

Dear Family,

6/27/07 - 7/1/07

It is Wednesday today and I am just enjoying life! Wednesdays are my P-days. My district likes writing letters rather than e-mailing, so this letter won't ~~arrive~~ come on time... sorry Dad! Since I was expecting to e-mail, I didn't start writing this til 10:00! I may have to finish it tomorrow... if I have time.

I hope that you got my first-day letter. Thank you for the letters sent, they were great! So much has happened in just one week, so hopefully you can see how busy we are.

THURSDAY: FIRST OFFICIAL DAY OF CLASSES. We have two awesome teachers that have to both teach us danish & PMG (Prida my gospel). So everytime I say "CLASS", you know what I mean. We had a lot of meetings for new missionaries. One meeting was a health one ~~and~~ talking about GYM.

FRIDAY: We got up early (4:15) and went to service orientation, where we learned about why & how we do service at the MTC. Elder Farnsworth was doing service at that time, so we gave each other a quick hug & hi. Again, we had more meetings & class time... all of which were good (godt in danish - pronounced "got"). The food is great here, but I am watching myself and eating one serving. U.

SATURDAY: First day of GYM... Becca, I still haven't weighed myself, because I can't find a scale - but I will keep looking. After that, we had our study times: personal, companion & language - each 1 hour. That still isn't enough! We all love the study time. ~~Later~~ Later on, we taught the Swedish missionaries the first lesson in 10 mins. We did pretty well for our first time.

Sunday: I love the Sundays - so many great devotionals & meetings. In the mornings, we had interviews with our branch presidency - that was when I was called as the DISTRICT LEADER. We studied a lot during that day and had our sacrament meetings as well. I went to a meeting that taught what DL's are supposed to do... a lot! But I know that with the LORD'S help, I can do anything! We had a devotional & a "MEET THE MTC PRESIDENT" that night as well.

Monday: We were called up on Sunday night, saying that we would have a surprise devotional / morning-side on Monday night. We got there and was seated. Pres. Monson

† ~~PR~~ ELDER Scott came! Elder Scott gave a short 5 min. talk saying to listen & ponder President Monson's talk. He also said something that gave all us missionaries and Spiritual boost: "Every Thursday at 11:00 on the 4th floor of the temple, we as apostles & first presidency pray for you missionaries."

President Thomas S. Monson talked a lot about his calling as a mission president in Canada. He also talked about how attitude determines altitude. His whole talk was on missionary work & teaching. I really enjoyed listening to him & being in the same room.

After that, we studied & had class. Then we had the awesome opportunity to meet our new MISSION PRESIDENT - ~~PR~~ President Olafson & his wife. We thoroughly enjoyed learning about them and knowing that we are going to the best mission. At the end, we got to ~~to~~ bear our testimonies to them in DANISH! I was bold and went first - I did pretty well! That was just an awesome experience for us all and after they left, we reflected on his words.

Tuesday... Wow! What an awesome day! Every thing was the same - class, study time, gym, but towards the end... ☺. My companion & I had been working on Lesson 1 and we gave it to a teacher in a place called the TEC. We did pretty good and we enjoyed the suggestions from the teacher. We are determined to do better! Then came the best part after dinner... we had a 1-hour devotional from Elder Holland! First off, let me tell you that Elders Ballard, Scott, Perry, Eyring & Uchtdorf were sitting right behind Elder Holland. His talk was SO POWERFUL! If you can find it, Dad, make sure you send me a copy. He talked about the Atonement and the importance it has in our teaching & in our own lives. So many missionaries are afraid to tell their investigators about repentance, but he said that it comes before baptism. [I am not doing justice to this talk]. He mentioned how we as missionaries kind of get down when no one is accepting our message, we say "Why is it so hard?" His answer: Salvation is not a cheap experience. Jesus, the perfect man, even asked, "Let this bitter cup pass from me." He, ~~just~~ even said that it is hard. Elder Holland said, "I want you missionaries know that when you are rejected & spit upon, you are standing shoulder-to-shoulder with your Savior."

One of my favorite comments from him was that those investigators out on the streets & buses were among the valiant ones in the premortal life. We all stood together on our Father's side and testified. This is why we as missionaries just need to testify ~~them~~ to them and bring to their remembrance their own testimonies in the premortal life. I've been looking for ways to love all people, even if they look "scary" or "weird". I've found two awesome ways: See those people in white (their baptismal clothes) & remember that they were among the valiant ones! Elder Holland's testimony was powerful at the end - there was no doubt that what he said was true! A missionary gave the closing prayer and he choked up and cried because of his love for our Savior. After much struggle, he ended and Elder Holland gave him THE BIGGEST HUG. It makes me think of the type of embrace we will have when we enter our Heavenly Father's Kingdom. That was an awesome lesson, full of the Spirit! The church is SO TRUE!

Wednesday: P-day! We had personal & comp study in the morning & then did our laundry. We are starting a tradition ~~to~~ have a Picnic lunch every P-day. We get sack lunches and eat in the grass. It gave me a chance to enjoy God's creations. After wards, all of my district wrote their letters while I "split" with one of my zone leaders - we did a few laps around the MIC ☺. When we passed the front office the first time, Elder Bednar & his wife were walking ⁱⁿ the doors! We said, "Hello Elder Bednar" and he said hello back! That was great! And our last time around we waved to Elder Uchiroff who was just pulling into his parking spot - and he waved to us. We all showered and got ready for the temple - which was great! I love to be in the temple! We had dinner and then class. Then I started to write this letter.

Thursday: Well, I couldn't finish this letter on P-day, so this will be extended! Our classes are getting ~~harder~~ a little harder. Our teachers are speaking more Danish and we are getting more and more vocab! But we are working together to understand. I can pray pretty comfortably & say my testimony without too many pauses. We are working on our ^{door} knocking... Now that is tough. We go out of the classroom and each take a turn knocking and telling them about our message and asking if we can come in.

~~Free Free~~ Right when we knock, we forget everything! It is kind of funny 😊. The hardest part is trying to understand & answer our "investigator's" questions/comments. He told me, "I am a Christian, go talk to that budist down there". I struggled to say that this message is for all people - but it was tough. We are learning a lot!

Friday: We do service every Friday morning - we emptied all of the trash bins in a building. After that, I saw Elder Farnsworth and remembered to give him a hug from his father & mother - can you give them that message?

We went to the RC and learned about taking calls & chatting with investigators. I am worried that I might accidentally say, "Photography studio, this is Michael Free speaking, how may I help you?" 😊. I'm sure I'll be fine though.

We have so many goals to work on our language - bear testimony at every meal time, pray out loud 4 times, sing 2 ^{hymns} ~~songs~~ as a district, without our teacher helping us. We've also made goals in spiritual things - we share insights that we have during personal study. We always have great discussions after just one person sharing a scripture. It is so great to have a great district.

Saturday: We had GYM in the morning - I love that, because it isn't hot outside. I did a few laps around that grass area in front of the temple and then joined in with my district and threw the Frisbee. After we got all showered & ready, we did our "studies" (personal, comp & lang). Elder Nielson & I went to the TEC again to understand how to make lesson plans. The teacher gave us great counsel on any lesson & more specifically on lesson 1. He told us to first come up with the commitment - what do you want your investigator to do - and build your lesson around that. So often, we get the whole lesson planned out and then quickly think of a commitment question at the end. If you base your lesson around that commitment question, the investigator should already be thinking of "reading the Book of Mormon to know if Christ's church is again on the earth." That was great advice to us.

We had class & dinner after that, from 1:15 'til 4:00! I really like to hear from one of my teachers, Bror. Robinson, because he has been off of his mission for only 2 months. He does a great job in teaching us how to pronounce the words. The thing that I love the most about him is when he talks about Denmark and its people. You can just see his

love for the people there! Randomly during class time, he will say, "I am so jealous of you Elders." "I wish I could go back and serve some more." "There is a spiritual awakening in Denmark." He says so much about it - I am so excited!

Sunday: Today is actually Sunday, so this should be my last entry. Great first Sunday, I loved it. We studied all this morning & went to several interviews & mission conference. After that, I was called for another interview, where they released me from district leader. I, and my companion, were then called as Zone Leaders! **ELDSTE BELNAP** was CALLED to be the new district leader.

We all enjoyed the meetings and partaking the sacrament. I had to give a 50 minute talk/lesson to my district. I started out telling them why they were the best. We all have bonded so well & fast. We strengthen that relationship with two things: fun little things & spiritual enlightenment. We have certain mini-activities/games as we walk around. We do a drumline thing, we play that snap game where you "toss" a snap, we salute the ONLY ISM sign in the campus & we do that "hand-shake thing" that we do - especially with Melinda & Rebecca. We also have favorite quotes that we make throughout the weeks - one is mine... "I always worry about putting my last name ^{on} my things... FREE!" The second strengthening thing is that when we are inspired to say something, we say it and do it. We always share a favorite scripture or ask that we say a prayer together or sing a hymn.

I then asked them what we need to improve on... and they gave the things that I was thinking - more service & exact obedience. We came up with some good ideas for service. We also came up with a sign (using our hands) ~~to~~ remind us about doing everything on time, and following the rules exactly. We used that sign tonight when we were going into the fireside - we were entering from the top, which is fine if there is an usher there, but since there was no usher, we made the sign and entered from the bottom.

The fireside was great! It was given by a Branch President - he talked about his own mission. At the end, he asked us to stand, lock arms, and sing. "We are ~~are~~ ^{as} the Army of Helman." I felt like we were the best army out there!

well, it is about time I close this "epistle". If there were mis-spellings, I blame the danish language. We are all ~~na~~ doing that in our distrikt ← that is how you spell it in danish.

I hope you know that all is well in the MTC! Hopefully, from now on, I can send you a letter every Wednesday. I love you all! Josh... cheesy bread back to you! Becca, I am looking forward to those letters. Thankyou for the enlightenm~~ent~~, Melinda, Mom & Dad. Good luck with swim & summer! Hope all is well with you, Jopes. Take Luck! Grape!

- ELDEST FREE

THE END!!!

P.S. Danish word₃-of-the-letter : forsoningen = the atonement
four-so-ning-en

Og : and
~~not~~ say the letter "O"

Tak : thanks
say talk, but without the "L" ☺.