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11:27 AM

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Querida Familia,

Hey! Wow it is almost December already... That is kind of crazy!

This past week was really awesome. Lots of stuff happened!

We taught this one family, a friend of a member that lives here and it went really well. She is reading in the Book of Mormon, and when we talked with her husband, he too was very understanding of everything. I am excited to talk to them more and teach them more. They didn't go to church though this past Sunday...

When we were in that area, we decided to walk a different way. Walking past this one house, a lady called after us. "Vocês são os Mórmons?" "Are you the mormons?" She then talked about how 4 years ago, 2 missionaries had built her house in Curitiba, on the other side of the country, and that they had been a big part of her life during that time. She told us about how she learned more about charity, and loving thy neighbor. She has a very different accent then those who live in this area in the Northeast. I actually find it a bit easier to understand than some people that live here.

So the Ferreira Family, (Amarildo, Tereza, Amanda, and Mariana) were baptized and confirmed this past weekend! Saturday was the baptism and it was really awesome. Sunday was the confirmation, and they are so happy. It was rather hilarious at the interviews that happened on Friday before the baptism. Amarildo started joking around with the Zone Leaders. (They came because Elder Ribeiro is the District Leader) and one of them asked if he was also going to get baptized. This was an amazing week here. I really like this area. The members are all happy because the majority of them already know the family. After the baptism on Saturday, they had a dinner at their house but we ended up having to leave early but we took a picture with everyone.

On Sunday I had the opportunity to talk. No matter how many times I talk, I always seem to get that same nervous feeling. I am not able to see my ability getting better. We both talked Sunday in Sacrament meeting.

Another thing that has been a little worrismatic to me is that this past week I had made the transition to reading 95% in Portuguese, and studying in it too. Well to my dismay I feel like I have been talking worse, and speaking with people has been getting harder. That is something that is not exactly good when you are trying to make an effort to improve on something... Don't really know what to do from there, but I am still going to continue studying like this.

We had some adventures in the foresty area where Romilson, one of the members lives. It was really cool. I really like going there, its a beautiful area. I will send some of the pictures in another email.

We have been working very hard this past week, it seemed to go by so slowly! Waiting for everything at the weekend.

One experience that I really thought was special was Sunday night, after church we were walking to a house and we got a phone call from the church. It was a member from the other ward who asked us if we were able to go with him to his mother in law's house to give her a blessing. He told us that she is an inactive member, and that she had requested a blessing. We told him yes and waited for him to arrive at a place that we were at. We went there and talked with his Mother in Law and talked with his family, and gave her a blessing.

The priesthood is to bless the lives of others. To help those who are in need, and to administer the ordinances of the Gospel. I am so grateful that Joseph Smith prayed in the grove that morning. I don't know, it is just a bit hard to explain. (If you want Dad, you can cut this part out of the email forwarded to others. I just felt like including this experience in the email.)

The mission is an incredible time, and I have been able to see the hand of the Lord in my life, and the lives of others. I am so grateful for the Gospel that has brought so many blessings to my life, and to you all, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to share this wonderful message with God's children here in Brasil.

Dad, have a good trip in Egypt, and if it doesn't work to send an email I'll know why, but be safe. I love you all, have a good holiday season and talk to you more next week! Christmas call soon! :D

Love,

Elder Phillip Larsen

The Pictures. There will be another email after this one.

5250 - The Baptism of Amarildo and his Family. (Left to right, Me, Bishop is kneeling down, Amarildo, Elder Ribeiro, Mariana (With Vitoria her niece) Tereza, and Amanda.)

This one is the one with all of us with our eyes open :P

5215 - That is in the area near Romilson's house. You can put that as the facebook picture for my Facebook.

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