

Hello my friends! I hope you have been well

Google Photos Link for everyone who has forgotten what I look like: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/4P9d4ozmNzrznkWr7>

I got to Brazil this week. It's lowkey insane that I'm here and I'm working in the Brazil São Paulo Interlagos Mission. It's been a very long week filled with jet-lag (I only slept like 2.5 hours over 14 hours of flying), not understanding what people are saying, fearing for my life as people drive on the road, and many more experiences.

I'm so thankful for the time I spent in the California Anaheim Mission, and I'm thankful for the people that I had the pleasure of serving with. Shout out to the Cypress Zone cause they were great and I miss them a lot 🍷

Notable Events:

- On Monday, I had a departing interview with President Galotera, and also said goodbye to the Elders in the Cypress Zone by going to Joe Schmoie's, a pretty solid BBQ restaurant.
- Tuesday was the craziest travel day ever. I got up at 3:30am and went to the Mission Office, where a senior couple took me to the John Wayne Airport. I had a 4 hour flight from there to Atlanta, then met up with so many missionaries at the gate. There was probably 40 missionaries going to Brazil on that flight. I saw Sister Lebron from my MTC district, which was pretty awesome. Then we got on our 9 hour flight to Brazil
- Wednesday was a super long day. Got off the flight, met some Elders from the Interlagos Mission, and then got a ride to the Mission Office. There, I interviewed with President Rollins and met my companion, Elder Brown (From Idaho). I also had some São Paulo Pizza, foi bom. We took the bus to our area, and then did a solid 90 minutes of work in the area. We visited a member and they gave me food, but I had no idea what they were saying. I also met the other Elders living with us, Elder Hostetter (from Florida), and Elder Fernández (from Mexico) and they're very cool 😎
- Thursday we had District Council! We also had a lesson with our friend André which went really well! We were joined that night by Lionel, a member who served his mission in Boston, so he speaks English. I had my first Pastel and Açaí and they were 🔥

- Friday we spent nearly the entire day walking in part of our area. That was a really long day and I don't remember much of it. But I met our Bishop (he's a lawyer and he talks super fast and I can barely understand anything he says), and he gave us a lot of cookies and then gave us a ride home

- Saturday was out working again! We tried finding a friend of ours but her WhatsApp was broken and nobody in the area knew where she lived so we went in some sketchy back alleyways. We also gave one of our Recent Converts a Doctrine & Covenants because she's already finished the Book of Mormon and wants more. She's super sweet but I literally understood nothing she said in our lesson. When the other Elders came to the apartment, they were being followed by a dog we've named Chuck and he's our most recent find

- Sunday was incredible! We had church and had a bunch of friends show up and I got to bear my testimony. The members were all super sweet and they all told me I was super tall. We had lunch at a member's and they had the movie 'Robots' playing so the 6 Elders in our ward just sort of sat and watched that??? And then we got some work done (we walked 30 minutes to try and contact 2 friends and could only find one of them). We had a coordination meeting with Bishop and Paulinho, our Elder's Quorum President. When we came back to our apartment, we played the most intense game of Snakes & Ladders I have ever played

Spiritual Thought:

While feeling very overwhelmed with all the change that has come, I read Elder Gerrit W. Gong's talk entitled, "Eternity's Greatest Gift: Jesus Christ's Atonement, Resurrection, Restoration", which talks about how Jesus Christ and how we can draw closer to Him on harder days. There's this quote that I like a lot,

When our tears flow, we sometimes apologize, embarrassed. But knowing that Jesus Christ understands life's pains and joys can give us strength beyond our own as we navigate bitter and sweet.

This week has been a lot of bitter and sweet. That's just how life is. But now I'm in a country where I can't understand anything that anybody says and it pains me to be unable to communicate. It's been discouraging. But our Savior suffered all, and He knows how we feel. He's felt everything that we've felt, and He knows how to help us. Give Him that opportunity to let Him help you, and you will find the strength to carry on.

I miss you all, and I'm excited to share my journey with you! Send me updates about you have been! I'd love to hear all about your weeks and how you've felt God's love for you.

Tchau Tchou amigos,
- Elder Gee

Pics include:

- Final Meal with the Cypress Zone Elders
- Brazil 🇧🇷
- Walking with the comp
- Fire Sunset pic ruined by some guy in a white shirt and tie 😞







