

Hello my dearest friends! Happy December!!

This week has been incredible. It was my last week here in the United States as I am getting on a plane TOMORROW to Brazil. I lowkey forgot I was supposed to be serving in Brazil but now it's here

If you want to see me make the same face no matter where a photo is being taken, join the Google Photos Album (or at least check it out): <https://photos.app.goo.gl/4P9d4ozmNzrzknWr7>

So yeah, I am leaving for Brazil tomorrow. It's kind of crazy that my 6 weeks here in Anaheim has flown by. I'm so incredibly thankful for the time I've spent here and the people I've met.

This week was so much fun! We did side-quests basically every day so I can't say we got a ton of work done but we still got *stuff* done 💪

Notable Events:

- Last Monday, we had a district Thanksgiving! Everybody brought something to share (we brought Pumpkin Pie and drinks) and the Sisters made donut burgers??? It's basically a cheeseburger but the buns are two donuts. Super bad for you and very sticky, but actually, disappointingly amazing.

- Tuesday, we had President Interviews! That reason, I was very nervous about to going to Brazil (I've been slacking on my Lang Study) but President Galotera calmed my fears and shared a little of his anxieties with me. Very thankful for him and his kind leadership. Our friend Johnny also had his baptismal interview and he passed!!! I also had my last Taco Tuesday here in Anaheim...

I had 11 tacos to celebrate 🙌

- Wednesday, I went over to La Palma and biked all day with Elder Huish! We worked basically the entire day and it was a blast. We tried asking some fun questions (what's your favorite Thanksgiving food?, If Jesus was a Hooper, what kind of shoes would he wear?, etc.) We also went an entire exchange day without paying for food so let's go 😞

- Thursday was Thanksgiving! We had District Council and I had to teach one of our APs and I #didnotdie 😊 I love Thanksgiving so much (top 3 holiday for sure) and we went over to the Gracia family's home for that. It was a lot of fun and we talked a little about our families and Brother Gracia's conversion story. We had a lesson with Janet and her fam and it went well! She's progressing really well and I wish I could be here for her and her family.

- Friday was a little rough, I was really out of it and not able to think straight but a dinner-hour nap always saves the day. We finished making Johnny's baptismal program and then went with Steven (one of our Recent Converts) and Brother Gracia to the Newport Beach Temple for Baptisms. It was Steven's first time in the Temple and the spirit was so strong. Everyone in the session was basically either Missionaries or Recent Converts. An incredible night

- Saturday was Johnny's baptism!! Everything went smoothly (aside from realizing 5 minutes before we start that the person we texted to play the piano never responded...) and Johnny celebrated his birthday and got baptized. He took us out to lunch afterwards so very kind of him. That night we also had my last Basic Training in Anaheim and I got everyone to sign my Portuguese Book of Mormon.

- Sunday was pretty great. Johnny asked me to confirm him (he said, "Let's have Gee do it before he goes to Brazil") and that went pretty well despite all my nervousness. That night, we got dinner (Rigatoni and Caprisun) from Johnny and his wife, Chayo, and talked with them for a little bit. It was a lot of goodbyes on Sunday 😊

Spiritual Thought:

So I'm sorry this email is already so long but I'll try to keep the rest brief. In honor of the Thanksgiving, I'll share a little scripture from 3 Nephi 10,

10 And the earth did cleave together again, that it stood; and the mourning, and the weeping, and the wailing of the people who were spared alive did cease; and their mourning was turned into joy, and their lamentations into the praise and thanksgiving unto the Lord Jesus Christ, their Redeemer.

In this chapter, the people of Nephi had been in darkness for three days straight, and the first light they saw was Jesus Christ. Imagine how bright that must have been. It reminds me of all the times I was in times of darkness, and the Savior pulled me out of it. No matter the situation, I am able to feel the love and peace of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. I promise that no matter

how far you may feel from being loved, being worthy, or being accepted, there is a way to feel joy and peace. Through the Atonement of Jesus Christ, all that is unjust in the world will be corrected and made right.

I love you guys. Next time you guys get a mass-email from me, I will be writing from Brazil which is crazy to me. Send me some emails so I have some in-flight entertainment! I love y'all and will write you next week

With so much love,
- Elder John Gee

Pics include:

- La Palma District activity
- Elder Huish and I after a long day of work and waiting for a member to bring us our dinner
- Newport Beach Temple 🙌
- @ Johnny's baptism
- Last Basic Training with some recent converts!









