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3/26/2012 - Teresina

Phillip Larsen <phillip.larsen@myldsmail.net>Mon, Mar 26, 2012 at
10:30 AM

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Querida Familia,

So it has been yet another week in Brasil, Teresina, in the great heat of the Northeast of Brasil! This week has actually been a very wet week. Several times, we have been walking and randomly it starts getting REALLY windy, and then we look to the horizon and see gigantic storm clouds and lightning flashes. It is pretty cool how often that happens. Every single day it rained, except yesterday. So I guess it actually isn't every single day. But it poured a couple of times, really badly. We were stuck under a 2 foot roof thing coming out from a house. We still got pretty wet, especially our feet, but all our stuff stayed dry. Nearby, there was a road that filled up with 2 feet of water and that was fun to see. Lots of kids were running around in the rain playing. I always find these situations funny. I love having stuff like that happen!

We had a rough week in terms of investigators. Several of the people that we were visiting either were not at home, or couldn't visit because they were busy. It raining randomly in the middle of the day also made it hard to find new people because there was no one in the street when it rained, except us.

So a funny thing that happened. We were going on Tuesday to the main road in the ward, and it had been raining so it was filled with water. Well we needed to get across. The water was too far to do a standing jump over, so I told Elder Oliveira that we would have to do a running jump. We waited for all the traffic to stop and then he made a run for it to get enough distance on his jump. Right when he left, a lady screamed "Menino!" Everyone looked toward Elder Oliveira as he jumped across the water and landed on the other side of the sidewalk not getting wet, just he almost tumbled into a store on the other side, holding on tight to the door frame. Everyone was laughing including him and the lady that shouted. It was just a funny experience.

We had a great lesson with Ana Raquel and Beth, who are some investigators of ours that were taught years ago in Brasilia. We went with Fernanda, and it was a really good lesson. We talked more about the Plan of Salvation, and the importance of accepting the gospel when we have the opportunity. We then reinvited them to go be

baptized, and they both accepted. Ana Raquel never had been able to go to church until this last Sunday, and she said "Its like something doesn't want me to go to church. Every time I have been trying to go, something always comes up. First we didn't have the car, then I went to São Paulo, and then my brothers wedding happened. I am determined to go to church this week."

It was great to see them there. This week was our best week for people coming to church this entire transfer.

It has been good to serve here in Ala Poti. None of us know what will happen this transfer, lots of missionaries are going home, and there are a bunch coming into the mission. We'll find out what will happen today, or tomorrow. I have enjoyed serving here, and getting to know the area that Elder Ribeiro loves. He talked so well about this area, and I joked about how I'd get transfered to it. Then, 3 transfers later, I was transfered to Poti. Its funny how things happen.

God lives, and his plan for us is true. Jesus Christ is central to that plan, and through his atoning sacrifice he knows exactly how we feel in every situation. He knows how to lift our spirits and how to help us in any and every situation and circumstance. I really enjoyed the lesson we had in the Gospel Principles class about the Atonement. We watched the Mormon Message that Elder Holland gave, and that is a powerful testimony that he bore.

I love you all. Serving a mission has been and is being an incredible experience of learning. Have a great week and enjoy GENERAL CONFERENCE! WOO HOO!!!!!!
I am pumped!

Love,

-Elder Phillip Larsen

Pictures: No Pictures this week, sorry. You got the DvD though. I'll take more now that I can delete stuff!

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