

August 6, 2012

Dear, Family

Well transfers happened this week, Thursday morning I flew alone to Rajahmundry. It went well though. Rajahmundry is a smaller town, but that just means it has a few less million or (Billion) when we are talking about India. This time of the year here is Rainy Season so it normally is a light sprinkle throughout the day. The weather is more humid here as well. Bangalore's climate was really only dry heat, and was very nice temperature wise, But the weather here is not bad because of the time of the season. Also we are on Bicycles here, they are our number one mode of transportation, so that is pretty fun. Also Rajahmundry has much more Christian influence than Bangalore, and for the first time on my mission I am now able to wear my name tag outside. Also there are 4 Branches here. Also since this is a smaller town people speak a lot less English in general, which is hard. Sometimes I think to myself that this has to be one of the most difficult places on Earth to serve, because even those who speak and read English do not understand it super well, especially when it comes to connecting the points of a lesson, and those who don't speak English we can't teach unless we have translation. Which is very hard for me because then when people have concerns I cannot directly hear from them what their concern is, because they will speak it in another language. We also are not supposed to use the native languages, or study them at all. It is very difficult and frustrating at times, especially since many people have become Christians because of monetary benefits. But I seek to trust in the Lord, I know that he called me here to do his work, and as Nephi said "I know that he giveth no commandment unto the children of men save he shall provide a way for them to accomplish the thing which he commandeth them." Thank you for all of your prayers and support. Also I am really trying to work to change the district I am in now because almost all if not all the lessons being taught to people are being translated which is not the way we are supposed to be doing our teaching. But on a very happy note I had the opportunity Saturday of interviewing 4 investigators for baptism, which was a wonderful experience for me as I was able to see them as they make this wonderful step which will lead them back to our Heavenly Father's Kingdom. And my new companion Elder Aeshemalla who is the only member in his family and who is from Hyderabad is amazing, and we are having a great time together. Also on a funny note our Showers here have no hot water, and the food here is nice and warm, I am mostly used to the food though, and I am pretty good at eating with my hand. Also the toilets here have no sprayers so it is going to be either my hand or I will have to buy toilet paper, ( I think I will settle for the second option though). Also the deserts here in India are quite interesting, to say the least, but you can't say no to anyone. I know that when Dad said I would learn so many things on my mission that he spoke in prophesy. Well I love you all so much keep having fun at home sounds like you are all staying busy with work, pipe, girls camp, and in preparing for school. Keep having fun.

Love, Elder Sommer