



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

Fwd: Texas Week 3

Anki Larsen <shadrach.anki@gmail.com>

Thu, Dec 2, 2010 at 5:12 PM

To: theClaw56@gmail.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Phillip Larsen** <phillip.larsen@myldsmail.net>

Date: Thu, Dec 2, 2010 at 12:30

Subject: Texas Week 3

To: John@larsen-family.us, joyce@larsen-family.us, Anki Larsen <shadrach.anki@gmail.com>, brad.larsen@gmail.com, julia@larsen-family.us

Howdy Y'all!

I remembered to bring a list of stuff that I wanted to say to you so I'll be using that for some of the email.

Last week was kind of a bummer in terms of missionary work... Our baptismal date for Obed fell through and he dropped off the face of the Earth and stopped talking to us and his friends about the gospel at all. Also later Wednesday (P-day) we got dropped from another one of our investigators so I have now seen how annoying things can be while serving as well.

We have been doing a lot of tracting lately, well more finding. We don't knock on doors as much as just talking to people outside. That seems to work better because we can actually have a conversation with them and they are able to see us as real people instead of their stereotype of us being robots. I don't get to participate in too many lessons as a missionary because a lot of them are in spanish, but its all good either way. I can understand most of it and I guess I am here to learn to listen :P

That's awesome that Ian got his call to the Netherlands/Belgium mission!

I like being in the field a lot more than being in the MTC, the MTC is nice but not real in the slightest I feel compared to actual teaching. They try their hardest to make it real but since we aren't teaching real people with real concerns, it didn't prepare me as good as I wish I had been prepared.

So this past Sunday was a pretty interesting day. At sacrament meeting I can't understand that much of the speakers or the lessons afterwards because it is the spanish branch but I understand the sacrament prayers and that is the main reason we go to church on Sundays anyways. We get done with church, (our schedule is 11:30-2:30) and we go to our apartment and Elder White asks about what we'll teach this one investigator today. Elder Simmons says nothing and reads a text she had sent us saying she was sick and wasn't going to be able to be taught. So then he asks when we're going to this family for lunch and then Elder Simmons says something similar to the previous answer: "No lunch today either" so hearing that I think to myself that I need to eat lunch at the apartment so I eat a sandwich and some other stuff and felt quite full. Well turns out Elder Simmons had been joking about that and we went to the members house and ate lunch and I didn't want to offend people because mexicans are proud of their cooking so I took 2 plates of food and was bloated. So we finish eating and sharing a spiritual thought there and then we get into the car and then Elder Simmons says we are going to a dinner appointment and that they get really offended if you do not eat their food. Instantly I sought help because I felt like I was going to explode but luckily I wasn't too full by the time we got to the members house. We started off eating corn on the cob and then we ate soup and guess what I got to eat there!

Cow Stomach.

It was a very weird thing that I thought I would never eat ever. Seems like 2 things. That and rattle snake.

We had thanksgiving lunch/dinner at the Flores's house. That is the family whose son we baptized 2 weeks ago and we'll be baptizing their other son soon I think. The food was very good, they had the yams that Sister Cole always made which was awesome. I'm glad you enjoyed thanksgiving at the Cole's.

We play a lot of football here and I have realized that I am pretty good at that too and I like playing that on P-days.

The weather here today is 64 degrees. Nothing like New England. The coldest it has been during the day is probably 40, I'm not sure but it hasn't snowed or rained since I've been here. Its always sunny and the sunsets are crazy! (I'll email some pictures, and some of them are sunsets/sunrises here.)

We went teaching to a lot of places that have little children, this one family that is completely spanish speaking has 5 children and I showed them some magic tricks that I had learned in the MTC and they loved it. Their reactions were funny, Elder Simmons said this one boy said in spanish "Its a miracle!" I found that amusing.

In Texas, the main vehicles that people drive here seem to be Trucks, Mustangs, Camaros and Corvettes. Just an observation I made since living here for 3 weeks.

People are putting up their christmas lights here now and its awesome to look at them. A lot of the decorations are very detailed and awesome looking, people wrap trees and outline their houses and just lots of stuff so its nice to see that. There isn't any snow though to finish the scenery :(oh well. Also something funny here in Texas is that people's yards usually have either cactus or Palm trees, lots of them all over. Has it snowed yet in NH? Do you think you'll put up lights at all for Christmas? We should've left the ones from last year up :P

I got your letter Julia, thanks! How many people attend Gaming Club? I always loved the concerts. Also, is this a trip year or no? I've thought a little more on the world that Vernon Cannonhand lives in and I've written that stuff down so I'll work on that probably for the Nanowrimo after I get back.

How was the Holiday Stroll? Did you guys go to that? Also what about the pageant? Doesn't that happen like the second weekend of December? They don't have a pageant here but they have a nativity display for the stake at the stake center and that is for investigators and everyone to go see. I'll be sure to take pictures when we go there and I'll send them over. There are going to be a lot of different displays. We are also staying overnight one of the days to make sure the displays stay there :P so that'll be fun.

That's cool that the Blanchette's are expecting twins! That is one thing that is going to be crazy is how much the ward will have changed by the time I get back!

Yesterday morning President Robison came to our apartment for companionship study. Did you ever get the pictures of me with them? They said they were going to send those to you guys. He's an awesome mission president. I wouldn't be surprised if he is a General authority after he finishes serving here. They'll be done in the middle of next year. He also gave our phone texting so we could contact investigators that we couldn't talk to before except through other people.

I love life as a missionary, even though last week didn't go too well and every once in a while appointments just fall through I just love being able to walk around and talk to people about the Gospel. Seeing the change that goes through people's lives when we teach them and they understand is amazing and is a testimony to me of the truthfulness of the Gospel and how it blesses our lives.

Its weird being away from home during the holiday season, remembering the different things we would do. We have a fireplace in my apartment and we got wood a week ago and used that. Elder White knows the Christmas Story pretty good so we were having fun just quizing eachother about different details or things that happened in the movie. We also drive a lot since we don't have 3 bikes so we get to see the lights as we go around after it gets dark here. I'll get to call home then though so that'll be fun!

I'm glad everything is going well. I love you all and hope you enjoy the Christmas season!

Love,
Elder Phillip Larsen

P.S I also got a haircut. O_o. The pictures are a sunset in Odessa Texas, The Flores Family the day Andrez was baptized, Sunrise on the way to Midland from Lubbock Texas my first day, palm trees at McDonalds.

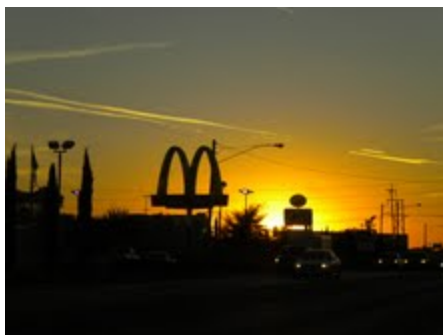
NOTICE: This email message is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message.

--

English does not borrow from other languages.
It follows them down dark alleyways, knocks them over the head,
then rummages through their pockets for loose grammar.

Mage's Grove - <http://mirrored-minds.net/anki/>

4 attachments



DSCN1936.JPG
2119K



DSCN1932.JPG
2142K



DSCN1925.JPG
2188K



DSCN1957.JPG
2099K