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Querida Familia,

Awww Lucky! You guys got to see a road runner in NM! I was hopeful that I would see one when I was serving there, but alas, my luck ran out! Yearg!

This week has been pretty awesome. We had a lot of stuff happen, but at the same time a lot of our appointments fell through which, as you can imagine, is really annoying. We had interviews with President Dias on Wednesday. Those were good, we ended up staying in the office till 6:00 though and we arrived at 2:25. Elder Alonso, now he is Elder Coelho (Rabbit) lost his name tag. The story goes like this... First off, it is my fault, and here's why. We were walking to our lunch appointment and on the way there there was a certain bush called mamona, its a fruit that he picked off the bush. I had already experienced this with Elder Alonso, he likes throwing the fruits (they're about the size of a marble) at his companions so this time I decided to just run away so he wouldn't get me. Well he ran after me, and somewhere along the line he lost his tag, it fell off of his pocket. Obviously you can see why it is my fault, right? Actually this reason why it was my fault is because in our house everything is my fault because I am the only American. Hah, just an inside joke we have. He had Elder Paz, one of the office elders printed out a paper and they taped his new name on a temporary name tag.

One funny thing that happened during interviews, I was trying to say something in Português, but I couldn't think how I could say it, so I asked if I could speak in English. As I tried to speak in English, I just couldn't to President Dias. I kept saying different words in Português, so I resorted back to speaking in it. I thought that was a pretty cool experience. He said I am fluent, I just lack the vocabulary.

As far as transfer information goes, I am not getting Transferred, neither is Elder Thomé, or Elder Coelho, but Elder Bezerra is being transferred to another area. I don't know the Elder who is coming here, Elder Silva. That's like Elder Smith in America.

Oh, one thing, next time you mail packages, maybe also ask if people want to write a

short letter or something you can put in the packages. Elder Thomé's family does that, and I thought that was pretty cool.

New Mexico looked like a blast! The zoo trip looked really fun too. We have a Zoo here in Teresina, but it doesn't have too many animals, well variety. I haven't been there yet, but some members went there and I asked them about it. It is pretty awesome that you can go to a place and see animals from other continents. Rhynos are really cool. Ligers are pretty much my favorite animal though... :P

Their house is awesome looking too, looks like a lot of houses of members in Hobbs, and Texas. That area of the country is different than out East. Did you play card games and stuff at the house in between trips to different places?

Sonics is really good. I can't remember if we have those in NH or not, but I ate there quite a few times during my stay in Hobbs. We would go for Happy Hour a lot as a district. Good memories there.

Really old Catholic Churches are cool too, the free standing staircase too. There is an old catholic church here in Teresina. In our mission too, in Ceara there are several catholic churches that are recreations of temples, Salt Lake City, and Nauvoo, and also there is a mini Christ the Redeemer Statue, kind of like in Rio De Janeiro.

So I don't know if I talked about Jasminy last email, I think I did. Well we visited her this past week and it was great to hear that she ended up going to church the week before and decided to keep going, and is praying now, and now she wants to read too so we gave her some assigned reading because it is hard to get into the habit if you aren't already in it. It is cool to see her transformation happen. Moments like that make the hard times pay off.

I listened to the music Andrew Cote dedicated to Stanford. That is really cool. It is very well made and I enjoy it.

Recently here in Teresina, we had weather that was pretty similar to NH and it was familiar feeling, I felt like I was back in NH, a nice breeze, not too hot, but sounds like you had some pretty hot weather there in NH recently. It has been unusually cool here, well unusually cool to me with my 4 months of experience here in the NorthEast of Brasil.

I mailed a letter a while back to our house with Jesse's name on it. I can't remember his address, but it is nearby our house, Lockness Dr, I didn't remember if it was #4 or #5, but if you could get that to him I would appreciate it. I sent it there because I wasn't sure if he finished school or not.

That's exciting that both Andrew and Miranda are preparing to serve missions!

Hmm... That I can think of right now... I am glad you made it back home safely, and that you had a good visit with the Wilsons in New Mexico. I am interested to hear who will be the new Bishop and Bishopric. Let me know next week! Say by to the Mcfaddens for me!

Love you lots and miss you guys a lot. When people said that the mission flies by, they mean it. At times it may not feel like it, but day by day it passes. I am glad that I am serving in Brasil now, and that I have been able to witness so many miracles already in my service. Callings are given to us to grow, and I am learning so much about the mission, the gospel, and life.

Talk to you next week!

Love,

Elder Phillip Larsen

One scripture I really like, and used this week in a lesson is John 3:16-17. It just shows the love that God has for us, and the love that Jesus Christ has for us as well.

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