

On Preparation and Sugar's Devotion...

During our preparation for the upcoming internship a few of us were having a conversation in the basement of the Anderson home about the upcoming six weeks. One of us brought up the fact that we have a lot of free time on our hands; with the internship only being 4 days a week for 6 hours a day, we had more time outside of the internship than we did in it. That person also brought up that we must be mindful during our free time, in the music we listen to, the activities we were doing, and how we behaved ourselves. If we really wanted to make the most of the internship we were going to have to spend all that free time in preparation for the days we were at the foundation. The goals we had set were very high and another person brought up that famous Creston Reunion where all those miracles were witnessed, the same miracles that we wanted to see. However, a third warned us that we can't rush it and trying too hard might leave some behind and add unnecessary stress to our group. I really enjoyed what we talked about that night and I wished that it was a conversation all of the interns could have been in on. With that thought in my head I went to bed and I said a prayer that in some way we would be able to let the other 8 interns know what we had talked about that night. That next morning we gathered at the Foundation for our morning devotion which Sugar Bomghart was giving today. She stood in front of the interns and said, "Today I had my devotion planned out, but I'm going to tell you something different." She then went on to tell us the same exact things we had talked about the night before: the care we must have with our large amounts of free time, the Creston Reunion that she experienced first-hand, and a warning that we shouldn't rush it--that all things would come in God's time. To me, it was an apparent testament that it was a conversation that God wanted us to hear and that he answers prayers. When I went to talk to Sugar about it afterwards she told me that she had been driving home the evening before when God told her that this is what he wanted her to share, despite her protest that she had already planned something for that morning!

On How I Became a Part of the Internship...

My journey towards the internship started a year and a half before my first day. I had heard of the internship before and even gone to the reunions a couple of times. My mom had been pushing me to apply for the internship but when I went online I was 1 day late, but that in and of itself was a blessing. See, I had built my house upon sandy land and there was a storm coming that I couldn't see. I had become lost while at school and had not been living my life the way that I should and God was trying to show me the error in my ways and when the storm hit, it hit hard. I had to give up many of my friends and had to rebuild my relationship with my parents. It was a struggling time, but it has made me forever grateful for the mercy and grace that God bestows upon us and the sacrifice he made with his son so that he may carry me through this part of my path. I was obviously not in the right condition to be an intern. It was slowly through the course of the next year that I had to begin to rebuild my house, but this time on the rock. This summer I have had the great privilege to serve God through this internship and continue to build up my new house. The knowledge, wisdom, and friendships that I have gained is surely a good rock to have as a cornerstone.

On My Book of Mormon Day Class...

Each time we go to Belize we hold a Book of Mormon Day where we teach the kids there a series of classes. I had volunteered for the older youth class and our theme was Lehi's vision. I wasn't sure how well I would do considering that I had only ever taught Computer Science before and I was not sure how well any of them would be able to speak English. We had prepared what we wanted to share, but I was still a little uneasy on the specifics I was going to say and started praying about what I should say. The day before the Book of Mormon Day we were doing a service project at a school in the next town over when I was asked to help hand out *ideals* which are small pouches of white, creamy, coconut ice cream. As I started passing them out I tried one and found it to be exceptionally sweet. It gave me lots of joy to be able to go around the school handing out these *ideals* and seeing the happiness that it brought to the workers there and my fellow interns. That evening, during devotions, a thought had come to my head that I believe to the the spirit likening the *ideals* to the fruit of the tree of life in Lehi's vision. During the class on the Book of Mormon Day, it was very difficult to get through to them on the meaning behind the vision; I received many blank stares and many of my questions went unanswered. I was, however, able to get through to them when I brought up *ideals*, they all knew exactly what they were and I was able to relate them to the fruit of the tree of life and explain to them that like how sweet they we must also see God's love as sweet insomuch that we want to share it with all of our family and friends. I can then say that while much of the class might not have been understood or remembered I am confident that that part of the message, the most important part, was given to them in a way that they could understand.

On My Relationships During the Internship...

For most of the internship I had been on the prayer request for my relationships. I wanted to gain wisdom on which I should strengthen of my friends and family and which I should gain and which I should let go of. A few in particular: I wanted to spend more time with my grandparents and I wanted to get to know the other interns better this summer. I also wanted to know how I should deal with the girlfriend I had at the time; we had been together over 14 months and were pretty serious, but we had many issues. I wanted wisdom on how to deal with the situation and I had been talking to many people about it. After many prayers with my internship roommates, my girlfriend and I decided we were going to take a break until our respective internships were finished which allowed me to spend more time worrying about those with me in Belize and finishing out the internship with a focus on God and a clearer mind.