

NEWS FROM UTAH

AIM 2011

October

Salt Lake City

Hello hello! I apologize for this newsletter being late.

So we have been here for almost 3 months, it feels like eternity! Not in a bad way, it just feels like we've been here longer than almost 3 months. It has been a fairly busy month. My schedule is pretty similar to last month's with small changes here and there. I am still volunteering at the Women's Detox Center and still go there Tuesday nights. Unfortunately, the Center goes up to 6 weeks, so the women are allowed to be there up to six weeks, then they either move to another Center to help them get fully clean from their addiction or go back to their lives; hopefully without the addictions. Because the women are in there for six weeks, we are not given a long time to get close to them. Every Tuesday, I walk away completely amazed that even though these women are in a bad place in their lives, they still have the knowledge that there is a God. I couldn't tell you if they are talking about the God in the Bible or the one of Mormonism. It is a start, hopefully, the videos they are seeing and our

discussions are making them think and question who God *really* is.

I am still going to the temple every Saturday to talk to the female missionaries there. I've met quite a few of the missionaries there, the majority of them are not open to talking about anything besides the LDS (Latter Day Saints) faith. One of the girls I met there is from the Pacific Islands, her and I really connected. She calls me about once a week and sends me text messages throughout the week with a quote from one of their apostles. I pray that this friendship continues and for God to make her curious enough to open her heart up to the Bible. (The LDS religion teaches that there are parts of the Bible that was not translated correctly, though they do not say what was not translated correctly. So anything that contradicts the book of Mormon is said to not have been translated correctly.)

What I've been up to lately...

Next to helping out with the afterschool program, helping teach a cooking class to mentally disabled adults, going to the Detox Center (also called VOA), small groups, hanging out with the youth, studying with Mormon missionaries, getting to know the church members more, I am growing in my understanding of the Bible.

We meet with our coordinator every Friday morning for a Bible study. We are in the last chapter of Galatians. After we finish that book, we will move on to another book, Hebrews I think. This is my most favourite time out of the whole week, the time where we study together, just to study. Another one of my favourite times out of the week are

Sunday nights. One of the college girls and I get together in the evenings do a study on women's roles in the church.

Prayers....

My sister, Maria, and I try to Skype every Monday. It usually works out that we're both free at the same time. Its been such a blessing to get to talk to her kind of face to face. Please continue to pray for her and the challenges she faces of being the only girl missionary in her area and as she starts getting ready to finish her time in South Africa.

Please keep those prayers coming for my team and myself. I think we all struggle in our own ways with trying to do ministry work here while keeping ourselves in tune with God. It is a very hard challenge sometimes to keep in mind our purpose for being here. Pray that we endure in being Jesus. Prayers for the people here would be greatly appreciated, prayers that they'll be receptive to what the Bible says.

I miss you all very much and pray for you all. I pray that you endure and not lose sight of what an amazing God we serve. I look forward to the day when I see you all again! God bless you all!

Serving God in Utah, your sister in Christ,

Beta Katkus