Sunday, February 13, 2011

Believer’s Baptism
Celebration Service

Testimonies

Today we celebrate with those who are being baptized. Enclosed you will find their testimonies to be referenced during the baptisms. We invite you to read along as they give their testimony while they are being baptized. Please refrain from reading them in advance.

“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins” (Acts 2:38, NIV).
Thank you!

We appreciate that you attended our baptism celebration service today. If it has touched you in a special way, please let us know.

Perhaps the words of testimony have caused you to think about your own relationship with Christ.

Maybe you’ve been searching for God and you’ve realized today that there is a way to have a relationship with him through Jesus Christ.

The elders at RBC would be happy to discuss these matters with you in more detail. Our contact information is below.

If you are not yet ready to ask questions about baptism but would like to search the Scriptures on your own, we recommend that you begin with the passages listed at the beginning of this booklet. If you do not have a Bible, please ask us for one! The Bible is also available online via a link from the RBC website at www.rbc.qc.ca.

The Elders of RBC
February 2011
Email: elders@rbc.qc.ca
Staff Elder: Phil Hainaut: 514.807.9096

Do you have questions about having a personal relationship with Jesus?
We would be happy to talk and pray with you!

Are you a Christian who wants to be baptized?
Please speak to one of the elders about how we can help you take this next step in your journey of faith.

Other questions or comments about today’s service?
Come talk to us or email us at elders@rbc.qc.ca.
As I grew closer to God, I became comfortable in my faith and in my relationship with God. I was a bit too comfortable at times. I decided I was deserving of keeping some things from God. I pretended that my will for my life was actually also His. For example, things like friendships came to be under my control. Since my friendships were such a big part of my life, they ended up taking God’s place in my life. Soon, my friends’ sinful habits rubbed off on me and God opened my eyes to what I was doing. I needed to surrender these friendships to Him, and put Him first. Since then, both my relationship with God and my friendships have thrived. I no longer need to conform to fit in. In fact, recently, I have been able to witness to many of my friends, although this turned some away, others were interested. I am learning that allowing God to control every aspect of my life brings me peace and joy in everyday life.

Isaiah 26:3-4 says:

“You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal.”

I am being baptized today as a public declaration of my faith and commitment to Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. I believe I am old enough to choose the convictions for my life and I choose Jesus Christ.

A Word about Baptism

Rosemount Bible Church practices “believer’s baptism”, that is, baptism of those who profess a personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Scriptural teaching on Baptism may be summarized as follows:

- Baptism is an act of obedience to the command of Christ, fulfilled by individuals who have submitted themselves to His lordship on their lives.
- Baptism is a symbol of the spiritual participation of the believer in the death and resurrection of Christ by faith.
- Baptism provides an opportunity for believers to make a formal profession of their faith to their church family, friends, and others.
- Baptism is by definition a public event and we celebrate the fact that lives are transformed when God’s Holy Spirit is at work. At RBC, the Elders encourage, new believers and believers, that have not yet participated in adult baptism, the opportunity to be baptized by immersion.

Biblical References to Baptism

The following Bible references can help you begin your own study about baptism:


Note:
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Hey! As some of you may know, my name is Ben Dawson and I’ve attended Rosemount Bible Church since birth, give or take a week. I am currently in grade 11, studying at Lower Canada College.

I was blessed to grow up into a Christian home and admire five Christian mentors living under my roof. At a young age, I first placed my faith in Christ as my Saviour out of fear, because I was told He saved me from going to hell. However, I did not fully understand what His sacrifice on the cross meant in my life. I was responding to God as a judge, out of fear, rather than to a loving Father who offered me an abundant and eternal life through His sacrificial death for me. Consequently, my Christian acts of kindness and love often felt forced, burdensome, and fake, rather than loving responses to a loving God.

As I grew older, I realized my understanding and my attitude towards God and Jesus’ sacrifice were wrong. I therefore recommitted myself to Christ at Vacation Bible School. It was then that I fully accepted Him as Lord and Savior of my life.

With the support of the small group leaders from our youth group here such as Chris Ciccarelli, Dan Hainaut, Sam Cardin and Phil Hainaut, I jumped the gap from simply following my parents’ faith to truly making it my own faith. In fact, I vividly remember my Sunday School Class being asked on separate occasions, quite pointedly but lovingly, by John Marcogliese and Dan Hainaut “Why do you attend Church?” Moments like those secured my faith as a personal one.
I went on to high school and made some great friends, both there and here in the church’s *Breakaways* youth group. The youth group was really great for my life. I have come to learn with my small group leaders, Chris and Francis that trusting God means that I have to follow what He asks of me in every aspect of my life. One such area of obedience is in getting baptized, as an outward and public demonstration of my faith.

Since I decided to get baptized, I told my friends at school about it, and it has become a great way to share my faith with them. I know that I still have a lot to learn about God and His ways, and that the road ahead may continue to be rocky at times, but I can safely say that His “word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105).

**Bianca Hébert**

“My parents, Sunday School teachers and youth group leaders are faithful individuals who have played a major role in my coming to know Christ and helping me grow in my faith.”

Good morning, my name is Bianca Hébert. I am sixteen years old and I am completing my last year of high school at *Collège Jean-Eudes*. I grew up in a Christian family and we have been attending RBC for eleven years.

When I was a child, I learned the different stories of the Bible with my Sunday school teachers. I enjoyed it very much. It was the beginning of my relationship with God. I also went to *Frontier Lodge*, a Christian summer camp, every summer for eight years. This was a great opportunity for me to spend my summer vacations with friends, to meet amazing counselors and to learn more about Christ. At the very young age of seven, during my first week at camp, I understood and then chose to believe that Jesus was my Saviour because he died on the cross to pay for my sins. I was encouraged by my counselors and the speaker who explained to me that being a Christian wasn’t just going to church every Sunday morning, but about building a relationship with God on a daily basis.

When I became a teenager, I realized that being a Christian wasn’t as simple as I thought it would be. We live in a world where it is very easy to get distracted by everything around us. Going through high school, I met different types of people with different backgrounds. None of my friends at school are Christians. Some of them have a religious Christian background, but most of them don’t believe in God at all.
At the age of fifteen, I worked at Frontier Lodge for five weeks as a junior counselor. It was by far the best summer of my life. Not only was I able to guide many campers in their lives, but I also made my own path clearer with the help of Katherine Muir who was also a counselor there. I was very happy to have her. For the first time in my life, I was able to share my true issues with someone I could fully trust.

Even if I don’t come very often to the youth program here at the church on Friday nights, when I have come it has helped me focus on the good values of Christianity. I now understand the true meaning of the good news of the gospel message, that God loves us and came to earth in the person of Christ and died on a cross to cleanse us from sin and to save us from judgment. I also realized that believing in God is a serious matter that affects every aspect of life.

I would like to specially thank my parents, my Sunday School teachers such as Pat Dawson, Alice Niphakis and Katy Brereton, and all my youth group leaders but especially Audrey Ann Bélanger-Baur and Gail Bohonos. They are faithful individuals who have played a major role in my coming to know Christ and helping me grow in my faith.

This morning, I am getting baptized because I am ready to express to everyone publicly that I have accepted Christ Jesus as the one who has saved me from punishment by taking away my sin by his death for me on the cross and as my Lord or the one I will follow in every part of my life.

Hi! I’m Philippe Miriello and I am a grade 11 student at École secondaire Jean-Grou. I have attended Rosemount for pretty much my whole life. I was born into a Christian family and raised by my loving parents alongside many of you in this church.

I decided to follow Christ at an early age simply because the other members of my family had made that decision and I did not want to be the odd one out. Something I had always enjoyed about my life was how I was in such a great family situation. That is, until my parents’ relationship became strained. Experiencing this was the toughest thing I had ever dealt with in my simple and happy life. I couldn’t grasp having to see the unity I loved and grew up in broken. Having known a lot about God and his promises, I decided to trust in him. Even if my family stability was less secure, I had learned that God loved me, never changed, and would always be there for me. As time went by, I began to feel a great peace inside me. I knew everything was going to be okay.

Since I attended church every week and did my best to be the “good Christian” even if I didn’t completely understand what it meant, I fell into a comfortable routine. I didn’t understand what living for Christ really was. That is, until the summer of 2005 when I went to summer camp at Parkside Ranch. Being in such a Christian and spiritual environment really showed me what it was to live for God. So after the testimony night that they had, I went to my cabin and prayed. I made a commitment to Christ and I knew that living for him was the right choice. I haven’t regretted it...