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## 7/30/2012 - Teresina

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Querida Familia,

Well last week Monday passed by and no news on transfers. Well Tuesday passed, and on the way home from an appointment, we got a call from the other companionship in the ward. Elder Brautigam was transferred to Timon, a city nearby Teresina, practically another area of the city because it is just on the other side of the river. It was a hectic day but I am glad that I am going to be staying here in Ala Poti for the last weeks of my mission. The ward is getting excited. Each week at church you can feel that. The division is semi-official. They announced the division that they want to do, but now it depends on the part of each person.

So we went to the goodbye party of Caique, a member who just left for his mission last Thursday. It had a lot of people. It reminded me of when I had that 2 years ago. Wow. It has already been 2 years. Crazy. He has a big adventure ahead of him, but not just an adventure but a great opportunity before him. The mission is a great experience.

Thursday, we were walking in an area where we are trying to build up our teaching pool, and we walked by the house of one of our investigators that wasn't as interested in the first lesson with her. Well, when we walked past her door going to her neighbor's house to visit with her, she ran to the door and asked us if we have a Book of Mormon. That surprised us because our first lesson with her, she wasn't so enthusiastic. She explained how the members that live next door had a family home evening with her and they read Alma 34 in the Book of Mormon. She loved it. She got really interested in the Book of Mormon, and we taught the rest of the restoration explaining how we have it, and about Joseph Smith. Then we left a part for her to read and invited her to pray and ask about the stuff we had taught. She agreed. She said on Sunday when we saw her next that she had read 2 times what we have left her, and she really liked it. We will visit her Wednesday to see how she is. It was a really cool experience! We got really excited for her progress and sudden interest in the gospel.

Friday was an awesome day. We both loved the things that happened. So an investigator of ours, Lukas, was baptized on Friday. He is the friend of this one family of... 5 boys, all of whom are members, but some of them are less active. We have been working a lot with them, and it was a very cool day. Lukas chose Moroni, the oldest of these young men to baptize him. The service had several members that went there, the new presidency of the young men was there, and Moroni's mom, who has been inactive for several years came to the church to watch the baptism. She had arrived right on time for the ordinance to watch her son perform his first baptism of his friend Lukas. The spirit was really strong in the meeting. His mom stayed for the rest of the service as well and when we started to sing she got really excited and said more or less: "Its the same hymns, I remember these hymns!" She sang each song that was sung while we waited for Moroni and Lukas to come back. She felt the spirit, we know she did. Moroni was incredibly happy as well because his mom had come.

Moroni is preparing to serve a mission next year.

This week was really good. I really enjoyed it. We managed to help a lot of people, and we are going to work even harder to find those people that God wants us to find. He left me and Elder Correia together

for my last transfer for a reason, there are people that we can still help and need to help. I am very grateful for this privilege that I am having to serve as a full time missionary. It is incredible.

Love you all a ton, and hope you have a great week! I just finished reading Alma in Portuguese, and I am in Helaman 4 now. Daily reading in the scriptures is important. Each day I try to read about 5 pages, and the days that I do read I can tell the difference. Scripture study is a vital part of our day that we should all search to get the habit of. These things were prepared by our loving Heavenly Father to help us each day. One scripture that I liked is Alma 58:40 talking about the stripling warriors of Helaman.

Love,

Elder Phillip Larsen

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**Pictures**

**9130** - Baptism of Lukas. (Elder Correia, Lukas, Moroni, Livindo, Me)

It only let me add one picture, but that's better than nothing!

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