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Querida Familia,

So it has been a quick, normal week on the mission. Normal meaning anything can happen, and quick because it is already P-Day again! It is incredible how the time flies.

It has been 5 years since Stanford passed away, and I have thought about that some these past few days. I had the opportunity to look in the Day of Passing booklet and remember somewhat of what was happening in our lives 5 years ago. We are incredibly blessed with the knowledge that the restored gospel of Jesus Christ brings in our lives. We can be an eternal family, and God has a plan for all of us!

So like I said last week, we both had colds when we were giving our talks, however, I got better rather quickly, but Elder Helamá is still a little sick. He has a runny nose, which I know is annoying. I think it is funny how it is a "cold" in English, yet we are in a place where we never will feel "Cold" (Except in the LAN House with an air conditioner.) 🤧

This past week, I think every single day it rained. At one point during the day at least. There is a construction work going on nearby the church on a canal, but they stopped working on it for the holidays and it rained and it is full of water now making even more work for them! It is rather unfortunate, but it lets us see how much it has been raining. A lot. It seems that when I think it won't rain, and when I don't bring my umbrella, it rains a lot. Also when I think it will be cloudy and I don't put on Sun screen, the sun comes out. Luckily I always walk with a little bottle of Sunscreen with me so that doesn't end up being a problem. It is also pouring right now as I am typing this.

Valdir, one of our investigators read all of 1st Nephi this week, and he is liking it a lot. It is rather surprising how much he is progressing and enjoying the gospel because he looked to be a little more closed than other people, but he has been at church these past 2 weeks, and we have visited him a bunch.

I now feel like I am getting to know the ward a bit more too, because now everyone at church lives in our area. I hope that Elder Helamã and I are companions next transfer too, and that we are the only companionship here as well. It is going to be his last transfer on the mission as well...

We had surprise interviews with President Dias as well this week. We knew that he would be coming to São Luís to do a leadership conference, but on Wednesday in the morning we got a call from the Zone Leaders that we would be having interviews. The part that was a bummer is that we had a lot of visits marked with our investigators, but everything worked out in the end and we got to visit everyone during the week and visit with President.

On Sunday we did a division where I went with one member, and Elder Helamã went with another member to go to our investigators houses to bring them to church. It was very hectic, but it was worth it. We had worked hard this week.

One sister's sister who lives in Idaho came to visit, and she brought her 2 sons. They only speak English, but when we saw him, we didn't recognize him from other Sunday's (obviously) but we asked him "Qual é seu nome?" and his aunt said that he doesn't speak Portuguese, and said that I am the only one that can talk to him and that he'll understand. So I talked to him in English, well tried. As I started, I would say stuff in Portuguese without meaning to. Then when he would reply to the questions I asked in English, I had a few difficulties understanding a few of the answers he gave because I kept thinking I heard words in Portuguese. It was just a funny experience.

I hope you all have a good week, and that you enjoy the snow! ❄️ It is snowing a lot here :P

Love you lots, and miss you. Happy Chinese New Year!

Love,

Elder Phillip Larsen

Voice Recording

(No pictures this week. I will reformat my 8GB card so I can take more pictures again. I just wanted to make sure I had everything backed up.)

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