NEWS FROM WEST TEXAS

AIM 2011

Ready to start over

Hi! How are you all?

After waiting approximately 5 months to find out our teams, we found out where and with who we're going with! As most of you have heard, I will be going to Ukraine along with 3 other girls. Kharkov, Ukraine, that is, not the same city that James went to. Ukraine was not on my list of places that I wanted to go to. Well, let me go back to when and how we chose where we wanted to go and where we didn't want to go to. At about 10 one Friday night, they gathered us all in a room and gave us a packet of papers. A packet of blank papers that we filled out, there were sections that were labeled, such as Nightmare List and Dream List. Under those sections we had 10 blank lines, 5 used for the top 5 people we wanted and the other 5 used for the top 5 places we wanted to go to, that was our Dream List. And then we'd do the same thing for our Nightmare List.

When it was time to announce teams, the directors gathered us all into the room where we have our classes at 9 on a Friday night. This was about a month after we filled out our lists. They called people's names out, and those people went to the director's office and he told them where they were going, then that team would come back into the classroom and announce to the class where they were going. My team was the first one that was called out.

Ukraine was not on any of my lists, I had hoped to go to Mexico or Arizona, but God said "Nope!".

I'm excited to go to Ukraine, though! I realized that God does what He wants, or needs to. I realize that He needs me in Ukraine and with the people He's put me with, it'd be foolish to not listen to that. I'm glad God doesn't think the way I do!

Because there are so many girls, there are 3 girl teams this year. One is going to Arizona, another to Ireland, and then of course my team going to Ukraine. Not every place that came and presented their work got a team though, which is hard for that place, I know every place was hoping that they'd get a team.

When we go back to Lubbock after our break, we'll immediately start classes again. These classes will be based on evangelizing and working together as a team. As soon as classes start, we'll start what's called Mission Term. Mission Term is a time where we are not allowed to use the Internet (except on weekends), we'll not be allowed to drive our cars or eat out and are not allowed to use our phones. This is because in some of the fields, we're not able to drive or eat out in or even get on the Internet whenever we want. I think its to introduce us to that concept. For example, in Ukraine we won't be able to drive a car and will have to take the bus or walk everywhere.

I have definitely enjoyed being back here and getting to visit with you all. Snow is definitely glorious to see! And all the babies that've grown! Oh my! Its very exciting to see growth here, literal and spiritual ©