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Week 3

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To: joyce@larsen-family.us, John@larsen-family.us

Boa Tarde minha familia!

It seems like just yesterday since the last p-day. Time is weird here like the twilight zone! Its rather strange.

I hope you got my pictures and thanks for sending a package. I haven't recieved it yet but I look forward to getting it next week.

General Conference sounds like it'll be quite exciting here at the MTC, we won't have any classes and our schedule will be very different than usual.

That is going to be weird having Conference with so few people at Ruby Tuesday, but I'm sure it will be fun.

I'm glad both Brother Bentall and Brother Henkel are doing well. I hadn't heard about Brother Bentall though but I am glad that everything is good with him. I don't really know what to say this week, kind of lost for words. We hid stuff in our room today in the Narnia Holes that we had found. We only found one secret in our room but we made some clues and left a room roster and \$1.12 underneath a carpet square. It was fun!

We have devotionals every week and it is with a General Authority. So far we've only had members of the 70 but their talks have been great!

If you haven't seen the movie Joseph Smith, Prophet of the Restoration, do it. It is a very very good church produced movie of the life of Joseph Smith and we got to watch it last Sunday. Every Sunday we watch a movie, the first week we watched the Testament, and the last week was the Joseph Smith movie. It is very well made and by far my most favorite movie about his life and the lives of the early saints of the church.

Laundry time is quite ridiculous. There are so many missionaries trying to do their laundry that you sometimes have to wait in line for a dryer or washer.

Cool fact, my teacher Irmao Taylor is a direct descendant of John Taylor. John Taylor is his great, great, great, grandfather. Elder Bitner, an elder in my room is also related to Gordon B. Hinckley, and another elder in my district is also related to John Taylor. It was really cool to find that out.

I really like my teachers Irmao Call and Irmao Taylor. They are very good at speaking Portuguese and Irmao Taylor said that when we get back from our missions, we can take a test at BYU for Portuguese and get 16 college credits, so I'm going to look into that! He also said it was very easy to do too.

So that whole worry about me gaining weight at the MTC doesn't apply to me. I have actually lost weight which is weird since we mostly sit around and eat lots of food with 50 minutes of gym time a day. Ah we started playing Volley Ball outside at the MTC field as a district and it is so fun! We get to be barefoot and the sand feels so nice. We have done that several times and we're going to play against another District. Its hard to reply to all of the question and comments in your letters because I only have 30 minutes on the computer to email but I'll try to do my best.

Dad - I'm glad that Brother Henkel and Brother Bentall are doing well. I already sent Weston a letter too. Sundays are very nice. We watch a movie and have lots of meetings with the district/zone. I haven't had to play the piano yet, we have lots of missionaries that can play. I have played the piano since I got here though, just for some fun during an MDT.

Mom - That is great that you and Julia are writing! That would be awesome if you are an author by the time I get back! I'll send you a picture of one of the meals I had here at the MTC and of my room. We got an outstanding for our grade on our room. I also found out that I am not supposed to take pictures in the cafeteria so you'll only get one. :P I'm glad the leaves are starting to change there, I'd like some pictures! The leaves here are also changing, and the mountains look cool with the trees.

Heather - I'll get to see Danny when he gets here at the MTC! He'll be here when I am on my 4th week. We got to get our scriptures and hymnbooks engraved here with our names for free! The MTC Bookstore is nice because missionaries get 20-40% off of stuff there. Its quite convenient! I still get lost sometimes with the mountains but I'm getting a hang of it.

Brad - Bobobobobobobo! That's good about your back and school. We get some time to excersize here but not too much. Its weird, since I started learning Portuguese, even though I only took 2 years of German in High School, many of the phrases my teacher asks us how to say, I'll end up thinking of the German. We are getting the language rather quickly though. We are already near the point I was at in German 2 and it has only been 2 weeks. Also since starting to learn Portuguese, I've been making a lot more misspellings with my English, but I guess that means I'm starting to learn the language better. I think I might end up staying here in Provo the whole 9 weeks because of the visa trouble. There have been some rumors going around about the visas for Brazil, but its really nice here so it isn't that bad.

Julia - That's awesome that the various clubs are going well! I always enjoyed going to Gaming Club. I had completely forgotten about Explosion Wednesday!! :(The time here at the MTC molds together and there is no real way to tell what day it is sometimes O_o

Seminary does that, I've had dreams of seminary before. Here at the MTC I've dreamed about portuguese class, that was interesting. Well I'm glad Winston misses me somewhat, and its good that he is still a flatso.

Again I don't mean to ask for so much stuff but could you mail me my black rubik's cube sometime? I taught another elder how to solve it and he always wants to use it so I want 2 so I can use one while he uses one as well. I might also want one of my long-sleeved blue shirts with the 3 buttons. The mornings here are a little chilly. :) If you ever run by some Legend of Zelda stickers too I wouldn't mind getting some :P

I'm out of tune with the world. What kind of world events are happening?

I love you all so much and miss you. I'll try to have more written for you next week and reply to more questions.

-Elder Phillip Larsen

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