

Feliz Natal 🌲🌟🇧🇷 (Merry Christmas)

22 Dec 2025

Hello my friends, I hope you had a great week.

[Insert some dumb introduction to the Google photos link]: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/4P9d4ozmNzrznkWr7>

This week, I wanted to change my tune. These past few emails have been a little depressing with all the anxieties I have and the inadequacy I feel in adapting to a new language and culture. But we've persisted, and this coming week is Christmas. So, I don't want to focus on what I've done this week, but rather on what my focus as a missionary, this holiday season, and our lives in general, should be: Our Savior, Jesus Christ.

This will mainly be a spiritual thought email, and I hope you read it all, which I admit is always a lot. I'm actually sorry in advance for how long this email is. But, I will say, some pretty cool things happened that I will share...

Notable Events:

- We had Zone Conference (which was incredible) and I got to be reunited with my dear MTC friends, Elder Kaylor, Elder Nilsson, and Elder Norris. Missed them dearly and I'm thankful we all got to be at the same session of Zone Conference.

- On Saturday, I turned 20 years old??? 🥳 I'm no longer a teen, which means I might finally hit my growth spurt! It was a great day. We had English class, an Elder's Quorum activity with churrasco 😊, futbol 😊, and karaoke 😊... And then I THOUGHT we were going to a lesson and we were meeting a member at their house but we got inside and the other Elders from our apartment were there with a CAKE and we had dinner with a member (Arepas). And THEN, to top it all off, Bishop bought us pizza so I had a lot of food. I was eternally blessed on that day. Thank you for all the birthday emails I got already and the ones I will receive after you read this part of the email 😊

- I spoke in church for our wards Christmas program! I spoke about the peace we can feel from Jesus Christ, as well as the fact that He should be the focus of our Christmas celebration, as well as our lives.

- We made the mistake of having both showers in our apartment on at the same time, so our lights didn't work unless a shower was on (because that makes sense). It was a lot of fun to say, "Hey could you turn on the shower?". It went on for about two days until we figured out how to fix it.

Spiritual Thought:

In recent years, I'm not sure that I have focused on the importance and purpose of Christmas as much as I should. For me, it was just a time to take a break from school and maybe travel and be with family. And I'm not saying those are necessarily bad things, but Christmas didn't feel like it did when I was a kid. Obviously, I got older, but I also wasn't focusing on the beauty of this time.

In my time as a missionary, I've had so much time to focus on the Savior and my relationship with Him. And because of that, I realize the joy of Christmas again, and I see how testifying of His light to others can bring light to our lives as well. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' *Light The World* Campaign exemplifies this brilliantly.

Every December, the Church focuses on inviting others to come and see the Light of Christ, feel His love, and celebrate His birth. The Church lights the sacred ground of temples, buys all the ad space in New York City's Times Square, and allows people to donate through The Giving Machine in 126 cities across the world, and much more.

All of the things the Church does is to celebrate and draw focus to our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. He is the Reason for the Season, He is the Greatest of all Presents, His Precense is a Present, and whatever else suburban neighborhoods have as front lawn decorations.

But what does it mean that Christ is the Reason for the Season™? It means that through our focus on Him, we can turn outward and help others, rather than focus inward on ourselves. That's why The Giving Machines are so popular, to members of the Church and those who are not; It allows people to give to those who need help. It allows people to spread the light of Christ.

I've spent a lot of time thinking about the birth of Jesus Christ these past few weeks. It's struck me that the Savior of the World, The Prince of Peace, The King of All Kings, A person who absolutely was above the world, was born in a humble, lowly manger. That manger was uncomfortable, smelly, unclean, and definitely not fit for the birth of the literal Son of God. But yet, He was born there. He left His perfect home in heaven above, and came to Earth to save all of man from sin, pain, and sorrow. And to start this journey of bringing peace to all, He brought peace to a lowly stable and manger.

Something I have been trying to do is be more still. I struggle with needing to be doing things all the time. If I'm not, I feel useless. Learning more about Jesus Christ allows me to be more intentional, slow down, and focus on the things that matter. Like my family, whom I love dearly, and I can't help but miss them during this time of year.


Despite my many worries, I know that there is a sweet respite for the soul in this season. A respite from the world, and all of our struggles. The Lord invites all those "that labour and are heavy laden, and [He]

will give [them] rest". We can find our rest in the celebration of the birth of Christ. He came down *to be with us*, so that He could bring the peace and joy that He and Our Father feel for us.

A few weeks ago, I shared a scripture from 3 Nephi 10, that talks about how the Resurrection and coming of Christ ended three days of darkness for the people of Nephi. Imagine how incredible that light must've been. I like to think that when Christ was born in that manger, it was like that. Once being in darkness, but now seeing the purifying love of the Savior in the form of His light. It reminds me of the hymn, "With Wondering Awe", which you can find a recording to at the bottom of this email.

This week, I invite you to be still, to contemplate how you have felt peace during this holiday season, and to contemplate how the Savior's light has blessed you. Focus on the things that matter. I testify that our Savior loves you, and He will help you with all things. He lives to bless you with His love! As you focus on Him this week, you will find greater peace and joy in celebration. And as you focus on Him every other day of the year, you will find great delight in your worship of Him.

I hope you have a fantastic week and a Merry Christmas. If you are with your family, please give them a big hug for me. If you not with your family this holiday season, whether you be a fellow missionary or not, know that you are not alone. The Savior is with you, and He will ease your pains. He understands all that you have gone through, and will go through. If you ask for His strength, He will give it to you. He has given it to me, and He continues to give it to me

The following are things that helped me write this email/gave me inspiration for this email. A bibliography of sorts. I figured it would be selfish to not share what has helped me so much. Hopefully at least one of these will help you as much as they helped me this week. 

Article: Swapping Overwhelm for Holiness This Christmas

Season: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/liahona/2025/12/14-swapping-overwhelm-for-holiness-this-christmas-season?lang=eng>

Article: Cultivating Spiritual Stillness at Christmastime: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ya-weekly/2025/12/cultivating-spiritual-stillness-at-christmastime?lang=eng>

Article: How My Mission Taught Me the Joy of Christmas: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ya-weekly/2025/12/how-my-mission-taught-me-the-joy-of-christmas?lang=eng>

Article: Be Still? In This World? How?: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ya-weekly/2024/12/be-still-in-this-world-how?lang=eng>

Video: A Worldwide Celebration of Jesus Christ's Birth | Light the World

2024: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/video/christmas-message-list/2024-11-27-a-worldwide-celebration-of-jesus-christs-birth?lang=eng>

Article: Temples sharing the Light of Christ:

https://www.thechurchnews.com/temples/2025/12/17/temple-grounds-around-the-globe-illuminate-the-message-of-christmas/?utm_campaign=churchnews-en&utm_content=entry&utm_medium=social_share

Article: About The Giving Machines:

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/welcome/christmas/light-the-world/giving-machines?lang=eng>

Article: Messages from the Leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:

https://www.thechurchnews.com/leaders/2025/12/17/first-presidency-quorum-of-twelve-apostles-christmas-posts-2025/?utm_campaign=churchnews-en&utm_content=entry&utm_medium=social_share

Scripture: 3 Nephi 10:10 (Book of Mormon)

Scripture: Matthew 11:28-30 (New Testament)

My family (not mentioned by name in any scriptures, but they should've gotten a shout-out; The disciples were slacking frfr)

Every English class I took from like 6th grade on that made me make a dumb bibliography just like the one I'm making right now ("who needs to cite their sources?", says the man, as he cites his sources)

A lifetime of learning the English language (Now over 20 years of experience)

An incredible sense of humor

The following hymns:

Still, Still, Still-

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media/music/songs/2014-12-still-still-still?lang=eng>

With Wondering Awe -

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media/music/songs/with-wondering-awe?lang=eng>

The Nativity Song-

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media/music/songs/2020-12-the-nativity-song?lang=eng>

Lullaby, Little One (there isn't a recording on Gospel Music for this song which sucks but just like google one and it's *probably* fine) - <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media/music/songs/lullaby-little-one?lang=eng>

O Little Town of Bethlehem -

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media/music/songs/2017-12-o-little-town-of-bethlehem?lang=eng>

A loving Savior who gave His life for you and me.

The opportunity to serve a mission for myself, but more importantly the people of the world, and of equal importance, as a way to give back to my Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, who have given me literally everything I have.

And finally, those of you who I am able to send emails to in a way to share my journey and share the Light of the World. I am in debt to your prayers of support, and your love.

! End of Bibliography !

I love you all, and Merry Christmas! Next week will probably be a normal, dumb stuff email. If you have time during this chaotic week, I'd love to hear about your Christmas break and everything going on with you! Miss you all.

Love you,
Keep Being Cool,
Elder John Randall Gee

Pics include:

5 Elders in a hole (took us 3 hours)

Mini-MTC District Reunion

Birthday celebration (20 years?!?!?)

Elder Fernán-dead







