

how has religion affected your life?



"All my life I felt that my religion was not right for me. I wasn't religiously active, even though I went to a religious school when I was a kid. I tend to be a rational person, and it didn't make sense to me. It seemed to have a lot of contradictions, and a lot of ideas such as, 'Well, you just have to believe it,' and that didn't work for me. I tried to learn a lot about different religions, and Islam is the one that worked for me. I think it is the best decision I've ever made in converting to Islam. It breaks my heart to see things that are happening from these radical factions that are giving a bad name to the religion because that is not what it is, but that is what many people think because that is what they see in the news."

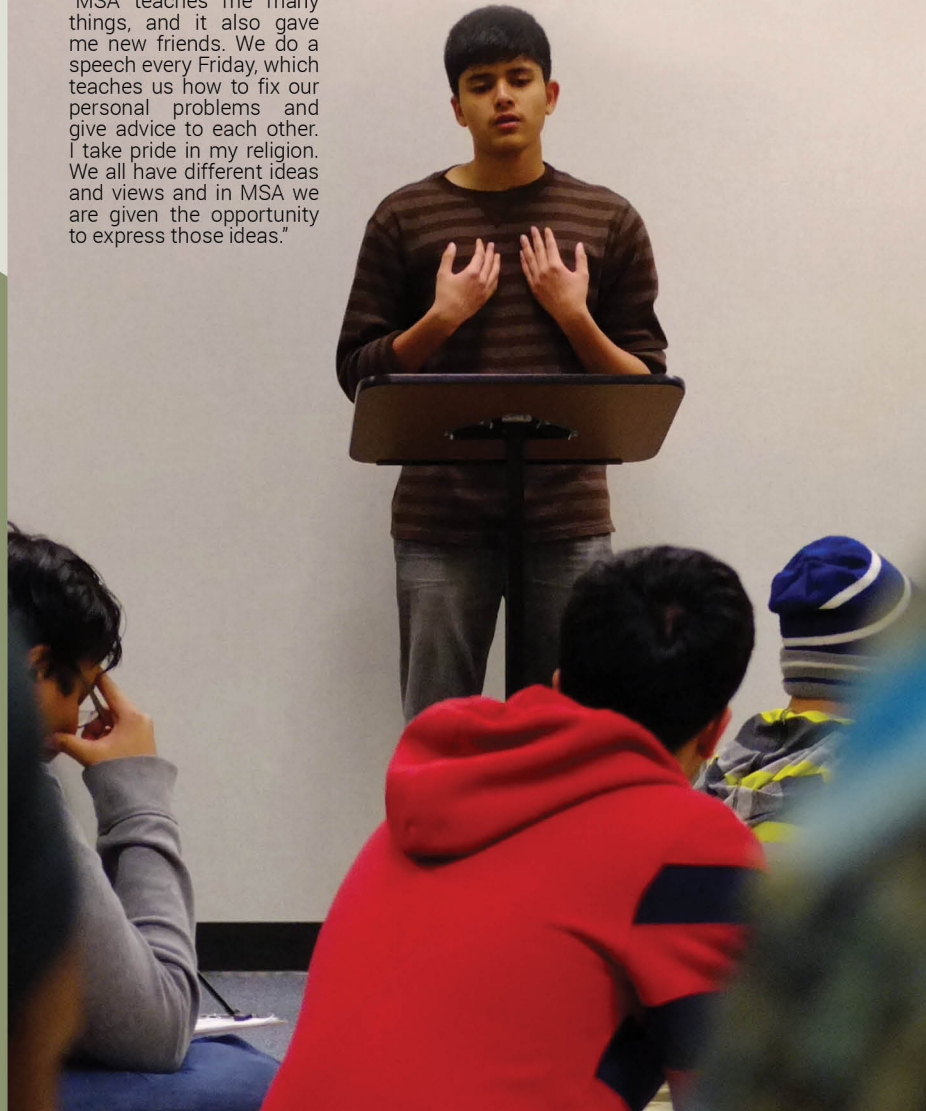
— Eileen Caetta^{Spanish}



"I'm a Mormon. My religion is from the Bible and the book of Mormon. It shows me how to think or how to view things. Whenever I have problems I pray before I read [the scripture] and usually I read it and whatever questions or problems I have, I think about it and I can connect. I can relate and compare and find something in between what they did and what I can do to solve that problem. It also makes me think positive and connects me to God. I always stay humble and positive. If I ever go through problems, I know that the scriptures will help me."

— Andre Gonzales¹¹

Giving a lecture to MSA members, **Mohammed Shahriar¹¹** shares his knowledge about Islam. "MSA teaches me many things, and it also gave me new friends. We do a speech every Friday, which teaches us how to fix our personal problems and give advice to each other. I take pride in my religion. We all have different ideas and views and in MSA we are given the opportunity to express those ideas."



Faizat Oladejo¹⁰ participates in Muslim Students Association's Friday Jumah sessions with fellow members. "MSA gives me an opportunity to do the prayers that I am supposed to do on Fridays because if I were to go home, I might not be able to do the specific prayers because it is timed. Going to MSA allows me to do my duties as a Muslim and meet new people that are also Muslim."



faithful diversity of worship under one roof

After **Brenda Canuz¹²** was diagnosed with Buerger's disease in her freshman year, she started attending the prayer sessions at her church service. The disease is under control by medication, but she hopes that her newfound Christian faith will motivate her to keep fighting.

"I see [my disease] as a blessing," Canuz said. "It was like a test that strengthened my relationship with the Lord."

As for **Sara Khan¹²**, she learns to focus less on her appearance as she grows closer to her Muslim faith.

"How is [my appearance] going to help me in my next life," she said. "How is it going to help in becoming closer to God?"

Khan recalled how reading a verse from a random page of the Quran had improved her mood.

"The Quran is beautifully written," Khan said. "When I have a question that I don't have an answer to, I would read a random verse from the Quran and it would answer my question. [I would feel as if] the answer is directed to me and my unique situation."

Sometimes she would read a chapter from the Quran to ease her mind. "When I read through that chapter, I realized that God has not forgotten about me," Khan said. "He cares for me and what I am going through. He wants something better for me. I took those words into my heart and everything became so much better."

Both Canuz and Khan lean on their faith to guide them through their problems and heal their emotions.

"If I have God, I have everything," Canuz said. "And that happiness can be seen by others."



Misti Fulmer¹¹ tells the new students about Christian Fellowship during Cub Camp, explainin members are not fans of Jesus, but followers. "The experience turned out to be pretty fulfilling and helpful. I saw all the freshman and ended up knowing a majority of the class which made it easier to talk to them. Also it was a good educational experience of talking to a group about many different topics which we do in the club frequently."

Gathering at the flagpole before advisory begins, **Charlie Grisson¹⁰** and **Steve Bolting^{Computer Science}** participate in the nationwide See You At The Pole. "It's not just a Kerr thing; Christian Fellowship/Students of Christ do it together. We had more people last year. This year it was just me, but I liked it just as much. It would have been better if we put flyers around, and made more announcements about it. I think it was just too low key, that's why not a lot of people showed up," Grisson said.

