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## 1/30/2012 - São Luís

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To: John Larsen <John@larsen-family.us>, Joyce Larsen <linenlady9@gmail.com>, Anki Larsen <shadrach.anki@gmail.com>, Bradford Larsen <brad.larsen@gmail.com>, Julia Larsen <julia@larsen-family.us>

Querida Familia,

So the internet was as slow as a turtle today... So it is a little bit difficult to do everything really fast.

This week was... Awesome!

Elder Helamã and I are so tired. We had really worked hard this week to get a lot of stuff done, but after it was all over we just had a feeling of success!

One thing that we did a lot of this week was divisions with the members, and working with them as well. We left with 2 youth of the ward, Moroni, and Arthur. Elder Helamã went with Moroni... haha (Helaman and Moroni) 😊 and I went with Arthur to visit investigators in another part of our area. This is really good because we need the help of them to be able to teach everyone during the week and prepare them for Sunday to come to church! It is really fun though working with the members, and we are really liking this ward a lot! We don't want to be transferred.

We had Anizio and Camila's baptism scheduled for Wednesday in the evening, but Wednesday after lunch we recieved a phone call that they wouldn't be able to go because Anizio had work. He works an incredibly difficult shift, 24 hours working, and 24 hours not working, as a security guard. (It is very strange but I think it is because there are a lot of problems going on at his work so he has been having to work crazy hours but I think it is going to change now.) We were pretty bummed that it wasn't going to work out, and we had been trying for so long to get a date set that would work out, but it just seemed like there was so much opposition! We set another date for this past Friday, and prayed for it to happen and that everything would be able to work out. The day of the baptism, we were a little anxious to see if there would be more opposition. A lot of praying had been done for this date, and we were waiting for a call from Anizio to see if it would work out, and... it did! Yes! The attendance at the baptism was small, just us, Bishop, the relief society president, and the ward mission leader, and them of course, but it was a really cool baptismal service and they are so

happy! Elder Helamã and I baptized them.

We worked really hard, and Sunday, all our work paid off. We did another division with José and Moroni to bring all of the people that we invited to come to church. From the people that we invited, not all of them came, but in total with friends that the ward members brought as well, we had 16 people getting to know the church on Sunday, and chapel was packed! It was very exciting, and the members are also excited about that as well! We are working more with the members here in Pioneiros. It has just been a really rewarding week.

On Thursday, for lunch, we ate Pancakes! And we had maple syrup extract in our house! It was good! We ate pancakes another day too, but can't remember which day it was. It was fun though to eat that.

Irmã Dina gave us hamburgers as well yesterday. Her relatives that we are teaching were at church, Grace and Maria, and they really enjoyed church. Maria said she liked it a lot more than the other time she was there. Still her husband José didn't go though... that is frustrating! We'll get him to come soon. We'll do family home evening with them this week!

This week Josimar and Milena, another couple that we are teaching is going to get married, and then on Saturday they'll get baptized. They have been taught by many missionaries before us, but we are the ones here for this. The other 2 that were teaching them also will be attending because they are right next door :D It'll be fun! We're excited!

I'll be going to Cohatrac for Tuesday on a division with Elder Davis, from Minesota. He's a new Elder here. Elder Ribeiro will serve with Elder Helamã.

That's about it for this week. Love you lots and miss you all. Hope you have a great week. Its... GROUNDHOG DAY!!!

Love,

-Elder Phillip Larsen (Phil? Phil Connors? I thought that was you!) 😊

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**Pictures:**

**5450** - Our neighbor works a ton on old Volkswagon bugs. He has 5 around his house that he restores during the week.

**5454** - Pancakes for lunch! Huzzah! With MAPLE SYRUP!

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