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## 4/23/2012 - Teresina

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**Phillip Larsen** <phillip.larsen@myldsmail.net>Mon, Apr 23, 2012 at  
10:22 AM

To: John Larsen &lt;John@larsen-family.us&gt;, Joyce Larsen &lt;linenlady9@gmail.com&gt;, Anki Larsen &lt;shadrach.anki@gmail.com&gt;, Bradford Larsen &lt;brad.larsen@gmail.com&gt;, Julia Larsen &lt;julia@larsen-family.us&gt;

Querida Familia,

So I enjoyed the pictures! It is weird seeing other missionaries at home where I live. I am being well taken care of here though so don't worry.

This week was filled with happy moments, and tough moments. That is usually the case every week on the mission. We had two people getting prepared to be baptized last Saturday, but both dates fell through. Erisvaldo, and Jessica. We are working towards helping them be baptized this week. It is hard because Jessica has many doubts and is always hearing rumors and lies about the church and doctrine because her family isn't exactly friendly about the church, although they are friendly towards us. It is sad though that when someone is trying to do the right thing, looking to find their salvation, people close to them start attacking their decisions and makes it harder for them to progress. We have involved several members in the lessons with her, one of them, Dheylla, a recent convert, who passed through similar things for her baptism, and Fernanda, who served a mission. They both helped a lot, but still she has lots of doubts.

We have been working a lot more with the members this week and last week, trying to involve them more in the work and plan better so we can have members in the majority of the lessons.

So in response to your questions mom, there is only one area open in the south of Piauí, the state where Teresina is the capital. It has 2 missionaries there, so that area of the mission has been pretty closed up. It is more in the North where there are missionaries serving. The cities that have missionaries are: Teresina, São Luís, Imperatriz, Parnaíba, Caixias, Sobral, Campo Maior, Altos, Piripiri, Floriano, and Açaílandia. In total, in the mission I believe there are 100 missionaries. It is a very small number for the size of our mission. When I got here there were about 80 missionaries, 80-90, but it is growing now and more and more missionaries keep arriving.

Yes mom, the family that owns the restaurant gives us food every night except Sundays because they aren't open on Sundays. Usually it is a hamburger, or a crepe every once in a while. It is really nice. This past Saturday, we got there and helped them take in all of their stuff. They have a trampoline, ball pit, and a lot of electronic motorcycles for kids. Well it was POURING. Literally pouring. It was such a huge storm! The biggest I saw this year! It was really cool because it was so windy. We all had to brace the tarp walls so that none of us got too wet, and the wind was trying to take it away. It was also really... lightningy? There was a ton of Lightning as well! Fun stuff. Also we had to run across the river that formed in the main road again. My shoes got soaked.

Also, yes I will be here for another president. 3 Presidents on the mission! Not too many missionaries can say that... He will be going home the end of the next transfer, in July. So that is 2 months with the new president.

Thanks for the recipes mom! I am excited to make them!

April is flying by really quick. I am amazed at how fast it has gone by. Its already near May of 2012! Yikes.

We have a living prophet today, called by God to help us in our lives. The gospel is the way to Salvation. The principles and ordinances of the gospel are Faith, repentance, baptism, and receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and then enduring to the end. Since the beginning God has taught this to his children by the prophets, and is the way to eternal life.

I hope you all have a great week, enjoy vacation Julia. Love you all a bunch and I miss you all. Phone call soon! I'll find out if it is Skype or just a normal phone call. I hope it is skype.

Love,

-Elder Phillip Larsen

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**Pictures:**

**8486** - Is it? It is! Peanut Butter! I found it last week on P-Day in a grocery store imported from where I'm from! I was very excited, but since we haven't had a fridge for 4 weeks, I haven't opened it yet. And we will be getting a fridge soon, don't worry.

**8487** - Happy Easter! This was at Riverside Shopping, so we all stopped and took pictures just because we could. :P

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