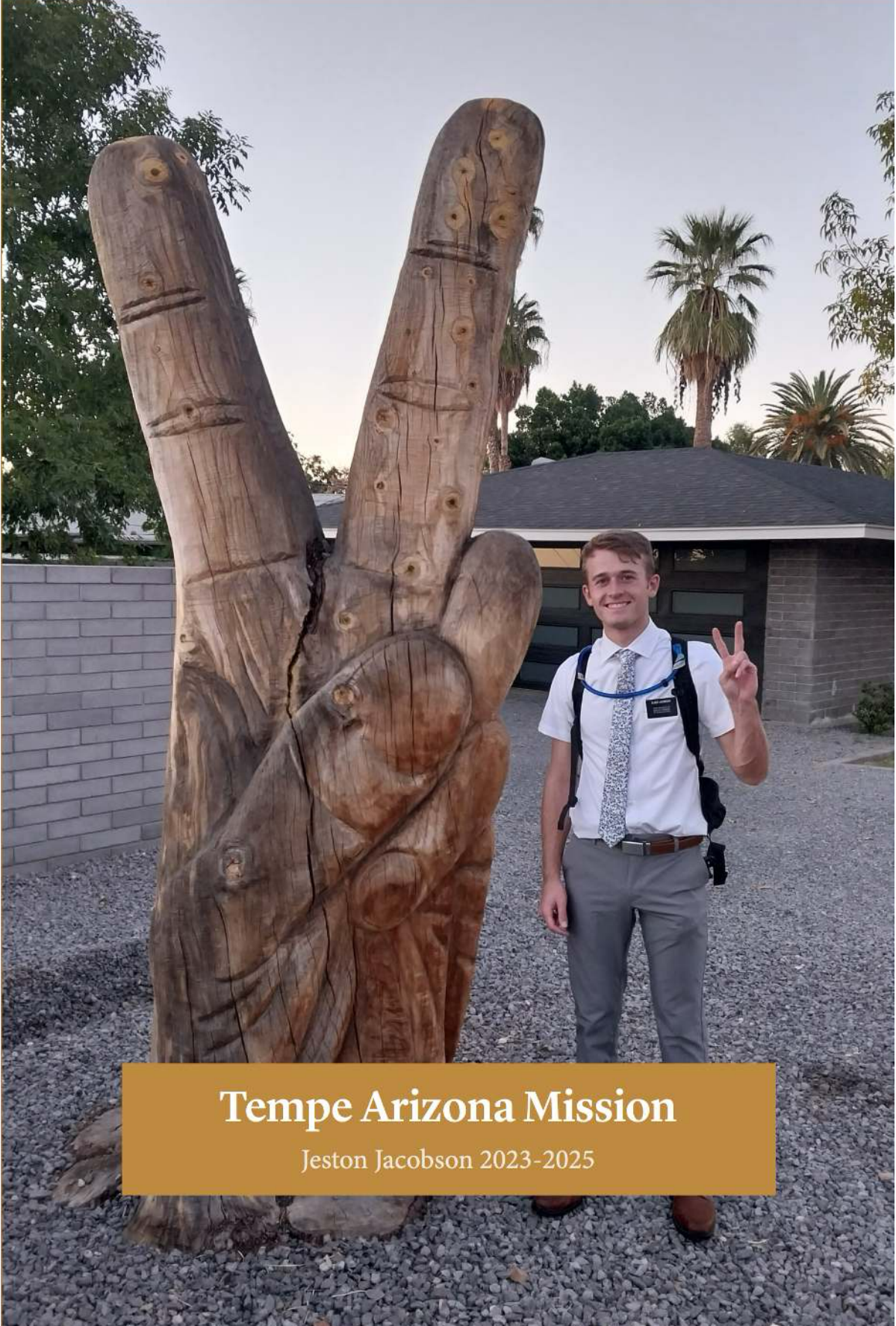
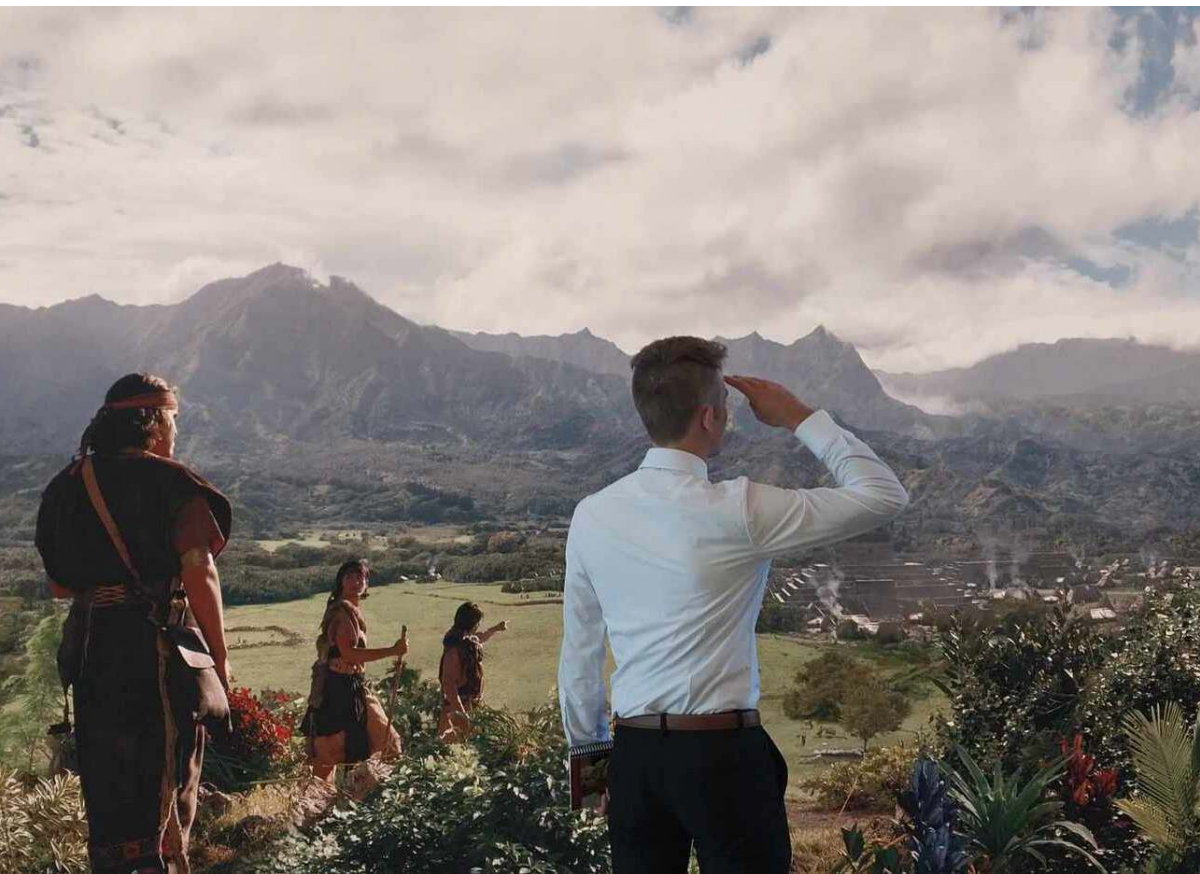




Tempe Arizona Mission

Jeston Jacobson 2023-2025



First (Real) Week

Provo, Utah, Utah, USA

October 21, 2023

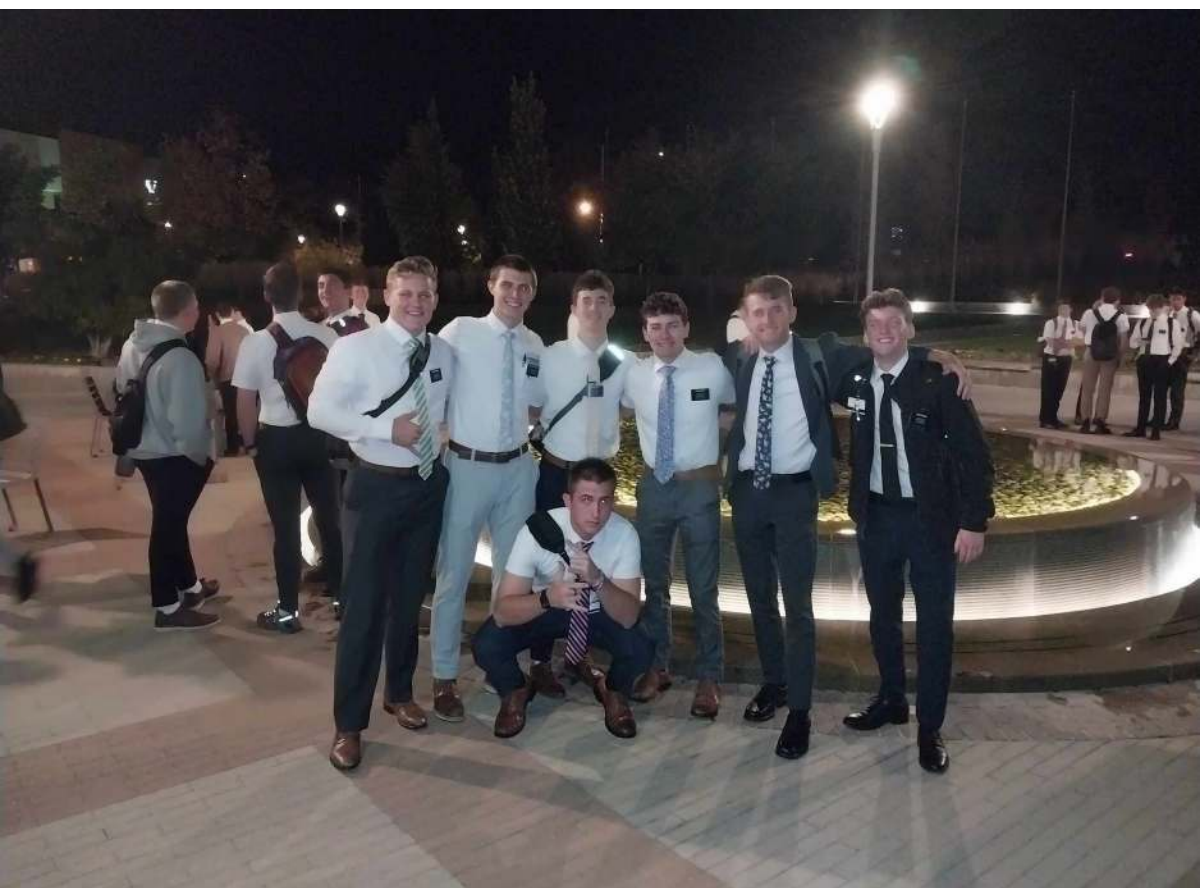
Hello everyone! It's been 2 weeks since I've been set apart and man it's been a lot, it's been really fun actually and I've learned a lot, but I will admit has been a long few days at the same time. I finally understand my friends saying the days feel like weeks and the weeks feel like days.

But like I said it has been great! Being in person is a lot better than online, besides the whole missing family and friends. But it's nice to see everyone's faces and not have the awkward pauses. I'll share a picture below but my district is awesome, I've gotten so much closer to them since coming here and it's crazy how quickly you become buds.

The days are kind of all the same, but the coolest thing was probably the stories of two individuals and how they've connected to Jesus. The first was this lady who has gone through a lot, to sum up she went through many bad relationships and being a single mother, she also struggled with addiction and even ended up in jail. But through it all she learned to connect to the savior and was able to get help and found help in the church and slowly got better and is now doing really well!

The other one was this guy who became paralyzed after sprinting, tripping, and running head first into a wall which was crazy, but he was an inspiration to me, he has a breathing tube and this whole contraption where he uses his breath to control his





Longest Week Ever as a Missionary

Provo, Utah, Utah, USA

October 28, 2023

Well I'm only 3 weeks into my mission and this week felt longgg. Every day was somewhat of a struggle, but it's also been good. The last couple days especially, I'd be in our evening class and be like wait, we went to the temple this morning? It felt so distant. But anyways here's some highlights from the week.

First of all the temple really is a holy place. I've been reminded over and over again of the words in my patriarchal blessing that say the things of eternity will be revealed as I go to the lord's house over and over again. So not only has my testimony of my patriarchal blessing increased, but my testimony of the temple has too. I've been able to do baptisms (twice), initiatory, and endowment all in a week! Which I think is super cool. And every time I've gone I have had new ideas come to my mind or things to ponder, and overall just a sense of comfort.

One thing especially that was cool was when we went to the temple to do endowments, but found out we had showed up way past the times they do for those. So the 14 in my district went down to do baptisms. Come to find out, 14 people had canceled right before us and there was this girl who had 75 names she was going to do all by herself. So not only did we fill the 14 but were able to help with this girl's family names. We also were able to do the confirmations all by ourselves, we did the recording and everything which felt so awesome.

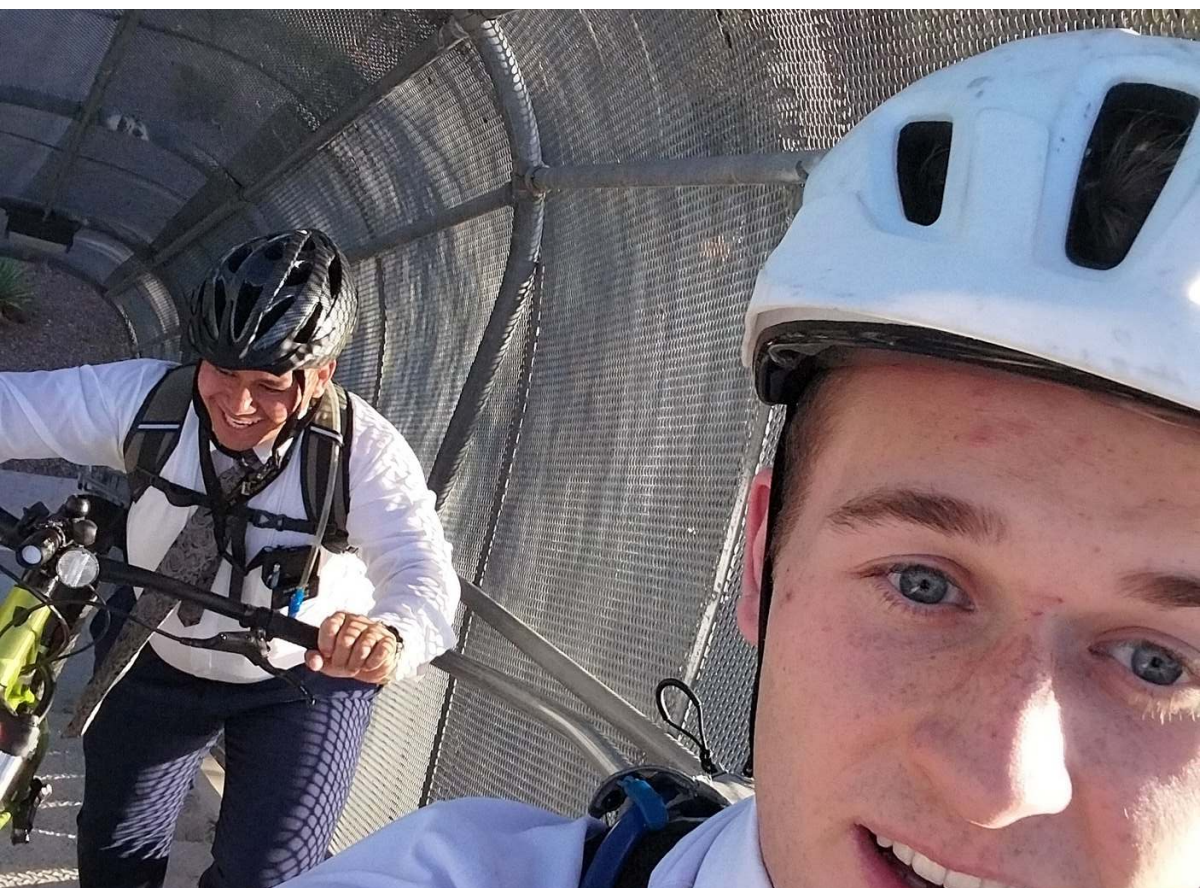


I've also ran into so many people I know, it makes it feel a little less lonely here, so for that I am grateful. I met my buddy Ozzy, who I haven't seen since 5th grade which was insane, I was so glad he reached out to me. I also ran into Garrett Beeston, which was super exciting since he doesn't show up at the mtc very often. And I also got a pic with all my highschool friends that are here right now, so God does give little miracles that make things just that much better.

I also sang in the choir this week, which I have never been in before, but singing with that many missionaries was really powerful and singing for an apostle (Neil A. Anderson) is quite the brag I'd say. And the message he shared really sums down to listen to the spirit! And keep Jesus at the center of your life!

And the biggest takeaway I have from this week is to listen to the promptings of the spirit. I have been learning more and more how the spirit speaks to me and it is such a tool to help those around me. I've learned more how to act on promptings even if I have no idea if it helped or not. And I haven't been perfect but I've gotten better. So I'd like to remind you all to try! Just try to listen to the spirit and you can be the hand of God in people's lives. Not only will it help you but it helps everyone, and that is a gift.

Here's some pics, oh and a cool drawing I worked on while I was slightly distracted in class ;)



The Gospel is Fun!

Mesa, Maricopa, Arizona, USA

March 3, 2025

As I was thinking about what to write this week I realized I have nothing more to learn, I'm a perfect missionary now!

Just kidding haha, its actually my favorite thing about the mission, is it feels like theres something new I learn every week or something new I'm reminded of.

I think the biggest thing I was thinking about this week is that I don't have to be the solution to everything. For context, we had a ton of exchanges this week. I got to work with a total of 6 Elders which is way more than I've ever gone with in a week, and a lot of times I feel this pressure of I need to go in and be a good example and help fix all the problems they have and all of that. But when I step back, sounds pretty prideful to me haha.

And me and my companion were talking a lot about this of how can we help these Elders feel more love and help them see the things they are doing awesome. We started thinking more about complimenting and hyping them up instead of just to go help them with any council they needed. Now it's not like all I've been doing on my mission is chastizing people, but it was a good reminder to me to focus more on the love and example that Jesus Christ would show to them.

It reminded me of something a member of my ward shared of how we are collectively the body of Christ, that's the beauty of the





Miracles!

Mesa, Maricopa, Arizona, USA

March 10, 2025

This week had a few really special miracles I'd love to tell you about!

The first super exciting thing is with our Zone and helping our friends come to Church! In our mission we've had a really big focus on helping our friends come because that's a big step in helping them grow closer to Christ and ultimately working towards baptism. So as a zone we've been trying to get 20 people to church, which we haven't been getting very close to for whatever reason.

But this week we had 32 of our friends come to church! Which is incredible! We haven't seen anything like that before, so God was definitely helping us out this week. It was special though, because we've just been trying little things to help our friends out, we even said a big zone prayer the night before and prayed for like 60 people to try and help them out, and Miracles indeed were seen!

Now of course missionary work is more than just getting people to church, but there's something cool about having a whole bunch of missionaries working on one things together and seeing things get accomplished! So I was grateful for that this week.

Another big thing for me was a really good exchange I had on Friday. Now, this transfer I've had a really hard time talking and connecting with people. Just having a lot of fear in reaching out. I





Cornhole Champion



Maricopa, Pinal, Arizona, USA

August 25, 2025

What a week to add to the Books! Lots of miracles happening in Maricopa. #1 being we had an elders quorum cornhole tournament for dinner Saturday and I got paired up with the legend himself Dan Holland. He wasn't going to play but we needed one more, and I got lucky enough to be paired with him. So the 70 year old half blind legend and I paved our way to victory! One of the greatest accomplishments of my mission haha.

But on top of that the work and everything we've been able to do lately has been super exciting!

First of all Renee is my favorite. We've been teaching her for about 2 months now and she is going to be baptized this Saturday! She is so excited and just knows how much God is guiding her in her life. She's gone through a lot and about 4 years ago felt like God was really telling her He was going to help her grow closer to Him, and really help her through her hardships, and she didn't quite know how, but the more she's come to church and been able to meet with us and all the meetings we have had, she has just really felt this is where God needs her.

And I think my favorite things about Renee is she looks at all sorts of stuff and hears stuff from lots of people. So of the many anti things she's heard she often brings it up what people say to her, but she just knows what she's felt and experienced with us and with God and it doesn't even phase her. Which I think just goes to show



how special the spirit really is. It's something you can't argue, the feelings that you have felt and the testimony you gain. The spirit has been so strong as we've met with her and she shares her testimony with us. Especially as we share new things and she is all over it. It's been just so incredible to be apart of.

On top of that we found Monica! It was actually crazy the series of promptings that led us to her. First of all I felt as we were praying to head out for the day we needed to go to Monica park as we call it (a different Monica by the way), but we had lunch with some Elders, so we almost just went there instead, but I couldn't not follow the spirit, so we went. As we drove by there was no one to be seen, but! Elder Thedell had the thought to stop by said friend Monica (original monica), but she didn't answer. We knocked the 2 neighbors! They weren't interested though. So we drove by the park one more time! But again no one. So we decided to just head to lunch. We were about to turn right and I saw this lady sitting at a much smaller park, and I was just going to head to lunch, but felt we should talk to her. So I flip around and we park illegally because there was no where else and we talked to her.

Turns out we found our new friend Monica! She was waiting for a ride, which allowed us to run into her. She has actually been really wanting to get closer to God in her life and she just knew God was sending her a message. Which I think is just so special the way God works! That all these things just lined up together for us to meet her. We showed her around the church and she is excited to come!

We've also been really working with the Ward and really been focusing on what the members next step is. Which seems so simple, but it's easy to lose sight of that as we visit the members.

And I always love the challenge of finding ways to make member visits fun, spiritual and helps them grow, plus we have a 5th Sunday lesson we get to help teach and focus on all these things!

So I'm excited for that, and I'll let you know how it goes haha.

But yeah it's been such a fun week, got one more week of the transfer which is sad, but we'll make the most of it!



Staying in Copa

Maricopa, Pinal, Arizona, USA

September 1, 2025

Well. Im officially staying in Maricopa my last transfer!!! I'm actually so excited to stay. My new Comp is gonna be Elder Howald. Who I've never served around but from the few times I've met him, he's awesome. Should be a good one! I'll definitely be sad to lose Elder Thedell though, it really has been such a good two transfers.

It's always the bittersweet with transfers. Saying goodbye to the Elders you've really gotten to know, but then feeling the excitement of being able to serve around new Missionaries! There's just too many people in the world to try to get to know, and no way of ever staying in touch with them all..that's something I've really come to learn on the mission. But, I can then be happy and focus on the fact that I've been able to meet all these wonderful people, so that's the good part!

Outside of transfers, this week has been really exciting also. We had Renees baptism on Saturday and she was so excited. Nothing brought more joy than seeing her tears of joy as she was making this commitment in her life. She is such a light and a joy to everyone around her and it's been so wonderful teaching her and helping her take this step!

On top of that, we were able to have Blayne (now Elder Abercrombie) come out with us and it was a blast. He just got set apart and had a week of home MTC. So as a fully set apart



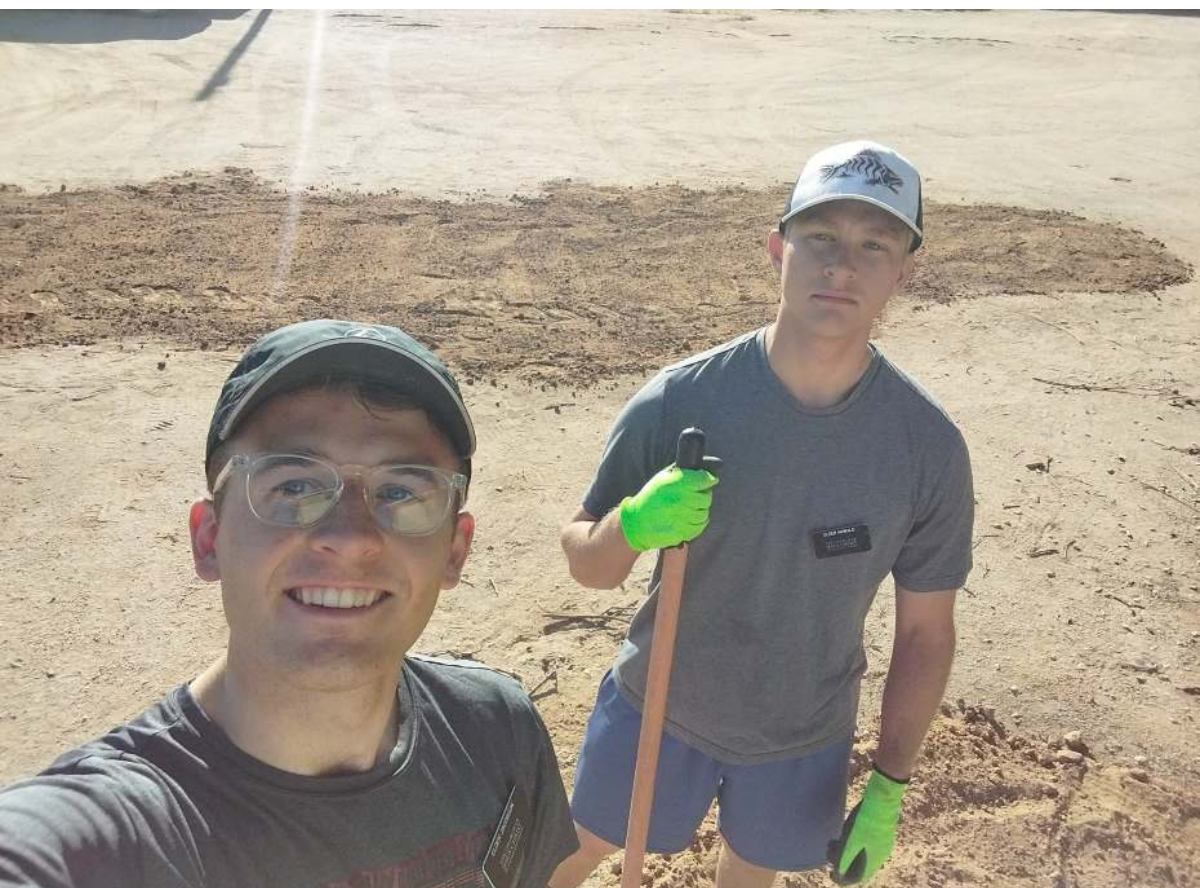
missionary we could now drive him around haha. It was too much fun. Not only did we get to be with Blayne, who is just the funniest and best person to be around, but we got to show him the ropes a little and had some pretty special miracles.

One of which was actually sick. We were running round town and we wanted to find one more person to talk to. We said a prayer and felt like we should head to the parks in our area. But every single one had nobody. We hit the 3rd of 3 parks that actually had lights at em and still no one. So we said another prayer and still just felt like there was one more person. Elder Monty (we were on exchanges) felt we should go back to one of the parks we already hit up, so we zoomed over. We got there at 8:55 and didn't see a soul. But we walked out anyways. And right as we did a lady came out from the end of the park. Turns out she had just been mourning for the loss of a baby she had a few years prior and came to the park for some closure. And we were able to be a sign of Gods love her. It was so amazing to see how God lined everything up and guided us back there to be there for her.

Another awesome part of the week. Sorry to jump all over the place haha. Is we helped teach the 5th Sunday lesson this week at church. And we were centering it on Love, Share and Invite which I'm sure many of you have heard the church talk about and focus on that. But we were able to do it in a much better way I think. We just really opened up about hard things we have all or are currently going through and then really focuses on how we've been able to overcome those hard things. Or how others have really helped us through that. As we discussed all those things, those principles ultimately tie back to what love share and invite is all about! Just genuinely being there for people through their challenges. It was

really special to hear people open up like that and have that real, vulnerable conversation like we did. It felt like it helped a lot of people there, and just was proof of how much that matters!

So between all these things I've just been very grateful for all I've been learning. Me and Elder Thedell have been able to talk about a lot of really good things together and as we've opened up it just helps make the mission and ultimately life so much better. I've appreciated having this time to really see that.



Miracles in Maricopa

Maricopa, Pinal, Arizona, USA

September 15, 2025

What a week it was this week! It's honestly been so much fun, and we've had a lot of really special miracles. We've been running all over the place, had lots of meetings, and yet God still managed to help us run into a few people amidst all of it.

First of all! We got to go to the Temple with Renee. And she absolutely loved it. We helped her find family names to bring and she was so excited to do that for her mom and her grandma and the other names she brought. When she heard they were receiving the Holy Ghost in heaven, she was just picturing how excited her mom must be. So I loved seeing that joy for her.

And we had a couple other really amazing moments! One of which we had had a busy day, meetings in the morning and we rushed off to a visit with a member, and afterward we were trying to find one more member to visit but we didn't know who. So of course we decided to pray about it. As we pulled over to pray about it, Elder Howald wasn't feeling the spot, so we kept driving to find another spot to pull over.

We pull over, pray, call a member, and they couldn't have us over. But right then we look out the window and we see someone lifting some things. We checked the map and turns out a member lives there that we hadn't been able to meet in a long time. We get out and ask Him for help and he was so happy to see us. We helped him carry a TV in and he said his fiance is actually a member!



And that morning they had been actually talking about going to church together and wanting to be more committed in that way. God placed us perfectly that night to run into them, and they happily came to church on Sunday and loved it!

2nd miracle, we have a super goated member, brother Pierce, who loves missionary work and we told him to let us know if he ever sees a moving truck at one of his new neighbors houses. So he called us up and we got over late, so the truck was gone. We decided to go say hi to brother Pierce instead and as we did his neighbor came out. So brother Pierce yells out to him and tells him he's talking with the missionaries and brings up church and all that. Scott was his name and he said his wife is actually a member and they had also been thinking of coming. We got his number and sent him all the info.

We texted him later in the week and got no response. So we texted brother Pierce to reach out and he already had. To which he then tells us that he's going to be saving a whole pew because it's a family of 13!! And sure enough Sunday morning, this entire family of 13 (grandma, 2 daughters + spouses, and all the grandkids) walks in and they loved it! A couple of them grew up in the church and the others are very curious and wanting their kids to learn more. It was insane! I have never seen anything like it on the mission. Having a member bring that many people for the first time. It was such a good Sunday.

God is definitely in the details. Even if none of those people came to church I know God would still be using us to bless and help people come unto Him. He knows what everyone needs and meets

them where they're at and we just get to join along for the ride. I really am grateful I get to be apart of these miracles and seeing the joy the Gospel truly can bring!



God's Love

Maricopa, Pinal, Arizona, USA

September 29, 2025

What another week in the fields of Maricopa. The ups and downs are real, but it's just so much fun all at the same time. I'll share some of the highlights. I think at the root of it I've just been reminded of Gods love, and how the more we recognize and allow that into our lives, it makes everything better and more joyful!

First of all we had exchanges, which is always a blast. Got to go with Elder Greenwood, who is a great Elder. He's been out only a few weeks and it was so fun to be biking the streets in the 100 degree weather. One of my favorite parts of the day is when we knocked on this door that all we knew was some missionaries had stopped by before, and he opened up and we just had a super cool discussion about the bible and things he's learned. He brought up the genealogy of Christ, and the different stories that go along with some of this in His tree. And how we see people who are far from perfect and even making some terrible choices, and yet that's still part of His lineage. Which we just were able to talk about and feel how special it is that Christ really can make up the difference for anyone and everything. That he takes imperfect things and still heals and makes them holy.

Thursday we had a super open day ahead of us, and then a few unfortunate events, like service not showing up until 30 minutes late, and having to drive really far to it, it basically sucked 2 hours out of our evening and I was pretty sad about it. Felt like we were messing up the day. But luckily that's not how God works. The timing of everything allowed us to run into 2 new friends. One

