



This board gives us a chance to see where others want to go

Field and Team Selection Day

Though the AIMers don't have direct influence over what team we get put on, we do get a bit of input. This input comes from us submitting a list of our top five fields, male teammates, and female teammates. We also have the option of having a "nightmare" list of fields and teammates we couldn't see ourselves working well with.

This all happened on a Wednesday night after church with all the AIMers and staff gathered together. Kris and Pat had a few words to say, we sang to relieve some of the stress, then we prayed together and everyone split up to fill out their lists. I could see the weight lifted off of some of our shoulders after turning it in, and everyone was eager to discover how the teams would turn out.

Summary

November marked the first month where we did not take a trip as a class, which was an odd feeling. It seems we have gotten used to long trips on the AIM bus after Paducah. With the lack of traveling, there was a lot more uninterrupted school, but also a week-long break for Thanksgiving. This felt like one of the longer months, but still blew by rather quickly to give way to the holiday season. Anyways, despite not having a class trip, there was still quite a bit that happened, and a lot of it very memorable.

Classes

The classes this term seem to have been eye-opening, giving me new perspective on well-known passages and teaching me how to be active in my spiritual growth.

Charles is very good at digging into Romans, explaining the meaning of confusing passages and looking at common misconceptions by putting them back into the context of who the letter was written to.

New Testament Church has shown me how the church is supposed to function and how the different roles fit into it.

Discipline is important in our spiritual walk, and Pat has done a great job of teaching us how. One of the best parts of the class was an outing we took to Buffalo Springs Lake where we had a day of prayer, practicing different ways to talk to God.

Looking at Acts as a story instead of just something that happened really makes the book come to life, and it's something that Ray does well getting across to us in class.



Our day of prayer at Buffalo Springs Lake

Prayer Requests

- There are multiple classmates with family members who are battling cancer.
- Ask for patience and understanding for the class as we wait to hear what teams we are on.
- The AIM staff as they make final decisions regarding the teams.

Upcoming Events

Dec 17-18: Final exams

Dec 18: Last day of the second term

Dec 19: Flying back to Alaska

TBA: Reveal of teams and fields

Snow in Texas!

To most everyone's surprise, we got a bit of snow here on November 16. It was a bit shocking for how early it is in the season down here, but it was appreciated. The snow really helped me feel a little more at home for this time of year, and there were even a couple AIMers that had never seen snow before. Snowballs were thrown, people got wet, and everyone enjoyed having a late start to classes the next day.



Playing a game of Munchkin over Thanksgiving break

Sunset Middle School Retreat – Pirates!

While there was not class trip, the Sunset AIMers got to go out to a camp for Sunset's middle school retreat. We got to dress up as pirates for the weekend and act as the "bad pirates" and raiding the middle schoolers ship (the AIM bus) as they drove in. Different scenes and games were planned out for us to participate in that told a story involving lessons about giving. There were games such as capture the flag, where it was just the AIMers defending against all the 30+ kids, shooting flour bombs at us with a water balloon launcher, and even a scavenger hunt in the nearby canyon. It was a great weekend, though we were all very tired at the end of it.

Thanksgiving Break

Having just moved out of the house, this was my first Thanksgiving not spent with my family and church family. As such, it was a bit strange, especially since we got a whole week off for it. Luckily, I had no problem finding a place to go on Thanksgiving since my AIM Assistants Robby and Carla opened their house to me and Melissa who was also staying in Lubbock for the week, and we ended up spending most of the day there.

Along with Melissa's roommate Malia and a few others who lived around Lubbock, we planned out things to do to keep us busy throughout the break. On the first Saturday there was a concert at free concert at LCU with Finding Favour, JJ Hellar, and Hawk Nelson. We went and donated blood, had a few TV show marathons, played some board games, went Black Friday shopping and even had our own version of the day of prayer we did for Pat's class. Though I did miss having Thanksgiving at home, there were some fun times I had here, and I think it really helped me with getting used to being away.

Onward Bound

From the time of writing this, there are less than three weeks until I fly back home to Alaska for Christmas, and even less before team announcements. After hearing from everyone else who got to go home for Thanksgiving, I am excited to be able to visit everyone and get to share more deeply about my time here and where I will be headed next.

We will be hearing about what team we are on any day now, so keep an eye out for a post! I couldn't have made it this far without your support, so thank you. Hope to hear from you before mission term!

**“YOU MAKE KNOWN TO ME THE PATH OF LIFE;
IN YOUR PRESENCE THERE IS FULLNESS OF JOY;
AT YOUR RIGHT HAND ARE PLEASURES FOREVER
MORE.”**

PSALM 17:11 (ESV)



A couple of AIMers enjoying their time in the snow



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The view out at the middle school retreat