



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

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## Brasil Week 5

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To: John@larsen-family.us, joyce@larsen-family.us, Anki Larsen <shadrach.anki@gmail.com>, brad.larsen@gmail.com, Julia Larsen <julia@larsen-family.us>

Querido Familia,

So this week has also not been too normal, but its getting there. I actually got to go to church yesterday at the Uruguai, Ward. It is a smaller ward, but there is a lot of love there and its cool.

The language is going to be a roller coaster for quite some time. Already I've been in Brasil for a month! Time really does fly. The language will come with time, and patience. I can tell improvement from where I was when I arrived, but I am far from fluent.

The food here is great, although I am still getting used to how everything works. To answer your question about dinner, we are actually not allowed to eat dinner with members, because we eat lunch every day with a member. The food here is delicious. Usually we go to a bakery as well, they are everywhere. Buy about 1-2 reais of bread, and eat that for breakfast. I also eat noodles with pizza sauce, and cookies. I bought chocolate milk a couple of days ago, however, the price was decieving and it said R\$1,20 but that was per container in the 3 container package. Food is pretty expensive here, well it seems like it anyways.

The booklets were \$5 dollars each on sale. I think they are usually 10.00 but I'm not sure. They aren't the pocket sized ones, they are 5''x8 1/2''? I think. The brand is Markings ,and they are at staples. They come in Italian Brown leather, shiny black, shiny brown, and green. I like the italian brown ones, they aren't shiny. So maybe 2 of those? I don't know. I like having the bigger ones for my journal and study journal. That's funny that Ian wanted notebooks like those as well. Just let me know when you send the stuff, and sorry for asking for so many things! O\_o

Thanks for working on the calendar Dad, 18 months will work out fine. I've already been out for 7 months this Friday. O\_o

Mom, I'm glad you've enjoyed your vacation in Utah, and thank you for the insights

you shared.

Thank you as well Dad for your insights. I'm glad you and Julia survived while mom was gone

When are you going to visit New Mexico?

This computer is so ghetto... I hope you don't get a virus or something. It does have Mozilla Firefox though which is nice.

Can't think right now... Grrr... This email is a little shorter than others. This week has been good though. A little tough at times. Elder Magalhães likes to go work out at a gym every morning which is different. I take the time to study and have been reading Jesus the Christ. In Preach my Gospel it says to increase your desire to share the gospel, you need to learn more about the atonement. So that is what I am trying to do.

I also had a great experience during personal study yesterday. I was studying and felt like I should read from the book about preparing to go to the temple that I had in my suitcase. Many times I have wished that I could go to the temple but we do not have on in our mission. Just reading about the temple and just the blessings of eternal families that come from it filled me with a powerful feeling of peace. I am glad that I had listened to that very subtle prompting that normally I would dismiss to be nothing.

I know that God loves each and every one of us. He truly is mindful of us all and desires to bless us and help us. Prayer is a very important part of everyday life. The promise of "Ask and you shall receive, knock and it shall be opened unto you" is a very true promise. I am grateful for the scriptures and the words of the prophets of the Lord. I know that we have a prophet called by God today, and that he holds all the keys of the priesthood. Jesus Christ lives. He is our savior and redeemer, and his arms are open to us. It is strange, often times when we serve, or receive a calling, the person who seems to have the largest change is the one called. We can never repay God for the love, and help that he gives us.

I'm serving my mission. Sometimes when I think that, it hits me! (I thought it a few times while walking to an appointment and then looked around at the tropical trees, and the brush on the sides of the dirt road while sweat is dripping down my face then thought of some of the pictures at the MTC in the hallways there. I'm serving my mission! And when I get back, depending on my mindset and what I do now will determine my memories of my missionary service.) I thought that was a cool thought though.

Every day is hot, it has been raining a lot lately, every night. The thunderstorms on the horizon are awesome. The people are friendly, and I am still adjusting to the culture, and speaking Portuguese.

I love you all and miss you. I'm glad you're doing well. Thanks for your emails and support!

Love,

Elder Phillip Larsen

(Sorry if I missed anything. At first the computer wasn't working well at the beginning.)

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