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Last Pday in the MTC

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

Happy P-Day!

Sorry for emailing so late today, the schedule was different and today has felt very rushed!

So it is the last week I have here in the MTC and today has really flown by and I already forgot stuff to bring to say to you. Okay so I'll try to remember as much as I can:

I'm sorry that I called when you were gone. I had intended on calling so that everyone would be home but I called the night you and Julia had Book Buzz! Aiyaa! O_o Sorry. So I am going to Lubbock Texas, we leave at 5:00 am Monday Morning, and then we leave for our flight to Dallas at 8ish? I think it might be 8:30. I meant to bring my travel plans when I emailed so I could let you know all the information but alas I forgot... Sorry. We have a 2 hour layover in Dallas Texas so I can call you then mom and you can talk to me then! I'll use my phone card, I don't really know how to use it though. The layover is from 12:00ish to 2:30ish maybe? I don't remember, it was something like 2 hours though and then I fly to Lubbock Texas with Elder Yorgason. It is very weird thinking that in less than a week we will be in the field teaching and proselyting with real investigators! Wow!

Okay now off to the notes that I do have taken down to talk to you about:

(I also forgot to bring the thing I wrote my address down for Lubbock so I'll get that to you when I can.

I really liked the package I got from you! It was awesome, I really enjoyed the pictures you sent and my district did as well. I also liked the shirt, I wore that several times this past week. I got the package on Monday.

We ate at the temple's cafeteria today and the food there was so good! Quite a bit better in many regards to the food here but the food here isn't bad, just that it is relatively the same stuff over and over again, it was nice to have something different today for lunch. We had 5 different languages in the session we did today too. The Brazilian Elders that we know from our building and from them teaching us were there, and there was an Italian Elder, a German Elder, Spanish Sister, and then there was also an Elder who spoke Arabic, although I do not know what country he is from, but it was really neat to see them at the temple.

I got to see Mike this week, and I got some pictures with him. Saw him every once in a while and he also sang in Choir with us and guess who came to the devotional this past Tuesday...

Elder Bednar!!! It was really good, and very uplifting and helped me understand stuff about teaching Doctrine to people's objections and questions because the Doctrine answers the "Why"

Also this past fireside, the speaker was Sheri Dew, so we had quite the spiritual feast this past week. The song was nice too that we sang but I liked the one the week before more. Did you ever get to listen to that?

Apparently, word on the street is there is a new Brazilian President and I have heard 2 rumors about her. One, she hates Americans, and two she loves Americans so depending on which one is true will determine our visa situation. Hopefully the first. I did hear from our District President that we should get our visas in the next month or by the end of the month so we'll see what happens.

We all got our reassignments except for Elder Bitner. He had more surgery this past week and he is really sad that he isn't going to be able to leave with us. He was told he was going to get his reassignment today but then they said he can't get it until he is better and ready to serve. It has been really hard on him and us. Elder Smith, Elder Harris, and Elder Sharp all got called to Pocatella, Idaho, and Elder Sharp lives an hour away from that mission too. Its quite funny, but they're excited to go there. Elder Woolsey and Elder Billin are going to Spokane, Washington, and their mission has parts of Canada in it. Elder Vanwagoner and Elder Jorgenson are going to Balitmore, Maryland. That was very unexpected since all the other elders in another district and us were all going Western stateside. Elder Iverson is going to Mac Ellen, Texas, and Elder Yorgason and I are going to Lubbock, Texas. Its very exciting and we all leave at 5:00 am. 5 of us are also going to Dallas together on the same flight which will be fun. I am not looking forward to having to say goodbye to them all though, we're really close and I really have enjoyed these past 9 weeks.

I am going to send a package to you guys this week with some stuff, letters, some pictures, etc.

Starting to pack tonight and the rest of this weekend.

Also, I am not sure how much money is on my Visa card, and if I have money for Travel.

It'll be weird not getting Dearelders that often either, but I'll have to get used to it, especially since I'll be in Brasil eventually. Still doesn't feel like we'll be leaving this Monday. Time has really flown by. The days are like weeks and the weeks are like days. Yesterday we did a teaching excersize with Irmao Call and he said it would be in English, it was pretty funny though because it took me a second to realize they were teaching in English because it sounded weird doing that. We have been teaching in Portuguese for so long that it threw us off. I don't know if I'll be in a trio with Elder

Yorgason but we will have an hour of language study time. I hope I am ready and prepared enough to be able to study on my own.

Heather I did get your letter today by the way, it was Veterans day yesterday so we were wondering why we didn't get mail but that is why. I can't get Danny's address now because he left a few weeks ago. He was only here for 3 weeks because he is going English Speaking. As for Nanowrimo for Mom, Julia, and Heather, that is good that you're just making a goal to write every day. That is good to get into the habit and if you keep that even after November that will be awesome! I have thought a little more on Nanowrimo throughout the week but not too much though.

I also forgot to bring your letters here so I could reply directly to all the questions you had so I apologize for that but I will reply next week. Weird! In the field in less than a week! I'll also be able to call when I get my visa and when I am in the airport going to Brasil too.

Dad, when you went to Murray High, was your principle Dale Geddes? If so, I met his grandson here. He is in one of the other Brazilian Districts. Just thought that was pretty cool. He was talking about school and I am pretty sure you went to Murray High. You did, didn't you? It was nice to be able to talk to you and Heather last night and I'll be able to call mom in the airport, I felt bad that she missed it.

Mom, did you figure out the iPod touch, and what do you mean about making a blog through the DearElder site? Like I just said, I'll talk to you Monday around 12:00ish here. I don't really know the time zone stuff but I'll call your cell phone, or try to, or the home phone. We'll figure it out.

Julia, how are you liking your cellphone now? Mom said you are getting a lot of homework and that it is kind of stressful, but I hope you are enjoying school despite that. Did you ever get to look at the download count or stuff for my map? Just wondering. I loved seeing the pictures of Winston that you guys sent me and the pictures from King Richard's Faire. Looked very fun, we'll have to go to that when I get back.

I've been thinking about the Wilsons too lately. Have you kept in good contact with them? I heard that Andrew broke his hand, but other than that they have moved in alright.

One minute left now, so I gotta get going. I love you all very much and miss you. Pretty crazy, already been 2 months off of my mission already just here in the MTC. It is really flying by... I am grateful for this opportunity to serve the Lord and I know that Texas is where he needs me now. "Don't you dare take the name of Texas in vain!"

Love,

Elder Phillip Larsen the 1st

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