2 visions for 1 reality

APPENDIX 2: LETTER FROM XAVIER TO HIS FRIEND VINCENT

Hi Vincent, how are you? How was the summer, reviewing lessons to prepare for exams? Ok, it's not funny... As you may know, I'm just back from the planet Glorbuld where I spent a month ("Earth month") with Karen, Sophie and Mehdi. So many weird stuff happened, I have to tell you.

As soon as we landed at the spaceport, the confusion began. Several people wanted to help us carry our bags... well, so they said... Good thing we were told to be careful with pickpockets and thieves. At first we refused politely and as they insisted, we were a little firmer. So they left and you could see they were frustrated that they missed their opportunity. We were lucky! Then we went to meet with our contacts who were waiting for us outside the spaceport.

We wanted to start the project the very next day because we had a schedule to follow. So we started the construction of the school and I can tell you that we worked very hard! The problem is that we quickly realized that the Glorbuldians who worked with us did not have the same enthusiasm, and there were even moments when we really felt that they were putting a spoke in our wheels! Unbelievable, as we do this project for them!

Anyway, everything is slow there, like public transportation for example (small and rotten buses that they call Zamourion). If they give you a starting time, you're sure you can add at least 2 hours. And when you ask when we are going to leave, they always answer you "Soon!". It's so annoying, I swear to you.

Not to mention the hygiene. They throw everything on the ground without any concern for the environment. At first we wanted to act well, we picked up our cans. Since we did not know what to do with it, we began to bury them so that it was less dirty, and then we finally gave up. And do you want to know how Glorbuldians blow their noses? You lean on one nostril and you blow a big blow. Very chic!

Anyway, that's for sure, they're still at least 50 years behind us. It shows so much regarding human rights! Well especially women's and children's rights. You know Karen, a bit feminist, isn't she? One day she had a very blunt discussion with a village leader about it. I don't know if he really understood, in fact he didn't react much.

Another example on how "behind" they are. One day we go through a swampy region and one of the young people who accompanied us tells us in the most simple way: "Here, there is a man who turns into a crocodile". We looked at each other for a moment, but we quickly turned our heads to avoid bursting into laughter. We controlled ourselves but we were close.

The same young man really annoyed us another time. It was the end of the stay, we had organized a great evening with all the people we had met. Everybody had to bring something, and he had to bring Dimbzi, which is a delicious chicken from there. And... he never came. The next day, when we saw him, we told him how mad we were! It was a total lack of respect for us. Guess what he said! He had to stay at home because a

friend came to watch TV! Couldn't find a more phony excuse... In any case, they need to become more serious and more trustworthy, otherwise they will never be a developed planet.

Oh, one last crazy thing, I've never seen so many homosexuals in my life! There are plenty of guys holding hands in the street. One day, one of our co-worker wanted to hold my hand, well I can tell you that he did not try twice! See it was not easy every day and we were even close to fight sometimes. But don't worry, we realized that we also had a lot in common and everything ended well. I realize that I was a little negative but we really experienced some extraordinary moments that I will tell you in a new letter. Now I don't have time, I'm already late for my aircraft's driving lesson.