Colin Donovan Mr. Yako Christ's Mission in the Church 7 March 2017

## Faith

Faith is a big part of my life, I spend a lot of time at church and at church related activities. I attend a Christian school, I pray often, I go to church, and I attend and lead at a youth group. I like to think that my faith is strong, however I know I still have a long way to go in terms of growth. I am confident in my faith and I don't think I could live without faith so I would be willing to risk my life for my faith.

So far, I've grown a lot in my faith through hard times. When my mom was diagnosed with cancer, if anything, it made my faith stronger. I was comforted by my mom's faith and how strong she was going through the whole thing and many people from my church community offered me comfort. Everyone was willing to talk and I talked to a lot of people. These experiences helped my faith to mature and to become my own faith. I pray on my own a lot now and I take every chance I get to return the hospitality and love that was shown to me when I went through hard times. I don't know how I would have made it through that experience without faith and I am extremely happy that I had faith to rely on.

Whenever I meet someone who is going through a hard experience or is just in a bad mood, I always try to lighten up their day. I try to help them get through that experience and I try to comfort them in the same way that I was comforted during my experiences. I am willing to listen to whatever they have to say and will talk to them about whatever they need to talk about. I tell them how they can reach me at anytime and if they do try to reach me I always respond. I am willing to meet up with anyone at anytime and I try to help them seek God for help as well. I pray with them and I pray for them and I do my best to help them get into the habit of praying as well. I try to get them to attend church events and I tell them about other people that they could go to for help.

Another way I help people who are going through hard times and are less fortunate than me is by serving as a leader at a youth group. Every Sunday night I go to my church and help run a youth group for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. I have gotten to know all of the kids who come regularly really well and I really enjoy helping them grow in their faith. One of the kids in particular had an experience that was amazing. His family had adopted a girl from Africa a few years ago and she got diagnosed with a rare blood disease that was nearly impossible to cure. We talked about it and prayed about it every week for months. One week he came in with incredible news. She had been officially cured from the blood disease. The odds of her surviving were extremely low but she survived. Experiences like this are what make me so strong in my faith and make me willing to die for my faith. I know that if I did die, I would go to heaven and be with God.

Faith is a source of motivation and happiness. It is a source of strength and comfort. It is a source of love and friendship. Without faith, life would be much more empty. I wouldn't have met many of my closest friends and hard times would have been much harder. I would have no one to turn when things get hard. Faith is the single most positive thing in my life and I would be willing to die for it.