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Querida Familia,

Like you said dad, it is 11 months since I left for the mission, and it has flown by. Next month will already have been a year. While writing this it has kind of surprised me how fast the time flies by. Throughout the mission some weeks feel like months, some days feel like weeks, some months feel like weeks and some weeks feel like days. It truly is a twilight zone passing of time, yet it passes nevertheless. When I call home in December, I will have less than 10 months, but I try not to count, however it is like trying to not count how old you are on your birthday.

So this week, well last week I said I was really excited for the upcoming week. It is actually quite comical how almost everything went differently than I was expecting. It started with Zone Conference where I didn't end up receiving my mission bag, that was a bummer. I did get the Debit Card though, so dad you can activate that. Zone Conference was good, I always like seeing all the other missionaries. I saw Elder Magalhães again, this time I could talk to him easily. My Português has gone a long ways, although I still have trouble with listening to talks and reading. The Zone Conference in Teresina has 2 zones because we have 2 zones in the city, and 2 stakes too.

All the lunch appointments I was excited for ended up happening strangely. Sabina had to leave early so we started early so we didn't get to talk about the mission with her and talk about stories from her mission. Marcia couldn't give us lunch on Friday because it was her Daughter's birthday party that she was preparing for, we got to go to that though which was good, however being a missionary parties are always different. We brought Luis to that. Saturday, because of Stake Conference for the adults and priesthood, Kita had lunch early and had to leave early. (We didn't get to go to the other sessions, only the general session.) Sunday morning, Luis didn't get baptized. I am almost positive that several people in his family don't want him to be baptized so it didn't happen, but maybe it is for the better and he will be baptized at a later time when he is more independent. (He is only 9 years old.) Sunday we had lunch with Etelvina, but she couldn't give it so we had lunch at Irma Rosa's house. I

like eating at their house. Their house is also where we called for Mother's day. Conference was good, however, in the middle one of our zone leaders asked us if we could leave so that investigators could sit in our seats, so we didn't hear the last half, but we got to talk with other missionaries. Like I said, comical, but it was still an enjoyable week despite several of the downsides.

Today has been a good day. My pants are starting to lose their color on the knees so I was hoping to buy pants at this gigantic supermarket, the Walmart of Brasil: Extra, but the sale for pants ended. I will just wait until the next sale. The sale was for Father's day. It is a different day than in the united States, but Happy Father's Day Dad! Again! :D

Lucky Gideon!!! That is awesome! Yes Mom I have heard of that, it is a big competition of Nerf Guns. I have several Nerf Dart Tag guns, but I like the other set that they have more. There aren't nerf guns here. :(We have battles with a little fruit that grows in bunches called Mamona though. That's really cool!

Awesome Julia about EFY. I loved EFY at Amherst Mass. That campus is really cool. It always had construction when we went, but it was always a good time.

Yes it has been very very hot lately. I use my hammoc to just relax. I don't use it to sleep in at night, but a lot of missionaries here do. One said it is nicer than a bed because it is a lot cooler. I really like our mission. The area is really cool, however I am still in my first area. I love the ward here. I hope that I can serve in São Luis, the capital of Maranhão. It is a city that still has buildings from the Portuguese who "found" Brasil. Also it will have the largest mall of Latin America built there which is pretty neat, but that will be long after I am back from the mission. It has a lot of historical sites and is considered an island surrounded by beaches.

Did you recieve the 2 dvds that I sent with photos from the mission? Probably not, but I sent those Tuesday after Zone Conference so hopefully you'll get those soon. I am glad I got that done finally. Let me know when you get those, and I hope that they work.

Hmm other things that happened this week... Again I wasn't too good at writing down stuff in a list of cool things that happened.

OH, I drew a symbol for our mission and gave it to Sister Dias to consider this Sunday. We already have a symbol but it isn't ever used because it is really complicated so I drew a simpler version so we can have it on our scripture cases, bags, and whatever other stuff of the mission. Hopefully that gets accepted. Both Sister Dias and President Dias liked it when I showed it to them.

Well that's all for this week. Was an interesting week, but good. I'm glad you had a good time at Utah Heather, trips are always rushed but good. Glad Julia and Emmy have been having a great time. Don't worry about SYC Julia, its a cool thing and you get to help plan activities for the Stake.

Already getting close to 1 year on the mission. There is a photo that is passed among the missionaries here that is about the mission. It has a mountain and on one side there is a missionary with his suitcases standing next to a sign that says MTC and a caption "Now what?" then it has "I will baptize a lot about halfway up the mountain one side, then just before the top "People stopped writing to me? Why?" then Hump Day, the peak of the mountain, then "Wow the time is flying" halfway down the other mountain, and then "Trunky" and then "Home" It is pretty funny, I'll try to send it to you next week, however it is in Portuguese. It is quite true though how fast the time flies.

Love you all lots and miss you. Have a great week!

Love,

Elder Phillip Larsen

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