

What is going on my friends!!! How are we today? I'm super tired from this last week of work but I hope you are all having the best of days!

But first, you gotta join the google photos album because I'll cry if you don't:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/4P9d4ozmNzrznkWr7>

This week felt like side-quest central because Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday were just a blur. Not real. But it was a really fun week and I'm excited to get back out there in the work.

Coisas que aconteceram (Things that happened):

- Last p-day we went to the Solo Sagrado (Sacred Grounds) of the Messianic Church and had a picnic. It was fire. They gave us like a 3 hour tour and everything and it was a lot of fun. They answered a lot of our questions about doctrine but it was fun. Then we gave them cards to come visit our church !
- Tuesday, we had lunch at an awesome member's house and they started talking about Brazilian memes (there's a 16 year old girl in the fam) and I have never related more to a 55 year-old Brazilian woman more because I understood absolutely nada. Then that night we caught the Metro because I went to the office. Also Elder Ribeiro hit 1 month as a missionary and so we celebrated with the secretaries by buying pizza and telling dumb mission stories
- Wednesday, I went to the Polícia Federal for the 3rd time!! I waited a little longer than usual because they were having problems with their system (important detail) but everything was going good. All the right forms, all the right things paid and such. I made friends with some Bolivian women (they're incredible), an Australian dude (his accent was so strong and then he started speaking Portuguese and it was hilarious) and I entertained some bored government workers because I'm tall. Finally I get to the final desk and she tells me, "Yeah so you're all good BUT because our system is down, we can't finalize it, so you gotta come back in 2 months". #2moremonthswithoutabuspass 🤔
- On Thursday, we had our first interviews with President Cox. It was at the Casa Grande chapel, so Elder Ribeiro and I had to go open the chapel at 9am. We were running a little late and out of nowhere President and Sister Cox stop us on the road in their car. They gave us a ride to the chapel and we told them where to turn cause they were lowkey lost.

It was a great interview with him. Still haven't broken my streak for crying/choking up in President Interviews. It's not my fault that the spirit is so strong.

- Friday night, we had a lesson with Robson, a guy who some other Elders met a long time ago. He's trying to be a better father because his son is really into Bible stories and such. We taught him about the Gospel of Jesus Christ, invited him to be baptized (he didn't accept yet because he wants to learn more), and left him with a Book of Mormon. Also in our lunch that day, we assembled a tent, and the irmã offered me new shoes (which actually fit 🙌)

- Sunday was a rough day but so great! Nobody came to church. Even some active members weren't there. But because of this, we had the opportunity to bless the sacrament. It was a nice, quiet moment of reflection of the person I have become since the last time I blessed the sacrament (when I was in college). Then at night, we had a Noite familiar and we played Uno which I won.

Pensamento Espiritual:

Shortly after my interview with President Cox, I began to reflect about what we talked about and how I could be a better example of Christ in all that I do. As I did so, a scripture came into my mind: D&C 64:33, which reads,

*Wherefore, be not weary in well-doing, **for ye are laying the foundation of a great work.** And out of small things proceedeth that which is great.*

Sometimes I forget that this mission is a gift from the Lord to forget about myself and to focus on others. I too often get caught up in the this-and-that and wondering if when I get home, I will be the man that I want to be.

But perfection is not expected for this life. And so every little thing we may do as a missionary, as a parent, or as a simple, humble disciple of Jesus Christ, is laying the foundation of a great work. That great work will be built in the life to come. So let's build a firm and solid foundation in Christ and everything else will work out for our good.

Reading Recommendation of the Week:

However Long and Hard the Road by Jeffrey R. Holland and Patricia T. Holland

<https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/jeffrey-r-holland/however-long-hard-road/>

This devotional goes even more into this scripture, and although it focusing on the topic of dating and working on yourself while marriage is still yet to come (which is a topic that is *very* far away for me), the message still stands. Give it a listen.

My dear and gracious friends. I thank you so much for your emails. Let me know if I can pray for you or for anybody you know. I know there's a lot of uncertainty in the world, and I know how much a simple prayer can mean. I love you all 🍕 tchau tchau

- Elder John Randall Gee 🇧🇷

P.s., pics this week include:

- Ballin' in the Secretaries' Apartment (I fear I enjoy our visits there too much)
- Me in a tent!
- Me and Wesley, my recent-convert from my time in Parelheiros, who I saw at a bus stop
- Best picnic with Distrito Casa Grande







