

Helloooooooo my friends! How are you? This week was a week of miracles for me, and I hope it was for you. Email me a miracle you saw this week!

Here's the google photos album, check it out

please 🙏 : <https://photos.app.goo.gl/4P9d4ozmNzrzknWr7>

This week was a solid last week of the transfer! As for numbers, it wasn't super hot, BUT we saw some miracles in ways that Key-Indicators cannot express.

Also we got transfer news! I'm staying here in Jardim Ângela with Elder Choque!! Our apartment has not changed, but what has changed is that Elder Lama Flores and Elder Xavier, the other missionaries in our ward, are both leaving, and they're closing that other area for whatever reason. So now, Elder Choque and I are covering the entire ward. It's a bit overwhelming, but it's gonna be fire. Elder Lama Flores is gonna be training another Peruvian, and Elder Xavier is going to be companions with another Elder from Fortaleza, which is lowkey insane (Two Elders from Fortaleza as comps is like having two 20 year-olds from Miami, and they're teaching you all about Jesus Christ. They're gonna have a fire transfer over there.)

Eventos Notáveis:

- We have a inactive member who aside from his sister who is serving a mission in Chile, is the only member in his family. He asked us if we had visited his childhood friend, who lives across the street, Mary Ellen. We marked a time to go over there with him, and the first thing that Mary Ellen said was, "What do I have to do to get baptized in the waters?" But unfortunately she didn't come to church yesterday...

- We're teaching a 13 year-old, Juan. His dad, Aluísio, is an Inactive member. We wanted to reactivate him so we had a really powerful lesson about being a father and committed him to make some changes to support his son. Went really well, and he's going to start praying and reading the scriptures with his kids more often.

- Yesterday, the other Elders had a baptism in our ward (which makes it even stranger that their area is getting closed). They baptized an older woman named Creuza. She is the sweetest ever. She had us over for dinner Sunday night, and when I walked in, she said, "a real life gringo in my house right now". She also is a master cook. I'm privileged that I get to spend more time with her this coming transfer.

- Found a bakery called "Rota 66" (Route 66) and they had a giant map of Route 66 on the inside. It felt very American, and only made me slightly trunky. As we were leaving, Elder Choque was convinced that

Americans cannot name all 50 states so I and the other two Americans proved that we can indeed name them all.

- This morning, we went to Parque Ibirapuera (São Paulo's Central Park) for p-day. We ended up playing some futebol against a bunch of teenagers and they are all so good. At the end, some Chinese women started taking photos of "Brazilians playing futebol" and loved it. Super sweet. Then we rode the bikes around the park for an hour, and Elder Choque does not really know how to ride a bike so it was funny.

Pensamento Espiritual:

A few weeks ago, I bought a book written by Neil L. Andersen, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. It's called, "The Divine Gift of Forgiveness" and I'm reading the Portuguese version.

There was an incredible little phrase that I read this morning that I wanted to share. It reads,

"While you have made mistakes, these sins do not describe who you are. Your identity is not defined by the sins of this world, but by the righteousness of another."

Before this life, we chose to follow God, our Heavenly Father. We are here on Earth to learn to become like Him. We are here on Earth to follow His perfect Son, Jesus Christ.

Although you may have sinned, and it feels like there is no way back, *these sins do not, and cannot, define you.*

As literal children of God, we have a divine identity. We can become like Him as we strive to choose what is right. If you have guilt for something you did wrong, that is likely from God, so you should repent. But if you continue to have shame after earnestly repenting and doing all that you can do to make recompense, that shame does not come from God. It comes from the Adversary. He gives you these feelings because he wants nothing more than to stop you from feeling and knowing the pure love of God, which is Jesus Christ.

Reading Recommendation of the Week:

Related to the spiritual thought, give this talk a read/listen,

Your Repentance Doesn't Burden Jesus Christ; It Brightens His Joy by Tamara W. Runia

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2025/04/43runia?lang=eng>

I love you all! Sorry this email is coming super late tonight! Feel free to send me an email. They are welcome and more than encouraged. Do something hard this week! I believe in you!!

-Elder John Randall Gee 🇧🇷