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10:54 AM

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Querida Familia,

Well Dad, that was also a concern of mine about yesterday being 10 years since the USA was attacked. I am also glad that nothing bad happened. I also sent you an email with my numbers on my card. I remembered today! :D

This week has been quite the week. It feels like just yesterday was Tuesday after P-Day and I was waiting to be able to send an email back to you. Entering into another area after serving in an area for almost 25% of your mission is hard. I am seeing difficulty loving the people, not that they are hard to love, but that I miss the people in my last area and I wish that I could visit a lot of the members.

One funny thing that happened this past Sunday is when we were meeting with President Martins before church, he gave me an assignment to give a talk. I thought it was going to be in a few weeks, so I accepted, and then I asked just to confirm and he said Today. Haha It was pretty funny, but the interesting part is that I was less scared or nervous to give a talk when I only had 3 hours notice. Well I am off the hook for a while in this ward! I need to work on my Portuguese though, I felt a little embarrassed because I felt like I talked with more of an accent and that people could really understand that well what I wanted to say but I am going to work on that this week.

I love the wind here! It is the best! The streets here are gigantic too. I will take some pictures of them. I am also going to get a card reader soon so I can send pictures through email faster and easier.

I have great news that I got on Saturday, or Friday. Oseias, in Planalto Uruguai was baptized and confirmed this past weekend! Yes! I am so glad that that happened, however, I am also a little annoyed that he chose to be baptized the week after I left. I want to know more about the story, but I was only able to hear about what happened, and not all the details. I am very happy though and I look forward to passing through that area and visiting their family again. They are a very special family to me, we ate lunch there a lot, and we ate lunch there the last week I was in Teresina. I got a letter

from them and she said her youngest son said some really nice things about me. I really tried to love the people there in my last area, but I need to make the same effort here as well. This branch is cool, and it is quite an experience. I only served in a branch in Texas, but it didn't really feel like it. I still don't know all the members here.

After everyday, Elder Smoot, Elder Arrant, and I sleep outside in hammocs. I have not slept in a normal bed since I got here, but I learned how to use a hammoc correctly. You need to sleep at an angle and you won't fall out and it is comfortable during long times. The cool thing too is that I get cold at night because there is so much wind, seriously I was very very cold a few nights this last week. I never thought that I would be able to feel that until I go back to the States.

One funny thing that happened when I left Teresina was that I forgot my Suit Coat, (Don't worry, I already talked to the Assistants to bring it here,) but it gives me the opportunity to not wear it for the 1 hour each week at church. Air Conditioning is nice without a suitcoat here.

Saturday night Elder Arrant and I went on a rat hunt. We have rats in our house and right before we fell asleep we saw something climb up the mango tree in our yard, so we got a flashlight and shined it on the tree, we saw nothing. Then we saw something again and it was a Rat! Elder Arrant grabbed a stick and I was shining the light in the tree, the rat ran down and then we lost where it went, I think it went back in the tree but we were looking for it for about 10 minutes until we went back to bed after setting up a lure to catch it. I found a rat a few days earlier too, and Elder Thomé killed it with a stick, (Sorry Julia, you probably don't want to hear that.) the funny thing was that when he hit it, it laid down on its back and began to spin around on the ground, it was pretty comical.

Living with 8 missionaries is fun, I like it. I think partly because I grew up with 7 people in the house and a cat, so lots of people is cool. We joke around a lot, but we work hard too.

Elder Ribeiro and I have gotten to know the area a little better. There is a street with a lot of people that we were teaching, but despite all our efforts to help them, no one is really progressing. We have one investigator that was drunk a few times that we taught him, and he didn't come to church this past Sunday. Actually no one came to church this past sunday, out of our investigators... Its a bit sad.

The Branch here is really missionary oreinted. Several times this past week our President of the Branch left with us to help us. He told the other companionship that his goal is to give us 3,000 references! That is pretty cool.

We have had some miracles and have found a few families that are awesome to

teach. It is cool, being a missionary and preaching the gospel to the children of God. I am glad that I have this opportunity. When I email next, I will have less than one year left on the mission... It is a little odd how fast the mission goes. People always say it passes by fast, but you don't think about it, and then when you look where you are at, you already are at a year or a large portion of your mission. It is a pretty strange thing... I need to savor the moment, even though it is hard sometimes.

Love you lots, glad I got to hear from you, glad you're all doing good and are "having a fun time" Enjoy the fall weather! I'll enjoy the... eternal summer. :D Até proxima segunda feira. Eu sei que esta igreja é verdedeira. Eu estou sem duvidas desta verdade. O senhor esta guiando o trabalho dele, e ele sabe o que ele esta fazendo.

Love,

-Elder Phillip Larsen

P.S.

Mom, for the next package candy is always a given. Gummy worms, or jelly beans, m&m's (not dark chocolate) 100 grands, I still have some from the last package, saved it for a rainy day. A little lego set would be cool for Christmas, I'll still think of stuff.

Still haven't managed to mail letters, but I think it will be easier to mail letters even though the post office is in Centro here. It is in the end closer since we don't have to take a 30 minute bus ride. They don't have buses here, they have Vans that are really short. Not like a van van but a little bus... heh...

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