

Hey my friends! I hope you are having a fantastic day, week, and month (and year of course). If not, then please change that attitude and it will be better for sure

To see Elder Gee with a fresh cut, click and join the google photos album: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/4P9d4ozmNzrznkWr7>

This week was a really long week of hard work. We unfortunately haven't seen a ton of success yet but I can just feel it beginning to happen. But it's been a lot of fun in our apartment, a lot of fun in the road, and a lot of fun in our lives.

Notable Events:

- Elder Lundgreen, one of the American elders that I live with, requested that I include that we started cooking breakfast together. It's a blast and we always make really good food. Yesterday, we made like 8 eggs, a bunch of bacon, and some pieces of toast for all the elders in the apartment.

- We're teaching this girl named Emily right now. She's about 12 years old and has been coming to church for a few months. We found out last week that she really wants to be baptized so we are Getting. It. Done.

- One of our members, Marília, is currently my favorite person in the world. She is the best. We've been trying to teach Emily in video calls, and one night we asked Marília to help out (she used to be Emily's teacher), and Emily didn't answer. Marília literally said, "Ah, don't worry" and the next day we had a visit marked with Emily, her brother, and her mom in their house! That visit went great, and the spirit was strong and Emily and her family even gave us dinner which was crazy.

A few days later, we had another lesson with Emily and her family and Marília sent us a message saying, "Tell them to reschedule the lesson to be at the church building". We get to the church and there was an activity with a bunch of members who absolutely locked in. Everyone was on top of their game it was crazy. We gave Emily and her family a tour of the building, including the baptismal font. So, Irmã Marília, my absolute GOAT

- I got super sick on Thursday—awful body aches, head aches, super high fever. It came on as we were leaving lunch and when I got home I said, "I'm going to lie down for 20 minutes", set a timer, and then slept for nearly 3 hours. But we had our visit with Emily that day, so we absolutely couldn't cancel so I forced myself out of bed, got ready, and asked my companion for a blessing of strength for the night.

We get down to the door of our apartment building and I'm feeling really dizzy and I say to my companion, "I'm going to throw up" and I did. But the miracle of it is that when I threw up, I almost immediately felt better. We went to our visit, and it was fire. And then for all of Friday, we stayed in and I slept for almost the entire day. I was absolutely dead.

- Saturday night, we were going by our buddy Juan, cause he's been ghosting us as of late, and he didn't answer. We did some other visits and about an hour later, Elder Choque says, "Let's go visit Juan again". He was there, and he came to church on Sunday and loved it.

Spiritual Thought:

The biggest miracle this week didn't come with Emily and her family, or with Juan, or with any members of whatever. To me, the biggest miracle was me throwing up and immediately feeling better/capable of working. When I asked for a blessing of strength, I definitely I thought I would have some strength almost immediately. But no, I didn't.

Instead, I had to walk out of our apartment, go in the elevator, and get to the door of the apartment building before I felt like I was going to die (metaphorically).

Moments before Joseph Smith had The First Vision, he started praying, and when he did, he felt "thick darkness gathered around [him], and it seemed...for a time as if [he] were doomed to sudden destruction."

Heavenly Father did deliver young Joseph from this gloom. But only once Joseph continued to pray, and to exercise faith in Him.

A quote from Steven D. Shumway, a General Authority of the church reads,

"Joseph found himself in the presence of God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. Sometimes we speak about the first word of the Restoration being the name Joseph, showing the intimate nature of God—that He knows each of us personally. But perhaps the first and most sacred lesson of the Restoration is that when we kneel in sincerity and call upon God, He delivers."

Our Heavenly Father is here to help us. Ask in faith, and then press on, and you'll realize He was there the whole time.

Reading Recommendation of the Week:

Go ahead and read this Devotional from Elder Shumway — entitled, "Simplicity That Is In Christ". It's very good, and I liked it a lot.

<https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/steven-d-shumway/simplicity-that-is-in-christ/>

I love you all, my friends! Please know I am praying for you and your successes and that you may feel His joy in your life. Send me an email and let me know how you are. I'll try to respond to it as well!!

Love y'all

- Elder John Randall Gee 🇧🇷

Pics this week include

- After fire lesson with Emily and her fam
- Discovered the black and white filter on my camera
- We made French Toast last p-day 😊





