

**John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>**

2/12/2012 - São Luís

Phillip Larsen <phillip.larsen@myldsmail.net>Mon, Feb 13, 2012 at
10:22 AM

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 yet again it is P-Day. As you said Dad, it seems like the weeks are going by faster. I agree. Time has been flying by every week. It is surprising how I find myself and yet again I am writing an email home thinking about how fast the week had flown by.

I think one reason for that is how much we have been working. The area here in Ala Pioneiros is huge. Gigantic. We are "working our tails off". Running from one appointment, to the next. Visiting people all over. We are trying to focus our work more so that we can be more effective instruments in the hands of the Lord.

Soon will be Transfers again... it is also incredible how fast the time flew, and yet how long it seemed. It is weird but both those feelings seem to coexist here.. weird. Elder Helamã and are hoping that we will stay together for this last transfer. There is a lot of work here that we are both familiar with. We both know the members, the area, and the investigators, and the people here trust us. I do hope that we can continue working together. I don't really like this feeling of transfer season. Looks like 9 new missionaries are going to be coming here to Missão Brasil Teresina tomorrow. I am hopeful that we stay the same here in this area.

This week it had rained quite a bit. It rains more frequently now. We were at a member's house on Tuesday, and we hadn't brought our umbrellas. It tends to be the case that when we don't have our umbrellas, it rains. And when we do have them, it doesn't. The members let us borrow 2 umbrellas to use the rest of the day, and an investigator gave Elder Helamã a huge umbrella that folds up really small. It was funny because when President was here a while back, he asked my companion if he had an umbrella. My companion has had the tendency to leave his umbrella without meaning to, in his last area. Now he has one!

Greiciane, Maria, and Raimundo have really opened up to us, and we have been enjoying the visits to their house. This week, we scheduled with a member to go with us to their house to teach them. This member is incredibly on time, and she gets very annoyed when anything starts late. Well what happened? We were late... without

wanting. We were leaving this one house of an investigator that lives a busride away from where we needed to be. They talked a lot, and finally, at 4:00, when we needed to be at Raimundo's, we left their house... RUNNING! We were running and running, we both had the umbrellas that we were using, and everyone in the street was looking as 2 really tall missionaries were running down the street. We continued running until we got to the main road where there was a bus stop and then Elder Helamã asked me if the bus at the stop was the one we needed to use. I looked at name, it was the bus. When I told him that, we started running faster. He waved his arm with the umbrella at the bus to stop it from leaving and then we entered the bus. Everyone was looking at us, but it was hilarious. Just one of those moments that was a bit annoying, but at the same time I thought to just enjoy it because it is another funny thing that happened, so we both were running with huge smiles on our faces at what was happening. We arrived at the house of Raimundo, really sweaty, but only 15 minutes late. Hah. The normal time it takes to get from that neighborhood to where we were going would have been 35ish minutes (walking)

I had some other stuff to say, but I brought a different planner to the LAN House, so I can't remember everything.

Oh, we had a Zone Conference this week as well. It was fun to see everyone again. I saw Elder Alonso (Coelho now) for the last time. He is also going home tomorrow. And afterwards we ate lunch at a restaurant across the street from the church.

This Saturday was the baptismal interviews of Grace and Maria, and they were baptized before church yesterday. Elder Helamã baptized them, and I confirmed them. They had come a long way from where they were. Maria at first didn't want to talk to us when we visited, but then she listened to one of our lessons and was there every single time after that. We had started to teach them 3 months ago, a month ago they started coming to church. Irmã Dina was very happy to be at the baptismal service. (She is a relative of theirs) That was the first time I had ever confirmed anyone, and it was in Portuguese. I thought that was funny.

The stake here in São Luís had a caravan leave for the Temple this week. That is always something I like to hear about. I think it is cool how they go on a 2 coach bus caravan to the temple in Recife. Soon in Forteleza, there will be a temple. That is a lot closer than Recife. The church is growing quickly here. This work is incredible. I am glad to be able to be a part of it.

This upcoming week will be Carnaval. We will be returning home early every day. I am not looking forward to it at all. Already there is a lot of really loud music that people play, and it isn't even Carnaval yet.

I'm glad to hear you are all doing well. Happy Birthday Heather, and Happy Valentines

Day everyone!

I know that this church is the true church of Jesus Christ. He is our Savior and Redeemer. I am grateful for this incredible opportunity to serve as a missionary in his service. He set the perfect example for all of us to follow.

Love you all very much, and hope you have a great week!

Love,

Elder Phillip Larsen

Pictures:

5522 - The "Birthday" cake we had for Sister Oliveira who is going home tomorrow. We didn't have candles so we used matches... Haha... Just one thing I thought was funny.

5526 - A cake that a member made for us. I was fasting the day we visited their house, and Elder Helamã ate a piece of cake, then she promised she'd make another cake so I could eat some too. It was very good!

1730 - The Baptism of Grace, and Maria. (From the left, Elder Helamã, José Raimundo, Maria, Grace, and me.)

NOTICE: This email message is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message.

3 attachments

DSCN5522.JPG
3823K

DSCN5526.JPG
4542K

DSC01730.JPG
4836K