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1/16/2012 - São Luís

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Mon, Jan 16, 2012 at 12:16 PM

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Querida Familia,

We have worked hard this past week. Not that we don't work hard other weeks, but I feel like a lot of the work is moving faster now that we are getting a hang of the area.

The area here is HUGE. We have had to focus more on some neighborhoods than others because we don't have enough time to visit all the areas. We have a lot of families that we are teaching and helping, it is exciting to see them grow in the Gospel.

With the leaving of the other companionship, we got a lot more work, and a lot more area. There is one family: their children are already baptized, and one of them passes the sacrament on Sundays. Milena and Josimar. They are a very neat family and it has been fun working with them. I had met them way back in October when I did a division in Ala Pioneiros, still when I was in Ala Cohatrac. It is fun working with their family.

Also José, a recent convert from last year has been helping us a bunch! He has an incredibly strong testimony, and I have learned a lot from him. He is getting married soon to one of the twin sisters of a less-active member Ribamar, who's wife Leid we are teaching. I don't know if that last phrase made sense, but there are a lot of connections between our investigators which is cool.

Today it rained a lot! A ton, and the power went out. It might actually start the rainy season now. That'll go until about April/May I think. It has been a year almost since I arrived in Brasil. It has been strange because I remember thinking last year, about how in a year it'll be raining a lot again and I will have been in Brasil for a year already. I can understand how Taylor felt that time when he was talking to his parents about how fast his mission is going by. It truly does go by way too fast.

This past Wednesday, at the Bishop's house, he gave us the invitation for both of us to speak on Sunday. Well we accepted and then the week past by. I am very glad for the

improvement I have made on this front. I wasn't worried about giving a talk on Sunday, and I had kept thinking prayerfully about what I should speak on because he didn't give an assigned topic. I prepared and then on Sunday we both spoke. Funny thing is that I had a runny nose on Sunday, and Elder Helamá also had a runny nose so we were both talking but during the talk we didn't suffer from the runny nose, but afterwards it came back. I am better now, but Elder Helamá is suffering a little bit more.

This week I went to a BJ's in Brasil, well it is called Makro, but it is very much like BJ's! It was cool, and I ended up buying cereal and jam. Two things that are more expensive here and that I haven't had in a while. The cereal looks like fruit loops, but it isn't as good, but it is still good. I am excited to drink milk at home when I get back!

We are getting to know the ward a lot better now and it is very awesome. I really like it here, just when there were 2 companionships, it didn't work to get to know the ward that well. Working with the members is the best way to work.

One thing is I learned why Rio De Janeiro is called what it is called. Apparently it is that the river is fullest in January. Right now there are a lot of reports of it flooding and raining a lot there right now. Just a fun fact for you all.

The work is moving forward, and it looks like in the following weeks there will be some baptisms in the ward!

I love you all, and I have a testimony of this Gospel. Joseph Smith prayed one morning to know what church he should join, and through our own personal prayers, we can know that he was called of God to restore the true church once again on the Earth.

Have a great week!
Love you,

Love,

Elder Phillip Larsen

Pictures

Sorry, I had forgotten to send a voice recording, well to make one to send. I will try to remember better next week.

5444 - It was raining one day and some of the rain was entering our study room so I

pulled my umbrella that was on the table nearby and opened it. And no I don't believe in superstition. It is bad luck!

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