

## GETTING STARTED

Well, hello! How are you all? I hope this newsletter finds you all healthy and in good spirits.

Well, it's been about a month and a half that I've been in AIM, it seems like I've been here for years though! The first week was kind of odd because we didn't really know each other, I'm happy to see how close of a class we are now. There are 47 of us: 31 girls and 16 guys. Forty-seven young adults from all over the states and around the world, 3 from foreign countries, all living within mere minutes of each other, around each other 24/7... for the next 7 months. It's interesting and scary at the same time to see the variety of personalities here.

I have two roommates (apartment-mates?), both girls of course. One is Bekah Taylor, I think some of you know her, she's from Fairbanks. The other one (Caitlin) is from somewhere in Oklahoma and 20 years old. She and I share a room. I thought



One of my classmates and me

it'd be awkward because Bekah and I are both 18 and she's older, ha-ha it's definitely not. I had the mindset that she'd be all mature and boring actually. When it's just the three of us together... they both go crazy. I see why God put me as roommates with them; someone has to be the mature adult here ha-ha. They're both such a blessing though, we keep each other accountable and are there when we need to talk to someone.

## CLASSES

In total, I have 6 classes: Christian Evidences, Life of Christ, Old Testament Message, New Testament Message, Missionary Mindset and Evangelism. Class is from 8:30 A.M. to 4 Pm Monday through Thursday, Friday is half a day, and there are two classes per day, with the Evangelism class in between them. Of course, there's always a lot of homework, I like it though, definitely challenging.

My favourite class would have to be Old Testament Message. I've always loved reading the

Old Testament, but never really thought about the stories enough to make them come alive. The teacher is phenomenal. What I really like about his class is how alive he makes the Bible and how he addresses questions I always thought we weren't supposed to ask. He asks us ALL those questions and then spends class time discussing them. There's been so many days where I walked away from his class thinking "I can't believe he asked that!" And then there are other days where I'm so thankful that he addresses everything.

## ENCOUNTERS

Here is where I will share encounters that I thought were rather interesting:

- A group of us went to a Women's and Children hospital the other day to sing and pray with the patients and their families. The first place we went to was the waiting room, where we sang to the family of a 4 year old girl named Hannah who had just had her leg amputated that hour. After talking to that family, we were all amazed at how God showed himself to us that day. We went there that day to encourage the families and patients; they ended up encouraging us with their constant praises to the Lord and how He had them in His arms. Hannah's appendix burst, the doctors mistook it as a stomach bug. Later on they found out that her legs were poisoned by Potassium, the result was that her right leg was amputated. This along with a number of other things (like going through cardiac arrest 7 times) has been such a trying time for her family; they are drawing closer to God day by day though.
- Every week we go to a nursing home, on the second week there, I met a 98 year old lady named Thelma. I chatted with her for a good 20 minutes and heard her story. What amazed me the most was her love for God, this 98 year old lady was determined to start physical therapy to get her feet working again so she can go fellowship with other Christians! Before I left, she looked me in the eyes and told me she would be praying for me.
- The church I work with, Denver City Church of Christ, have a lot of members that know Loren and Penny Hollingsworth. It was really neat hearing them talk about Loren and Penny and how many of them worked as missionaries with them in Thailand. Loren and Penny, you two are so loved by Denver City Church of Christ!

## AREA CHURCH

Every year, the AIM assistants are given a choice of what church of Christ nearby Lubbock they want to work with. After they've chosen their area, they request a group of AIMers to go out there and work alongside them with the church there. My area church is Denver City, which is about an hour and a half away from Lubbock. Working with me are 4 other girls and 3 guys, plus our AIM assistants (Elizabeth and Bryson Carroll). Area churches are meant to give us a small glimpse of what it is going to be like working

on a mission field. Denver City church if Christ has about 125-150 members. We spend every Sunday out there. Our job is to get to know the members, help out wherever possible and work with the youth. I admit, there have been ups and downs. But I've learned that the biggest deciding factor on how area church is going to go is my attitude towards it. In the past few weeks, it's been a big challenge for me to step out there and get to know people, it's helping me grow, and that's for sure.



**Prayer Requests:**

- Healing for Hannah
- Thelma
- My class as we prepare to choose teams in a month and a half
- For me to step outside my comfort zone



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Thank you all so much for your support! I'm thankful for this opportunity and plan to take advantage of it. Please keep me in your prayers as I continue to pray for you. Looking forward to seeing you all soon!