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9:38 AM

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Querida Familia,

HAPPY BIRTHDEH BRAD! 😊

Well it is incredibly interesting how time can fly for some people and how slow it can go for other people. Honestly this past week has felt like a month. Every area that you enter has its challenges. This past week, we have been working on building up our teaching pool so that we can have more people to visit. We have a shortage of people that we are teaching because many times people are too busy, working, or they just don't want anything to do with us. It is frustrating, but even though we have been having many trials, we have been able to see the many miracles of things that have happened in our lives.

So this week finished off carnaval. It ended Tuesday, but we still returned early on Tuesday because it is the craziest day of the whole thing. Luckily, no one was blasting music in a car full of speakers (There are a ton of those here!) I had a rather cool and neat experience too. Elder Nascimento, who is serving in Uruguai, called me and told me that Oseias, Vilma, Daniel, Marcos, and Leonardo wanted me to call them because they found out I am in Teresina, so I called them and talked with them a little and caught up on how they are. It was the first time I got to talk to them since Oseias was baptized the week after I left Teresina to go to Parnaiba! It was great to talk to them, and that really lifted my spirits despite the trials that we were going through.

It is different, but really cool passing in a city that I already passed in, really close to my first area, and in the same stake as well! I also found out that Stake Conference is this Sunday, so we are going to go there and I will see everyone in Uruguai too! I am excited for that, it'll be cool! Also I get to see a lot of missionaries that I haven't seen for a while, and we are going to the brand new stake center here in the city that I heard is really sick. It'll be an awesome weekend.

I have made constant prayer a bigger thing in my work this week, especially with being alert to see teaching opportunities and chances to get to talk to people and get

to know them.

One day, we were at Carvalho, the supermarket here in Piauí, and it was full! I just wanted some junk food, chips and stuff, and we still stayed there. Well the quick line was backed up and the other lines were faster, and this one lady just started to talk to us and told us to come to a different line because it is faster. We went there, and then she asked us to put our chips and cookies in her cart. Someone cut us in the line, and so I just ignored it and gave the money to buy our food to the lady and then we went around and waited at the other side of the cash register. When she was paying, she just gave back the money that I gave her, and just smiled and gave us the food that we wanted. It was different. Neither one of us was expecting that, and at first we didn't know what to do. We were about to leave Carvalho after thanking her, and then we turned around and waited for her to finish so we could ask if we could visit her and her family. She said "yes" and gave us her address. Yesterday we passed by there and talked with her, and she was very receiving of us.

Several times this week we had stuff similar to this happening to us. Truly God was helping us to find people to teach.

This week, the first family that I got to know here in Ala Poti moved to Santa Catarina, a state in the south of Brasil. It was sad because Soraya was the mom of the missionaries in the ward here and she helped out a ton! A lot of things contributed to the week being slow, and I think having the people that I got to know the most over the first week move away was part of that.

The ward here is really nice, and the people help out a lot. It'll be fun when I know everyone here.

Well that is about all for this week, not too much, but this upcoming week will be good. I am excited. Love you all, have a great week!

Love,
Elder Phillip Larsen

Pictures:

8318 - Our district, Elder Cooper, Elder Oliveira (Back) Elder Christian (Front), and me.

5570 - Elder Cooper has Old Spice, and it has incredibly scientific information on how the deodorant works. I thought it was hilarious... "Clean masculine scented elves!"

I realized that my pictures that I had taken are on the internal memory of the camera, so I only have a few pictures of since I returned to Teresina. I will send more next week. I also forgot to make a voice recording.

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