

Joy and Thanksgiving

Description

Spending time here in the Headquarters Mission is a unique experience. There are somewhere around 300 missionaries and that does not include the Temple Square Missionaries! About 2/3 of our missionaries are single sisters and there are quite a few missionaries that are 10-15 years older than us. It is a little strange to be around so many elderly people. ? It does mean that our Sacrament meetings are very reverent, but then we didn't get to enjoy a primary program this year. There is good and bad in everything. President Nelson has said that, "The joy we feel has little to do with the circumstances of our lives and everything to do with the focus of our lives."

Since I work in the Discovery Zone of the Family History Library I get to help parents and children explore their heritage. It is really delightful to watch the children get excited about their ancestors. At the library entrance there is a sign that says, "We believe families are important. Our family ties stretch far into the past and continue beyond this life. We have a responsibility to help each other discover and learn about our heritage. Knowing where we came from helps us understand who we are and where we are going. You are a divine, unique and important member of the human family. Let us help you discover your story." This week I helped a young Jewish man from Minneapolis and an Armenian woman from North Carolina. We have people visiting from all over the world and some just coming in off the street to use the restroom or sit in the warmth for a few minutes. It was a busy week with the start of the holidays.

We connected with our family on Thursday as we celebrated Thanksgiving. It was great to share dinner with some of Rick's family and to chat with other family members through technology.

As Thanksgiving leads us into the Christmas holidays I am feeling both anxious to be on my way to India and excited for the traditions that I love. The lights on Temple Square and surrounding blocks are on and beautiful. The daily music performances have begun. The decorated trees in the various buildings are amazing. The "Giving Machine" is set up and we were able to go and select a gardening kit and family meal from the vending machine which will be donated through various charities to those in need. I am grateful for this time of year that focuses us on those things that are the most important—our Savior, family, and loving others.



Japanese Nativity on temple Square



Rick at the Assembly Hall on Temple Square

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Family History Library

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