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Querida Familia,

Well I was right, you guys are at King Richards Faire, hope you are enjoying your visit, but that is a huge bummer that the juggler isn't there. His show is my favorite.

This week has been quite the week indeed!

Anna was baptized! I baptized her, but during the week it was a bit of a battle. We talked with her mom I think it was Tuesday and she said she doesn't want her to get baptized until she knows for certain that this is what she wants. We were a little intimidated actually by how firm she was in her opinion, well I was a little, but we went forward with faith and scheduled another appointment to talk to her mom more about baptism and the choice her daughter wants to make to take that step of faith. Well, we testified a lot to her during the several visits we had and on Friday she said that she will allow it to happen. Her dad attended the baptism, and I think he liked it. She was wicked nervous though, don't know why, but everything went right and Elder Ribeiro and I are very happy that we were able to baptize her.

This week at church, 6 investigators attended, and the best part was that it was people we had been working with for a while! Ciro and Vanessa, and Diogo (He's 4), I don't know if I talked about them already, but they are awesome. I love that family. We are helping them prepare to get married, and then baptized, and when they went to church this week they were telling people they were already members. They had attended earlier in the year, and Elder Smoot taught them, well Elder Smoot found them again since he returned to Parnaiba the same time I did, but they don't live in the same area as where he is working so we get to teach them instead. I really enjoy the visits with them. Ciro is working on the square to play soccer at the church.

Romero and Josi also went to church. They are passing through a lot of trials right now. This was the first time they came to sacrament meeting, I know they will be blessed for going to church. We are going to work with them more this week.

So Correios is still on strike, (that is the postal system here), and also the banks are on strike so we haven't been able to pull off the money from our cards because all the ATMs aren't working. It is really annoying because it has been hurting our investigators a lot with the banks closed and correios closed. Hopefully they will go out of strike soon. Correios got out of strike, but they had like 300,000,000 letters to send so they entered again or something, but they are still on strike. I will send emails to you mom to forward to people I guess, well I'll try that now because there is no other way to write to people now through the mail. I will get the letters that people have already sent after they go back to work again.

We walk so much now.... So much... It is a 30 minute walk to our area, and a 30 minute walk back home every day, and it is without shade for a good part of the way too. Oh well, I'll live.

Dad, send a picture of that new van you want to buy. That stinks that the old van is dying now. With all these different changes happening, I will be returning to a different "Home". Not too different, but still different.

Tomorrow Elder Crittenden, and Elder Bailey will be going home. They were the elders in that group that I got to know better. It is a bummer that that is happening. It is weird how the time passes so fast, especially on the mission. In a couple days I have already passed another month which kind of hit me like a ton of bricks.

Our new house is really awesome still, but only when we are there, when we are walking it is hard to appreciate it. Hah.

Last Friday, I went on a division with Elder Yorgason, from my MTC District. It was a really fun time. We talked about all the stuff in Texas that happened, reminisced a little. (I know I spelled that incorrectly but can't remember the correct spelling.) A year ago we were in Utah studying Portuguese and preparing to teach the people we are teaching now.

Well that is about it. Oh, most of our zone all use police bags of parnaiba now because Elder Smoot found a person that makes them and sells them for cheap. It is a side bag that goes on the leg, it is pretty cool. President said we can use them too. Next month, we're hoping that Elder Bednar will pass through our mission. I hope he does!

Love you a bunch, and I miss you guys a lot. Enjoy the week, and I'll talk to you more next week! Transfers are this week too, wow this one went by fast. I'll let you know if anything happens. I like Parnaiba.

Love,

-Elder Phillip Larsen

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