night at my grandparents' house, and I got to thinking about what would happen to me if I died. So, I told my grandparents I was ready to put my faith in Jesus. They walked me through a prayer to ask Jesus to be my Lord and Savior. My relationship with God has

been growing ever since. Now I look forward to going to church and learning about the Bible, and I have been praying more. In all that I do, I have found my strength in Him when I am struggling. I am getting baptized because I want to profess my faith in Jesus Christ.

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HALLIE JAMES

My name is Hallie James, and I am 13 years old. I've grown up going to church and learning about how God saved us from our sins. When I was 10 years old, I started to truly understand what it means to be a Christian, so I began talking to my parents about trusting Jesus as my Lord and Savior. After I trusted in Jesus, He started working in my life in many ways, from helping me through times of self-doubt to helping me through the loss of family members and friends. Overall, Jesus has always been there for me. He is the one and only person who truly understands me. I'm being baptized today to show you, my church family, that because God was and is still working in my life, I want to serve Him and make disciples of all nations.

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CALLIE JETER

My name is Callie Jeter, and I am 9 years old and attend Trace Crossings Elementary. I have grown up going to Hunter Street with my family my whole life.

One night, as I was talking to my mom, God convicted me of my sins, and I realized I could not be good enough to earn salvation. That night, my mom and I prayed together, and I put my faith in Jesus Christ to save my soul. I know that God loves us and wants to have a relationship with us, and the only way to do that is through Jesus.

I want to thank my mom, dad, grandparents, and Mrs. Lori for teaching me about God and his love for me.

Today I am being baptized because I want everyone to know that I am a follower of Christ.

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HOLLIS JETER

My name is Hollis Jeter, and I am 12 years old and in the 7th grade at Bumpus Middle School. I have gone to Hunter Street my whole life. I have always been active in small groups and Summer Quest.

I became a Christian when I was six years old. God used some life experiences to show me I had a sinful heart and needed a savior. I understood at that age that I could never be good enough to earn my salvation and that Jesus said He is the only way- no one comes to the Father except through Jesus. I asked Jesus to save me from my sins and save me to a new life with Him, starting now and lasting forever.

I am being baptized today to show others that I am a follower of Jesus Christ, and I want to live my life for Him.

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HUDSON JETER

My name is Hudson Jeter, and I am a sophomore at Hoover High School. I have been coming to Hunter Street with my family my entire life. I grew up knowing about the Lord and had a lot of head knowledge.

In March of 2024, I was diagnosed with a tumor on my spine. It was an anxious time for me as we tried to decide on the best route of treatment. This forced me to give up all the sports that I have always enjoyed and left more time and space for God. I am happy to say the treatments worked, and as of today, my tumor is too small to treat.

I learned a lot about God and myself through the year-long process. I learned that God would allow difficult situations in our lives to bring us closer to Him. God grew my faith in Him and showed me how dependent I truly am on Him through all of this. My friends from camp played a huge role in helping me see God and love him through my difficult times. One of my favorite passages is Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

God has shown me that I am a selfish sinner, but I only need to repent and turn back to Him daily. The Lord is faithful and kind to forgive me and welcome me.

I am getting baptized today to show others that I am a follower of Christ.

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COOPER JOHNSEY

My name is Cooper Johnsey. I am 11 years old and in the 6th grade at Briarwood Christian School. I have grown up in a Christian home and have gone to Hunter Street my whole life. At church, I have learned about becoming a Christian and being baptized but didn't take it seriously. In 5th grade, my teacher, Mrs. Smith, got me to understand more about being a Christian and being baptized. I repented and knew I was a sinner and let Jesus into my heart. I am being baptized today to show others that I am a follower and believer in Jesus Christ.

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ABIGAIL JOHNSON

My parents have taken me to church since I was a baby. I've learned about Jesus all my life, and the more I learned about Him, the more I loved Him and trusted in Him. One night, I was talking to my parents, and I realized I couldn't take care of my sins on my own. My parents prayed with me, and I knew I needed Jesus to save me from my sins because I couldn't do it on my own. Since then, I have spent more time with God. Today, I want to be baptized as a sign of my faith in Jesus.

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CAEL JONES

I am blessed to have been raised in a Christian home. I have been taught to love the Lord in church and have been surrounded by friends and family who also give such a great example for me. Around the age of 7 or 8, I became more aware of what it meant to be a Christian. I understood that I needed to repent of my sins. I was more conscious of my sinful nature and that only Jesus could save me from that.

Going to Hunter Street and attending the summer camp at Shocco Springs and Lake Forest Ranch over the years has brought me closer to the Lord. I proudly accepted my Lord and Savior in my heart one night praying with my mom. I was actually born Methodist and dedicated to the Lord as an infant. However, now as an act of obedience to Christ and a public display of my faith in Him, I come here to be baptized and proclaim my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Mark 1:8 says, "I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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JT LANGSTON

My name is JT Langston. I am a freshman at Vestavia Hills High School. I grew up in a Christian home, and my family would always do their best to bring me to church every Sunday. I have been taught the Bible and about Jesus my whole life, but I never fully understood or believed in the works he did on the cross for my sins. A few years ago, I realized I am a sinner in need of a Savior. I believed the things I had been taught about Jesus, confessed my sin, and trusted Him to be my Lord and Savior. Earlier this year, I understood that I needed to depend on Christ daily, so I started praying and reading my Bible every day. When I would read The Gospels, I felt convicted by the Holy Spirit to seek after GOD and not the things of this world. The new life that I have from Jesus gives me peace and faith that I can fully trust in HIM with every aspect of my life. Christ's death on the cross for me has shown GOD's love for me and gives me great joy in life, knowing that I am following Him as I live out His plan for my life. I understood that part of following Jesus is to obey the call to be baptized. Today, I am here to publicly profess that Jesus Christ is my LORD and Savior through baptism.

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WILL LANGSTON

My name is Will Langston, and I attend Mississippi College. I grew up in a Christian home, and I have been a part of Hunter Street my whole life. When I was young, I heard the Gospel often, and it made me want to know more about what Jesus had done for me. I understood that I had sinned and that my sin separated me from God. I knew the only way to not be separated from God was through Jesus and His grace, and that there was nothing I could do to earn my way into that relationship. Pastor Buddy says all the time that it is by grace alone, faith alone, and Christ alone.

When I was 13 years old, I attended my first D-Now at Hunter Street, and I knew God was speaking to me that weekend. When that weekend ended, I prayed to God and trusted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. From that day forward, I have never looked back.

With Christ, I have joy knowing that he loves me unconditionally and there is nothing I can do that could separate me from His love. He promises that He is with me until the end of the age! I am here today to be baptized as a sign of obedience to God and to profess that I have put my faith in Jesus Christ!

JOSHUA McCLANAHAN

My name is Joshua McClanahan. I grew up attending church occasionally and was previously baptized when I was in early high school; at the time, I wasn't sure why I was really getting baptized. When I was in 10th grade, I first became aware of the overwhelming need for a savior due to the depravity of my sin and accepted Jesus as my savior. At that time, baptism was never mentioned again. Around the same time, my relationship with my earthly father ceased due to drinking. Having Jesus in my heart and being involved in my youth group really helped and that continued through high school. As I went to college, I used my shyness as an excuse to be uninvolved with other believers. I kept Jesus at a distance but was only involved when it was comfortable. When I went to dental school, a major change happened in my life. I was surrounded by other believers on a daily basis and started to get serious about my faith and discipleship. At that time, Jesus became Lord of my life, and I began a daily relationship with him. I am saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Over

the last year, I have come to realize in the last year that something was missing. I hadn't followed salvation with obedience. Buddy's message a few weeks ago solidified this message in my heart. I still don't have a relationship with my earthly father, but I come today with God as my heavenly father in obedience, yet delayed obedience, for believer's baptism as an earthly husband and father, testifying that Jesus is my Lord and Savior.

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ALLISON MILLS

Hi, my name is Allison Mills. I am nine years old, and I am in the fourth grade. I have grown up in a Christian family and have always loved going to church. My parents have always taught me about Jesus and prayed with me. They've taught me that we are all sinners and that's why Jesus came down to earth and died for our sins. I have always believed these things, but at VBS this summer, I realized that I needed Jesus and could not do it on my own. I had a lot of questions and talked to my counselor. She prayed with me and that is when I accepted Jesus as my savior. I am different now that Jesus is in my heart. I want to follow him and the plans that he has for me. I want to be an example to those around me and help others learn about Christ. I want to be baptized so I can proudly show my church family that I have accepted Christ and because Jesus himself got baptized.

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MEREDITH MILLS

My name is Meredith Mills, and I am so excited to finally affirm my faith in public by being baptized at our church picnic with my husband, Will, and my eldest daughter, Allison.

I am not a new believer in Christ as I was fortunate to be raised by Christian parents who relentlessly pointed me to Jesus for as long as I can remember... for them I am incredibly grateful.

I was 9 years old, away at summer camp before my 4th grade year when it all clicked for me. I had heard all of the stories we tell children and definitely believed them and believed the Bible was true but it wasn't until an evening assembly at this overnight summer camp that I truly understood the weight of my sinful nature and what Jesus actually did for me by dying on the cross and giving me the gift of grace I never could deserve on my own. I knew I needed to turn away from my sin and follow Christ. I made my way up to the alter call, prayed with my camp counselor and accepted Jesus as my savior.

Since that day I have had an unwavering faith in and personal relationship with Jesus Christ that has shaped me into the person I am today.

I was raised in a Presbyterian church where I was sprinkled as a baby, moved on to a non-denominational church in my youth and landed in the Episcopal Church as an adult where I married my husband. Even as the granddaughter of a Baptist preacher, I never heard the importance and need for a believer's baptism fully expanded to me. I figured my sprinkling as a baby was the exact same as the immersion baptisms I saw at that non-denominational community church I attended as a teen. It wasn't until I found myself in a membership class at Hunter Street Baptist Church where I heard Buddy, for the very first time in my life, explain how Baptism by immersion is an act of obedience to what Jesus commanded of believers.

That class was in November of last year, so I've certainly had plenty of time to reflect on this decision. After hearing Buddy's sermon on Baptism several weeks ago along with having some big conversations with my 9-year-old daughter who has accepted Christ as her savior and expressed her desire to be baptized,

I now fully feel the call to action. I want to be an example to my daughter and everyone here before me in obedience to Christ by taking this final step in my profession of faith.

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WILL MILLS

From the time I was born to now I've been in a Christian family with a strong belief that Jesus Christ is my Lord and savior and without Him I'd be destined for eternal death. As a "cradle" Episcopalian, being sprinkled as a baby, and becoming active within the diocese as a young adult, I felt close to God and wanted to serve Him. As my relationship with God grew and my life went from young adulthood to building a family I felt like God was pulling me to act. 5 years ago, I opened my heart to God in a way that I hadn't before. He was shaping my worldview thru more of a biblical lens. Getting out of my comfort zone has been challenging and rewarding. Learning that the act of immersed baptism is a public profession of my faith just like Jesus did makes me want to obey His command like never before! As I stand here today, I repent and ask forgiveness for my sins and pray for Jesus's promise to wash away my old self and transform me.

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KAITLYN MURPHREE

My name is Kaitlyn. I grew up in a Christian home where we go to church, pray, and talk about Jesus. Even though I've known about God for a long time, I came to understand that I am a sinner who has disobeyed a holy God. My sin separates me from Him and deserves His judgment, and I can't fix that by trying to be "good."

Through my parents, our church, and reading the Bible, I learned the good news: Jesus lived the perfect life I could not live, died on the cross in my place, and rose again so I could be forgiven and have eternal life. Recently, the Holy Spirit showed me my need for a Savior in a new way. I prayed, repented—turning from my sin—and put my faith in Jesus Christ alone to save me. My hope is in Jesus, not in my own works.

Many of my friends at school aren't believers. I love them, and I'm excited to show what following Jesus really means by the way I live and by sharing God's love. Being baptized is my way of publicly showing what God has already done in my heart. Baptism doesn't save me; it's an act of obedience and a picture that I now belong to Christ. "Fear not, for I am with

you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” — Isaiah 41:10 (ESV)

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WES MURPHREE

I grew up in a Christian home where faith was present. I took this for granted and never made a public profession through Baptism.

As I got older, I began to see how sin was being normalized in the world around me. When I noticed that sinful actions no longer seemed shameful, God convicted me of my own need for change. He used the failures of others and their lack of true repentance to open my eyes to the reality of sin and my responsibility to be a godly example for my family.

I came to understand that sin separates me from God and leads to eternal death. I also learned that forgiveness does not come through my own efforts. It comes only through Jesus Christ, who lived a perfect life, died on the cross in my place, and rose again. In my adult life I turned to Jesus in repentance and placed my trust in His sacrifice for the forgiveness of my sins.

To repent and put my faith in Jesus means surrendering my life to and relying on His strength through prayer to resist sin. Genuine faith in Jesus saves me from eternal separation from God and secures eternal life in

His Kingdom.

I am being baptized today to publicly declare that I belong to Jesus Christ and to show my commitment to follow Him.”

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BRIGGS PATTERSON

My name is Briggs Patterson, and I'm a freshman at Hoover High School. I was raised in the church and have been taught what the Bible says about who Jesus is and what He did for me. When I was ten years old, my dad was in a car accident and passed away. He played MLB and was a big influence in my life. He always taught me about baseball, and most importantly, about our savior. I knew my dad went to Heaven after his accident, so I wanted to go to Heaven also. I know that my relationship with Jesus isn't about my dad, but what happened to him pointed me to seek the Lord in my own life. I understood I was a sinner and that I needed Jesus to be my savior, so I admitted my need for Him and trusted him for my own forgiveness and salvation.

Because of what I went through losing my dad, I have an opportunity to help share the Good News of Jesus to people in all different situations. Because of the pain I have experienced, I can relate to the pain of others and love them where they are. Jesus is my Savior, and I'm being baptized today as a public profession of my faith in Him. Like the Bible teaches, He is the Alpha and Omega - beginning and end – my whole life.

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KNOX PATTERSON

My name is Knox Patterson. Before I gave my life to Christ, I felt like I had no connection with God. When I was young, my father passed away. I started to ask God why he would do this, and I began to search for answers to try to understand. I really started to focus in church. I didn't understand why my dad died, but I trust that God was good and that He has a good plan for my life.

A few years later, I went on a church retreat, and it was that weekend that I realized that I truly need God. I knew that I was a sinner and that my sin separated me from God. I realized that Jesus died on the cross to pay for my sins and that He was buried and raised from the dead. I repented of my sins and put my trust in him. I'm here today to publicly profess my faith in Jesus. I want to grow in my walk with Jesus, reading scripture more and serving others and not myself.

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FORD REID

Hello, my name is Ford Reid, and I am 11 years old and am a student at Gwin Elementary school. I have grown up in a Christian home with great parents and a younger sister and my older brother, Max, who is also being baptized today.

I have attended Hunter Street my whole life with my family. Through the years, I have been active in Sunday School, choirs, Wednesday nights, VBS, Hunter Street sports, and many of the great opportunities Hunter Street offers. Just a few months ago, while attending a Wednesday night kids worship, Mr. Jeff shared some thoughts on how God made us and that we were made for a greater good. That night, it was like everything clicked for me and I really understood what a difference Jesus had made in my life. Mr. Jeff talked about how we were wonderfully made and created for a greater purpose. At that moment, I knew I wanted to commit my life to Jesus.

Today I'm being baptized by my grandad as an outward profession of my faith and commitment to follow Jesus.

MAX REID

Hello, my name is Max Reid. I'm 13 years old and a student at Simmons Middle School. I have grown up in a Christian home, attending Hunter Street with my parents my whole life. Through the years, I have been active in Sunday School, choir, Upward Sports, VBS, and church camps.

About three years ago, I attended Centre Kid Camp at Shocco Springs with our church group here at Hunter Street. It was a great camp, and we had a lot of fun. On the second day, at the end of the worship service, I felt led to accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. At that time, I realized I was a sinner and needed to repent from my sins and put my trust and faith in Jesus.

My dad came as a chaperone to the camp. That night, I talked to my dad about making my decision to commit to Christ. We talked for a while about what it means to commit to Christ. My Dad wanted to make sure I understood my commitment. Since then, I have had many conversations with my parents and grandparents about my decision.

I've been a Christian since that day but have not made my commitment public. Today, I am making a public commitment to follow Christ. I am being baptized today to publicly profess my faith in Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior.

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MATTHEW SCHWARZ

I grew up in a Christian home but quit attending church regularly during my teen years. My family was going through a tough time with my dad quitting his job, and our house was foreclosed on. My family moved in with my aunt, and I was forced to go to a new school starting my ninth-grade year. I felt very alone and depressed. That school year, my family received terrible news that my dad had taken his own life. My life had been flipped upside down. My attitude changed, and I became very angry with the world and felt like God wasn't there. I never felt so alone and so isolated. I even routinely treated my own mom disrespectfully when she was also mourning the loss of my dad. During my senior year of high school, something changed. I began to experience what I can only describe as the Holy Spirit chasing after me. I started reading the bible more and attending church again. Understanding what Jesus did for me on the cross, I prayed the sinner's prayer in my room and asked Jesus to enter my life. From there, my life changed, and I felt joy in my life for the first time in a long time. My journey doesn't end there, though. Five years after my dad died, my mom was diagnosed with cancer. Even though this was

very unexpected news, I had confidence that God was working even through this tragedy. It was the complete opposite reaction I had when my dad died. Watching my mom's body crumble due to the cancer spreading throughout her body was terrible. But my mom did not lose faith in her Savior. She was a fearless believer and praised God up until she went to be with Him. Her faith inspired me and only invigorated my faith. From that point, I realized nothing is more important in life than Jesus and walking with him every day. I want to get baptized to publicly proclaim my faith in Jesus Christ.

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SAMMY SCHWARZ

While I grew up going to a Catholic church when I was little, I would not say I grew up in a Christian household. If anything, my family, especially now, would be considered agnostic or atheist. While I gained some exposure to Christianity during my senior year of high school, this aspect of my life did not truly begin to change until after my freshman year at UA. During my sophomore year of college, I was unhappy and empty, and I knew something had to change. One day, when I was on campus with some of my roommates, a girl randomly came up to us and invited us to church. I started attending with her every Sunday, and for the first time, I began to learn who Jesus really is. I learned what a sin was and that I needed to repent of them to start growing closer to God. I also learned that the consequence of not turning away from my sins meant eternal separation from God. As I grew in my faith and with the help of my now husband, I began to understand that we can only be saved through our faith in Jesus due to God's grace. It was around this time that I began to understand the truth of the Gospel. I now understand that salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ alone, and that Jesus died for my sins, was

buried, and rose again on the third day. John 14:6 states that Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”. I am coming today to be baptized as an act of obedience to God and to publicly declare my faith in Jesus.

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STEVE STANFORD

I did grow up in a Christian home. However, I fell away from God and began to explore alternate schools of thought. It took a long time, but I eventually realized that these other ways were not getting me anywhere, so I turned back and began to study God's word in earnest. From here, I began to pray and ask for help in understanding what God wants of me.

Through reading the scriptures, I began to understand that God is not a cosmic vending machine that bestows good on people for simply doing good acts. This is when I learned that God doesn't need me for anything, but in His awesomeness, He wants us so much that He sent us a Savior in Jesus Christ. Through faith in Jesus, we can all be saved from spiritual death brought about by our sins. Upon realizing this, I opened my heart to Jesus Christ and began to repent of my sins against God.

After all, it was Jesus who had already paid the price for our sins through his suffering and death on the cross. I shall put my faith in Jesus, trust in God's word that this is the only way my soul will achieve salvation.

I am here today to show my faith in Jesus Christ through the important act of baptism.

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COKER VINES

My name is Coker Vines, and I'm in 11th grade. I've been raised in a wonderful Christian family, and I'm really thankful for that. I've been surrounded by people who love Jesus and have shown me how much He loves me. My parents have always encouraged me to focus on my relationship with God and remember that He made me exactly how I'm supposed to be. They taught me that my value isn't based on what others think, but on who I am in Christ.

I've known about Jesus for as long as I can remember. I grew up in this church, hearing Bible stories, learning about Jesus, and understanding the basics of His death and resurrection. I always believed in Him, but I didn't fully understand what it meant to have a personal relationship with Him.

I thought my faith was just about knowing the right things and trying to live a good life. It wasn't until later that I realized that faith is about more than facts. It's about trusting Jesus, letting Him guide my life, and having a real, personal connection with Him. It's not about going through the motions or doing what I'm supposed to do. It's about surrendering my heart to

Jesus and letting Him change me.

Growing up, one thing I struggled with was being shorter than all my friends. It was tough not to compare myself to them, especially when I saw them growing taller and I wasn't. There were times when I felt out of place, but over time, I've learned that my height doesn't define who I am. I'm more than just how I look outside.

As I got older, I realized that following Jesus isn't just about being good or knowing facts. It's about making Him the center of my life. Even though being shorter sometimes made me feel different, I came to understand that God doesn't care about how we look on the outside. What matters to Him is our hearts, and He loves me just the way I am. I've learned that my worth doesn't come from comparing myself to others, but from the fact that I'm loved by God, and He has a purpose for my life.

That's why I'm choosing to be baptized today, because I believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior, and I want to publicly declare that He is Lord of my life. I want to follow Him no matter what, and I want to keep

growing in my faith.

I'm really excited about what's next in my walk with God. I know that He has big plans for me, and I'm ready to follow Him no matter where He leads. I'm so thankful for Hunter Street and my family for being my rock and always making me feel loved. I'm looking forward to continuing to grow in my faith and seeing how God will use me in the future. Thank you to everyone who has been part of my journey, and I'm grateful for this opportunity to show my faith through baptism.

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ED VINING

Hello, my name is Ed Vining.

My testimony is that I am a sinner. I wish I could be more like Paul, but I'm not. I wish I could be more like David, but I'm not. However, God accepts me just as I am. I was baptized when I was very young, not understanding the full impact God meant for this event to have on my heart and life. So I'm removing all my years of wondering if I was really ready. I put my faith and trust in my Lord Jesus Christ.

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CHARLIE WHITE

I was first baptized in the 1st Christian Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana at the age of 6. I didn't realize that I was that young until I pulled out my Baptismal Certificate this morning. I attended church regularly with my family in my younger years but didn't have a relationship with Jesus Christ until my wife and I moved to Birmingham in 1978. My wife was the first to accept Jesus as her savior, and she was baptized at the time. I was an avid runner and often prayed to God while on my runs. It was then that I knew that I needed something else in my life, so I confessed my sins to Jesus and asked that he come into my life. I dedicated myself to reading my Bible, praying regularly and attending church. But, in the back of my mind I always questioned as to whether I should be baptized "again" now that I had a better understanding of what a commitment to Jesus actually meant.

My wife and I joined Hunter Street a couple of years ago and this question continued to be on my mind. Then about 2 months ago Buddy Gray our Paster preached a sermon that addressed all of my questions about baptism. It was then that I knew that it was time

to be baptized and to truly commit my life to Jesus. I'm now 77 years old, and our country is in great turmoil. I have no doubt that Jesus is the only answer.

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KENDALL WILKERSON

My name is Kendall Wilkerson, and I am so thankful that I grew up in a Christian household. I have known about Jesus for as long as I can remember, and I have learned about his great love and grace from my parents, along with Hunter Street. Only a few years ago did I really started to focus on my faith. I began reading scripture daily and trying my best to live an outwardly Christian lifestyle. After years of being a Christian, I am ready to publicly declare Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior through Baptism. I believe that Jesus has saved me because of my faith in Him and that He has taken away my sins, so that I can live forever with him.

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LANCE WILKERSON

As a member of a Christian household, I have always known about God and how we are saved thanks to Jesus. I am very lucky to have grown up in such a great family and with such great like-minded friends. Growing up this way, I thought for a long time that having faith in Jesus was another thing that all good people do. I thought, of course I believe, who doesn't? Everyone around me was a firm believer or in the process of becoming one, and so I naturally knew that I ought to be as well. In a way, it seemed like I had always been a Christian.

Going into high school, and even middle school before that, I met many more people than I had known before in my tight friend group. Around the same time, I started paying more attention to national events, the news, and everything going on around the world, and I realized that not everybody grew up or lived like I did. At school, I noticed that there was a surprising number of kids who would rather walk the hallways or hang out in a bathroom than go to class, and that was baffling me. What was even more confusing was that many of my peers---people who took the same hard classes

as me, aced tests like I did, and were respectful to everyone---didn't know Jesus. Being smart and having faith were not the same thing, I realized. Being a good person does not mean knowing God.

I can't say exactly when my mindset about faith changed, but with all the events going on around the world throughout my teenage years, I began to see that our world is not a Christian one. It is earthly, certainly not perfect, and needs God more than can be said. If my kind, smart, sociable classmates at school could lack faith, then what proof was there that I had any? I know that just like the world, each individual person is imperfect and in need of forgiveness.

I have tried for many years to be the best person I can be and to do the right things, but those things are not what is important. What is important is that I love Jesus and know that he has already done more for me than I could ever accomplish.

I will soon be going off to college, and it has really dawned on me that I'll have to take my faith into my own hands. I will not have as much of a support system as I have here at home, and that is a little

bit intimidating. However, I know that God is unchanging, and I have every reason to trust in him. I will never be good enough to be a Christian, but no one is good enough to get to heaven by themselves. Jesus Christ is my savior, and my baptism is a demonstration of my faith in him.

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BARRETT YORK

I have grown up in a Christian home and have been going to Hunter Street Baptist Church my whole life. Every summer, I've gone to Vacation Bible School, and now I'm part of D-Now too. I believe that Jesus died on the cross for my sins. He paid the price so I could be free. I want God's light to shine through me so others can see how good He is.

I put all my faith in God because I know he will guide me. No matter what happens, I know God loves me. I can talk to Him in prayer about my dreams, my goals, and even the things I struggle with.

Today, I'm being baptized to show the world that I believe in Jesus Christ with all my heart. I hope my decision encourages my friends to grow in their relationship with God, too.

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BRAYDON YORK

I was raised in a Christian home, where prayer and faith were part of my life. For as long as I can remember, I've attended Hunter Street Baptist Church, attending vacation Bible school every summer, preteen camps, and countless Sundays filled with worship and learning. I've always believed in God and known that He loves me.

In the past few years, my faith and relationship with God have grown deeper and stronger than ever before. I started trusting the Lord's plan no matter what. I learned that he has a plan for me that may not be what I want, but it's the perfect plan that he's made for me. I've also learned that no matter how hard or difficult my day was, the Lord will always be there for me and guide me in the right direction.

Today, I'm being baptized to profess my public faith in Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior.

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BECKY YOUNG

When I was baptized at age nine, I was not a true believer.

After joining GA's (Girls' Auxiliary) in the seventh grade, I memorized Bible verses, including John 3:16, Romans 3:23, and I John 1:9, that explained God's plan of salvation and true peace with Him

At GA camp, I realized the need to surrender to Christ. and accept his gift of salvation provided by his sacrifice on the cross.

Since that night in 1961, Christ has been with and blessed me. And it will be forever.

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