

## **Personal Statement of Faith**

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(Updated) October 1, 2011

What I believe. I believe that God is my Heavenly Father, Abba, The One True Living God. I believe there is no beginning and no end to when God is God. I believe He spoke and creation became. I believe he breathed His breath into Adam and Eve. God the Father. I believe this with all that makes me who I am. In life and death I belong to God!

In the same way, with all of my being, I believe in the Son of God, Christ Jesus. Fully human and fully God. Jesus came as a small infant, he became a man, walked the earth, preaching the good news to all. Healing, cleansing, eating, living with sinners such as myself. I believe and fully trust that he forgives me all my sins, and calls me to repent and believe the gospel. I believe he suffered and died for me. That he rose, breaking the bond of sin and evil forever, giving me life eternal.

I believe in the wonderful mystery of the Trinity. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are one. The Spirit of God sets me free to accept myself and to love God and all humans. This love allows me to be bound together with the body of all believers. The one body that is The Church.

I believe in the Spirit that inspired and spoke to the prophets of old and new, inspired and breathed life into the living words that have come together over time to be known as the Bible. That as stated in our Brief Statement of Faith, that the Holy Spirit claims me by the waters of my Baptism, The Holy Spirit feeds me with the bread of life and the cup of salvation. That the Holy Spirit calls me to works and acts that are planned for me in the ministries of the church.

My life as it is, is because of the relationship I have now with God, Christ and the Holy Spirit. I was not brought up in the church. I had many problems with worshipping a Heavenly Father as on this earth I had an abusive father. After years of struggling, when I thought to be alone, I now knowingly spend a lot of time with My Heavenly Father. My faith is a work in progress. My grandmother suffered and lost a very painful battle with cancer when I was a

teen. I knew she had a wonderful relationship with God. So I asked her how she could still love God who was letting her suffer. Her reply, "It is not for me to know all things but to have faith in the Heavenly Father". My thought, I wish I had faith like that. That is my goal. Faith as strong as my grandmother's. Faith as complete as my grandmother's. I know I would not be able to be the wife, mother, friend that I am today, remember the work in progress, if it were not for my relationship with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. In my personal life, in my community of faith life, where ever I am in creation, I try to be the Child of God that I was created to be. Because of this life I have, I have no enemies. I never feel like I meet a stranger. Even when traveling clear to Madagascar, not speaking Malagasy, not knowing the culture, I knew and they knew that we were brothers and sisters in Christ. From my childhood and mistake made by me as a young adult, I chose to live a solitary life. I had made that life as safe as possible. No one to hurt me, no one I could hurt. Safe. Now looking back over the last thirty years.....I find that the one thing I did not do then, was ask God into my world. I had such walls, that He had to keep pounding and pounding with His Love. God is a God that does not give up. The walls are gone, I now rejoice daily that it has been made known to me that there is nothing in life or in death that can separate me from the love in God in Jesus Christ my Lord! Amen. I am HIS!