

HeIIlloooooo my dearest friendsssss, como vai com vocês?? Espero que estejam bem 🙏

To see a google photos album that I haven't updated in weeks (perdão), click the link here (I promise I will add to it): <https://photos.app.goo.gl/4P9d4ozmNzrzknWr7>

This week, being the last week of the transfer, I finished the training of Elder Ribeiro here in Casa Grande. That also means that I bring the dreaded transfer news... but I'll share that later.

Eventos Notáveis:

- On Tuesday, I went to the dreaded place, the Polícia Federal (Federal Police Station). If you've been a long-time email reader, you'll know that for whatever reason, this place hates me, and is the reason for me being illegal here in Brazil for the last 9 months. I've visited there 4 times, and I was prepared to spend a bunch of time there waiting for the process to be finalized for what would be the last time. I mentally prepped, brought books (Book of Mormon, and The Divine Gift of Forgiveness), set a goal to use my phone for less than an hour... and I was out of there in an hour and 15 minutes. It was so short, we ended up making it to lunch in our area with time to spare.

- I had another division with Elder Pugina on Wednesday. He's had some incredible growth this transfer, and we went out for my first real day of work in a week. We met some awesome people, ate some mini-cakes, and the Lord blessed us for our service 🙏

- Elder Ribeiro ended up getting sick so for most of the weekend we ended up in the house. It was hard. I was super exhausted from just staying home. I do not recommend.

- Y'all might remember that back at the end of June, when I was leaving Jd. Ângela, I was told that I would train a new missionary in an area called Capão Redondo A. It didn't pan out, and for other reasons, I was sent here to Casa Grande instead. Sunday night, at our weekly noite familiar, I received an unexpected call from the Assistants, asking me to train again, this time in Capão Redondo A for reals. So yeah, I'm going to leave Casa Grande, to go to Capão Redondo. I really love this ward here in Casa Grande, and am sad that I have to leave, but I am excited for the future and what Capão Redondo has for me now, 3 months later.

Pensamento Espiritual:

I wanted to shout-out my brother for unexpectedly saying a fire quote this morning whilst we called. He said,

"There is no willing yourself to become better without Jesus. You cannot do it on your own."

This phrase could sum up the story of this first year on the mission. Without the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we cannot get better. Everything we do is because of Him! He is so undeniably involved in our lives, that if we try to remove him, our personal growth can be utterly stunted.

Imagine if you were to travel by car from Fort Worth, Texas to Salt Lake City, Utah. According to Google Maps, this trip would take you about 19 hours. Now imagine, that all you did was put your car in neutral and pushed your way there. You, theoretically, could do this. But it becomes much faster, and much easier, once we turn on the engine and put the car in drive.

Jesus Christ's Atonement is our engine. Without it, and without Him, we simply cannot get to our final location in a reasonable way. Let the Savior help you. Share your concerns with Him, and let Him touch your life. He will help you.

I close a quote from J.B. Haws' devotional at Brigham Young University, entitled, "Wrestling with Comparisons",

"I realize, again and again, that I cannot overcome this on my own. I realize, again and again, that I do not have to."

Reading Recommendation of the Week:

For those of you feeling unworthy of God's love, give that devotional by J.B. Haws a listen. I highly recommend it. He loves you, and He desires that you return unto Him.

<https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/j-b-haws/wrestling-with-comparisons/>

I LOVE YOU MEUS QUERIDOS AMIGOS, always remember your worth and the love that Christ has for you! He will help, and you will begin to feel His influence even more.

- Elder John Randall Gee 🇧🇷

P.S., pics this week include:

- Last noite familiar in Casa Grande 😞
- Lunch with irmãs Rosiene and Maria (they literally love me 😊)

- Último conselho de distrito do Distrito Casa Grande 🙄





