

Howdy my wonderful, incredible friends! I hope you are having a fantastic day.

Let's be honest, we all know the drill here: I say something funny/stupid, then I link the google photos album, and then the people who are already on the album don't click the link (because why would they?) and the people who aren't on the album don't click the link either. Either way, I lose. So please, join the google photos album: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/4P9d4ozmNzrznkWr7>

Friends and family, I come to you bringing great news that I have been transferred from the Parelheiros Ward. I'm currently in the Jardim Ângela Ward. It's quite nice and I'm thankful to be here

My companion is Elder Kevin Rodriguez, (from Venezuela 🇧🇪). He's pretty cool. He's a recent convert to the church, which absolutely rules, but he tends to be pretty quiet, so I have to make most of the contact we make on the road, which is alright. He's been out for about 16 months.

We live with the Chácara Santana Elders, Elder Wilde (from Utah 🇺🇸) and Elder Rodrigues (from Ceará, Brasil 🇧🇷). The other Elders in our ward are Elder Ribeiro (from Fortaleza, Brasil 🇧🇷) and Elder Lama (from Peru 🇵🇪)

The end of an introduction means that it's time for this week's...

Notable Events (I really hope you said that like a PBS Children's Audience):

- Said goodbye to Parelheiros on Monday. We had a family home evening with this one family in the ward as Elder Hostetter and I's last goodbye
- On Tuesday morning, we caught a train to Santo Amaro and I met up with Elder Rodriguez and we took a bus over to our apartment. Our apartment is absolutely tiny, and we fit 4 Elders in here. But we're in a nice spot in the city. Across the street is the chapel, and we're a 5 minute walk from the Supermarket, so it's worth the immensely small apartment.
- I finished my read-through of the Book of Mormon! I started it when I was about to leave California and then didn't keep up with it until late-December. But I finally finished it, and now I can start a read-through in Portuguese (as well as the other standard works).
- We had English class on Saturday morning and nobody showed up!
- Saturday Night, we went to the Presentation of the Choir and Orquestra at Temple Square. It was pretty fantastic. I saw Mack Wilberg (my mortal enemy 😡) and Ryan Murphy (my GOAT 🐐). Elder Soares spoke,

and it was incredible to hear him speak in his native language. The main 4 Youth Music Artists for the Church here in Brazil showed up, as well as a big Brazilian musician, Ivete Sangalo. As well, a bunch of children from the surrounding area got to be a part of a giant number together, where they sang "Que Cristo me ama eu sei" which is "I Know That My Savior Loves Me". It was pretty special.

- On Sunday, I met the ward. The Jardim Ângela Ward is usually pretty small due to lots of inactive members. But everyone there is so faithful and sweet. Lots of people came for a baby blessing. Some guy bore his testimony, and said how he wanted to get baptized. He apparently lives in our area and my companion has never met him, so we're going to be tracking him down this week.

- Saw a guy wearing a Troy Bolton East High jersey as casually as if he was wearing a Lebron jersey. Felt that was important to share 😊

Spiritual Thought:

I've been thinking lots about charity recently, definitely in part to finishing the Book of Mormon and reading Moroni's amazing insights on it. Here's what he writes about it (see Moroni 7:45-48),

45 And charity suffereth long, and is kind, and envieth not, and is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, and rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

46 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, if ye have not charity, ye are nothing, for charity never faileth. Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail—

47 But charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth forever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with him.

*48 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, **pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love, which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son, Jesus Christ;** that ye may become the sons of God; that when he shall appear we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is; that we may have this hope; that we may be purified even as he is pure. Amen.*

My friends, charity is so important in our eternal quest to become more like the Savior! As we strive every day to be more charitable, and kind, and patient with those around us, we will become more like Christ. And He knows that it's hard to do this. But our Heavenly Father will give this highest of Christ-like Attributes to all those who seek it.

Please remember, that charity to others is imperative—absolutely part of the plan. But also remember that charity to yourself is a critical component. I'm very tough on myself as a missionary, as a musician,

and as a person in general. But we are taught that perfection **will not** come in this life. We are all still learning, and growing, and making mistakes. But the point, as Elder Clark G. Gilbert said in a 2022 BYU devotional, is that "no one in this Church is perfect save Jesus Christ. We all are just trying to do our best to become something more in Christ."

I promise that as we ask our kind and gracious Heavenly Father for greater charity, we will develop a greater love for those around us, and ourselves, as we strive to become something more in Christ.

Reading Recommendation of the Week:

Latter-day Saints Keep on Trying

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2015/04/latter-day-saints-keep-on-trying?lang=eng>

I love you so very much. I'm thankful for your kind words and emails that you send me. I hope you know how adored you are by a loving and caring Savior, Jesus Christ.

- Elder John Randall Gee

Pics this week include:

- A hangman puzzle that Elder Palmer left me. I think I solved it correctly
- Nós 4 no elevador
- Elder Rodriguez and I after the concert

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