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Week 8

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Happy P-day Family!

This week has been quite awesome! (and I wrote up a list of things to talk about too! huzzah!)

So on Sunday we got to sing in Sacrament Meeting and we sung Nearer My God to Thee in Portuguese, so Mais Perto Quero Estar. It was very fun and our Branch really enjoyed it and one of the counselors in the Branch Presidency complimented one of the elders in our district a lot on the musical number. The MTC president was also in our sacrament meeting that week and we also got to go on a Temple walk again finally! It was very fun. I really liked it and I got some pictures of it. Unfortunately the picture people here have been having trouble lately and were backed up so I am hoping to get the pictures later today but we'll see what happens!

This past Tuesday I got sent down to the Travel Office with about 6 other elders from Brazilian Districts and we ended up applying online through a website for our visas so I think it'll be a few weeks before we hear anything more about visas to Brasil. We will be getting reassignments next week or we'll be applying for them anyways. It is actually pretty exciting! Those go through the 12 apostles and it'll be cool to be able to serve somewhere stateside for a bit, I wonder where I'd get sent.

Later on Tuesday for the devotional guess what! We heard from ANOTHER apostle! It was awesome. We heard from M. Russell Ballard, and he talked about being master communicators and being completely confident in our knowledge of the Gospel so we could teach well. Rumor has it that we are hearing from another Apostle this upcoming week and possibly another after that. Heard that we were hearing from 4 in a row or 5 so we'll figure it out. We also sang in choir again for this devotional and the song was awesome. Look it up when you get the chance, it is "Precious Savior, Dear Redeemer"

On Wednesday I got to be a host missionary for the missionaries coming in this week, unfortunately I didn't get to be the host for Mike, but I did get to see him once. I don't know what building he is in, or what schedule he has and I really want to talk to him some and get pictures with him as well. I saw him before he went into a meeting that new missionaries have but it was great to be able to see him again. Kind of felt like

Alma when I saw him and he was an elder as well. I look forward to coming back and being able to see everyone again and know that they are still strong in the gospel as well!

I have been working on a parody on "Make a Man out of You" because we sing a lot of disney so we were making it more appropriate to missionary stuff. Here is the stuff that is good so far:

Lets get down to business, to defeat, Satan!

Bring the world the Gospel, and baptize all men!

We prepare each day to serve our Lord,

So pack up, we're on our way!

We will go, serve our God, every day!

I don't know, just something fun I have been working on every once in a while this past week.

Lately I started reading in the New Testament. It is awesome, I really love reading it! I am in Mark now, read Matthew. I just love reading about the savior's ministry here on Earth. I also like watching the movies that the church has produced about Jesus Christ. Have you been able to see the Joseph Smith movie I was talking about yet? It is a really good one. Also, the Testaments is a good movie too. We go to see the "Big" movies every week and it switches off between Joseph Smith Prophet of the Restoration to Testaments, back to Joseph Smith, then Legacy. I really like the church produced movies.

Go to LDS.org sometime and watch the mormon messages there. They are very good! I think we've watched most of them. Also, did you hear about the project the church is doing now? They are filming a movie on the New Testament. There is also information there on LDS.org about that. They also have a little video on the Good Samaritan which was nice to watch and see a sort of preview on what it will be like. To answer your question about the surgery that Elder Bitner had mom, it was awkward surgery O_o

This week we were doing an english fast to increase in our Portuguese skills, but it is very hard to do that and we're kind of failing at speaking it all the time but we are definately getting better.

Thank you so much for the Halloween Care Package! I didn't expect it and it was awesome to get it! More candy :D I am also looking forward to getting that other package you are sending, I really want to see those pictures that you've taken! Stinks that walmart failed the first time you ordered them but I'm looking forward to the little notes on each one.

Nanowrimo this month Mom, Heather, Julia, and Rachel! Are you doing well with the

word count? I sure as heck fire ain't :P I have had some inspirational ideas though during gym time or what not. I wrote them down. It is in a steam punk world, like purely steam punk. I got the idea when I was playing volleyball and someone spiked the ball. Vernon Cannonhand, a steam punk pirate! OoOoOo It'll be fun to write about it when I get back. Just keeping notes on it now and what not. How are your stories coming though? It is an exciting time and its pretty amazing that it has already been a year from last time! I was working for UPS last year O_o

Did you hear anything about the stake centers in Utah being burned? I heard something about that from Ammon, the guy who directs our service on Wednesday mornings. He said it was because of the talk on You can't change laws of Nature and that made a lot of people angry, but it is from an apostle of the Lord... Sad that the world has to be so corrupted... But is that true about the stake centers? I don't think they burned down but they were damaged to some degree.

Dad have you heard anything about the Ensign article you submitted? Whenever you hear anything about it being published in an upcoming edition, let me know! Mom, I don't quite remember my password for Itunes for the iPod touch but I think that it would be good to get it on your information because it would bill me if you bought anything on it. I don't know if you need my password to change it though but you'll be able to figure it out.

I love seeing so many foreign elders and sisters here. At the fireside last Sunday I had a chat with a German elder and it was cool. I've talked with several Elders from Britain, and a Sister from Hungary. An Elder from Mexico, and we have been talking a lot with some Elders from Brasil. One elder, Elder Viera De Sousa is going to the Boston mission with english speaking, so if you ever see him soon let me know! It has been cool being able to talk to him in class.

They are still setting up Christmas lights here at the MTC, most of the trees in this section are covered and it is quite impressive when we get to see the few that are on but they won't be turning them all on anytime soon which is a bit annoying! Oh well. Thanks dad for getting me a copy of that book you are working on for Brother Eberhard. I look forward to being able to read that. That is also crazy about the food budget! I guess with the combination of not having Bradford and Me, the Wilsons, and a lot of other people coming over so often it would cut down, but that is quite impressive!

One worldly thing, some of the Elders ask their family about sports so I guess this is okay. Julia can you go onto the Hiveworkshop website on my computer in Mozilla and check how many downloads my map has now and the ratings or what not? I am just curious as to if it completely died or not. Thanks!

A bird got into the cafeteria here as well, just a random tangeant, and people were trying to catch it. I still don't think that they have got it out of the MTC, who knows. The

birds here are quite stupid too, they walk right up to you. I went, pretending to grab one of the birds here and instead of it flying away, it just crouched down right underneath my hand. It was unexpected.

Well I am now at 5 minutes left and the timer has started to blink.

I love you all lots and love hearing from you and how you are all doing. I miss you back home but I am excited to be able to go to the field soon and preach the gospel!

Love you, hope to hear from you soon!

Love,
Elder Phillip Edward Larsen the first :P

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