

NEWS FROM WEST TEXAS

AIM 2011

Eight Months Completed!

Hello! I'm sorry that this month's newsletter is so late!

As you can tell from the title above, I have been in Lubbock for 8 months, but more importantly, am now finished taking all the classes. It doesn't feel like I've been in AIM for 8 months, the time has gone by way too fast!

This month is what's known as March Madness, because we are kept very busy for the whole month. The beginning of the month started with us all wrapping up our classes and taking finals. A few days after we'd taken our finals, we started Camp Adventure. In my last newsletter, I mentioned that we were going to be doing Camp Adventure soon. Well, we did! And it went pretty well! Going to Camp Adventure two times before, it was neat to see that



The Alaskans and us Alaskan AIMers!

time from a different point of view. It was a blessing getting to see Beth and Jeff, Melissa, T.J., and Brittany (and Nistor of course!) and have them meet my classmates and hang out with us all. Like every year, we all went to Olive Garden for our first meal together, a little Alaskan group tradition that Beth and Jeff started. A day after Camp Adventure got over, our class caravanned to Arlington, Texas which is about a 6 hour drive. We stayed in Arlington for a few days and then drove to Childress, Texas (which is about a 4 hour drive). In Childress, we helped renovate a house. They were in the process of knocking out everything (minus the roof and the base), we got to help knockout all the walls inside and the ceilings and then take out all the carpeting and clean out the inside of it. After that was done, they'd start remodeling that house and then give it to a family that couldn't afford a house. It was really neat! Every year, the AIM class goes there and helps do that to a house, and by the next year they have it completely remodeled and ready for a family to move in to it. Whenever we go on road trips like this, members from the church there house us.



Myteam (minus one) with our coordinators!

The couple that I stayed with owned a house that used to be a funeral home. Despite that information, their house was huge and beautiful, and the couple was very welcoming and interested in us. After working in Childress for a couple of days, we went on the road again. This time up to Dewey, Oklahoma. We stayed a night there, and then left the next day for Tulsa, Oklahoma. We stayed in Tulsa for 4 days for a workshop that happened every year. During those 4 days, we'd attend the different workshops that were going on at the time, while helping out in our AIM booth. After Tulsa, we were on the road once again, this time to Yukon, Oklahoma (which is about a 2 hour drive) and stayed there for a few days, working with the church there. We stayed in Yukon for about 2 days. On the third morning, we all met up inside the church to be told where we were going for Challenge Week.

Challenge Week: our director sends us (in our teams) to work with a church for a week. This is a time where it will be just our team, no AIM assistants, no one that works with AIM. The only rule is that the place we're assigned to for that week has to be no more than a day's drive from Lubbock. That morning, my team found out that we'd be working with the church in Yukon, where we were already at. That morning, we also found out that we had gained a new teammate. This girl, Caitlin was going to Ukraine with 2 other girls. One of the girls decided it would be best if she stepped out of AIM and work on some things before coming back to AIM. The 2 girls left then got split up and sent to different teams. One is going to Scotland now, and the other one of course is going to Brazil. We worked in Yukon for about a week, our contact person had us help them set up for their VBS and painting to going to a youth retreat with their youth group and helping out there.



After a day of working on the house. The girl on the very right with blond-ish hair is the new addition to the team.

Us all about to go sing at a nursing home. On the very left: our assistant director getting ready to jump in the picture....





Michael giving me a talking-to.

Just kidding!
Enjoying coffee after working on the house all day.

A Week of Saying Goodbyes...

After finishing our Challenge Week, we made our way back to Texas, where we'd spend a week saying goodbye to our class and moving out of our apartments. The cleaning part wasn't so bad, but it's saying goodbye that is extremely hard. I think it's the realization that we're all really doing this: we're all going to different places for almost 2 years. And during that whole time, Satan's going to use whatever he can to discourage us and to encourage us to stop sharing Jesus.

Thank You!

Thank you all so much for the support you've given these past 8 months! I pray for your continued love and support.

In Him,

Beta Katkus