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Querida Familia,

So this week has been one full of eventful stuff, it has been good though.

We had a slow week in terms of finding new people to teach. Tuesday Elder Silva arrived, we had dropped off Elder Bezerra at the staff house in Centro Teresina. (It is in a skyscraper which is pretty cool. The view is awesome.) Elder Silva and I stayed at the house and he got his stuff unpacked and then we went and bought stuff like soap for laundry. Elder Thom  and Elder Alonso (Coelho now) went to Oseias's house and talked with him. Elder Thom  went over the baptismal questions with him just to help him know what exactly happens at the interview and to see how he is doing. He isn't getting baptized soon, but we really want him to. He has a lot of doubts with deep doctrine, but all doubts are simply resolved with the basics: the principles of the gospel.

So humorous things that happened this week... Well I saw a little kid walking with his mom and when he got to the point where the sidewalk dropped to a lower part, he said very excitedly: "Pula de ninja!" which means Jump of the ninja! -I found it rather funny anyways.

Another funny thing that happened, we were in Planalto Uruguai, one of the neighborhoods in our area. It is set up grid style so the streets are pretty long, and at the end of the street we were walking on, a Vulture started to descend but was descending straight for us. It was about 4-5 feet off the ground and so I tried to kick it... heh, I didn't succeed but I was about a foot off.

Another thing is one kid when we turned a corner just said "Buneco de olindo" which are these gigantic costumes that people wear during July for festivals here. Elder Alonso retorted jokingly and said "Who, you?" and then he said "You are the giants" We're both more than 6 feet tall.

A lot of random and funny things have been happening to us when we walk through

the streets in our area. Its been interesting.

We have been teaching Vanda and Luis a lot this week, we have been able to meet with them. Luis is a really smart kid. He has already gone to church several times, but not in our ward. We brought him this week to church and a lot of the members thought that he was already a member because of how much he already knew, but he's getting baptized next Sunday! The visits with him are really cool.

We also had Mãos que Ajuda (Helping Hands) happen in our ward, however, it wasn't in our area so Elder Alonso and I didn't get to participate in it which was a bummer.

I have become more and more convinced of how this truly is the Lord's work and he is going to have stuff happen that he wants. First thing that made me feel this more this week is when we were walking Saturday, and no one was at home where we visited... We stopped by a potential investigator, they "weren't" home. Then we were walking to another neighborhood in our area and one of our old investigators told us she'd go to Young Women's on Sunday, which is a big step for her because she never would go to church and that is why we stopped visiting her. (Unfortunately, her desire to go didn't last through to the next day and she wasn't at church) Then after that, just when we almost entered in the neighborhood I thought of how I wanted to buy this one type of bread at a bakery that we go to often and on the way to the bakery we passed Luis who was at his grandfather's house. (We had tried to visit Luis earlier but they weren't home. We told him about the plan for Sunday to bring him to church and that was all set and done.)

The second event that made me realize more how God is at the head of this work is Sunday. In the morning we called the number of the Sister of the ward who we were going to eat lunch with. She said that the calendar is wrong and that lunch will be at Irma Vilma's house. (The wife of Oseias.) So we went to their house early because we had an appointment later that day in an area 25ish minutes away, and we had to arrive there when we planned. Well we finished lunch early at 12:30, and then Oseias said "Should we start the lesson now? He took all the initiative and said the prayer, then pulled out his bible and showed us some scriptures he was reading which also revealed more of his doubts and questions. Well during the lesson he said that he had prayed that we would come over. Sunday morning he prayed that we would come over, and Sunday afternoon we ended up having lunch at his house. This alone is an answer to his prayers, but somehow he doesn't see it. We resolved several doubts of his. I really want him to get baptized. His children and wife need him to be baptized. All members of his immediate family are members of the church except him.

This week has been a time of much reflection for me about the mission, and how I can improve. I have seen many miracles, and had many experiences where I have been able to recognize more the promptings of the spirit.

Some comments from your emails: That clock is awesome! Steampunk clock in the kitchen! Do the gears all move?

It was sad to see the pictures from the goodbye party for the Mcfaddens. Moves are always difficult things. I hope so too that our ward can still have that same feeling of Zion despite all the changes that happen.

That's pretty funny with all the possible confusion Ricky Nelson, Ricky Hann, Craig Nelson. That's good though that the new bishopric is all announced and set. There have been a lot of changes recently here in Teresina,

I still didn't receive any email from Andrew so I think he sent it to the wrong email address, so just pass him a message about that for me please.

Well that's about all. I'm glad you're all doing well and that everything is going well this summer. Have a good week! Love you all, and miss you.

Talk to you next week!

Love,

Elder Phillip Larsen

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