





Hello my friends!

Join the Google photos album to watch a white man struggle to learn a foreign language: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/4P9d4ozmNzrznkWr7>

So, I fear I've lost the plot, and since this week was very slow, I am going to slow down and tell y'all what's been happening.

I'm finally here in Brazil, it's crazy. I don't know what I'm doing, but it's fun. I'm currently in the city of Parelheiros, a smaller city about 25 miles south of the center of São Paulo. In the Parelheiros ward, there's 3 Companionships (6 Elders), split up as Parelheiros A (me), B, and Vargem Grande (otherwise known as Parelheiros C).

My companion is Elder Brown, from Idaho . We live with the Parelheiros B Elders, Elder Hostetter (Also known as Elder Grande Hoss, from Florida ) and Elder Fernández (from Mexico ). The Parelheiros C Elders, Elder Daltro and Elder Silva, are both native Brasileiros .

The ward is fantastic. We have a lunch with a member every single day and they're all super nice and in awe about my height. Me too, me too.

Our apartment actually kind of sucks. There's some mold on the ceiling (and probably in the walls) and our study room floods whenever it rains hard. But it's okay, President said that the office will look for a new apartment so that's going to be a development in the next few months 🙏

This week was super slow because nearly every day had something that required us to get started working later in the day (like after lunchtime). A little discouraging, but it's just adding fuel to the fire 🔥

Notable Events:

- Tuesday, we had a lunch at a member's house, and they decided that they wanted us to show up at 10am so we could do a service project for them. We dug a ditch for like two hours and it started pouring halfway through. They gave us some clothes to wear as we ate lunch. We also started teaching a new family of 5, and they all seem super interested so that's something to look forward to.

- Wednesday was President Interviews! It was at the Stake Center which was about a 45 minute bus ride. We got there and there was a huge traffic jam because a tree fell on a bus and they were clearing it up. Anyway, none of the busses were running because of the traffic, and we had a lunch appointment, so we walked nearly 2 hours back to our area for lunch. There were a bunch of other trees that fell and the

whole city was without power for nearly two days. We tried to do some appointments, and even met a couple in the park who were incredible, but some of the parts of our area are really sketchy when the streetlights are out so we decided to come home early.

- Thursday we woke up late because our phones died and we didn't have any power... So we spent a lot of morning at the church charging our phones so we could actually work. That night, we met with a few members of that family of five (from Tuesday) and invited them to be baptized! It was sort of a spur of the moment decision but it worked out. If all goes well, they'll get baptized on the 28th of this month

- Friday we actually had a decent day! We had three solid lessons in the evening, including one with the couple we met in the park on Power Outage day. They are Aline and Wesley, and they have 5 kids who absolutely love us.

- Saturday was a bad day. My least favorite day ever. We had English class which was fun, but then we had to walk an hour to our lunch appointment because no busses go anyway near there. But we had a fun noite familiar (family home evening) and they had so much good food and I finally found out how tall I am in metric units 🍷🍷🍷

- Sunday was alright. Church was good but I didn't understand much and that was pretty frustrating. And also like none of our friends came to church. There's a family in our ward who is lowkey obsessed with American culture and the American missionaries and we had them for lunch so we spent like 3.5 hours there after church. Way too long, I know. They wanted to hear me sing so they put on a bunch of Christmas songs for karaoke... it wasn't awful, despite my absolute disdain for karaoke.

Overall, this week was not very productive work-wise. It's frustrating because I wanted to work all day for soooo many of these days but it just didn't happen. But the only thing we can do is move on, take what we learned, and apply it to the coming weeks to ensure things don't happen again.

Spiritual Thought:

This week's spiritual thought is actually something I studied/had a few weeks ago but I hadn't been able to use it for a spiritual thought for a little bit. It comes from the song, "*O Lord, Who Gave Thy Life For Me*", which is just an incredible song from the new hymn book. Here's a recording of a choir singing it at General Conference: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media/music/songs/2025-10-o-lord-who-gave-thy-life-for-me?lang=eng>

I love how every verse ends with the same pattern: The 2nd to last line of the verse says something about Christ's love, and then the last line says, "Bind my *[adjective]* heart to Thine".

Every verse uses a different word before the word heart. It uses *sorrowing*, then *trusting*, *willing*, and *grateful*. This shows how we can find strength in our Savior, Jesus Christ! We may be

sorrowful, we may be hurting, but as we turn to Him, we can put our trust in Him. As we trust in Him, we're willing to do the things that He would do and to love like Him. And finally, as we strive to draw closer to Christ, we can be grateful as we are blessed by His grace and His love.

Our Savior asks that we dedicate ourselves to spread His gospel, and as we do so, we will be changed! We can grow to be stronger, and rely on Him more. As we rely on Him, and find strength through Him, our hearts become more grateful, and loving. Please find a way you can serve somebody around you. It can be your mom, or your friend, our whatever. Look for ways to strengthen and support them. I promise that as you serve them and make their burdens lighter, you will feel your burdens become lighter as well. The best way to feel our Savior's love is to turn outward and help others feel His love through service.

I know that in being a missionary, I've felt incredible joy when I get to put aside my own problems and serve the people around me. Obviously it's hard, but I remember all of the times when the Savior was struggling and decided to help others rather than dwell on it. Our Heavenly Father won't give us challenges we can't handle.

I love you all, and I'm sorry to all of the folks who love seeing how much work I'm doing. Hopefully this coming week will be better, and maybe we'll see some miracles. But until that happens, know that I love and miss you all and I would love to hear about what fun stuff you've done recently.

Until next week,
- Elder John Gee

Pics include:

- Elder Silva wrapped in a blanket
- The Tree that killed the Ônibus
- Post-lunch at a member's house
- THE SUNSET 🌄
- A little bit of home from 6,000 miles away

(Also no, I will not explain the subject line of this email, unless you ask me for it, then I will explain)









