



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

Week 3?

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PM

To: John@larsen-family.us, joyce@larsen-family.us

Oi minha Familia!

I can't remember what I titled my previous email but we just started on week 3. So first things first:

I sent more snail mail last week, some more pictures and a letter. I don't know if you got it yet but it should be arriving soon.

Yesterday (Friday the 7th) 30 visas came in for Brazilian missionaries and they left this morning. We are not sure yet if this is just a random occurrence or if it means more in the future but thought I'd let you know. When we get our visas I heard that we are allowed to call home too and tell about when we're leaving so I could call again if my visa comes. I don't want my visa to come yet if the rest of my district's don't come as well, but since I am the only one from out East I think it might turn out that I get mine first.

I got the DearElder from Ben. It was nice to hear from him. Did Julia have to take the NCAP again? O_o

About mailing off letters that I have received, that sounds like it will be a good idea. I have gotten a lot of mail already and it will add up over time. Yesterday I got 6 DearElders, each of yours took up 2 because of the length :D It was great to hear from you!

Heather said to email to her as well but I can't remember her email address so if you could let me know about that, that would be great. Brad's too, and Julia's as well.

The Tie saver is a thing that you would button on the buttons on the shirt you're wearing and have it slide through the loop on the tie, that way the tie won't blow around in the wind or go in your food, but it turned out to be not the best investment because it has a learning curve and I almost ruined a tie because I was trying to put it on my shoulder. Typing this also reminded me that I had accidentally cut a small hole in my pants, but mom, don't worry I sat for 30 minutes and mended it and the mending job seems to be holding!

They give us so much food here at the MTC, it is kind of crazy. A lot of times it is too much. I really like the icecream they have here, but it isn't the same as at home. They

had salmon here for the Missionaries, I didn't take it though because I am not a big fan of fish but I did try some of it.

Yesterday we had a pretty crazy hailstorm, and this whole past week has been overcast.. Bleargh... I liked it more when it was sunny but oh well.

To answer your question about temple attendance mom, yes we go every week. I went today just before typing this email and it was good but I was really drowsy. We get enough sleep here, I guess, but we are working so hard. I don't know what the schedule would be when we go to Brasil's MTC.

Thanks for the package! I really enjoyed it, I got it last Saturday which was really nice because I needed more garments and it was great to get those pictures. Can you send some pictures of the new bathroom? I want to show my district. Elder Smith did a lot of construction. Also, when the leaves start to change a lot, if you could get some really picturesque shots of our house or yard, or some streets that would be nice! I really liked the leaves, Autumn is an amazing season!

I don't know Oma and Papa's address to write them a thank-you letter. Also I don't have the Henkel's address, but I think that was all for addresses I was missing on the list of thank-yous. I still need to get the address for Ryan Rainey too.

Portuguese is going well. Our teachers are speaking more Portuguese to us, and we are getting a hang of the language and replacing the different words we learn with the Portuguese words. We are also having English fasts during lunch where we only speak Portuguese to each other which really helps. Its surprising how much we have retained and how much we are getting in the language. A funny thing about portuguese to english translation, the scripture James 1:5 in portuguese directly translates to "If any of you lack knowledge, let him ask God, that give to all liberally, and he won't throw it in your face, and it shall be given him."

Some silly things we find while studying the language!

I have really enjoyed learning different tricks from Elder's in my district. I have taught 2 how to solve the Rubick's cube already, and I've learned several magic tricks which are fun to do.

General Conference here at the MTC was nice, although it was a lot of sitting. We would go to a session, sit, go to eat, sit, go back to a session, and sit some more and that was pretty much the entire schedule that we had, so not much working out!

One thing that I have started recently that is kind of insane is called the Elder Brown Workout. It is where you do 1 pushup, wait a second then do 2, then 1 pull up, then 3 push ups, then wait a second, then 4 pushups, and then 2 pullups. In total, if you go up to 10 pushups in one set, you do about 110 pushups total, and 15 pullups. In the

past 2 days I've done 280ish pushups because after the workout you burnout with the most pushups you can do. Doing this makes my arms really sore but it is supposed to wear off after a while. So that has been something that was pretty fun :P

Dad - That is exciting that the Gig is happening soon! Hopefully Bruce Houton can make it in time. I'm also glad to hear about the brakes on the van. I had the brakes fail on me one time, it was a little scary. Good thing you got that fixed! I've been putting several names in the Temple each week and I've been praying for the Henkel's, Deb, and the Bentalls. Please record your gig, I want to be able to see it when I get back! I'm looking forward to those pictures as well. That is good that you figured out how to get those pictures sent.

Mom - A lot of the stuff above answers many of the questions that you had in your last DearElder. About the stickers, if you can't find them, that is fine. Elder Woolsey in our district has a lot of stickers and he puts them on the back of his tag so I thought it would be cool. Thanks for the package and thanks for getting those other things that I had asked about. I am glad to have enough garments now! I thought the treat that you sent was also pretty good too. I think I might have had one of those before but I'm not sure. Did you get all the stuff with the iPod touch sorted out? I didn't get to tell you about that stuff but hopefully you're able to use it.

Heather - That is awesome that you taught institute! How did it go overall? As for sleeping schedule goes with conference, I go to bed at 10:30 each night so that is awesome to be in that schedule. I'm glad to hear you are still playing magic with Julia too. I wonder how many sets will be out when I get back. A new one just came out, scars of mirrodin I think. Geoff Told me. I'll remember to tell Danny "Hi" That is also dependant on if my visa doesn't come, which I am kind of hoping for because I like it here being able to get mail easy and if I am here till November 15, I will get to see Mike.

Brad - There is an Elder Phillips here, he is from London and he has a cool British accent. I asked him if he had seen Doctor Who and he said of course so that is furthering that statistic you heard about Brad. There is also an Elder Phillips here, he is from London and he has a cool British accent. I asked him if he had seen Doctor Who and he said of course so that is furthering that statistic you heard about Brad. When does the new season start for that? Have you seen the last season with Matt Smith?

Julia - I'm glad to hear you are enjoying seminary and school. That's awesome that you were able to get magic cards too, and that you made a cool deck. Did you get many mythic rares? Have you been able to beat Mr. Heaton with your new deck? How is Winston doing? How are you liking the phone? Get a hang of it?

Also I met another Elder Larsen who is from Denmark! Could he be related to us? I

remember hearing about that email we got from Denmark, that would be cool if I met a distant cousin!

I know that this email is earlier too, we went straight from the temple to the computer lab so we could write our emails in peace.

I love you all, and miss you, and I hope this answered all of the questions you had in your letters. I'll keep you posted on the Visa stuff as well.

The counter is blinking now so I'll talk to you later! Hope to hear from you soon!

-Elder Phillip Larsen

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