

Thanks for the Email Mom!

It is always so good to hear from you. I love you. Your example of sacrifice to get up at 4:00 am is awesome. Mom, I want to be good. I want to show Heavenly Father I love him. I want to serve him better than I am. I wish I was so much better. more focused. a better teacher, more loving and charitable, I wish I was more obedient in everyway. I wish I worked harder and I wish I knew how to better plan and achieve goals. I wish I knew truth and understood the scriptures better. The Lord is patient with me and suffers me to be here. I hope I don't fail him. this work is all too important. I wish I knew how to manage things better. Sometimes it feels like there is so much going on that I don't really know what I should be doing; emphasizing, focusing on etc. I hope I am learning and progressing. I hope my heart is being changed for the better and permanently. I hope I am different when I come home. I hope that I will remember what I have learned and that I will apply it. I hope that I will continue to put the Lord first when it is no longer on my schedule. I hope that I will continue to wax stronger and stronger in righteousness when I come home and not just stay at the same level as when I come home. I hope more than ever that I remember who I am: a son of God. and as such what I should do and how I should be. There is a lot for me to overcome and become. If you can please pray for me. pray that I will do and become what the Lord wants me to. I don't care what the process is. I just want to be a good son. I want to reach my potential. I want to be what he wants me to be.

I love hearing about your missionary work! that is great! I would love to be a friend to Maurice when I get home. something I have realized is that everyone needs a friend in the church. Someone who is strong who can lift them up. D&C 84:106. I have seen a huge difference in the spiritual progress of others when they have a friend in Christ who can support them. If there is anyone in the ward that could fulfill that role for him now, see if they can come teaching with you. That would be fun to befriend Maurice. He must be pretty good at basketball.

Do you remember Deanna? not Dayana who was just baptized but the other one. We found her tracting a couple of months ago. She came to church yesterday out of nowhere! It was a pleasant surprise. We haven't even been teaching her. We stopped by them about a week ago to see how they are doing but that was it. It took a lot of faith on her end to come to church! it was quite a miracle. We set up an appointment with her for this coming Saturday. if you can pray for her that the spirit will soften and prepare her heart and mind for the lesson on Saturday that would be great. We are witnessing miracles often. Miracles occur. I testify of that. The Holy Ghost is real! I know that is true also. The Holy Ghost truly can teach us the truth of ALL things. the Power of the Holy Ghost will continue to work in our lives as we invite it through our faithfulness and belief.

Jessica is doing well. she was all set to come to church yesterday but then her dear daughter got sick. She should make it next week. She enjoys this. She feels the good of it. She comments on the good of the message and the good of us that bring it to her. I spoke with Sister Vellinga about thanksgiving. they invited us to go to the mission home for thanksgiving dinner. We have another member that invited us too. so we will hopefully be able to make it to both. but anyway I asked Sister Vellinga if we could have Jessica come too since she is a single mother and doesn't have too much family around I don't think. Sister Vellinga said yes! so we are going to check with Jessica and the other member today and see if we can get that worked out. I think it would be really good for Jessica. the mission home has a great spirit! when we are able to have dinner there and then we share a message the spirit always come so quickly and warmly. like a wave. I want my home to be like that. The Vellinga's are such good people. Such good covenant keeping people. they are an example to me of how I should live. I look around on Sundays during priesthood meeting at the congregation and I look at the faces of all the men there and it always seems to me that president Vellinga's face glows and shines more than the rest. He has a bright countenance. He is a wonderful man. it is evident that the spirit is with him. I want that. I want to keep that when I come home. People say that it is hard to return from a mission to the world. I want to be prepared to prioritize the gospel and to have the faith to do that. I am sure it will take a lot of faith. I want to build up the Lord's

kingdom in any way that I can. I want to be humble enough to be willing to build up His kingdom in anyway that I can.

I gave a talk in Sacrament meeting yesterday about the Holy Ghost. I told the story about Nephi. how the Lord led him to get the plates -1 Nephi 4:6 and how the Lord showed Nephi how to construct a ship- 1 Nephi 17:8-9 the point that I tried to get across is that with the Spirit and the Lord's guidance we can do ANYTHING. the Lord knows all things. we can be his vessels to do whatever he wants us to- Moroni 7:33; Matthew 17:20. we just have to be believing in the power of God and the gifts of the spirit. believe- Moroni 19:7-19. We need to know the God in whom we should trust -Mormon 9:20. I know that these things are true. I know that the power of God is real. That it is great. I know that He does work by power if we are believing. with his power we can do all things that are right before him. I love my Heavenly Father. I love my Savior Jesus Christ. I love the Holy Ghost. I am grateful for the Holy Ghost. I am grateful for Heavenly Father. I am grateful for my Savior and redeemer and exemplar Jesus Christ.

I love you all. Have a great week! thanks for all of your great examples. keep being good. I promise you that eyes are opened to that which is spiritual when we begin to increase our righteousness. I love you!

Love,

Elder David Chapman