

Maryvale Church of the Nazarene

Shirley Reynolds

The project at Maryvale Church of the Nazarene in Phoenix, AZ, was my first ROAM trip ever—and it was terrific! Pastor Dan made me feel very welcome, and the people at the church were friendly and very nice. The RV sites were in a large, secure lot behind the church, completely hidden from the street.



I started with gardening and landscaping, which I really enjoy. The main outdoor project involved digging up two large sections of heavily overgrown aloe plants in the landscape "island" in the parking lot, and eventually turning the area into a desert succulent garden. Pastor Dan's lovely wife Sue donated some yuccas, snake plants, and several succulent cuttings from her yard, all of which I transplanted to the church's front garden. I also spent some time digging



weeds, trimming trees, and manicuring shrubs.

The other major project was scraping off wallpaper and repainting the men's restroom in the Family Life Center building. The wallpaper was only a small border strip around the room, but it had been attached with some SERIOUS glue! Next came masking, wall-washing, then covering the toilets, stall dividers, and entire floor with drop-cloth plastic before finally giving the walls two coats of paint. Whew! Only God could turn that much work into something enjoyable, but He sure did. When all was done, it was great to see the bathroom looking fresh and bright.

A smaller job (after watching a YouTube repair video) was fixing a few vacuum cleaners to restore suction—mainly by washing the clogged filters and replacing a couple of missing filters. I also got to play Christmas carols on my guitar during Sunday service, and that was definitely a highlight.



My favorite expedition was to the Desert Botanical Gardens—it was peaceful, and so beautiful! I also went up to "Hole in the Rock" across from the zoo. It looked like an arduous climb up the front of this large red outcropping, but in reality there was a short path in back that led up to the rock window overlooking Phoenix.