The Returned Missionary Experience

Journal of My Integration

back into the Real World

2013-2014

Preface

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# 09/30/13 Monday A New Life

I am living a new life now. college has been a quick transition. The mission seems far, yet close to mind still. I have a lot of expectations for this year.

So far I like my roommates. my roommate is Kenny Hutchings who I knew on the mission. Then there are Joseph Roberts (our veteran, a senior in college and proven to be very wise. I love chatting with him about school and life situations. He’s also kind of a funny guy. Civil Engineering major. So he helps a lot.), Ethan and Andrew, and Felipe (who is from Mexico. He’s really funny. He got really mad when Mexico lost to the US in soccer. Really funny.).

Anyway, money is tight. Don’t have a job yet. don’t know when I will. Hopefully soon.

Time is short too. I’m doing much better in classes this year. Thanks to the mission. I’ve made friends in each class and even with some TA’s.

# 10/02/13 Wednesday

Walking to school, I was talking with Andrew and Kenny about different languages and accents. I talked about how people in the East, like Boston, said Tuesdee and Wednesdee. I guess I was wrong because right then a girl in front of us turned around and exclaimed, No, it’s not! Her name is Miranda. Kind of pretty. Would have considered asking her on a date if it hadn’t been so awkward. Anyway, chatted with her a bit on the way to class. That was fun. maybe I’ll do my research about tuesdees and wednesdees and prove it to her next time I find her.

Classes are going swell.

I’ve reached 148 pounds. So, I’ve gained almost 8 pounds since I got back from the mission. I expect it to just keep growing. My knee hurts a ton. Still haven’t gotten it checked. I’ve also stopped taking dairy with the fear of being lactose intolerant. My big toes are partly numb. Been that way for about 3 months. I really do need to get checked out. But I haven’t.

My good turn for yesterday was giving a wallet back to its owner that I found and putting a textbook in the lost and found.

i’ve been feeling a spiritual pump this week. Maybe from all of the reading I did on my New Testament lectures. They were about 40 pages in total. If so, I need to read that each week.

I did well on my first test I think. Average on the multiple choice was 77%. I got a 94% (physics 123). Still waiting for the rest to be graded. That’s a benefit for retaking a class.

Man, I can’t stay awake during this class. I’m tired. Biology 100 is my least favorite class. It’s an hour and a half. I’m pretty sure the retarded questions that everyone makes is just to pass time.

# 10/10/13 I got a Job!!

Well, I did well on my physics and Materials tests. I got a 100% and a 93% respectively. But Bio turned out more difficult than I assumed. I got a 76%. Well, suppose I’ll focus more in that class now.

Oh, and I got a job. I’m the shuttle driver at the MTC. That means that I’ll be driving missionaries to the hospital, clinics, train, airport, and to other locations they must go. My first assignment is tomorrow. I will be bringing missionaries to and from the airport in Salt Lake. that will be interesting. but I’m rather excited. I hope to get my CDL too. That means I’ll be able to drive buses. Fun stuff.

Plus it’s $11 per hour!

# 10/16/13 Entropy: The measurement of Chaos

Learned about entropy in physics today. It’s the measurement of disorder. I believe that that is a good summary of my life, that as time goes on, the entropy increases.

Now that I have a job, I thought things would simplify. Not so, yesterday I woke up at 2am to get to work by 3am. My roommate Joseph was still awake when I was leaving the house.

Today I woke up late because my phone alarm didn’t go off. I’ll have to find a new solution. Didn’t get to work on time.

It was interesting to think what my dad might have gone through for college and supporting a family. Someday, maybe my future kids will hear my stories and see my difficulties.

This weekend is my cousin Rebecca’s farewell. I can’t go, maybe. I’ll see. I have an exam this week in physics. I want an A+. A hundred. I need it.

I’ll be studying a lot this week. Life’s in limbo.

Well, class just started.

# 10/23/13 Wednesday

I went up to Idaho this past weekend for Rebecca Snow’s farewell. She’s going to Guatamala. Really exciting for her. I think she’ll have an excellent time down there.

It was also a great opportunity to see my brother Kevin. He’s doing very well. Getting good grades, going to seminary, I be he feels responsible to be an example to Brian. He’s never had a little brother before. Now he does in a sense.

He’s popular. Tricia and I never were the popular kids. We stayed away from the attention.

I’m really tired. I worked 7 hours yesterday. I think after classes I’ll go home and sleep.

# 10/28/13 Monday

Man I’m feeling swamped. I had work Saturday, so I just relaxed Sunday. I probably shouldn’t have. But I did.

Talked with a companion from the mission through facebook. He got back 3 weeks ago due to illness (Elder Guebara).

I slept through my New Testament class because I stayed up late to register for classes. But I found out that I couldn’t register yet because of my tuition loan. I need to pay it off first. maybe today.

i got really excited with my grade on my physics test. Looks like it went up to a 100%! I got excited!

-wrong, it was a 73%...

# 11/11/13 Monday The Dating Game Begins

Now I’m 22! I’m getting old! Celebrated with my family yesterday. It was really fun. Izzy gave me a rock she painted for me and Chase gave me a paper airplane. I’m so glad they love me.

My sisters were naturally interested in hearing about my date on Friday. It was great. Her name was Lindsey Keller. Asking her out was the best part.

I tried calling because I knew she was with her roommates. She didn’t answer, so Monday I ran up to her apartment. I knocked. Her roommate, who I think kind of liked me, answered. I said Hi, is Lindsey home? As she said yes, she opend the door to let me in and all of Lindsey’s roommates were in the room just looking at me. She was on the couch covered with homework and her laptop. She quickly shifted it over so she could talk with me. She seemed busy.

So I said, Hey, would you like to go on a date with me this Friday?

-Yes

-Alright, does 8pm work for you?

-Sure.

-Great. (and as I wanted to leave with that…)

-So, what will we be doing?

-Um, well, I’m usually hungry on Friday nights, do you like cooking?

-<witty> So, you want me to cook for you, is that the date?

-(I couldn’t think of a great comeback so I just said) yep <pause> just kidding. Do you know what inside out pizzas are?

-nope

-then we’ll make that. Is that ok?

Then she asked if I had ever made it. I said once, she said that I must be an expert then. And then I just got out of there.

…

So, the day came and the oven broke. I freaked out. Had no idea what to do. Finally I contacted my hometeachers and they let me use theirs.

Anyway, that was the first date that I have actually considered having a second.

Yeah, I like her a lot. I did not intend for this. I wanted to just date a lot of girls and have fun. I didn’t want a serious relationship. I suppose I still don’t. But I think I’ll see where this goes. This week will be crazy, but I’ll try to keep contact with her.

It’s funny, I think that she knows more Rock than I do too. So I need to step up my game.

In other news, this past week i got my Commercial Driver’s learning permit. So I got to drive a charter bus on Thursday. Very fun. Very different. I’ll be doing a lot of training this week. I’m looking at my options for this job. I might work for this year then try to deo something fun for the summer with my CDL. Maybe go to Alaska. Then I’d try to do an internship in the fall.

I need to pull up my grade in Physics to a B+. It’s at a B because of my last exam. If I get a hundred this time, I’ll be floating high. I need a 100% then. I’ll get it.

I need to plan this week better. I don’t think that I’ll have free time for anything until Saturday night. Sounds fun. But it will be great. Keeps me active. I’m trying to get in better shape, but I’m not finding much time to exercise. I wish I could go to the gym. But, maybe I’ll get a bike soon. That would make my mornings easier. And it would help me go between work and class.

Well, gotta go to work :)

# 11/13/13 Wednesday

I just received a 4.0 for 16 credit hours for a single test that I didn’t study for and only took me an hour to complete for $20. I’m feeling not too shabby.

I’m really tired and need to get things done. I need a really good grade on my exam for physics that I’ll be taking today. I’ve prepared well. I hope that it’s enough. I want to walk out of this test with a smile knowing that I didn’t miss a single problem.

I hope I can pull it off. We’ll see though. Well, I better get studying some more first.

# 11/18/13 Getting used to my Early Morning Schedule

I’m fatigued. I got up at 12:00am today. It’s 8am right now. I’ve been up for 8 hours already! Class hasn’t even started yet.

At work, I came to the realization that my voice is kind of irritating over the radio. Maybe I should work on speaking better.

Maybe I’ll head to the library really fast and print sheet music for my guitar...

# 11/22/13 Friday The first shut-down

Thanksgiving is heading my way. I still don’t have anyone to take my shift for the holidays, but I’m praying that something will work out. I’m sure it will.

I just got done with my bus training for today. I had to get up at 3am to take 4 missionaries to the train station at 5am. I have to show up an hour before departure. I downloaded a bunch of music from the Eagles yesterday (legally) and put it on my Ipod so I could listen to it on the way to work. It was cold. I need to get a bike.

It’s 9:30 right now; I’m just waiting to start my 10:00am class.

In other news, I asked Lindsey on a second date. She said “no,” but that was a good thing. My friend really wanted me to do a double-date out of the blue, and convinced me that I should. So I just called up Lindsey to see if she would want to. She didn’t answer, and then I realized that I had to get up at 3am the day after (today).

So, I was kind of hoping that she wouldn’t call back. She did. I was in class, so we played phone tag. But finally I was able to ask and she said she couldn’t. I had mixed emotions. 1- relieved because I couldn’t in the first place 2- Sad because she turned me down. Oh well. Worth a shot.

Well, class is getting out. I think I’ll go on in till mine starts.

# 12/02/13 Monday Thanksgiving in Idaho with Kevin and Cousins

The weekend was a blast. I went up to Idaho Falls for Thanksgiving break to see my cousins, brother, and dad. It was great. I’m surprised I’m not sick from all of the junk food.

I got back on Saturday in the morning just in time for my 9am shift at work. I left an hour early from work because I was so tired. Plus, there were two other drivers to cover for me.

Then I got home, ate, went grocery shopping and invited a girl over to watch a movie. Her name is Alyssa. She’s cool.

Yesterday we made crockpot potluck at my place. Only Alyssa and her roommate showed up. it was good though.

And last night my mission companion Blake Douglas came to visit with Katelyn. We told mission stories. It was great. He hasn’t changed a bit.

Well, class is starting.

# 12/03/13 Tuesday First day of Snow

I just got back from Salt Lake. I drove up to the Church Office Building up by the Temple Square and back today. Crazy traffic. It took me from 11:300am to 3:15pm to go there and come back. Usually a 2 hour drive going 65 mph. I saw 7 accidents and hit a traffic jam both ways. Yes, you might have guessed it, today was the first snow fall of the year.

I’m scared of the people driving that have never seen show (let alone driven in it). We have a lot of students in Provo from California and Texas.

There was a black toyota truck that stopped too close to the light that it fishtailed and went through two lanes (one being mine) and then back.

Funny thing is, I have to go back up to Salt Lake again tonight to pick up missionaries…

My week is jammed pack. Forgot that I still had a Portuguese exam to do. Fun.

My physics teacher just sent out a mass email telling us that he dropped a question from exam 3 raising everyone’s score 4 points. Maybe I’ll end up with a B+ after all. That’s the score I need to get into the Mechanical Engineering Major.

I am really tired.

I think that I need to start making goals. I don’t feel like I’m improving at all. Especially spiritually. Not that I’m a crazy sinner; I just omit doing some things. I feel like I’m not very close to my Father in Heaven. I pray daily, but not whenever I could. Only when I should. Scripture study has gone down the drain. I attend church regularly. I do my calling as hometeaching supervisor. This past month I did the hometeaching for two other people because they slacked off.

Man, I just wish I were better. That’s the difficulty with being a perfectionist. I have bad judgment on what is good enough, and sometimes won’t try if I know it won’t be perfect.

But I’ve gotten better.

I’ve noticed that my road rage is gone. I see so many bad drivers that do offensive stuff, yet I’m cool with it. Sometimes they didn’t mean to. Weird how driving reflects the natural man.

Anyway, things work out. they always seem to. Suppose they still will.

# December 2013-April 2014

I lost all of these entries.