



My Testimony: Christy Raj

Christy, Raj and Keziah joined the church earlier this year and Christy shared her testimony at our Encounters with Jesus evening at Easter.

I grew up in a Christian family in South India, where going to church, prayer and Bible reading were part of daily life. I accepted Christ at very young age but when I was in S2, I had my first personal encounter with God .

During my S2 summer vacation, my dad shared a painful incident about a fallen missionary who had brought a foreign Christian band to perform at a non-Christian temple. Hearing that broke my heart. That night I felt burden of sin and how painful it would be for God, since we are nailing him again and again to the cross. I was praying and crying under a blanket, during that, I saw a picture of the map of India with a cross over it and felt the weight of so many people living in sin. I cried out to God. My dad sensed something was wrong, came to me, and then my mum joined him. They prayed over me, and that night marked the beginning of my personal walk with Jesus.



I was touched by God's Word now and then — spiritually awakened for some time, then fading again. From S4 to S6, it became a season of spiritual laziness but during my S6 summer vacation, an evangelist encouraged me to read, meditate on, and memorise Scripture. I was awakened spiritually again, and every evening I would run up to the terrace to memorise God's Word. That's when I learned Psalms 1, 23, 46, and 91 — not knowing then how important those verses would become later in my life.

Life moved on — I graduated, got a job, married Raj and we were blessed with Keziah. But from 2010 onwards, I entered a season where this Scripture became real to me: *"It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn Your decrees."* In those years, it was an army training by God — how to trust Him, how to walk by faith. Through every challenge, He was drawing me closer to Him.

I was facing personal challenges that felt like mountains, and many around me believed there was no way out. During that season, Raj had moved to another city for work. One weekend, my uncle's family and I took Keziah to the zoo. She was happy, naming the animals as we walked. But at the final enclosure, when I lifted her from the pram, her whole body began having strong, uncontrollable jerks, and I couldn't hold her properly. Her voice faded, her body went limp, her eyelids rolled back, and she became completely unresponsive. In that moment, I genuinely thought I was losing her.

We started running towards the gate of the zoo, which were nearly 3 km away. But before we could get far, a man stopped us and offered help. People gathered around— non-Christians, and others praying in their own ways. In that moment, I heard a clear voice in Tamil & in English: *'Christy ma look at them they don't know to whom they are praying but you know me.'* My spirit awakened immediately. Then I heard again: *'Will you confess my name in front of this crowd.'* My heart responded, *'Even if I*





am beaten to death I will Lord. At the same time, the man asked me to sprinkle water on Keziah's face. I did it while confessing loudly, *'Yesu Kristhuvuvin Ratham Jeyam'* — victory in the blood of Jesus Christ. Instantly, Keziah opened her eyes and came back to full consciousness. At the hospital, they confirmed she was fine and only had a fever. That night she was playing and jumping as if nothing had happened. Truly God's Miracle.

Now, fast-forward to 2025 — a year of intense family challenges. Many of you know what we went through, and you prayed us through it. In March 2025, my dad became critically unwell and the hospital said it is no hope medically. At every stage — ICU, ambulance, hospital corridors — God kept asking me to kneel and pray publicly. He filled us with complete faith and praise. Many people, even non-Christians, later told us they saw God's hand over our family.

When I returned home from the hospital, my neighbour — who is a non-Christian — came running to me. She confessed that she had doubted God, wondering how a family that worshipped day and night could face such a trial. But God spoke to her, and the next morning when she heard the good news about dad health, she said, 'Your God is alive and He is righteous.' Hearing that filled me with joy. Dad walked back home from hospital by God's grace.

After that, we faced back-to-back challenges with our jobs. And I especially want to share my own experience with my job search. When I heard about my redundancy—right when my promotion process had already begun—I was shaken. Still, I kept believing God would provide. I hoped to testify on December 31st — nothing happened. Then I waited for March 1st — still nothing. I even prayed for a job before Christmas so I could celebrate peacefully. But through each date and delay, God was teaching me something deeper: my joy didn't depend on a job offer. By His grace, I found myself genuinely happy even without one. And then, out of nowhere, Royal London contacted me and issued the offer letter on March 27th. Truly, His plans are perfect.

Through all these years, God has drawn me closer to him. The sermon preached at our wedding on 25 November 2009 was from 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18: 'Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.' And truly, that Word has been our Amen from that day until now. I am not good but he is good. Everything I am today is because of His grace. A thousand, thousand praises to the God who made even me stand as a small witness for him. All glory to Jesus Christ alone.

Jim Aitken

We were saddened to hear of Jim's passing on Sunday morning. He was in Malawi at the time, a country he loved and has served in for decades. Pray for his sister, the wider family and Jim's friends as they grieve. We'll let you know funeral details when arrangements are made.





Thanksgiving Service for the Life of Fiona Colville

This Thursday at Ilam there will be a Thanksgiving Service for Fiona's life. Light refreshments will be served afterwards in the hall and everyone is warmly invited. The family have said that there is no need to wear black.

There will be the opportunity to give to LoveOliver at the service in memory of Fiona. They are a small Scottish charity who help children with cancer and their families.

The service can be watch [here](#) for those not able to make it in person. Please continue to pray for Ken, Gordon and Simon and their families as they grieve.

Fiona MacMillan's Dad

The Thanksgiving Service for Fiona's Dad, Douglas (known as Doug) McRobbie, will take place at Seafeld Crematorium at 1pm on **Monday 27th April**. Joe is taking the service and everyone is warmly invited.

Holyrood Women's Conference – 2nd May



Please sign up! We are looking forward to having a women's conference on **Saturday 2nd May** from 10am to 1pm.

Anne MacDonald (Bon Accord Free Church in Aberdeen) will be speaking on Idols of Our Hearts. We'll have a couple of seminar options – one will be a Bible overview with Anne and the other will be looking at self-sacrificial discipleship and evangelism with Naomi Amour. It promises to be a great morning of teaching and fellowship together.

Please go here for more details and to sign up <https://www.ticket-tailor.com/events/holyroodevangelicalchurch/2138875> We'll open the day up to women from other churches and please invite friends along. Contact Liz@holyroodchurch.org if you have any questions.

CS Lewis Institute Event – Saturday 25th April

We're hosting the CS Lewis Institute on Saturday evening from 7.30pm to 9.30pm as they explore how ongoing theology shapes our faith journey and helps us grow in Christian maturity. The speaker is Dr Sam Hannon and for more details go [here](#).





Book in a Day – Cornhill Scotland

Book in a Day will be held on **Monday 4th May** and will focus on 1 Peter. Andrew Sach will be doing the teaching and it promises to be great day. To book go [here](#) or contact Liz for a group booking.

Cross Training Ministries – Men's Weekend in Keswick

Come and join us in Keswick from **29th – 31st May** as we hear about the urgency, the opportunity and the challenge of pursuing God together.

There will be excellent teaching, great singing, good fellowship, relevant seminars and some beautiful walks in the Lake District. Accommodation, which is a mixture of single and shared, is in the Skiddaw Centre run by Keswick Ministries. There is some capacity for day visitors so please get in touch.

The cost is £120 but if you book before 1st May 2026 there is an early bird discount of 10% using the code 'CT12'. Sign up here - <https://events.humanitix.com/https-www-xtrainingministries-com-cross-training-men-s-weekend>



Church Calendar

This week for your info and prayers:

- Wednesday: Home Group across the city
- Thursday:
 - Thanksgiving Service for Fiona Colville at 11am in the church
 - Session meeting at 7pm
- Friday: Holyrood Youth (with Josh Strike) 7-9pm
- Saturday: CS Lewis Institute Event from 7.30-9.30pm
- Sunday:
 - Worship Service at 10.30am – Joe Barnard preaching (live streamed)
 - Evening Service at 6pm – Jon Gemmell preaching
- Monday:
 - Baby and Toddler Group from 10am – 11.30am
 - Thanksgiving Service for Fiona MacMillan's Dad at 1pm at Seafeld Crematorium

