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## Brasil Week 13 or 14, Who Knows!?

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Querida Familia,

Thank you Julia for letting me know about how long I have actually been in Brasil. I have been here for a little more than 2 transfers so that means more than 12 weeks... Wow... Kind of weird...

Speaking of Transfers, Elder Magalhães is getting transfered tomorrow. We got a call this morning from our Zone Leaders who said he was going to another area, and he is having another American companion, but he is even younger in Brasil than I am. He isn't too happy to leave though. This area, Uruguai, and Taquari is an awesome area and the wards are really close, even though they split recently. The missionaries know the members well and it is just an overall awesome area. I am glad that I will be staying though, even though it is going to be tough being the senior elder in the area in the companionship. Elder Alonzo, my new companion, is going to be the senior though.

Bro. Noel, I looked.. :P

Thanks for sending all those pictures from the party at the Burgess's Dad.

This past week we had another Baptism, we had 6 people with dates, but only one ended up getting baptized. A young man, named Francisco. Unfortunately though, he didn't come to church the next day and so he never got confirmed. Hopefully he will come next week.

We still haven't moved yet, there is still work being done on the house. It is a house though, mom, and it is much better, and bigger than the house we have now. There are only 2 bedrooms, but there will only be 2 companionships. In our house now we have 3 bedrooms and one of them is used as a study room. It is actually a similar set up as the house we had in Hobbs. I do not know when we will be moving, but I think it will be soon so we'll find out.

That is cool about Teresina having cutting edge medical research. The hospital here in the center of Town is pretty big, and it is nice. I like going down to 'Centro' but we don't go too often because it is 3,60 reais to take the bus, and by taxi it is even more expensive.

Well it almost rained, I think 3 times this past week. We are officially in the dry season I think, here in Teresina anyways. It is hot every day, but there has been a lot of wind lately which has made walking to various appointments much nicer than if we just had straight sunlight. My umbrella is still getting use too. I have learned to carry it around with my all the time.

That is crazy that there was a tornado watch, and tornados in MA. That has never happened before. Water Tornados are pretty cool though, well just how they look.

I teach English to members of the ward. Anyone is welcome, and before we had a larger audience that attended, but lately we haven't had that many people come. We try to get investigators more involved with Church activities by having that every week and giving them another opportunity to come to church that week and feel the spirit. Last week there was a meeting that took out pretty much the whole class so I am hoping that it isn't going to happen again this week.

This week we had a lot of lessons fall through and it was pretty hectic, yet not hectic. Portuguese is still coming along but it is learning another language which takes a lot of work. I hope that I will get it down soon though. I don't have too many opportunities to talk with Americans, and my new companion is a Brazilian too, so that is giving me plenty of opportunities to practice!

One thing, when Jesus in Matthew says "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I shall give ye rest." Later on he says learn of me, and the way we can learn more about him is reading the scriptures. I am so glad that we have the scriptures in our day. It is a really blessing to have the words of the prophets, written down; Spiritual dictation from the Holy Ghost. I think the page total between the Bible, and the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price was somewhere near 2,600 pages? That is a lot of revelation and scripture!

I know that Joseph Smith was called by God to restore his church. This church is true, and it is guided by a modern day Prophet. God knows each and every one of us, better than we know ourselves. He loves each and every one of us and blesses us with so many things for our happiness. I know that Jesus Christ is the son of God. He atoned for us in the Garden of Gethsemane, and on the Cross on Calvary so that we can live with our families and our Heavenly Father again. He died for us, and he lives again.

This is such an amazing and awesome message that we have the opportunity to share with everyone

Love you all, and miss you. Look forward to hearing from you next week!

Love,

Elder Phillip Larsen

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