

Valerie Moses



Thank you for your support!



**Team
Honduras!**

Thank You Marble Falls Church of Christ!

It's strange to think that it has been almost six months since I first arrived in Lubbock, TX to start my AIM journey. I can remember exactly how I felt when I first walked through the doors of Sunset Church of Christ. ...I thought I'd lost my mind. I couldn't believe I'd talked myself into packing up and moving to Lubbock to spend the next two years as a missionary apprentice. However, after having survived these past five months at AIM, I can confidently say that coming to AIM was the best decision I've ever made.

So much has happened in the last few months that I'm excited to share with you, but I'd like to start off by expressing my gratitude to you, the Church family in Marble Falls, TX, as you have helped support me as I venture into the mission field through AIM. I am blown away by the generosity of God's people. You, my brothers and sisters in Christ, have helped me to embark on a journey that I believe will change my life forever and I am so grateful.

The Journey to AIM

My "adventure in missions" began quite unexpectedly. At the beginning of last year, AIM was nowhere on my radar. Everything changed when I went on a mission trip to visit my sister, Marianne, in her AIM mission field of Santa Rosa de Copan, Honduras.

This picture was taken after a long day at a worksite just outside of Santa Rosa. I was tired and sunburnt, but happier than I'd been in a long time.



I spent the week with the “AIMers” there in Honduras and I had the privilege of getting a firsthand look at what John Stacy and the AIM team is doing in Santa Rosa, Honduras. I fell in love with the AIM team, Santa Rosa, and the loving spirit of evangelism that I found there.

I arrived back in the U.S. with only 3 weeks before the start of the 2015 AIM year. I didn't have contacts, any support, or a clue what I was going to do. It was when I put my trust in God that amazing things began to happen. Out of what felt like the clear blue sky, help began to trickle in. I am still overwhelmed when I think about the selfless generosity of the people that have supported me. I know I still have some ground to cover, but the fact that I am here in Lubbock, typing this letter gives me so much hope.

AIM:

I have already changed so much as a result of my time at AIM. My entire mindset has shifted from an internalized spirituality, to having a heart for evangelism. I have been fundamentally changed by my faith; and for the first time, I have both the desire and the tools to share what has changed me.

My classmates have been a huge catalyst for my growth. Late (really late) night Bible Studies, prayer, encouragement, and good times have characterized our time together. It seems strange to say it, but in the time I've known these 40 young people, they have become my family.

CLASSES:

Sunset International Bible Institute

The focus of AIM over the 8 months in Lubbock is to immerse students in Scripture so that when we leave for the mission field, we will be able to confidently spread the Gospel.

First Term, classes went on from August to October. We are in class from 8:30-4:00 Monday-Friday. We studied *New Testament Message* with James “Gibby” Gilbert, *Historical Christian Evidences* with Kevin Haynes, *Old Testament* with Bill Tracy, *Life of Christ* with Pat Sheaffer, and *Missionary Mindset* was taught by AIM's director Kris Smith.

On Wednesday nights I worked with Mrs. Amy to teach the 4th grade bible class. I have really come to



enjoy seeing those kids every week.

Thursday evenings are spent in small groups. I'm with a group of four girls and two AIM assistants for my small group. Small Groups provide an opportunity to organize and conduct devotionals, service projects, and bible studies. Small groups are a great prep for the field because it will help us to learn how to lead bible studies.

Sundays were spent at Area Church. The AIM class was split into groups in order to worship and serve with area Churches on Sundays. Area Church is another great preparation for the mission field because it is all about making connections, proactivity, and service. I was able to work with the congregation in Denver City, TX. This church family was very welcoming and it was very rewarding to spend time with them. Morning Bible class with the youth is followed by Church service and fellowship with the congregation; we had some members invite us into their homes and through that we were able to form some very special connections. After that we have opportunities to serve in the community or work with the youth group. Most Sunday afternoons were spent at the Assisted Living Home in town. It was wonderful to be able to worship with and visit the residents there. This term provided many opportunities to form lasting, meaningful connections.



During the first term we went on several over-night trips to churches across east Texas and New Mexico. But in September we went on our longest trip yet. We traveled through Springfield, and St. Louis, Missouri on our way to Paducah, Kentucky to work with the Lone Oak Church of Christ. We spent four days in Kentucky working with the Church to meet needs in the community. Our time was spent in service work, community outreach, and fellowship. The final part of our journey took us to Searcy, Arkansas for the Global Missions Experience conference hosted by Harding University. For three days we took part in HUT. HUT is the part of the conference that is devoted to the replication of life in various mission fields around the world. Some AIMers stayed in clay huts, and others lived in recreated refugee camps. I stayed in El Municipio and slept in a shack with no electricity or running water. For two mornings I was woken up by a bat that had taken up residence in the rafters above us. During the day we attended classes hosted by missionaries from around the world. I was able to go to a seminar on water purification systems and a Coffee Shop ministry class. On one of the days of HUT we were split into “families” and were sent to Market to purchase and prepare our meal for the day. In the Marketplace no one spoke English and you were expected to barter for the ingredients and tools to prepare your food. As a group we had to carry the supplies and 5 gallons of water to an assigned camping site where we prepared our vegetables and rice over a fire we started with flint. The three days at HUT were humbling. Activities that were novel and exiting for us are the day-to-day realities of people all around the world.



Second Term went on from October to December. I studied *Romans* with Charles Spear, *Spiritual Disciplines* with Pat Sheaffer, *Evangelism* with Chris Swinford, *Acts* with Cory Burns, *New Testament Church* with Ray Young, and *Women for God*. I continued working with the 4th grade class on Wednesdays, Denver City on Sundays, and my small group on Thursdays.

Before the start of second term we took a trip to a camp in Ruidoso, New Mexico and then headed off to Phoenix, Arizona for a week of service work and fellowship. We spent three days in New Mexico at a camp called Mountainview. The directors at Mountainview donate their facilities to AIM for a few days every year so that we can have our class retreat. At Mountainview we were able to decompress after finals and spend some quality time with each other and the AIM staff. It was so wonderful to be up in the mountains. In the afternoons we could hear elk calling from all around our camp, and on Saturday we were able to hike in the mountains. We worked and played and studied the Sermon on the Mount. Every night we gathered around a fire to hear lessons and encouragements from former AIMers who had been in our position. It was a very relaxing weekend that helped prepare us for the week to come in Phoenix, Arizona



We woke up at 4:30 on Monday morning to clean and pack before we headed off for Phoenix, Arizona. It was a long drive, but also a beautiful one. We arrived in Phoenix in the evening and were hosted by Northwest Church of Christ in Glendale, AZ. We were blessed by a wonderful dinner and were able to meet some of the members at Northside. A few of the AIMers led a devotional and that night we were divided up to go with our host families for the week.

Phoenix was nothing like I had expected. It was hot, yes, but it was also remarkably beautiful.



On Tuesday we went to downtown Phoenix to work in the Garfield Neighborhood. Garfield is a significant area because of its long history of violence, poverty, and gang-crime. Working in Garfield was difficult but I learned a lot from it. We were split up into groups to do service projects in the community. I worked with a group of my classmates led by a veteran AIMer, Alvaro, still working in Phoenix. That morning we visited a local park and passed out lunches to the homeless and talked to them to encourage them, pray with them, and to find a way for the Northwest Church of Christ to get in contact with them. It was sobering to see so many people lost and in pain, but I do think we were able to help in some small way. We were also able to help an elderly widow named Ernestina with some yard work that she had not been able to get done by herself. Later that day we worked to help a missionary in Phoenix do some repairs at the Liberty House in Phoenix. That evening we met at the Alma School Road Church of Christ for a wonderful dinner, fellowship, and a devotional led by AIMers.



On Wednesday we returned to downtown Phoenix to work in the ASU Downtown Campus. We talked to students and encouraged them to visit the Christian Group on campus. We then had lunch outside the Student Center with students we had met that morning and sang and praised God. Later that day we put together donation boxes for Project COPE. After our work on campus we had a couple of hours to explore downtown Phoenix, it was quite an experience! That evening AIMers led a devotional at Surprise Church of Christ. On Thursday we continued our service projects in Garfield and went to Edison Park in Garfield to spread the word about the Children's Fall Festival, put on by the Missionary in Phoenix. We began Friday by going to Camelback Mountain to hike. It was absolutely beautiful. That evening we worked to put on the Fall Festival in Edison Park. We dressed up in costumes and were in charge of stations for the children to play and hear about the Bible. The last few weeks of our 2nd Term were spent finishing up material and studying for Finals. Finals were intense as always, but it was rewarding to see how much I had learned.



Before the end of our 2nd Term, our teams were announced. They gathered us in the AIM room after classes on Wednesday night and the teams were announced to the sound of laughter and clapping. They had called a few groups before us, and they returned to announce where they were going and the remaining AIMers were sitting on the edges of their seats in anticipation. I heard my name called along with Heidi Swenson, Jarley Quintero, Christian Garcia Guzman, and Landon Anderson. I was thrilled with my teammates, they were people I had grown close to and come to respect deeply. We all walked into Chris Smith's office together and all of the directors were there. After a few moments of tense silence, they announced that we would be going to Santa Rosa, Honduras! I am so excited to see the amazing things that God will do through and in my team in Honduras.



We will be working with Mission Upreach, a mission's organization founded and run by Phil Waldron. Our team will be working under the guidance of missionary John Stacy. I will be spending 22 months in Honduras and I couldn't be more excited. We will spend the next four months preparing for our departure in May to Honduras. In a few days we will start Mission Term where some of the conditions of the mission field will be simulated by the AIM staff. I am very excited to see what happens.



I want to thank you all so much for your support and encouragement. I don't think I would have made it this far without God working in you through your generosity and kindness. I am so grateful for the confidence you have shown in me and I can't wait to tell you all of the things that will happen over the next few months and later years. I hope you will continue to keep me in your prayers as I keep you in mine. I would love to stay in contact with you all and I plan to send you monthly updates of my team's work for the kingdom!

Valerie Moses

Phone: (830) 596 – 3088

Email: valeriemoses.aim@gmail.com

Home Congregation:
Marble Falls Church of Christ
711 Broadway
Marble Falls, TX 78654