

**MEMBERSHIP  
CANDIDATES  
FALL 2018**

**FORW>RD**  
BAPTIST CHURCH



### **Olatunde Babalola**

I was born into a Muslim Family and was forced to go to Islamic school at an early age, about 5 years old. At an early age of around 8 years old I started attending Christian shows that were brought to the neighborhood. My siblings would report me to my father and I would get beaten but I never stopped.

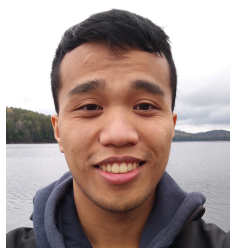
At that point I knew Islam as a religion was not for me. I had a visitation one night when I was around 15 years and when I woke up I decided to give my life to Christ. I followed one of my friends to a Christian young fellowship. They talked about Jesus Christ to me and I surrender my life to Jesus and since then I never looked back. I dropped my Islamic name and never answered to that name again. When my high school result was out my father threatened to disown me for changing my muslim name and as usual I was punish again. I had to hide my faith from my father while at home until I got admitted into the university. I also had to leave my birth country so I could fulfill my Christian faith.



### **Sarah Babalola**

I was born into a Christian family right from birth, but I became born again during my final year in high school back home in Nigeria. Growing up I always had doubt and fear until I saw a light and the word in 2nd Timothy 1:7, for God has not given us the spirit of fear but of power and of love and of

a sound mind. And I received relief from every fear and doubt. This was a turning point in my life and I became born again and have always served him and Christ has always been there for me even in hard times.



### **Jamie Cudao**

Today my walk with God is filled with confidence. However, it has not always been like this. I've spent most of my life at Forward coming to service with my family every Sunday listening to the sermon and leaving as soon as it ended, choosing to shy away from other people there. I fooled myself into

thinking this was enough to be a Believer and now I know I couldn't have been any more wrong. It is through Jesus who has shepherded



me in my life and who continues to guide me and opened my eyes and my heart to him and the scriptures. He has shown his mercy and grace all throughout my life and in particular during the Summer of 2017 when I experienced one of the most difficult times in my life. Our family was going through turmoil and I was hugely responsible for causing this damage. I felt like I had no one to turn to and confide my thoughts and feelings, I did not even pray at the time. I felt so alone yet God is merciful and he reached out to me through his servant, who also is the current youth pastor at Forward. He was not aware about anything in my situation yet God placed me in his thoughts and he reached out to me out of the blue almost immediately after my situation had happened and I had told him about this struggle. Without any hesitation my youth pastor visited me as soon as he heard everything that had happened, he prayed with me and for me. It was during our prayer that I knew that this was not by coincidence and that God had meant for this to happen only so that I may realize that he is ALWAYS there for me and that he loves me. In retrospect, it was not only my current youth pastor but even more believers at Forward who have reached out and shared the love and kindness that only Jesus can offer and have given it to me. Now I am proud to be a Christian and now I am called to share this love and kindness with others.



### **Justine Cudao**

God revealed and saved me when I was very young but the process of truly understanding him did not reach me until my young adult years. The home and family I grew up in has Christian values but as new immigrants of Canada, my parents had to balance faith, the new culture, their children, and financial concerns. So my parents instilled in me the basics of what it means to be Christian and have faith in our Lord. I am very blessed to have parents who raised me wonderfully and have introduced me to Christianity, but as a kid I did not care or come to understand the importance of God. Going to church and participating in church events was a hassle and was more to please my parents than anything else. I just wanted to be like any other kid of the world and just enjoy what this world has to offer. This continued for many years of my adolescence and it wasn't until I finished my first year of university at the ripe old age of 18 that God placed an opportunity of volunteering

at the Oasis Family Camp at Beacon Bible Camp. I accepted the opportunity and thought it would be a nice way to get away from the city and have a vacation. It was there where God showed me my hypocrisy and sinful ways. When you lead or teach children in faith and Christianity but realize the very things that you are teaching are not representative and practicing in your own life, it is a blow to one's psyche. Especially since I consider myself an introvert and like to think about things. From there I wanted to repent of my sins and grow in my faith. I talked to Steve Lambert and we prayed and started my journey of true sanctification. I wish it was straightforward after this, but it never is. We as humans are inconsistent, selfish, and very much sinful. The process of going back to university and not being connected to God and then coming back in the summer and being connected to God, shows my inconsistency as a human and fellow brother. The summer of 2017 I was hired as one of the summer interns at Forward and had a strong faith and belief going out of the summer and back to my last year of university. Sadly I fell, but who doesn't fall at a point in their lives. The process of relying on God comes with ups and downs. I accept that I am inconsistent and sinful and it is only through God's grace and mercy that I will be able to be consistent. God has matured me for life, for his kingdom, and I have faith in our creator because God first had faith in me. God loved me first and continues to love me for the rest of my life. My fellow brothers and sisters, hold me accountable to my faith and actions, encourage me as we continue our journey with him.



### **AnneMarie Boone**

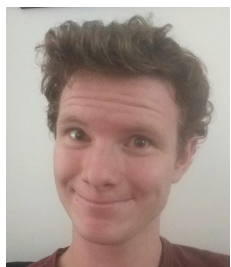
I grew up in a household that did not follow any religion, but when I met my husband Daniel, I started hearing bits and pieces about God from my mother in law Marilyn Boone. In March of 2014 I was diagnosed with brain cancer and had a tumour which required a craniotomy that was performed in June 2014. At that point I slowly started to think there may be a God because my neurosurgeon was able to remove 95-98% of my tumour without having any major deficits. Sadly I still hadn't fully turned to God. It wasn't until I was diagnosed with severe depression in March of 2018 and suffered a major breakdown. I phoned my aunt in law on March 19th who spoke to me for hours and on that night I

was saved by our Lord. Since that night I have devoted myself to learning God's word through scripture, church service and Bible study. I believe Jesus died on the cross for my sins and I will have everlasting life as long as I continue to be a child of God and live my life the way he tells me to.



### **Daniel Boone**

My mother Marilyn Boone has attended Forward Baptist Church since 1983 and she had myself and my brother attend as well. My mother would preach to me everyday, but I didn't listen to her and I turned my back on the Lord. When my wife was diagnosed with Brain Cancer in 2014 was when I screamed to the Lord "give me the cancer, not her. Take my life, not hers". From that day all I did was pray to the Lord to heal her and that is exactly what he did, by allowing 95% of her tumour to be removed. He gave her a second chance at life. After that, my eyes were opened up to how powerful the Lord is. From that I began turning to him for everything in my life and I know Jesus died on the cross to save me from my sins.



### **David Nunn**

I was born into a Christian family and was surrounded by constant teaching of who God was and who I was as well. I can't think of a time that I ever doubted the existence of God. I grew up in a family that would do family devotions everyday at the table and was raised attending church services and when I was old enough to stay up in the evenings even got to go to prayer meetings mid week. I believe that because of this upbringing I grew up knowing the scriptures which made me wise unto salvation. I always loved God and would sing made up songs to him about how much I did. One day while I was near my Mum in the kitchen at the age of 6 I was doing just this and my mum asked me if I truly meant it. I said yes and she asked if I wanted to have him as Lord and Saviour of my life. In my simple childlike way I said yes whole heartedly. Since then it has been a long road of ups and downs and of learning of what it truly meant to have Him as Lord of my life and what the implications of that are. I have assurance that I am a child of God and have eternal life through

faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ at the cross. This in combination with learning more and more about who God is and his character and how he has chosen me before time began. Can I tell that I am truly saved? The Bible teaches that this is seen by the fruit that one produces in one's life. I feel like if I hadn't come to Christ at a young age I would be a very different person today. I feel like my adventurous spirit and strong passion for pleasure combined with my natural tendency to have uncontrolled anger and violence would have gotten me into a lot of trouble and I would have easily ended up on the party scene as a youth and a young adult. But I see that He has protected me from this in a large way even if at times I have drifted away emotionally and secretly rebelled. I can see how He has been at work in my life changing my heart from an angry one into a loving one. This is evidence to me of the Holy Spirit's sanctifying work in my life (the Holy Spirit which Bible says we have been sealed by for the day of redemption).



### **William Sneider**

I grew up in a Christian family. I attended a Presbyterian church for most of my life. I grew up believing I was a Christian because I attended church, and I shared some amount of Christian values. I even made a confession of faith when I was around 14. Unfortunately, this confession was completely false. The church I attended was not filled with the Spirit. It did not follow God, and it rejected the authority of God, and of Scripture. I was deeply hurt by this. I did not know why, but it drove me away from the Church and from God. I went off to university believing I was saved, and that I knew Christ. But I did not. I had spent, and still do spend, most of my life dealing with depression and social anxiety, even though I did not always know what it was. In my last year of University, this spiraled out of control leading me to heavy suicidal thoughts, and some very dark places. I believe that Satan had found a foothold in my mental health issues, and was using it to drag me down and end my life without knowing God. I went through some very painful experiences, but by the Grace of God, whom I now know was watching over me, I was prevented from attempting to take my own life, no matter how much I wanted to.

It was in a mostly empty house in St. Catharines, ON, alone in my room about two years ago that God whispered into my life. I felt fully alone and felt no point to continuing life. But God whispered gently into my life about His love. He reminded me of all the things I had learned growing up in a Christian home that were true. He revealed in my heart the salvation I had been given through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. My sinful depravity was also revealed to me. But through God's grace and mercy, I felt God's forgiveness. I gave my life to Christ and the sovereignty of God that day. I feel my total conversion was gradual, and that God has been working before and after that day. But it was that moment of total weakness where God showed His power that confirmed my faith in Him.

I am assured of my salvation and eternal life because God has continued to bless me, forgive me, and grow my faith. He has given me financial security, many friends, good health, and countless other blessings that would take too long to list. Despite continued struggles with the same sins, God has continually answered my prayers for forgiveness. He has constantly assured me that my sins have been separated from me. He has also brought me to Forward and to a group of young Christians that have helped encourage me and helped me grow in my faith. God has shown unwarranted favour to me while helping me to focus my life on Him. God has shown faithfulness in all aspects of my life, and constantly fulfilled His promises, even ones I did not know about. He has revealed wisdom to me through Scripture that is only attainable and understandable through the Holy Spirit. This understanding has been confirmed for me through the words and interactions with other believers. It is all these things that assure me that I am saved, and that I will spend eternity in Heaven with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.