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AM

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Querida Familia,

So this week has been one of a lot of events.

First of all, since this is the only email time I will have before Christmas, but we'll be talking on Saturday anyways...

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

A funny thing, there is this family that we are teaching, Karina, and her 6 children/nephews as well. Well, one of them, he has 3 years, he is afraid of Santa Claus, and Vinicius, who is 12 years old just started to laugh like Santa, Ho ho ho! and then Gabriel, (the one who is afraid of santa claus) said "Vinicius! I'm going to punch you!" and then he tried hitting him but since he is so small he wasn't able to. It was really funny because occasionally during the visit he would just laugh like Santa and Gabriel would get mad. Just a random thing I thought of right now...

Now, on to the email!

It started off with almost a zone conference on Tuesday, (we had the zone leaders at our district meeting which made it a total of 10 Elders.) Well then, 2 days later, Thursday, we had a conference with President Dias. He came and brought the new DvD Players that the mission has. It is to watch the Preach my Gospel DvDs, and other movies we use in our work here in the mission. It has been very helpful I think in seeing many of the principles in a real teaching situation, and it has just been cool to be able to do that!

My companion was pretty sick on Thursday anyways, so we didn't end up getting to do too much, but we had an baptismal interview that President did for one of our investigators, Welington. Other than that, we didn't get to do too much work.

Friday was the ward christmas party, but we didn't get to stay because it started an hour and a half late, and 30 minutes in, we had to leave because of the time. A sister stopped us from leaving and let us eat dinner there though which was really good! Funny thing is, that the sister has relatives that live in the same ward that Elder Helamã lives in, and that he grew up with her grandchildren and that we are teaching cousins of the people that are in my companions ward right now as well! Small world! Especially in the church! Also, I was wanting to know, which ward in Rio did Kempur and Joseph live in for 4 months? Maybe it is in the same stake as Elder Helamã's ward.

Wellington was baptized this Sunday after church. Originally, it was planned to happen on Saturday, but in the end this worked out better because all of the ward was there so they could all watch. I was surprised to find out that a lot of the members have known him for years and years, and finally he got baptized! They were really happy and it was a cool experience.

After the baptism, the bishop had all 4 of us go to his car and he gave us presents for Christmas! Thank you mom for giving presents to the missionaries there.

Sunday we visited the family that knows Elder Helamã, and we talked with them for a bit, looked at pictures, and they made us hamburgers and pizza and hotdogs... haha it was awesome. It truly is a small world, especially in the church.

Today we are going to go to the Centro Historical, and I will take pictures of the gigantic christmas tree there. It'll be fun! I still haven't gotten around to sending the christmas package, but I'll figure it out. Elder Wheat said he used the more expensive thing and it still got there in a month, so I think that will be the one I'll have to do.

Love you lots, last Christmas on the mission... Miss you all a lot, and I am pumped for the Christmas call this weekend! Talk to you all then, and have a great week!

Love,

Elder Phillip Larsen

P.S. I didn't do a voice thing because we'll be talking this weekend, and I didn't have any pictures to send this week because my card got full. So I'll send pictures next week because there will be more to take pictures of.

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