

Faith Statement by Tianna Bestul

The verse that I chose for my faith statement is John 15:15-16: "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name". I picked this verse because it reminds me that God didn't just send his son to the cross on the earth just for our sins to be forgiven but so that we could have a personal relationship with him and to be able to call him friend and to love him as he loves us. This verse also helps me remember that we didn't choose to be born but God decided for us to be born because he has a reason for us to be on this earth at this time. I also really like this verse because it points out that he wants us as his friends to go out, collect and share the information that God has given us through Jesus to not just our believing friends but to our non-believing friends as well.

This year I learned that God really does create everybody for a reason, even me. When I was born my umbilical cord was wrapped around my neck 4 times. And many times, especially this year I've asked God why he didn't just let me die right there and then, why couldn't I have just gone to heaven then. But in Sunday School one day, I was reminded that a guy by the name of Bruce Van Natta died 3 times, yet every time a lady prayed for him, and God brought him back to life, and so to this day he goes around the country sharing the news of God, and during this the Sunday School was told that there is always a reason that God keeps you alive. So, by this I always remember that God has a plan to use us and it is only by allowing him to enter our lives and by us going to him and accepting that that he will use us in so many ways whether we see it or not.

But let me tell you that experiencing Christ fully is really amazing. It's like experiencing a little piece of heaven, always being happy, not even dreading your homework but always looking forward to reading the Bible and spending time with God. I've experienced this before and it's the best thing that could ever know here on earth. So, I encourage you to go home and read the Bible every day, take the time to sit, pray and talk with God and just take time to really pay attention to what he is telling you in the Bible and in everyday life.

While I was fully with Christ, I felt the tug to send a letter and a Bible to a man who had stolen a purse from one of my sisters. I thought and thought about this, but I

never did anything, and I have regretted not doing this so much and I wish I could go back and end him those things when God was telling me to do so. It is so important that we follow God and do as he says and to always be serving him even in our daily lives because we just ever really realize when God has changed a person through our actions. So, my lesson from this was to always be alert, always listen, and do what God tells you to do.

And so, for the rest of my life this is what I look forward to accomplishing eve on earth, spending time with God, fully experiencing him, and always trying to serve him through my actions by collecting more servants to set their eyes on him and glorifying him because he is good.