

What is up my beautiful friends and family, I hope you are having a fantastic week.

Shameless plug to the google photos album: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/4P9d4ozmNzrznkWr7>

This week more or less flew by and I had a lot of fun. This week was the last week of this transfer, and nothing is changing going forward! 6 more weeks with Elder Ribeiro in Casa Grande A 🙌

Eventos Notáveis:

- On Tuesday, we had a meeting for all the new missionaries in the mission. It was pretty good. Got to see some of my good friends in the mission and learn better about our missionary purpose. I had some fire meatballs as well. Then we tried to go to the good bank near the office (the one that doesn't charge a withdrawal fee) and they took out their ATMs, so we went to another one (about 30 minute walk) and that one also didn't have any ATMs. So we walked back and just went home with the limited money we already had...

- On Friday, we had lunch with the 1st Counselor in the Bishopric, Wender. Incredible lunch. We had chocolate cake with ice cream for dessert, and Wender also broke out his poker set and we played a few hands. 'Twas awesome

- Saturday morning, we stopped by the church for the English class that is held there. With me being american, the teacher invited me to help all of the Brazilians by having some conversations (hence Gringo Responde). One guy asked me about the politics there in the States and I told him that he probably has a better idea than I do. But it was a lot of fun, and it was good to practice both my English and my Portuguese. Also I hit 11 months.

- Sunday, our miracle friend Hélio came again, and also our friend Diego came (with his wife and his 4 kids). And the other missionaries in our ward had a baptism (shoutout Nicolas) and so everybody stayed to watch! It was incredible. That night, we went over to Diego's and invited him and his wife, Jessica, to be baptized! Please keep them in your prayers.

Pensamento Espiritual:

This week I started a new read-through of the Book of Mormon, with an increased focus on the eyes and the things we see. In the very first chapter of the Book of Mormon, we read about Lehi,

[H]e testified that the things which he saw and heard, and also the things which he read in the book, manifested plainly of the coming of a Messiah, and also the redemption of the world.

I adore that Lehi uses his experiences to share his testimony. We must use the things we are learning to strengthen and bolster our testimonies.

President Oaks once said, "Some testimonies are better gained on the feet bearing them than on the knees praying for them."

When we do things to strengthen our testimonies, and then we share what we are learning, we can receive a confirmation from the Spirit, and everybody can be fortified.

Please share your testimony and the things you are learning, and you will begin to learn even more. I know this is true.

Reading Recommendation of the Week:

It's True, Isn't It? Then What Else Matters? by Elder Neil A. Andersen

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2007/04/its-true-isn-t-it-then-what-else-matters?lang=eng>

I love you my dear friends! Have a great week. Send me an email to let me know how you are!

- Elder John Randall Gee 🇧🇷