



Canadian, TX

To fully acclimate the class to the rather busy lifestyle of AIM, on our very first weekend, we took a trip to Canadian, TX. Canadian is a rather small town about a 3 ½ hour drive outside of Lubbock. Though small, the church there is very healthy and growing, with a lot of active members of all different ages. As a class, we were able to help out with service projects around town. We also helped by cleaning the building, fellowshiping with the youth group, and even leading services on Sunday. The families we stayed with were truly a blessing, as they opened their homes to us. Though our time here was short, the people really touched my life with their hospitality and heart for God, and I will not soon forget them.

Summary

My time here at AIM has been one of the best times of my life. I've only been here for a month, but I already feel that my faith has greatly grown as well my knowledge and understanding of the Word of God. This is where God wants me to be, and I believe that now more so than when I first arrived here over a month ago. Being surrounded by so many other people my age with a heart for God is a blessing that I didn't realize I desperately needed until I arrived. My fellow classmates here at AIM have really uplifted me after a time that my faith had really not been great. I'm sure that there will be many more times that they will be able to do this for me during our time together.

Classes

The classes here at AIM are fantastic and have greatly deepened my understanding of God's Word and how He works in my life. All the teachers are very different in their teaching styles. It is nice to get a lot of different ways to look at the Bible and be presented with the information contained within. This term, the classes are:

The Old Testament Message – Bill Tracy

The New Testament Message – Gibby Gilbert

Historical Christian Evidences – Kevin Haynes

The Life of Christ – Pat Sheaffer

Along with my normal AIM class load, I have also decided to join the beginning American Sign Language class. There is so much for me to learn from all of these classes, and I have a feeling that I have only skimmed the surface of all that God wants me to learn from my time here.



Prayer Requests

- Please pray for my classmates.
- A classmate's uncle passed away not too long ago, keep her and her family in your prayers.
- All the current AIMers and missionaries in the field, that they stay safe and preach the Gospel to all those that they can.
- My class as we continue with our growth and studies that we can stay focused on God and His plan for us.

Blue Haven

So it turns out that a perk of having Sunset as your area church is that you get to go with the high schoolers from the youth group on their yearly retreat to Camp Blue Haven in New Mexico. This was a really great time to get to know a lot of the youth we will be working with and learn a bit more about them. Each of us had a one-on-one partner with a youth, where we got to talk to them, see how they were doing throughout the retreat and just build a relationship with them. With such a large group of kids, it was a little intimidating to try and get to know them at first, but as time went on, we got to bond with a lot of them and we are really excited about working with them through December.



The AIM Class of 2014.

Classmates

As a class, we have a really good mix of people to work with and grow with. There is almost an even split of guys and girls, 23 and 24, respectively. The ages range from 18-23, with the average age being 19. We have two foreign students from Mexico, one from Guadalajara, the other from León. While the time we have had together has been rather short, I feel as if I have known some of these people for years and that they will be there for me whenever I need them. I truly believe that the relationships I am making here will be some that will last for the rest of my life.

Area Church

During our time in Lubbock, all the AIMers get separated into teams of 4-10 led by a few AIM Assistants to go to different churches on Sunday in and around the Lubbock area. Some of these churches include Clovis, Denver City, and Sunset. I got the good fortune of getting Sunset as my area church. While I don't get to travel as far as some of the other groups, I will be primarily working with the youth group here at Sunset. I am not sure on the exact size of the youth group, but I do know that it is larger than some of the home churches of my teammates. Since I am in the Sunset area church, Robby and Carla Stephens are my AIM Assistants. As such, they will be in charge of looking over my weekly schedule, reviewing my newsletter, and making sure my group knows what is happening every Sunday. They are extremely generous people and I look forward to working with them in the future, as well as my fellow classmates on the team.

And So it Begins...

While I feel like so much has already happened this month, I realize that I still have seven more months to go here in Lubbock. Then, I will still have another 14-22 months in whatever mission field God puts me in. Some of the times ahead will be hard, and others will be 10x better than those I have already experienced. I know that with God and all of your support during this time that I will be able to make it through whatever times lay ahead.

If you would like to know more about my adventure here, I would love to hear from you! Whether it is by mail, phone, email, or Facebook, feel free to get a hold of me and ask any questions you may have. Until next time, please keep me in your prayers!

**“ASK AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN
TO YOU; SEEK, AND YOU WILL
FIND; KNOCK, AND IT WILL BE
OPENED” MATT 7:7 (ESV)**



Sunset Area Church enjoying the mountains of New Mexico.



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The lovely Robby and Carla