

Hey Friends!

What a wonderful and inspiring Conference! Right now, talks that stick out would be President Eyring's "Where is Thy Pavilion?" and President Uchtdorf's "Of Regrets and Resolutions". There were simply too many inspiring messages to note- its hard to take them all in at once. I will be excited to receive the conference Liahona to study.

This past week, although we had no lessons, was an exciting one. Tuesday morning, at about 6:40, we received a phonecall from President Campero. He told us that he would be joining us to go contacting from 7:00 to 8:30. We met him and he had us mark Moroni 10: 3-5 in our Book of Mormons, telling us "Elders, I believe that if we have sharp weapons (referring to our prepared Books of Mormon) we will be able to kill them quickly." That man is inspired, but also quite entertaining. For the next hour and a half we talked to everyone we could find. President walked up to a man sweeping leaves and complimented on his tidy work, striking up a gospel conversation. He talked to him for the next 20 minutes and left him with a hug. I don't know any other person who can hug a stranger after 20 minutes. Among other people, we talked to two younger men that President approached, one of them named Dima. They had some questions but were not interested, and wouldn't even take a pamphlet as they left. We had a good time with President- he came in to use the bathroom and was pleased with the cleanliness of our apartment (you taught me well Mom!).

But, the story of our time with President Campero does not end there. That Tuesday evening, President no longer with us, we decided to tract an apartment building. Elder Major suggested that we tract a building near our own, and I selected one across the street. We entered on of the entrances and climbed the set of 5 stairs to the top floor. We knocked on the first door and a man opened. We briefly explained who we were and he suggested that we return in 30 minutes when his son, who interests in religion, would be home. 30 minutes later, we returned. The same man opened the door, recognized us, and went to go get his son. We waited several minutes and the young man came and joined us outside the apartment door. His name is Dima, and happened to be the same young man we talked to on the street that very morning. His attitude was much different as we addressed several of his concerns regarding the Book of Mormon and gave him one to read. He took it with interest and we exchanged telephone numbers. We left the building feeling like we had truly taken part in a miracle. I am grateful that President Campero, Elder Major and I were all attentive to the Holy Ghost- that we were all able to take a part in our little miracle. We have since this time talked to Dima on the phone; he has some doubts and concerns about the Book of Mormon and we will be meeting soon to discuss them.

Wednesday was also an excited day, as we had the assistants to the President with us on exchanges. I was with Elder Mironchenko and Elder Major with Elder Smith. It was quite a day- with our combined efforts bringing in 9 potential investigators (thats a lot!). Thursday night, after a few hours of tracting and contacting, we met to consecutive men with whom we agreed to meet the following evening at 6:00 and 7:00 respectively. Unfortunately neither of those meetings actually happened. The same occurred with a meeting planned on Sunday night. But, they are wonderful people and we hope to meet with them this week.

One morning this past week I was studying Lesson 4 of Preach My Gospel, entitled "Commandments". I read the section entitled "Pray Often" and decided to complete a study activity suggested in the chapter; this being to make a list of the scriptural blessing for that specific commandment. As a ready the scripture references listed in that section and others I found, I made a list of the many promised blessing of prayer. As I noticed a promise that I have seen evidenced in my life I placed a checkmark next to it. I read

several scripture references noting that through prayer God can allow us to improve and reach greater potential. I made a list of many areas in which I have improved in the last several years; I noted that I have become a better scripture studier, missionary, and brother. I noted that my abilities to resist temptation and heed the promptings of the Holy Ghost have been magnified. These are only a few examples of the many improvements I have made. I looked at this list and thought about why I had improved in each area. I thought about prayers that I have offered. For nearly every improvement, I could think of several occasions in which I prayed for help in that area. I came to recognize how abundantly Heavenly Father has blessed me- often unbeknownst to me. I know that Heavenly Father hears our prayers and that he truly can help us achieve the potential that he sees for us. And for that I am grateful.

Elder Lewis