

Hello my wonderful friends, I hope you are having a fantastic week.

Click here to see the adventures (and misadventures) of 4 white Americans and Two native Brazilians: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/4P9d4ozmNzrznkWr7>

This week we had transfers here in Interlagos and so I stayed here in Parelheiros and Elder Brown went tchau tchau. We have 3 companionships in this ward, and all three companionships got changed.

I'm with Elder Alvez now, he's from the Brazilian state of Ceará, the city of Fortaleza. He's pretty funny, and the first thing he said to me was, "Dang you're tall" which is accurate.

This week was pretty slow. We had a lot of rain this week and so nobody was out on the street and hardly anybody answered the door. But we spent a lot of time with the members who I love so much they are so funny and so sweet.

Notable Events:

-This week, we played a lot of games with our members. Last Monday night, we played a game called Quantos Macacos (How many monkeys) at a noite familiar with Irmã Val and her whole family. They all got so frustrated with the game but thought it was so much fun. Two days later, we had lunch with Val's son-in-law, Mariño, and he asked us if we had done any "Macumba" lately. (Macumba is an Afro-Brazilian religion that is pretty cult-ish).

- We were on the way to a lesson when Elder Alvez saw something inside one of the stores that was cosplay for Demon Slayer, and he really likes Demon Slayer, and so he asked to go take a look. We met Vera, who owns, for lack of a better word, a Nerd Store. She was super cool and actually interested in hearing a message!

- We had a noite familiar with Irmã Maria Alice, and she lives super out of the way from everyone in our ward. It's basically a 45 minute walk there and back, and the bus only cuts that down by like 5 minutes. Anyway, we had the noite familiar scheduled and as we're leaving, it starts raining HARD but we're not canceling because it's Maria Alice who is awesome. So we walked 45 minutes there in the rain and then got there and the rain stopped. And then as we left the rain started picking up again so truly a miracle

- Basically every Sunday, somebody sings something 5 minutes before the meeting starts to invite the spirit and get everybody settled in their seats. My ward figured out that I can sort of sing (I can't) so they asked me to sing for this past Sunday. I sang "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" in English and Portuguese and it went really well. I don't know like how good it was like chorally, but it was pretty spiritually filled.

Spiritual Thought:

This week, I studied Elder Corey B. Cuvelier's talk, 'The Name by Which Ye are Called' from this past General Conference. I mainly studied it because my Mom (shoutout Mom) gave a talk yesterday in church. But it's seriously such a good talk, you can find it here: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2025/10/52cuvelier?lang=eng>

He has a quote that I absolutely love and I would want it to be permanently etched on my eyelids so I could read it all the time:

"There is a saying that you can count the seeds in an apple, but you can't count the apples that come from one seed... Perhaps the greatest sermons are the ones we never hear but those we see in the quiet, unassuming actions and deeds observed in the lives of ordinary people who, trying to be like Jesus, go about doing good."

Now, that's a quote good enough to be the spiritual thought alone, but one of the members of our ward, Fabricio, said something that I loved. He was talking to us about Abinadi in the Book of Mormon, who was killed for preaching the gospel, and died without knowing if anybody listened to it. God called him to preach the gospel and God knew he would be killed for it, and Abinadi probably knew it too. But he still did it.

But luckily, Abinadi's words reached the heart of Alma, who in turn, brought so many people to the joy of the gospel. That's what we are called to do. As Missionaries, and as members of the Church, we are to become more like Jesus. It doesn't have to be something that brings thousands of people unto repentance and Christ, but it can bring one single person closer to the gospel. And who knows what one apple seed can do?

I love you guys, I miss you dearly, and I hope you know how much you are loved here in this world. Things may be tough, but if you push through, you will see incredible joy. That is promised to us from our Heavenly Father. Keep pushing along. He's rooting for you. Send me an email if you want a hype man for the next 2 years.

- Elder John Gee

Pics this week include:

- The gang at Maria Alice's house
- Elder Alvez e Eu
- Somebody stole my tie clip

- Wonderful Fabricio during our meeting the other night (I accidentally called him Tarcisio and I will pay for that for the rest of my life)







