

Lifestyles

David Enbey of Lady Lake embarks on a journey of faith that begins in Brooklyn

BY GLENDA SANDERS, DAILY SUN

LADY LAKE — David Enbey of Lady Lake left home Aug. 16 to pursue his future as a servant of Jehovah.

Enbey, 20, a 2005 graduate of Leesburg High School, flew to Brooklyn, N.Y., to live, work and learn at Bethel, the world headquarters for the Jehovah's Witnesses.

Being invited to Bethel was the realization of a dream for Enbey.

"It's a blessing in so many ways, the practical training and encouragement," Enbey said.

Applicants to the residential program at Bethel are carefully screened, with a focus on morality. Candidates are expected to have high standards according to the moral guidelines of the Scriptures, and must be recommended by Jehovah's Witnesses who know them to be hard workers with a sincere passion for serving Jehovah.

"They need to see that you really have love in your heart for people," said Amber Rewis, Enbey's mother.

While at Bethel, Enbey will live in dormitory-style apartments. He will study the Bible and be assigned work during the week, which may or may not be in a field in which he is qualified.

"He will do whatever they will give him to do," said Henry Nobles, a church elder and presiding overseer for the Fruitland Park Jehovah's Witnesses program. "It might not even be in his field. If you're a computer geek, they won't give you that. That's how they find out how humble you are. It's a privilege to be invited into Bethel. You go there with a humble attitude. If you can't do that, then you're not qualified."

Weekends will be devoted to the ministry.

"Volunteers go because they want to further the good news that Jesus preached," Enbey said.

Enbey has already exhibited his devotion to the ministry by making door-to-door calls and talking to people about the Bible about 70 hours a month. Sixty hours a month is considered full-time ministry.

"He'll be assigned to a Kingdom Hall there in New York, and he will have that as well as his personal routine," Nobles said.

Enbey's field, outside of the ministry, is art.

"At 5 years old he could draw better than me," Rewis said. "He can capture the mood of someone in their countenance."

"I took every kind of art class that Leesburg offered — painting, drawing and sketching," Enbey said.

Enbey does most of his creative artwork on a computer, using a mouse. His works include a variety of subjects, from landscapes and portraits to animals and funny doodles. He has done two murals, and won a T-shirt design contest.

After graduating from high school, Enbey started his own paint company, doing regular painting, murals and faux painting.

The invitation to Bethel is for one year, after which church administrators will decide whether he will be allowed to stay at Bethel or be assigned elsewhere as he continues his ministerial career.

Enbey hopes to be invited to remain at Bethel.

"My goal, eventually, is to do artwork for the Jehovah's Witnesses 'Watchtower' (magazine). That's what I hope to do," he said.

Although Enbey was going into an environment far different from most college campuses, to continue a purpose-oriented life, his departure nevertheless was still an emotional time for him and for his mother. He is an only child and, for most of his life, Rewis was a single mom, so the two share a strong bond that includes friendship as well as the usual mother-son relationship.

They will keep in touch through e-mail. Rewis will stay busy with her work teaching guitar lessons in the after-school program in The Villages Charter Schools while her son pursues his future, working toward, he said, "my own goal of wanting to serve Jehovah 100 percent, to give him my best."

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