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## 1/9/2012 - São Luís

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Mon, Jan 9, 2012 at 10:19

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Querida Familia,

So, like I say, this week was an adventure, however, this week really had a lot of stuff that happened...

So this week started off with us finding out, Monday Night, that the other companionship in our ward will be transferred and we will be the only missionaries in the ward. The thing is, they are going to Cohatrac. The ward where I was! I am rather jealous of them, but they didn't end up leaving until Thursday. (The Zone Leaders forgot to tell them!) but now our area is gigantic, and we need to use the bus every day pretty much. That'll be interesting. We have a lot of work now and we were running on Sunday to get our investigators to church.

Oh, by the way, Elder Smith knows Mike Scott. They lived in the same living hall in BYU. Elder Taylor Smith. I had forgotten to say that a few weeks ago, but today I remembered!

This week, a very unfortunate thing happened. We had a lack of water in the area where we live. I don't know what happened exactly but we had a shortage of water but still managed to shower. After the transfer happened on Thursday, we had filled up every single container that could hold water, with water, so we would have water to wash dishes, or to take a shower, or to clean. It has been quite an adventure and I think even today the water cycle hasn't returned to normal. We have been managing though. Welcome to the new transfer.

Pretty much we're opening an area again too because we don't know too well the area of the other Elders, but we'll get to know soon enough.

Elder Ribeiro went to Teresina to get his new companion Elder Davis who just arrived from the MTC. He will be training him in Cohatrac, and on their return came... THE PACKAGE! Huzzah! I got it Saturday and opened it Saturday night! Thank you so much! It was Christmas in January :P I really enjoyed it. I have the transformers on my desk by my clock, I already made them in robot form and in car form. It is funny

because Elder Helamã jokes around quoting the transformers movies and when I opened the box you had sent Transformer legos! I am also wearing one of the new ties today, wore the other one yesterday. Thanks a bunch though!

This week we had a lot of cool lessons. We introduced the Book of Mormon to José Raimundo and his Family. Maria, (his wife) read 3 Nephi 11, the chapter that we left with her. However, when we went the next day she said she didn't understand too much, and she had read it twice, then we read together and explained while we read. We read until verse 12, and the spirit was strong during the lesson. It was a sense of great peace during the lesson and I know that they felt it as well. We testified of Jesus Christ's role as saviour and redeemer, I think it is verse 12 where he talks about how he did the will of the father and drank the bitter cup.

Later on in the week we had repeated great lessons with them, and on Saturday invited them to church.

Sunday we ran to their house from another investigator's house to get them to church. We had trouble finding a member that could give them a ride, but then we called this one member if she could come pick them up. When we got close to the house, she asked if it was the house of Greiçiane. We said yes, and then she explained to us that she is her teacher at school! (We had passed by and Greiçiane said she wasn't going to go) and when she arrived Greiçiane was really open with her. She still didn't end up going, but she promised that she would next week. It is incredible how that worked out.

Maria really liked church we think. She seemed rather happy, and we'll talk more with them this Wednesday.

In church, Welington came in normal clothes, but then when it was Sacrament meeting he had changed to a white shirt and tie, and dress pants. Why? Because he was sustained by the ward and he recieved the Aaronic Priesthood! It was a very good Sunday.

One quote that Elder Helamã told me that is on T-Shirts in Rio De Janeiro is "Ser Mórmon, é ser feliz" Which means "Being Mormon, is being happy" I thought that was a cool reputation, but afterall it is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Knowledge of the Plan of Happiness and Salvation. Adam fell that men are that they might have joy. Truely the Gospel is the pathway to the tree of life that Lehi saw in his vision, and the Tree of Life represents God's love for us and upon partaking of the fruit he had incredible joy. I know that living the gospel we can feel that joy and eventually, with enduring to the end we can feel that joy eternally with our families and our Father in Heaven in his presence.

It has been an awesome week, one with a lot of trials, but a lot of blessings as well. I really enjoyed it, and we're hoping that a lot of the work will move forward this week.

It'll be good to get to know better the ward. This truly is the work of the Lord.

I love you very much and miss you all. Happy Birthday Mom, and I hope you all have a good week! You're in my prayers,

Love,

Elder Phillip Larsen

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### **Pictures:**

**5429** - The Package has arrived! Thanks family! Merry Christmas to you too!

**5440** - the Transformers on my desk.

**5428** - All of the containers holding our water supply when we don't have water.

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#### **4 attachments**

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