

Helloooooo meus amigos, how are we doing today?

Always remember to join/check out the google photos album, it makes me feel those warm fuzzies that we all like 😊: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/4P9d4ozmNzrznkWr7>

This week was such a long week. As per last email, nothing has changed with transfers, except now we're the only elders in our ward. But our apartment is the same, our companionship, everything else is basically the same.

It's been a weird week, we still don't have the information from the other side of the ward so we've been going with what we know/have (which is very little and very old as well). But other than that, it's been fun.

Eventos Notáveis:

- On Wednesday, we were about to leave the house when a ward member, Ricardo, called us saying that he and his brother-in-law were going to play ping-pong (or as they say in Portuguese, ping-pong) at the chapel. He told us to bring one of our friends, so we quickly ran to Juan, our 13 year old best friend, and brought him over. About an hour later, while we were sharing a message with Juan, three of his buddies (Júlio, Cláudio, and Tijolo, whose real name is Luis) came out of nowhere and sat in on the lesson. It was awesome. One of the kids, Júlio, is actually interested in learning more about the church, so that's a sick turn-out from a random phone call

- Thursday, I went to the Polícia Federal to finally get legal documentation. We arrived Wednesday night in the mission office and hung out with the Elders there. Wednesday night, they told me, "yeah so because we haven't been able to get you in for so long, it's delayed again because bureaucracy, so you're going tomorrow to get some new forms and to not get a fine of absence". Thursday morning, we showed up an hour early, ate a really expensive breakfast (like 30 reais for a mid crepe and hot chocolate), and then I went in for a solid three hours before I finally didn't have the right paperwork and then I dipped. It was a fun morning and afternoon. So, no I still don't have ID, but, and I need to clear this up, I am ***NOT*** illegal.

- Friday we had a lit night. We visited this inactive member because our Bishop said that the member's 13-year old daughter said she wanted to get baptized. We show up and not only does she have absolutely no interest at all, every time we would ask a question the dad would respond normally and then start complaining about the church and all that. And we have lunch with him tomorrow so I'm not exactly thrilled. We also marked a sports night with Júlio, Juan, and their friends, but only Júlio came at

first, and then Cláudio showed up. It was pretty fun and a chill way to end the night. I absolutely suck at ping-pong, too.

- Friday afternoon, we received the information of someone who wants to learn about the church, named Ana. We sent her a message, and within 10 minutes she responded with a 2 minute voice message (very unusual). Turns out, she's a member who just moved to our area. She's been inactive for the last year but recently saw the chapel on the way to work and wants to come back. Saturday night, on a whim, we called her and asked to stop by, she said yes. While we were there, we realized she lives close to a person we're teaching, Andressa. We asked her if she'd be willing to come along for a quick visit, and she said yes. The visit was fantastic, Andressa and Ana clicked very quickly, and Ana even said it was some of the most joy she's felt recently.

- Sunday we had Stake Conference, and so none of our friends wanted to come to church because it was in a different building which is a little different, but our newest member of Ala Jd. Ângela, Creuza, did. She's the goat. Afterwards, all of our lessons fell through, including one with Juan and his dad. That was rough, but we marked a family home evening with them.

Pensamento Espiritual:

In the Book of Mormon, Christ blesses three of His Nephite disciples with everlasting life until the Second Coming. Their duty is to bring others unto Christ until He returns. In this chapter, The Savior blesses them saying,

9 And again, ye shall not have pain while ye shall dwell in the flesh, neither sorrow save it be for the sins of the world; and all this will I do because of the thing which ye have desired of me, for ye have desired that ye might bring the souls of men unto me, while the world shall stand.

10 And for this cause ye shall have fulness of joy...

These disciples of Christ are promised that they will not feel pain, nor sorrow, and they shall have a fullness of joy until the coming of The Risen Lord, all because they desired to help the souls of men come unto Christ.

We are called to do the same. In fact, we are here to learn of Christ and be converted in him, and then help others become so too. But unfortunately, we still face these pains and these sorrows. We still have hard days where we don't want to get out of bed, or talk to someone who we need to. We get sick, we get hurt, we face opposition at work or at school, or even in our own home. And so sometimes, it is hard to want to fulfill this calling of ours, especially when we feel like we can't be on the same level as the Three Nephites.

But luckily, when we push forward and do our duties, we are promised this fullness of joy. We can find joy serving others and helping them in their struggles, even if we are facing worse struggles than they may be. This doesn't eliminate our struggles, our inadequacies, our pains.

But it does bring peace. And peace leads us to feeling the Spirit more, and to increasing and strengthening our relationship and connection to Christ. And our relationship with Him is what will bring healing.

Reading Recommendation of the Week:

Fear Not: Believe Only! by Jeffrey R. Holland

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2022/04/23holland?lang=eng>

I love and miss you my friends. To my friends and family who just graduated high school, let's goooooo!
I wish you all the best, and I hope to receive an email from you this week 🙏

Peace out, y'all. Love you

- Elder John Randall Gee 🇧🇷

Pics this week include:

- Zona Guarapiranga = Best Zone
- Elder Choque with a sign that says Choque, absolute classic
- Last P-day shenanigans





