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3/19/2012 - Teresina

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

Querida familia,

Happy Birthday Dad! 😊

Also congrats Ryan on your mission call! That is awesome dude!

So it has been another week here in Ala Poti. This week has passed by faster than other weeks. Already it is the last week of the first Transfer here. Lots in the mission will be changing, and a lot of new missionaries are going to be arriving here this next week. The mission is exciting! I am so glad that I am here right now.

With Elder Oliveira, we have learned a lot together. There have been many different trials that we have faced in the work here, and we have learned many things from them. I like this ward, the members are nice, and it is always better when you know the people in the ward and can involve them more in the work. I hear a lot about Ricky working with the members, and I am wanting to apply that more where I am working. Helping the members by helping them participate in the work of the Lord is a very important thing on helping a ward grow and the members grow.

We have had a lot of appointments falling through, people not being too interested, and it has been really hot lately. I don't know if I got used to São Luís being pretty cold or something, but I have been suffering a little in this heat. Maybe it is just because Teresina is hot. We usually are the only people in the road at 2:00 - 4:00.

So about every day this week, it has rained. And we always saw the dark clouds on the horizon, and after a while it started to get VERY windy, and then it started to rain a ton! I have actually enjoyed it because having it rain so much and seeing the thunderstorms is cool. It also gets a little colder during the storm so that gets even better because we need a break at times from this incredible heat, but soon after it gets hot again but that is how it is here in Teresina.

We wanted to start an English class again, hoping that it would be a good source of

references, just that every single time we have planned it to happen this past week, something came up and it didn't work out. We are going to try again this week, being a Tuesday and Friday that we will do the class.

This past Friday, Elder Christian made cookies for a baptism they had. The cookies were awesome! I ate quite a few. It isn't something that they have here in Brasil, the chocolate chip cookies. It was nice to eat that.

Also, on Sunday. We went to lunch at a member's house. They had made a pasta thing with cheese and meat. Well, when I took a bite, I couldn't remember what it reminded me of. It was a very familiar taste, but I could not remember what it was. Then, Elder Christian asked me: Doesn't this taste just like Macaroni and Cheese? It was exactly like Macaroni and Cheese! I hadn't eaten that for over a year! That was also a funny thing that happened.

This week has been weird, I have a lot of dreams about being home, and I am not even trunky. Looks like I am trunky in my dreams or something. I dunno. It has been rather annoying. I am sad at how fast the time has passed by. It has already been one year since I arrived in Brasil. It is the rainy season again in Teresina, and I remember thinking a year ago about how in a year it would be raining again, and where am I? In Teresina again. Time is an odd thing... It goes by very subtly.

I am trying to savor this moment and make the most of these next 6 months. I have come to realize more and more how much of an opportunity it is to be able to serve a mission for the Lord and help the people here in the Brasil Teresina Mission.

Joseph Smith saw God and Jesus Christ that morning in New York. God has restored his church on the Earth, and as the prophets have prophesied, it will fill the Earth. The Book of Mormon was written for our days. It was written to us, to help us to know Christ. In it is a promise that through studying it and praying about it, we can know the truthfulness of these things. I love this Gospel, and I am so grateful for the countless blessings I have recieved from it.

I love you all very much and hope you have a great week!

Love,

Elder Phillip Larsen

Again, I didn't manage to make a voice recording because I always forget and then I remember as we are walking out of the house.

The word document is the address that you need to write letters so they arrive at home, otherwise they'll be returned to the sender. It is annoying how this has changed a bit over time, but its good that they warned us before. Here is the address that you need to put now on the stuff that is sent:

Mario Aparecido Dias A/C Elder Phillip Edward Larsen

Cpx: 2321

Teresina – PI

Cep: 64001 - 973

This is for letters and packages.

Pictures:

13029 - Me soaking wet.

13035 - After walking in the storm. Good thing we were on our way home anyways.

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3 attachments

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