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Querida Familia,

So this week has been a full one. We had lots of experiences that were great testimony builders, and we had some tests as well.

So this week we had our farewell meeting for the Dias family. It was their second to last week in the mission, and next week we will have our new president. Presidente Siedschlag. German descendent, and his wife is Japanese descendent. Woah! They'll be doing a ton of meetings the first few weeks so I am expecting the rest of this transfer to be really busy. It'll fly by really fast...

João Henrique and Francisca weren't baptized this week, but that is because Francisca had to travel to Brasilia on the weekend so we rescheduled the baptism for next week. They are really excited for it, and we have been teaching Francisca's daughter that came to visit her. She is also liking church, and another one of their friends also was at church on Sunday and we marked a baptismal service for her as well! They are a very elect family, and very excited about the gospel.

Today we played some floor hockey, and we are going to meet Elder Iverson and Elder Costa. It is Elder Iverson's birthday. He is serving in Planalto Uruguai, my first area here in Brasil. I find that rather funny just how that worked out.

Friday here in the ward was a ward party. A Festa Junina. It was great to be able to go there, and investigators went as well! Unfortunately, it was the day that the rain decided to come to Poti, so it rained in the middle of it and everyone had to go inside. Who invited the storm? We had to leave early and cross the Main River in Dirceu to get home. Yes Main river. When it rains it changes from a street to a river.

Not too much more to say this week. It was a very spiritual meeting with President Dias. I am so glad that I have had this opportunity to serve with him. He gave an incredible talk about the keys of the priesthood, and it wasn't a planned talk either which made it even more amazing. He talked about how the keys of the priesthood

are real. How when Joseph Smith died, many people were in doubts on who would be the next Prophet, but when Brigham Young spoke, many people heard the voice of Joseph Smith. He also gave the example of when Moses passed away, and how the new prophet was chosen in a similar fashion.

Thomas S. Monson has those same keys today. He is God's chosen prophet on the Earth. This is God's church, restored today. The church that has all the keys of the priesthood is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

I love you all very much. I love this work. I love this Gospel. Yesterday, joking around, my companion quoted I think it was L. Tom Perry's talk to a kid that was at a member's house,

"Have you ever read the Book of Mormon?"

"No."

"Well you should! Its a great book!"

"Are you a Mormon!?"

"No."

"You should be, its a great religion!"

(I really liked that talk)

He was just joking around a little, but how truly blessed we are to have this Gospel.

Have a great week! Love you all a ton!

Love,

-Elder Phillip Larsen

Pictures

8864 - Presidente Dias, Sister Dias, and me on the day we said goodbye to them.

P6180158 - Us at the train station in the center. It was pretty awesome there!

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