



Serving an LDS Mission

Emily Burns from Elk Horn, Iowa spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on May 9. She graduated from Exira-EHK in 2012 and went to college for a year. She just returned from an 18 month mission for the LDS church to Salt Lake, Utah.

Emily said she loves doing service. On her mission her job was to teach people the Gospel and serve those in need. She said one service project she did was helping a family with four children and expecting a fifth. The mother just needed someone to help with the children.

As a missionary she got up at 6:30 a.m. every day. Then she had breakfast and 30 minutes of exercise. 8:00-10:00 was study time, the first house for personal study and the second hour for companion study. From 10:00 a.m. until

9:00 p.m. was talking to people and helping people, with an hour for lunch and supper. 9:00-10:30 p.m. was end of day activities and planning for the next day. Monday from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. was preparation day, a time to do laundry, shopping for food, and other activities like hiking or sightseeing.

Emily said she decided to go on a mission because her mother, father, and two brothers went and had many memorable experiences. She said that her mission was really hard, but she learned a lot about relating to people.

To go on a mission she, along with family and friends, had to pay \$400 per month. That money paid for housing, car when available, and food. The mission office paid for the car and housing with that money, but she was allocated \$60 every two weeks for food and clothing.

Emily said that there are 405 different mission areas in the church. Her mission had about 250 missionaries. There are 88,000 missionaries serving now. Church headquarters assigns you to a specific mission. She went to a mission training center two weeks to prepare for her work. People learning a new language go to the training center for up to six weeks.

Emily served in four different cities during her mission. She lived with a family in the first three cities and in an apartment with another set of female missionaries in the last area. Every missionary is assigned a companion that they stay with all the time. She had nine different companions. The last six months, September through March, she didn't have a car and had to walk everywhere.

As a missionary she could e-mail her family once a week on preparation day and could call home twice a year, on Mother's Day and Christmas.

Emily will be going to BYU Idaho in September to continue her education, majoring in Special Education.