



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

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Phillip Larsen <phillip.larsen@myldsmail.net>

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To: John Larsen <John@larsen-family.us>, joyce@larsen-family.us, Anki Larsen <shadrach.anki@gmail.com>, Bradford Larsen <brad.larsen@gmail.com>, Julia Larsen <julia@larsen-family.us>

Querida Familia,

So after the first week here in the new area, we have been able to work a lot more efficiently than when we first arrived.

Elder Helamã and I are getting used to the area, getting to know the neighborhoods and where everything is in relation to the other places. It is a big area still, and it is separated by neighborhood with the other companionship here in Ala Pioneiros. It is a cool area though, and as we're getting to know the members I am liking the area more and more. I am a little bit paranoid that I will be transfered again next transfer though, just because it happened the last 3 transfers already... We'll see though. We're still working at it.

So we went to the Mall on Monday after emailing. I ate a big mac instead of a cheese burger because we did the conversion and discovered that it would only be about \$10 for a big mac, so Elder Smith, Elder Spackman and I all ate that. It was good! :P We took pictures with Santa Claus, and just walked around. I had gone there hoping that I could get my symbol of the mission embroidered to put it on my bag, but it would be delayed and for R\$40,00 and I didn't really want to do that so I just left it at that. I think I'll just do an Angel Moroni or something.

Tuesday we had pretty much a Zone Conference with our district of 8 people. It was cool, and I felt like I learned a lot, and then later in the day I managed to apply the stuff we studied and practiced in my teaching. It was good.

We have some families that we have been teaching, one, the family of José Raimundo. It is quite incredible. It is the first time in my life I think, that I felt short... Seriously. They are giants. GIANTS. Their daughter is probably 5 or 6 inches taller than me, and José is about your height Dad, and his son is taller than me as well, and Elder Helamã is taller than me as well.. that was a very strange feeling... Haha...

We also are teaching this lady who's husband is a member and we're working on reactivating him, and teaching her. It is cool seeing her understand more and more

each lesson we teach, she said that every day it is getting clearer and clearer. They are a really cool family. They have 5 children.

Thursday we had lunch at home. Pizza, French Fries, and ICECREAM! We went to the grocery store on Wednesday because Thursday was a holiday, and we bought a lot of food. Not only food for the lunch the next day, but our own food as well for during the week. I explain this more in the voice recording so I'll just let you listen to that. It was really funny how the situation all worked out.

I have been learning a lot with Elder Helamã. Ever since I had arrived in the Brasil Teresina Mission, I have had many missionaries that I look up to, and I never thought that I would be serving with Elder Helamã who was the district leader of my first district meeting when I arrived last March. It is incredible how the mission changes, but we have been having a good time working together to get this area going again.

We'll be starting up English Class. A member came during District Meeting Tuesday asking for our help with that, and Elder Spackman and I will be teaching on Saturdays.

I am so grateful I am serving a mission now, it is a great blessing to be able to see the gospel bless the lives of others. One thing I have been working more on is trying to really to have Christlike love for the people I teach, have a real desire to help them because I want to help them more. It is an honor to be able to serve a mission, and I am grateful for this opportunity to serve the Lord.

God is our Heavenly Father. Literally. He is incredibly concerned with each and every one of us, and wants us to be happy during this time in mortality, and in the eternities to come.

That's all for this week. We're going to that member's house in Cohatrac to visit the forest area there. I'm excited! That'll be fun! I love you all very much, and I hope you have a great week!

I can do a skype call for Christmas with Video, just that it will be on a Saturday because Christmas is on a Sunday.

It is supposed to start the rainy season soon, but it is just getting hotter here in São Luís. It is still the hot sun, but I don't really mind, however, I do miss the cold during this time of year.

Love you, and miss you,

Love,

Elder Phillip Larsen

P.S. Dad, you can add both of those names on Facebook.

Pictures:

102_0441 is us 6 with Santa Claus of the Mall.

5304 is of Elder Helamã holding the groceries how he carried them to our house after we bought food but then I thought about how we'd get it there if we don't have a car. It was Hilarious. He wasn't wearing the santa hat in the streets.

5302 Our district after District Meeting! In the Back row: (Left to right) Sister Texeira, Sister Aguiar, Elder Costa, Ribeiro, Elder Smith, and in the front Elder Helamã, Elder Spackman, and me.

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