

## Faith Statement

Owen Monge

Hello everyone, my name is Owen Monge, and I'm 16 years old and I go to school at Minnetonka high school. I love playing baseball, basketball, and hanging out with my friends. I'll start off with a short prayer. Dear God, thank you for bringing us here today, and for a big day of faith for all these highschoolers. I pray that you give all of them the courage and strength in the sharing of their faith statements. And all God's people said Amen.

There are many reasons why I believe In God, the son, and the holy spirit. First of all, Jesus died for our sins, which is the biggest sacrifice anyone could make. I believe it is only right to repay him by living my life for him, and through him. I choose to say yes to God, because he is the creator of everything, and sent his son to forgive our sins.

My faith in Jesus Christ impacts my daily life, as I live through him. I do my best to make decisions that are unselfish, and that make others happy. Everyday is different with faith, some days I might feel closer to God, and spend a little more time focusing on him, and others I might feel farther away, and not spend as much time with my faith. Despite how the day goes, I always end it with him, by reading a little of the bible, and praying. My relationship with Jesus also impacts my relationship with my friends and family. I do my best to be nice and respectful to everyone, so people around me can be positive.

Jesus Christ has carried me through many trials and storms during my life. Whether it be a stressful week, a breakup, or anything really that has challenged my life, God has been there. A time when I really felt God's presence was right after a breakup I had. A few days after it happened I was in the car on the way home. I was still a little down in the dumps and not very positive. In my head through all my racing thoughts, I felt God's presence. I was thinking to myself, well at least I know that God loves me, and that's all I really need. When those words went through my head, I felt a sense of comfort, and reassurance. I really felt God and took shelter in his love. God has also been present during the ups in my life too. I often find him in nature, whether it be in the mountains in Arizona, or walking around a lake. In these nature moments I tend to feel at peace, and I can feel God's presence. It fills me up and gives me the reassurance and confidence to do anything. I also have people in my life that have helped me grow in my faith. My small group for confirmation would be a big one. From the leaders, to my friends in the small group, they have all been positive examples of faith, and have inspired me to stick with it and worship God. My parents and extended family have also been very influential in my faith, by encouraging me. They are good role models of faith, and set me on the right path.

As part of getting confirmed I will fulfill the confirmation promises through many things. I will continue to worship God, and stay close to my Christian friends both inside and outside of church. I will be present and focussed during church to hear God's word and learn more about him. I will spread God's light by being nice to others, and bring positivity to anywhere I go. I will serve everyone, and treat everyone with the same respect and kindness. I will work for peace

and justice in my home, my school, and my world by standing up for what's right, and doing the right thing even if it's hard.

The bible verse that I chose was Psalm 16:8. It reads "I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken." This verse is important to me because it keeps my mind set on the Lord. I know that when I am focused on him, he will lead me through obstacles, and won't forsake me. The verse also gives me motivation to live for Jesus as he comforts me and guides me through life.

My expression of faith is a baseball bat that broke a while back, and I tied it together to make the shape of a cross. I also wrote the verse I chose on it. The broken bat symbolizes humans, as we are all imperfect and broken. The cloth holding the two parts together represents Jesus, and how he fills us up and forgives our sins.

Now I'm going to wrap up with a prayer. Dear God, thank you for bringing all of these wonderful people together today, and for giving us the opportunity to say yes to you, and to be a part of your kingdom. I pray for strength and guidance to stick with you and my faith. I pray that everyone here can see how meaningful and great you are God, and that you lead them on the right path. And all God's people said, Amen.