



### SAVED & BAPTIZED

Recently, we were able to celebrate two baptisms at Branches Baptist Church. When we celebrate we celebrate big. Our baptism Sundays we walk down to the beach just a couple blocks from where our church meets and we hold baptisms in the ocean. Afterward we return to the building to have a church potluck and those that got baptized are able to share their testimonies. (You can view part of these testimonies in the update video).

I want to share about these two men that were baptized.

### GEORGE

-George first started to attend our church two years ago. He attended on and off but started to attend more and more. We got to know George well and really started to pray for His salvation. In 2023, George had made a profession of faith, but, the truth was he was not quite ready to truly accept Christ. However, this profession allowed me and others in our church to really start to dive deep into conversation with George about coming to faith.

This past year George saw the final of his idols crumble before him. Although this was a hard situation for George it was a great grace from God. George was finally ready to give up on the ways of the world and follow Jesus with his life. The change in George was very visible. This is always one of the most incredible things to watch as someone experiences the true joy that can only come for Jesus.

### GARY

-Gary found our church through a facebook ad that we had put out. Gary’s story is one that takes place over many years and is also a testament to God never giving up on someone. Gary had joined a cult as a younger man and had been sucked into this authoritarian cult for years. Eventually, through his own study of the Bible he started to see the errors in the cult he was in, so he left. The cult immediately shunned him, as cults do, and Gary went down a very dark path. He gave into the sins of the world and spent two years allowing sin to overtake him. Fortunately, God did not give up on Gary. Gary had a saving faith trusting Jesus to save him...but the effects of the cult, and the sin had entered in left him confused and feeling alone. Finally, desperate to break the effects of sin, he started to change his ways and look for a church that would faithfully teach the Bible. That’s when he found Branches. After Gary started to attend I spent every Monday morning for months meeting up with Gary at a local coffee shop to unpack the lies of the cult and show him the truths of God’s Word. After this Gary was able to see the ways of Christ and was ready to be baptized. He has become such a vital part of our church and regularly encourages others.

Thank you all so much for your continued prayers and support.

We could not do this work without you!!



George & Gary