*“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

*Matthew 20:19-20*

A baptism is a wonderful event. When a believer steps into the water to claim Christ in front of the watching world, His love is on display for all to see. As believers, a baptism service is always an amazing, beautiful time where we are reminded of God’s love, grace, and mercy as seen through the salvation of a fallen sinner who was transformed because of Jesus’ sacrifice. Being a public declaration of what God has done, baptisms are an important part in a (spiritually) young believer’s walk. Following Christ and claiming Him publicly is commanded by our Savior, a showcase of the miracle that He has done in regenerating a dead sinner into a child of God.

On December 15, 2020, Redeemer Bible Church held a beachside baptism service where 5 new believers professed to the world what the Lord had done in their lives. Lily Bagalso, Noah Bagalso, Macy Enriquez, Jennie Johnson, and Alethia Tolentino all stepped into the waters and were baptized. They each gave an account of what Jesus had done in their hearts, sharing their testimonies with the church and others on the beach who were passing by. Some even stayed to listen for a while and were able to hear of the work that only Christ can do. We were blessed by their accounts of God’s faithfulness in their lives. Though each had a different background and story, Jesus loves them all the same, and when He saved them He received all the glory from it. From a young girl trying to play church, to a teenager battling depression, and a woman who had deceived herself for years, Christ rescued each one for His glory.

One of the best parts is watching in person how Christ has changed the lives of those who He has saved. Those who struggled with anger and hatred in their hearts are now overflowing with love and joy. Depression and anxiety are carried away by Christ’s caring love. Selfishness is turned to empathy and serving others. Steve Fernandez of Community Bible Church would often say it this way: “Once saved, always changed.” When God gets ahold of someone’s heart, there is a marked change in their lives. And the beauty of it is, while we can see these things happening physically, there is a deeper, more important spiritual truth that causes these changes; the fact that a dead sinner was made alive together with Christ. This regeneration is cause for celebration as even the angels rejoice over the repentance of a sinner (Luke 15:7). We were overjoyed to be able to witness what God has done in the lives of these five brother and sisters, and cannot wait to see how God grows and uses them in the years to come.

To God be all the glory!