



BEACH baptism

Aaron Clark

My faith journey started when I was a child. I would regularly attend services with my mother and grandmother. When I was in my late teens and my grandmother passed away, I stopped attending. However, I still had faith and believed in god. Since then, I got married to my wife Brandy, and we have two kids. In October of 2019, we attended a Saturday service at COH, I don't think we will ever forget the sermon. Pastor Trevor was preaching "DON'T BE A JERK" - how to be a Christian and not be a jerk! We have since attended most Sunday services and met a few friends through small groups. But this past Easter season, God showed me I can do better as a christ follower. I was scrolling through social media, as any good millennial would be. And a video popped up discussing Luke 9:59-60. In this verse, Jesus was walking down a road. There, he asked a man on the side of the road to follow him. The man declined saying "lord let me first go and bury my father." To which Jesus replied, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." The man wanted to follow Jesus only when it was easy and convenient for him. And Jesus said there is never a time where following me will be easy or convenient. But what the man did not know was the urgency to what Jesus was asking him. Because Jesus was heading to Jerusalem to be crucified. God showed me that I was the man on the side of the road. Wanting god in my life when it was convenient. He also showed me that now is the time to devote my life to christ. By being baptized, I am choosing to leave easy and convenient behind, and in return, I'll be born again, putting God first in everything I do.

"I am choosing to leave easy and convenient behind, and in return, I'll be born again, putting God first in everything I do."



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Allison Fogarty

I accepted Jesus into my heart and life as my Lord and Savior in the summer of 2012. My husband's parents were the ones to bring me to church with them and helped me find Jesus all those years ago. Which I am forever thankful for. We attended Parkview Baptist Church in Palm Coast, Florida where at the end of one of the sermons I felt called to take that next step. I sincerely invited Jesus into my heart and since that day I know He is here with me. I know I can go to Him for anything and I know everything I have in life is thanks to Him. I am so excited to be baptized on the same day as my daughter who also loves Jesus so much. To publicly show my faith and love for Him; to obey him and be baptized as it says in scripture; and to start a new chapter after baptism.

I know I can go to Him for anything and I know everything I have in life is thanks to Him.



BEACH baptism

Aria Dekle

Jesus changed my life by helping me through the hard times.

When I started going to church, and learning about Jesus from my parents, that's when I had a connection with Him. He let me know that I am never alone in this world.

I want to get baptized because I know that I am going to change as a person and as a Christian. I want to feel free and even more holy.

"Jesus changed my life by helping me through the hard times."



BEACH baptism

Brooke Charette

I stand here today, humbled and grateful, to share my Christian baptism testimony, a testament to the incredible power of faith and the transformative love of our Lord Jesus Christ. My journey has been marked by a decade-long battle with Lyme disease, experiencing sickness every day, but through God's grace, I have found healing and restoration.

For years, I faced the relentless challenges of Lyme disease, enduring physical pain, and emotional turmoil on a daily basis. There were moments when I felt defeated, questioning why I had to endure such suffering. But in the depths of my despair, I turned to God, seeking comfort and strength. Through fervent prayers and unwavering faith, I found the courage to trust in His divine plan for my life.

In the midst of my own struggles, I witnessed a remarkable testimony of God's healing power in the life of my dear friend Michael. He had suffered from massive heart attacks at the young age of 31, and as we prayed earnestly for his recovery, a miracle unfolded before our eyes. Against all odds, Michael emerged from his coma, perfectly restored and whole. It was a powerful reminder that our God is the God of miracles, capable of bringing life and restoration even in the face of the gravest challenges.

As I began attending church and seeking fellowship with fellow believers, I discovered a community of amazing people who have become my spiritual family. They have embraced me with love and support, providing a safe place to grow in faith, and together, we have experienced the power of community and the joy of belonging. One of the most fulfilling aspects of my journey has been working in the kids' ministry and volunteering my time whenever possible.

Through these acts of service, I have witnessed the transformative impact of sharing God's love with young hearts. The laughter, innocence, and pure joy of the children have brought immense happiness and fulfillment to my life. In serving them, I have discovered a sense of purpose and a deeper connection with the Lord.

Furthermore, attending Sunday services has brought my family closer together. We gather each week, united in our faith, and share in the teachings, worship, and fellowship. Our shared experiences have strengthened our bonds, and we have found solace and support in our spiritual journey as a family.

While the past few years have been filled with struggles and challenges, I can confidently say that finding God has made every hardship worth it. Through my battles with illness, witnessing miracles, finding incredible people, and experiencing pure joy in service, I have come to understand the depth of God's love and His faithfulness. He has transformed my life, healing my body and renewing my spirit.

Today, as I am baptized into the Christian faith, I declare my unwavering devotion to the Lord. I surrender my past, my present, and my future to Him, grateful for the healing, restoration, and hope He has brought into my life. I stand here as a living testament to His unfailing love and the power of faith. May my life reflect His grace, and may I continue to walk in His light, serving Him faithfully all the days of my life.

"I can confidently say that finding God has made every hardship worth it."



BEACH baptism

Bruce Donaldson

I've spent the majority of my life as a self-proclaimed follower of Christ and believer in his message. I first accepted Christ as my personal savior when I was a young boy, maybe 9 years old. I spent my youth regarding myself as a born again Christian and never really challenged those beliefs nor knew what it meant to have my faith tested. As I grew into a young man, I found myself growing distant from my faith, but never to the point where I felt I had lost it. I wrestled with doubt and lacked the confidence and certainty I felt I had in my faith as in my earlier years, and ultimately I avoided diving into that uncertainty because I was afraid of what I may or may not find. These years I spent hiding from the truth took their toll on me. I felt like I was caught between the sea and the shore. I recently found myself in a place where I felt I had lost my sense of who I was and who I wanted to be. I chose to turn to Christ again and asked him to help my unbelief and my uncertainty and to mold me into the man he placed me here to be. I am choosing to be baptized to save my soul and to leave my sins in the water so that I can move forward anchored to Christ, no longer to be tossed between the sea and the shore.

" I chose to turn to Christ again and asked him to help my unbelief and my uncertainty and to mold me into the man he placed me here to be."



BEACH baptism

Caitlin Kniffin

Growing up, my family believed in God but we were not a church going family. Prayer was not a part of our routines and I wasn't raised to turn to God on a daily basis for my needs. As a teenager, being forced to attend a Catholic school after not having any religion in my life for a long time, really turned me away from God and any path to a faith I potentially had at the time. In 2018 I was pregnant with my daughter and constantly felt like something was missing from my life. I had a husband, we owned our home, we both had decent paying jobs, and at the time I could not figure out why I had this nagging feeling. One night I saw a Facebook post from a friend saying that she was going to be checking out a new church the next evening.

Something in my heart told me to message her to see if I could tag along. I couldn't at the time tell you why all of a sudden I wanted to go to church but I sent the message anyways. The next evening I sat listening to Pastor Trevor preach and the main point of his message was spending time in the Word of God and journaling with the SOAP method. At that point my heart dropped into my stomach and my eyes welled with tears. Now

I am not a person that doesn't go into something blind - I research and find out everything I can about something before I do or go somewhere. The previous night, after getting the invite to tag along to church, I was all over the COH website, reading, learning, and investigating. The one thing that piqued my interest the most was bible journaling with the SOAP method. Later that evening, my friend told me that was a "God Thing". I began to think back to all of the moments in my adulthood that she would call "God Things" and realized that God has been trying to call me home for a long time. I have been attending COH regularly since 2019 (minus the Covid years) and I feel the calling in my heart and in my soul that its my time to be reborn in the living waters of Christ. I am so grateful for my church family, my second home, and my best relationship I could and will ever have - my relationship with Jesus.

"I am so grateful for my church family, my second home, and my best relationship I could and will ever have - my relationship with Jesus."



BEACH baptism

Carla

At a very young age my parents introduced me to God. When I was a baby I was dedicated to the Lord and started going to church. After I started going to Sunday School and eventually youth group, I began to learn a little more about Him but I still pretty much followed my parents' faith. Then I discovered that He wasn't just this mighty being who created our universe, He was someone personal to me. Finally, in the car with my mom and my little sister, I asked Him to be Lord and Saviour of my life and to forgive all my sins.

After I committed my life to Him, I saw that my decisions and my soul were so much better because I wasn't the only one impacting my choices. When my problems were too hard to handle and I felt alone, I had someone to count on. My decisions are now guided by Him and not focused on people pleasing others. The decisions I made didn't reflect on me but God. I felt empowered to help other people and to conquer life's obstacles with Him. He gave me the hope and peace I didn't even know I needed.

Baptism to me is a way to embark on a bright future with Him. Also, it means I get to join a family with my brothers and sisters in Christ. I throw away what happened in my old life and become renewed in Him. I am loved and accepted into His Kingdom. Also, one day I will be able to hug Him physically and He will never let go of me. Finally, it means that I have a new start in my life so I can move forward without sin holding me back. Instead of working my butt off constantly for the world's approval, I can rest in His Love.

"I am so grateful for my church family, my second home, and my best relationship I could and will ever have - my relationship with Jesus."



BEACH *baptism*

Caroline Moore

My Faith Journey

I grew up knowing Jesus but I never was baptized. I want to be baptized because I want to be closer to God and to have all my sins washed away. I would like to give my life to God so I can start a new life.



BEACH baptism

Ron Charette

Growing up Roman Catholic, I was baptized as a child, but I didn't choose that, my amazing parents did. Regardless, I have had a relationship with Jesus my whole life, but I never properly prioritized our relationship until my daughter Brooke and I stumbled upon COH last summer. Since then, we have become partners and make attending every Sunday a priority as well as wanting to contribute in any manner available.

In fact we look so forward to this cherished time to connect with Jesus thru our beloved pastors (Dale & Trevor), one could say we are obsessed with the feeling we have every service. In addition I have made praying a daily habit, along with journaling, listening to spiritual music and sharing our love of God with everyone we know.

Recently, while sitting at the beach, my favorite place, I had an epiphany... As I sat reflecting on this past year from a financial perspective, having been out of work for nearly a year. Frustrated that after having enjoyed incredible professional success for most of my adult life, I was immensely concerned about providing for my family and thinking how bad this year has been.

Then God reminded me of just how significant this year actually was. Not only was I enjoying the greatest relationship I've ever had with Jesus, but I've progressed so much on my spiritual development and gotten to do so along with many other family members. In addition to Brooke and I, my beautiful wife of 28 years, who was raised a non-practicing Jew, also found Jesus. Now, I have children and grandchildren on their own journey, my parents, friends and relatives are all gravitating towards salvation. So in hindsight, professional and financial struggles aside, it's been the single greatest year of my life. I know I'll land a meaningful career opportunity, so that is temporary, but I also know that I'll get to spend eternity with Jesus along with so many others whom I love and would hate to leave behind.

See my biggest regret in my life is that I failed to lead my children towards Jesus and now I believe I still have time to right this enormous failure. This is my reason to be baptized as an adult, to die with him and come back with him and to see this shared with so many cherished family and friends. My love for Jesus has begun, and will only continue to grow. I have committed myself to him, and to never stop influencing and inspiring others to join me

"I have committed myself to him, and to never stop influencing and inspiring others to join me."



BEACH baptism

Cherie Dell

I was Baptized into the Catholic Church when I was 6 months old and remained there for the next 25 yrs. Then as I got a little older and Life got a lot busier & hectic, I sort of started slipping away from church because in my mind I was way too busy or too tired to go to church which I know now was very wrong but at that time thought nothing of it. It was way too easy to just stay at home because I never really developed that closeness with anybody in our church at that time or even with God at this part of my journey in Life. I always loved and believed in God ever since I was a young child when my Mom taught me about him. So that part was covered. The part that wasn't covered yet was the part about being Born Again in the Holy Spirit. That came for me around the age of 28 in my New York City apartment. I will never forget it. The stress of work and a boyfriend at that time was so overwhelming that one night I just dropped to my knees and just told God, I give up and to please help me. I am the kind of person that wants to help everybody and I would like to have all the answers for them to make that person's life happier and easier. But now I was asking for myself which was super hard for me to do because I didn't want to bother God because he had bigger & better things to do than to help little old me who should already know what to do. I guess you can say I was giving up my control. Well, anyways the Holy Spirit didn't even bat an eye. Now, I know, it was God waiting for me to let go and surrender my everything to him so he can start helping me from the inside out. Long story short. Now I have a husband and 2 beautiful daughters and they all Love God so so very much just like their Mama. I owe my everything to my Heavenly Father and getting Baptized now in the ocean at this time in my life means the world to me. I want to show God, not that he doesn't know it already, that I am 100% his. So, In short, that is my walk with the most important person in my life EVER. (I AM) He is the breath that I breathe. He is my EVERYTHING. Amen & Amen. Love you God forever.

**"I want to show God, not that he doesn't know it already, that I am
100% his"**



BEACH baptism

Chris Burstein

After my dad made me start coming to church, I decided to join youth group and I made a bunch of friends who enjoy me for me. I felt like I finally have a community where I won't be judged. During camp, I slowly started to feel that protective barrier start crumbling and I was able to become more open and emotional. I used to take emotions as a weakness.

I felt like I learned about the gifts I was blessed with, the gifts of love and comfort. During night time worship sessions at camp, I felt myself becoming more and more vulnerable and open. That night was the first time I've ever cried at a church session. I felt like a weight was lifted off my shoulders and all the stress was gone. I felt a love that I've never felt before. This will be the biggest step I've ever made. Church camp really helped me set my commitment in stone and I will remember that week for the rest of my life. I'm ready to accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I felt courage pouring into my body and all the fear and darkness going away. I can do things now like go in front of the church that I couldn't do before.

I want to be baptized to prove my commitment to Jesus.

"I felt courage pouring into my body and all the fear and darkness going away."



BEACH baptism

Cole Keller

First, I feel a strong connection to my faith, and that's why I want to be baptized. I've developed a personal relationship with my beliefs over time, and I want to publicly show my commitment to God and my dedication to living according to His teachings. Baptism is a way for me to express my faith and declare that I want to follow His path.

Baptism is also important to me because it represents a fresh start. It's like starting over and leaving my past mistakes behind. I want to be cleansed and feel closer to God. It's a way for me to grow in my faith and feel more connected to Him.

Another reason I want to be baptized is to join a community of believers. By being baptized, I become part of a group of people who support and inspire each other on our spiritual journeys. It's comforting to know that I'll have a support system that can guide and encourage me as I continue to live out my faith.

On a personal level, being baptized means a lot to me. It's a special moment in my life where I want to dedicate myself to living with love, kindness, and service. I want my actions to reflect the values I believe in, and being baptized is an important step in that direction. Jesus means a lot to me because I have someone to rely on who always knows what I'm going through and sees what I'm doing.

Lastly, I understand that baptism is not just a one-time thing. It's a lifelong commitment to learning, growing, and thinking about my faith. It's a reminder that my faith is always changing, and I need to stay dedicated, humble, and open to new experiences.

"It's a reminder that my faith is always changing, and I need to stay dedicated, humble, and open to new experiences."



BEACH baptism

Cynthia Lawson

Over the years that I stayed away from church I've had dreams, seen things, felt the Holy Spirit saying, "Come back to me my child. You are good enough. Don't be embarrassed. Remember when you stood before Deacon Russell and asked me into your life when you were a mere child? You are still my child. You raised your children in church, you showed them my love.

I see your struggles. I've helped guide you. I've come to you, worried with you, heard your prayers. It is time to renew your love for me through this Baptism. My arms are awaiting your return my child.

Lord Jesus, I throw myself on your mercy. Jesus you are the way to my God. I am asking for a do over. Wash away all my sins. Help me kick the devil to the curb.

Jesus, I look forward to hugging you while you introduce me to God, your Father.

AMEN.

"Wash away all my sins. Help me kick the devil to the curb."



BEACH baptism

David Burstein

My name is David Burstein, husband to Jillian Burstein and father of Christopher, John and Jacob Burstein. Prior to finding my faith in Jesus, my life was full of anxiety, stress, and heartache. For years I felt like something was missing in my life, but I feel like I was too stubborn or too busy to slow down and figure it out.

Jillian and I (probably Jillian) made the decision to begin attending Community of Hope toward the end of the COVID pandemic. I immediately felt at home in this church, as the atmosphere just felt right. It did not take long for me to get the "I want what they've got" feeling in my heart. Week after week I found the sermons speaking to me. It took time to accept what I was hearing and apply it to my life. The more we came to church, and the more I learned, the happier and less stressful my life became. It took time to develop the discipline to apply this new outlook to my life.

I began to think about baptism about a year ago. I made the decision at that time to welcome Jesus into my life as my Lord and savior. I remember crying in church the moment I made that decision. My life has been infinitely better since the moment I accepted Jesus and I'm excited to see what he can do with me in the future. The more I pray and involve Jesus in my life, the less stressed, anxious and irritable I find myself. I feel that being a devoted follower of Jesus will continue to make me a better husband and father.

I'm choosing to be baptized as an outward symbol of my commitment to Jesus and to leave the old me behind and begin anew. I want my wife and children to witness this commitment and I want to have this moment to reflect on as I begin a new life with Jesus by my side. I'm excited to go on this journey with Community of Hope as our church.

"The more I pray and involve Jesus in my life, the less stressed, anxious and irritable I find myself."



BEACH baptism

Debora Caceres

Before I gave my life to Jesus Christ, I was struggling hard in my family life. I was struggling in my marriage. I was struggling in being a loving and present mother. I carry baggage like most, and it got to the point where I was not expressing it in a healthy way. Despite all I was currently dealing with in my household I welcomed a friend and her son who'd been recently dispositioned from their home and had nowhere else to go. This turned out to be a turning point in my faith. She spoke to me like God had send her to teach me something I did not know or understand in that moment. She raised my curiosity in where my faith stood in this point and time in my life. She told me to seek God and

He'd show me the path I needed to take in order to figure out what was happening in my marriage and in my relationship with my son. I listened to her and began to pray for Jesus to show me the way in my marriage to show me if this man was for me or not. I asked Him to give me patience with my son and to help me find healthier ways to express myself to him. I started to consistently come to church with my son and praying more. Since I've given my life to Christ, I have felt a greater joy in myself, my son, and my marriage. I've slowly let go of resentment I've held on to for an awful long time against family members who have wronged me. I realized resenting others has only cause me pain. I work at this every day. I want to get baptized because I feel like I have become whole again thanks to Christ himself. I have found a sense of purpose and peace something I've been seeking for far too long. I can finally say I'm building a new foundation for my life spiritually. I no longer feel estranged from my relationship with Him but feel rather closer to him now than I've ever been before. I'm grateful in what He has done for me, and I look to lead by example for my son who's been accompanying me on this journey. I am very grateful of the support I have received from my church community looking for this to be a new chapter for me.

"I have found a sense of purpose and peace something I've been seeking for far too long."



BEACH baptism

Emily Wessel

I started going to church when I was a kid with my grandmother. We lived in East Texas and attended a Baptist church where I would go to Sunday School. As I got older, I didn't really understand the purpose so I drifted away from it and paid almost no mind to religion whatsoever.

Since middle school, I have suffered from anxiety and depression. These conditions have been significantly worse in times of change. My son was born on July 15th, 2022 and soon after I was diagnosed with postpartum depression. My depression hit its peak in December when I told my husband that I did not want to be here anymore and that everyone would be better off if I was gone. I immediately sought treatment, but on February 17th, 2023 my whole world was shaken when my husband of 4 years (we've been together for 7 years total) decided that he no longer wanted to be married to me and told me he would be filing for divorce. For me this was my sink or swim moment. I could let myself slip back into the state I had been in 2 months prior and ruin all the progress I had made in a short amount of time, or I could use it to find my purpose.

At the beginning of April 2023, I was driving home from my parents house. As I passed Community of Hope on Okeechobee Boulevard I had a strong feeling that I needed to attend the service the following Sunday. I was being called to attend this church and I knew it. The first sermon I heard was part of the Cave Time Series and I did not think it was a coincidence that the topic was Fear. Something I had struggled with my entire life, something I was feeling an abundance of as a result of losing my marriage and knowing my whole life was about to change. Since that day I have been leaving my challenges to God and he has been preparing me for the new life that I am about to embark on. He has given me a newfound confidence to seek opportunities that before I would've shied away from.

Being baptized for me would symbolize stepping into my new life and having a fresh start. It would be an official moment of letting go and giving my life to Jesus. It would allow me to set an example for my 11 month old son that no matter how hard life gets, no matter what we go through, He is always there for us providing comfort.

"I have found a sense of purpose and peace something I've been seeking for far too long."



BEACH *baptism*

Hanalei Donaldson

I accept Jesus as my savior and I want to be baptized to show that I accept him. The reason I want to be baptized is that I know baptism will wash away my sins and show God that I believe Jesus died for ME. I also want to be a disciple of Jesus and help others to find Jesus and his love. Jesus helps to calm me when I have anxiety and I know that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

"I know baptism will wash away my sins and show God that I believe Jesus died for ME."



BEACH baptism

J'nae Poe

I was kidnapped for 8 months and was abused as I was pregnant with my daughter. 2 months after my daughter was born, I found out I was pregnant again. I wanted out of the relationship, any way I could. I had 148 pills counted out and a bottle of water next to it. I laid my daughter down for a nap and timed it so I knew she would wake up when my ex got home. As I put my hand to my mouth, my daughter woke up screaming. God woke my daughter up to save me and to save us, to get us out of that situation.

It was an awakening of knowing I needed to take care of my children. The day God woke my daughter up is when I officially decided that I am letting God take the wheel. Right after that, something made me think of a women's shelter. I called them and they had a spot for me and my daughter. They got me the help I needed and helped me get back home to my parents. After I got home, my ex came and found us. He abused me again, knocked me unconscious, and took my daughter and I away in the truck. The truck ended up in a ditch and on fire. My daughter Dixie was 5 months old in the back seat, and she didn't have a scratch on her. I was pregnant and my son Ryder Storm, wasn't harmed at all. I was in the hospital 3 days and my ex ran away.

Through my life, God has always protected me. I decided to just come to COH one Sunday. Since then, I've been happier and more at peace. Anytime I have a problem, I come to church and get prayed with. I want to be baptized because I want all of the anger, resentment and jealousy to be gone. I want it washed away. I want to start a new life with God that is full of peace, happiness, and determination to live a better life. The devil said you can't survive the storm. But God gave me the strength to stand through it.

"The devil said you can't survive the storm. But God gave me the strength to stand through it."



BEACH baptism

Jeffrey Fogel

I grew up a mostly secular, non-religious life. My mother was raised catholic, and father raised in a non-practicing Jewish home. When they were married it was not common for those of different religions to marry. I am the middle child between 2 sisters, 3-4 years on either side. I grew up in the 80s mostly. We didn't go to church. We got presents on Christmas and our birthdays. We got candy at Easter. I might have attended a church service less than 5 times before I turned 18.

In 1996, I moved to Tallahassee to attend FSU. It was within the first 3 or 4 days of getting to campus before classes began, when I met people from Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship and they invited me to a get-together. It was at that event I met my wife of now 22 years. I helped out with the fellowship, attended services on campus pretty regularly and some bible studies and retreats. Jesus seemed like he had a lot of the qualities that I might like to have. Still it seemed like it would be a long hard journey. I was a young man, full of ambition, but with very little capacity to truly love. After we both graduated, in 2001 my wife and I were married, we moved to the Orlando area, where we didn't attend church super regularly. We moved to Boynton Beach in 2010 and found some nice churches with child care ministries, but we did not attend. In the fall of 2018 we moved to Loxahatchee.

My wife, Hope, told me she wanted to go back to church, and that she walked in the sanctuary at the COH campus and they had her name in 6 foot tall neon on stage, and we had to go! We attended for a short while, but for various reasons, life seemed more exciting, and we stopped coming. A major shift occurred on the morning of January 1, 2022. In a moment of surrender, I felt a connection to greatness, and I was filled with a joy and happiness that persisted for days and weeks. As others saw calamity, I found freedom. But I still didn't recognize Jesus. Several months went by and Hope began to think that maybe we should go back to COH again. From the first time upon returning to a service in 2022, I felt a strong connection. I kept coming back and joined a men's small group. After a few weeks, through a group study, I learned to recognize Jesus, and I found Him already working in my life and in my heart. Now, my desire propels me each day to seek Him. The more I read in the scripture, the more I am able to recognize how God has already been working in my life. Jesus is opening my eyes to greater possibilities each and every day. So many times in the past year I have felt Jesus's heart. I wish to profess that His faith lives within me and I desire the most blessed life with the Lord who is with me always. I desire to listen faithfully to what he tells me and to play my part in calling forth his Kingdom. I feel fully blessed already. I don't know what additional gifts the Lord has in store for me, but in considering baptism, I stand upon a threshold and all that lay beyond.

"Jesus is opening my eyes to greater possibilities each and every day. "



BEACH baptism

Karl Donaldson

I have already accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior in my heart, but I haven't been baptized yet. I know that Jesus was baptized to cleanse the waters for me, so that my sins will be washed away when I am baptized. Baptism is when you prove you accept Jesus and He washes away your sins, therefore, you are reborn and considered a disciple of Jesus. I want to be reborn clean as a disciple with all of my sins washed away in the waters that Jesus prepared for me. I want to trust Jesus to help me because He lives in my heart and I will be faithful to Jesus."

" I want to be reborn clean as a disciple with all of my sins washed away in the waters that Jesus prepared for me."



BEACH baptism

Katia Salazar

My faith has been in and out throughout my life. I attended church at Community of Hope for the majority of my childhood: Sunday School, camps, worship, youth group, and probably more. When I was 15, I lost a lot of my faith maybe even all of it when my father passed away. I was so upset at God and wondered why he would let this happen. I stopped going to church. A few years later my family and I came back to going every Sunday at Community of Hope. Then one message was centered around grief. The whole time during service I felt this wave of emotion. The verse John 10:10 came on the screen and it changed my whole view on the situation. I forgave God even though he did nothing wrong. I felt my anger towards him disappear and cried towards the end of the message. I am getting baptized today because I know he can take that weight off my shoulders and he can be there in my times of darkness, hopelessness, and overall sadness. I want to wash away the weight I have been carrying and start again.

" I know he can take that weight off my shoulders and he can be there in my times of darkness, hopelessness, and overall sadness."



BEACH baptism

Lilly Brouillette

I have grown up knowing and hearing about the Lord my entire life. My parents brought me to church every Sunday, and we attend most church events. Being homeschooled, most of my lessons including God and his word. This helped me love the Lord, and listen to his word as I do life. I love going to youth group every Wednesday, and serving in the nursery. I love the Lord, and want to be baptized to take the next step in my faith. I think it is the right time to get baptized.

"I love the Lord, and want to be baptized to take the next step in my faith."



BEACH baptism

Logan Brouillette

I've been a christian all my life, but it took me a while to truly feel a connection with faith. I gave my life to Christ when I was 8 but back then I didn't fully understand what that truly meant. Through youth group, and becoming a student leader, attending camp every year, I was able to start to build a relationship with Christ in a way I didn't before. I rededicated my life to Christ during my time in youth group, and I want to get baptized to solidify publicly my commitment to my faith.

"Through youth group, and becoming a student leader, attending camp every year, I was able to start to build a relationship with Christ in a way I didn't before."



BEACH *baptism*

Lucas Almanza

Why do I want to be baptized? Because I believe in Jesus Christ. And I want to commit my life to Christ. And all my sins will wash away.

"I want to commit my life to Christ."



BEACH baptism

Madison Fogarty

I accepted Jesus into my heart and life on December 14th, 2021 at our bible study. It made my heart skip a beat when I did accept Jesus into my heart. I felt like God was right next to me and now I feel like He is always with me. He has done a lot. He's given me faith and love. Being baptized to me means showing everyone that I am a Christian and I believe in Jesus.

"I accepted Jesus into my heart and life... It made my heart skip a beat when I did accept Jesus into my heart. "



BEACH baptism

Marco Galarza

My life before I accepted Jesus Christ felt like I was missing something. I kind of believed in God but was never introduced to religion until later in my childhood. I wanted to become a Christian at around 10 or 11 because I had friends in school that introduced me to it. I started going to church with my mom and we've been going ever since. I want to get closer to God and commit to my faith. I'm ready to give my life to Christ. Every time I get closer to God, I appreciate things in my life and see what He's doing in my life. I feel better than when I'm distant from Him. I want to live close to God. Once I am baptized, my old self dies, and I make a permanent decision to be new in Christ. I wanna get baptized because I wanna take the next step with my faith and become closer to God and live in his ways.

"Every time I get closer to God, I appreciate things in my life and see what He's doing in my life."



BEACH *baptism*

Melina Almanza

I want to get baptized so I can move forward with Jesus and in my faith. I'm ready to take this next step with him and let it impact my life. Getting baptized would be a huge step and now I have a say in if want to get baptized. Obviously it's a yes! I'm ready to get baptized in the ocean.

"I'm ready to take this next step with him and let it impact my life."



BEACH baptism

Melissa Basinger

Growing up I was raised in a Greek Orthodox church and baptized as a small child. My grandparents and father were very involved in the church; as a family, we would go at least once a week if not twice depending on schedules. Once my parents divorced, my father was not consistent with time sharing and we would go long periods of time without seeing him. My grandparents were snowbirds and when they were in town we would attend church weekly. The Greek church was not something that particularly thrilled me because I didn't understand the language but my grandparents taught me the basic foundations.

My mother was brought up in a Christian church but once she was an adult she was a bit more private with her faith. While married she attended church but after the divorce we did not attend regularly. I followed my moms example of being private with my faith and only attending for special occasions.

As a teenager, I began to have more questions and would attend church with friends whenever possible which led me to start doing my own research about my beliefs. I downloaded apps and followed in this manner until I got married. We attend in person on major holidays and watch virtually often. Once I had children I knew I wanted to become more transparent with my faith and set a different example for my children. I want them to know without question that Jesus is a major part of my life and that they too should follow their faith in whatever fashion that may be. With this baptism, I believe I will be able to start this new journey and become more consistent with my beliefs. This will allow me to better lead my family.

"I believe I will be able to start this new journey and become more consistent with my beliefs."



BEACH baptism

Melissa Brouillette

Inherited faith. Church Sundays. Vacation Bible School. Mission trips. Christian music. Bible Studies. Summer student life camps. Hours listening to my grandpa prepare his sermon. I had the perfect foundation, but yet spent many years trying to build offsite. My house crumbled time and time again, and I wondered if the Lord would still take me back to rebuild.

Psalms 127:1 Unless the Lord build the house, the builders work is wasted.

It has taken my years to work through my own trauma and relinquish control of my life to the Lord.

Little by little, God continued to show up all through my life and my faith grew. I laid a great foundation with my husband for which we have partnered with the Lord to build this incredible home. A home filled with blessings that were product of our faith that the Lord would provide. We said YES when God called us, we said YES to obedience, and we said YES to a personal relationship with the Lord. I have wanted to be baptized since I was a little girl but the timing never aligned. This time.....I put me first. I am incredibly thankful for my church for walking beside me to grow my faith. And thankful to the Lord who always came looking for me.

"We said YES when God called us, we said YES to obedience, and we said YES to a personal relationship with the Lord."



BEACH *baptism*

Natalie Rosen

I have grown up in a Christian home going to church. I have decided to accept Jesus as my Savior and to follow His teachings and have a relationship with Him. I want to get baptized to publicly declare my faith in Him.

" I have decided to accept Jesus as my Savior and to follow His teachings and have a relationship with Him."



BEACH baptism

Nick Jones

My walk with Jesus began in my childhood by attending church with my grandparents. I was moderately engaged during that time but did not truly begin to grow my faith until my girlfriend, now wife, brought me along to her family church consistently. Again, I still had surface level faith up until my wife and I were expecting our first child. During pregnancy, we had minor complications and were expecting our son to be born with only one kidney. We prayed over him throughout the pregnancy and ultimately he was born with both kidneys, praise Jesus! However, our little boy's complicated journey had just begun.

My son Lincoln has a genetic disorder that causes a variety of things to be more difficult for him in day to day life. When we were first told the diagnosis, we were told that he would never walk or talk. Now, 3 1/2 years later, Lincoln is able to walk independently as well as starting to use a few verbal words. Throughout this journey, Jesus has shown up time and time again to help guide us along this tough road. I believe with all my heart that we would not be where we are today without the Lord's help.

As I write this, my wife reminds me of John 9:3, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him." Every time we are out in public, Lincoln never fails to be the star of the show. From smiling and waving at strangers to his infectious laugh, he brings joy to everyone that he meets. No matter the situation, Lincoln never fails to remind me of the joy that we get to experience in this life through Jesus, even when challenges come along with it.

I want to be baptized to publicly declare my faith in Jesus Christ.

I strive to be a good husband and father each and every day, and to set a good example for my children in all aspects of life. To me, being baptized means that I get a fresh start and a second chance to make things right in my life. I am ready to proclaim my love of Jesus and use my family's story to share the love of God.

" I am ready to proclaim my love of Jesus and use my family's story to share the love of God."



BEACH baptism

Rick Thompson

My life started out very similarly to many others with my soul committed to God through baptism as an infant. I was raised going to church every Sunday, though I never really embraced Jesus or God in the way I do now. As is the case with many people, there was a great deal of dysfunction in my upbringing. I started compiling scars at a young age. I couldn't wait to leave my house and my town upon graduation and promptly entered the Navy.

As a young man, I worked hard and partied harder. Straying further from God and embarking on a journey of sin that would lead me through many near death experiences (helicopter crashes, motorcycle crashes, attempts on my life, etc.), a failed marriage, and the loss of my relationship with my son. I was called back to God in my mid-50's. Early in my attendance at Community of Hope, my dog was diagnosed with bone cancer and I was devastated as that was my closest relationship at the time. I was married at the time, but I had nearly destroyed that relationship. My prayers for my dog's condition were only that I would take the best care of her that I could and know when to say goodbye.

I kept coming to Community of Hope, attended Connections class, began actively serving, and started repairing my relationship with my wife. The good Lord has blessed me with a cancer-free dog and a much better relationship with my wife. My faith in Jesus has grown a great deal. I read scripture and devotionals daily and pray frequently. However, I've reached a point where something is missing. I still hold guilt and shame for who I've been. I feel I need to be reborn through baptism to become the man Jesus wants me to be.

" I feel I need to be reborn through baptism to become the man Jesus wants me to be."



BEACH baptism

Robert Villatoro

My life before Jesus was not an easy one. I grew up with a single mother raising three kids. With her working full-time and trying to run a full house on her own. I got to see firsthand what sacrifice looks like. She gave up her own needs and wants for her children. I know she did her best to give us a good life. Full of love, compassion, and happiness. I can still remember when I was little at time my mom would take me to see my father to see if he could help us and he would say no and have some kind of excuse on way he could not help, the only time he would want to see me was when he had a new girlfriend and I learn from firsthand what it like to be selfish. I started hearing this voice telling me that I was not good enough for his love. Seeing other kids have their father in their life just left me feeling abandoned. So, I held on to this pain of anger, guilt, shame, and worthlessness. As I got old made a lot of mistakes that hurt myself, my loved ones and even pushed me away from God. I was hurt so I want to hurt the world back. I wanted God to feel my pain. My mom would try to take me to church but I had a rebellious mind set and I wanted to do it my way. I felt like if my father couldn't love me how could God love me. My pain at the time outweighed the truth.

Then God placed my beautiful wife in my life and things changed. I know I want to be the man she deserves a man of God. So, the questions started coming to me about God. Who is God? What does it mean to have God in my life and why should I have faith in him? My wife and her family helped me on my journey to learn about Jesus. One night at Community of Hope and the light bulb had gone off in my head. It was Christmas eve about four years ago Pastor Trevor was giving his sermon and something he said stood out to me. He was talking about how Jesus comes here to save us and reckoned us to God, and my view for Jesus changed forever. Trevor spoke about how Jesus felt pain, anger, and other emotions. Suddenly, I felt connected with Jesus and a fire has started in my heart and I know I didn't want to lose it. Because of Jesus, he freed me from the pain, anger, guilt, and shame he showed me that I'm not worthless. I was even able to find forgiveness for the ones who had hurt me.

Now that I have given my life back to God, he has blessed me with a wonderful life. My wife and I are closer than ever. Even after about four years of us trying to have a baby and having conversations of a life without children. God has blessed us with twin baby girls, and Now I want to be the father they deserve. I'm still facing hard decisions and circumstances in my life and God has shown me time and time again that he is there, and he always been there for me even when I was not looking or knew that I did need him. With Community of Hope making such a safe space for me to be able to build a real and healthy relationship with God and understand who He is. So today I want to thank my mom for never stop praying for me, my wife for believing in me and her family for seeing the man that I could be come and thank you, Jesus for your sacrifice and the opportunity to show the world that I'm a child of God.

"Jesus for your sacrifice and the opportunity to show the world that I'm a child of God. "



BEACH baptism

Sheryl Bidnick

I was adopted into a very religious family. So I always had an understanding of God. As my relationship developed with God, I would always pray for my wants and get mad when I didn't get what I wanted. When I lost my first child, I was angry. How could God do this to me? I turned my back on God for a long time, but now I realize, looking back on my life, that God was always with me. I have so many blessings to be grateful for. Now I really want to show God how much I love Him and I want to open my whole heart to Him.

"Now I really want to show God how much I love Him and I want to open my whole heart to Him."



BEACH baptism

Stanley Bivens

When I was young I got involved in a very dangerous lifestyle. Throughout that time of my life I got hurt so much I become filled with hopelessness, anger, bitter, disillusioned. I raged and rebelled against everything, I lashed out at people who did not deserve it. During this time my Grandfather was a pastor. He always was gentle but firm with me. He and my mother never stopped praying for me, even when I did not deserve it they loved me through my most difficult time. While I was recovering my grandfather told me about his past, and all the things he had done and been through. I had no idea how much we had in common and he told me about what changed in him. It was the love of Christ that had changed him and took away his hurt, pain, misery, anger and hopelessness. As I reflected on his story I decided to pray and ask Jesus to deliver me from everything that was happening. As time went one and I things became different and even though I still had hard times things were different with Jesus. The more I got to know about Jesus, the more I left me old life behind and looked to gain a new one. I became a musician in church and got away from the dangerous lifestyle. As I became older and strayed away I felt something was missing. After joining Community Of Hope, I found what was missing. I want to re-pledge my faith and life to become a new man in God.

" I want to re-pledge my faith and life to become a new man in God."



BEACH baptism

Tama Norman

I grew up in the Lutheran church. At the end of my first marriage in early 2000 I went to a new church to save my marriage at the request of my estranged husband. The church and my ex-husband had it all set up - the sermon was about how I would go to hell if I got a divorce, everyone there was so happy I came with him to save my marriage. I didn't know anyone but they knew of me by name. What they didn't know was that he was physically and mentally abusive, I had holes all over my house from where he punched the walls near my face. He also threw things - wine glasses shatter into pieces so something would hit me or the knife he threw at me would leave a mark in a wall to remind me to behave. After that day in church I looked at that pastor and said, 'I will have a really good time in hell with my divorced friends' and I walked out. Walked out on them and God. Who was he to judge my turmoil and put up with the abuse?

In 2013 My mother on her deathbed begged me to go back to church. I couldn't do and my second marriage fell apart. He was psychologically abusive - he has told me he could mind 'Duck' me and I would never know it'. It almost killed me. I moved away from the toxic to Florida for a fresh start. Last year I saw something on Facebook about pumpkin Chunkin at a church just down the road from my house so I went. I saw The Community, I saw the love, and I saw how happy everyone was and I made a decision to try church. That following Sunday Pastor Dale was speaking about a character in the Bible and how his FBI profiler explained who this man was he also spoke about Spirituality, Understanding and he spoke to me like a person and I knew I was safe. My baby step in faith gave me courage to keep coming back. My belief in God restored as I kept coming back... I walked away from church - from God - in 2002 I walked back in the church 20 years later by renewing my faith in him I would like to be rebaptized. I am now cognizant and a small group of people who 20 years ago made me feel so ashamed and felt like God was not with me just wasn't true. I am starting my new life with God. I am washing away the old self. He is in control of my life I willingly accept this and am Blessed he has kept me safe even when I walked away and didn't see it was him by my side.

"He is in control of my life I willingly accept this and am Blessed he has kept me safe even when I walked away and didn't see it was him by my side. "



BEACH baptism

Teresa Lovelass

I came to know Jesus with the help of a dear friend and COH. I have been coming to COH since 2015. I grew up a very confused child, being raised with elements of both Christianity and Judaism. This is one of the many reasons I love how Dale and Trevor explain from the beginning, helping me connect to Judaism and Jesus. I started attending COH looking for my 'higher power'. As I attended Al-Anon, while working through a divorce of an alcoholic. Working my twelve steps to my spiritual awakening.

I love the way Pastor Dale and Trever explain concepts of the Bible to today's life. My girls and I started attending COH, Divorce Care, being part of small groups, and volunteering helped my faith in God grow during the most difficult time in my life. I want to show my girls the way to Christ. Since I have found God, I am more at peace & thankful for all we have. Through Life's difficulties, I am not alone. He's put good people in my life.

Found a place to rent with my girls and a job so I can provide. Relieving me from worry and stress.

I have given myself to Jesus. He is always with me. I don't want to wait anymore to take this next step and be baptized. By getting Baptism, we identify ourselves with Him. Raised up out of the water, to our new life in Christ we join with Him. I am obedient to our Lord.

"I have given myself to Jesus. He is always with me."



BEACH baptism

Twyla Langston (Brasseur)

I first encountered Jesus when I started going to church with my parents and family and I participated in baby dedication. After that, I started Sunday school and then youth group. When I was going more to Sunday school I started getting closer to God. So, then I prayed with my mom and sister for God to be Lord and Savior of my life.

God has changed my life because I feel more happiness and more joy in my heart. I feel like I'm free and God has saved me. I also feel more faithful than ever because he helped me through the hard things in life like my parent's divorce. He never stopped loving me which gives me hope. I feel like God is holding my hand wherever I go. Baptism means to me that God has saved me from all my sins. He will be Lord and Savior of all my life for eternity. I will be with God in heaven forever !!!!!!!!! He shows me kindness , caringness, and love !!! I have faith that God is real and he is here everyday !!! He will never, never, never stop loving me!!! This is what I believe!!!!!!

" He never stopped loving me which gives me hope. I feel like God is holding my hand wherever I go. "



BEACH baptism

Verna Bivens

For me, there was never a question of who Jesus is or was or if I believed. The question was why didn't I know more?

I was baptized as an infant into the Catholic church. Growing up we didn't always attend any church service, or mass as it's known to Catholics. I attended Sunday school but never quite learned what I thought I should. All I was ever told was "Don't do this or that because it's a sin." My parents could never explain anything pertaining to scripture or the Bible to me or my siblings. We had only one Bible and it was not to be touched and it was not in English. I only recently came to own my very first Bible.

Jesus has always been a part of my life and I try to teach my children about who He is and living a Christ-like life. Even with all the trials and tribulations I have gone through my Faith never wavered. I was in an abusive marriage which led to an eventual divorce and even then I relied on my Faith to get me through it all. I was in a very dark place and I sometimes was not sure if I would ever get out. But He made a way. It took some time to find the right church for myself and my family and we finally found a home where we felt comfortable and welcomed. I am now closer to Him thanks to Community of Hope and have fully immersed myself into who He was and who He is.

Baptism is a fresh start. A new outlook on this new life I am prepared to live through Jesus Christ.

"I was in a very dark place and I sometimes was not sure if I would ever get out. But He made a way."



BEACH baptism

Camila

Before I met Jesus, I felt a great emptiness in my life, I began to fill that emptiness with self-harm, I was drowning in sadness and loneliness, full of tears... I felt lost.

I had many insecurities about my body and was my mind full of suicidal thoughts.

When Jesus came into my life, I no longer felt empty, I stopped self-harm, my thoughts changed and I felt loved and I no longer felt alone.

"When Jesus came into my life, I no longer felt empty..."



BEACH baptism

Dana

Since I was little, I went to church, but I went because my parents forced me. I didn't like to get up early.

In the year 2021 my grandfather died and I felt that my world fell apart. I stopped going to church and began to have friends that were not good influence to me. I began to feel insecurities about my body, I lost the trust of my parents, I felt lost... In November 2022 I began to seek more of God, and my life began to change. I realized that He was the only one who could change me.

I got out of that hole, separated from bad friends and started to attend church, I no longer felt empty in my life. And even though I still have insecurities about my body, I know that Jesus is helping me heal. He is in control of my life. Jesus has taken me out of that darkness and has given light to my life. Now I have a better relationship with my parents, I feel loved. I am closer to Jesus, he freed me from the evil that wanted to take over my life but he did not allow it. I want to follow Jesus as my only savior and deliverer.

"Jesus has taken me out of that darkness and has given light to my life."