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## Brasil July 4, 2011

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PM

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Querida Familia,

Happy 4th of July!!!

That's pretty cool that p-day lined up with the 4th, so I get a mini vacation as well, but don't get to watch fireworks.

Today we went to centro of Teresina and went to one of the malls there and I got a caixa, one of those boxes that plays music directly from the USB drive so I'm ready for whenever I will get the package dad, which is hopefully going to be this week. (we have leadership training for the mission this week)

Oh one thing that I keep forgetting to tell you, a few weeks ago we were asked if we were from Africa. I thought that was pretty funny. Also yesterday, or Saturday, can't remember which, some kids wanted to practice their swears in English, it was unexpected. :P

So we had a lesson with Oseias. We tried to set a baptismal date with him, he is ready, he has been attending church, and has been reading in the Book of Mormon, but he said he wants a little more time. During the lesson, we were talking about a bug that lives in our area and it burns people by urinating on them, and later on in the lesson there was one that was on my neck, but luckily I escaped its wrath. Perhaps that is what that initial "bite" was when I arrived here.

Today on the bus we a lady who didn't look Brasilian at all, (bright blonde hair) and later on in the trip we heard them speaking in English so I went over and talked a little with her. She is studying medicine here, and she is from Finland, yet she sounded like an American with her English. It was cool to be able to do that.

To answer some of your questions mom, yes we clap at doors, but we knock too sometimes. Depends on the door. No one has air conditioning here, only in stores, and lan houses, and president's house. We do have fans though and I use it every

single night.

And yes it is hot, today it is 40 degrees celsius, in the shade I think too. That is more than 100 degrees farinheit. (yes I spelled that wrong)

I have gotten to the point where I can pick up grammar errors that people make here in every day speaking, and it throws me off because it is wrong. But that is a good sign too that I can notice when people speak incorrectly, (myself included!)

One thing that happened at Church yesterday: A member walked up to me after the gospel principles class and started to chew me out because we didn't visit her brother, but I didn't remember getting a reference from them, and it was during transfer time so it fell through the cracks. Well that got me a bit annoyed that she was so angry, for one I couldn't speak portuguese that well back then anyways, and two she gave it to my companion, who got transferred. Well during Sacrament meeting, well before, Jaco Santos, a little kid in the ward asked if I would be sharing my testimony, but I replied that I wasn't sure. Then Elder Alonso, my companion asked me if I would, and I replied the same. Finally another member asked me during the meeting if I would be and I replied the same, and then I thought *that is the 3rd time I have been asked to bear my testimony. I should go up.* So I did. After the meeting, I walked up to the member who had chewed me out and apologized. She then said Elder, I am sorry. When you bore your testimony, I remembered my own mission, and then I felt bad.

I am glad that I was able to realize that I had been asked 3 times that sacrament meeting to share my testimony. I got the address and number of the reference and we left the meeting happy and without anger. It was good.

I don't want to get transferred from this area. I want to stay another transfer. We just got a list from our Bishop of the inactive members in our ward, and it turns out that the majority of members in our ward boundary are inactive so we have a lot, and I mean A LOT of work to do. 9 Pages of ward directory, and only about 25 names were active. So we have a lot of work to do now and we can find a lot more legit new people to teach by visiting those members and reactivating them and teaching their friends.

I really like the mission, the environment of the mission and everything. Being a missionary is really fun, despite the hard times. Just relishing the moment, and enjoying it as best as you can, even when it is pouring outside and your walking to lunch without an umbrella, or it is raining from the side, enjoying the tough times just makes it all better.

I have decided that I am going to make the Larger plates of Elder Larsen, which will have the day by day journal entries, and then the smaller plates of Elder Larsen, which will have the spiritual experiences that I have. I think it is funny anyways.

Well that's it for this week. I'm glad you are all doing well and hope that you have an enjoyable 4th of July and a great week! Love you, miss you lots!

Até proxima Segunda!

Love,

Elder Phillip Larsen

P.S. Dad, the first picture is from Texas, but can you put that as my profile picture on facebook? (DSCN3083.jpg)

The other picture is our last Baptism, Jamerson. Fabio did the ordinance.

I was able to use a card reader this week, but the internet was still really slow. I'll figure something out. I will buy a card reader for my SD card I think, it is a lot more convenient.

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