

Hello my beautiful friends! I hope you are having a fantastic week! This week was a lot of fun, so I'm excited to tell you all about it

For attempts on how to kick a field goal with a pine cone, check out the google photos album: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/4P9d4ozmNzrzknWr7>

This week, we had a Mission Tour from Elder Mark D. Eddy of the Seventy, which was incredible. He was super kind and was basically fluent in Portuguese, which kind of shocked me.

Also, last night we got transfer news! Read in the email to see how that's going, but I'm pretty excited

Other than that, no big announcements other than the trio was a lot of fun, but we're all splitting up next transfer. Now onto our...

Notable Events:

- Last p-day, we went to Shopping Ibirapuera, which is a giant mall far out in the city. It was pretty awesome, I had some Taco Bell (fire), some Milky-Moo (guys it's so good) and we went to a bookstore and I bought some Pokémon cards, a card game, and some other things

- On Tuesday, I judged a photo contest for our whole zone, for whatever reason. Our category was "Mission Tour" and so a lot of people ended up taking some really funny photos. Also, Tuesday was the actual day of Carnaval (every other day beforehand was just pre-partying), so we had to be in our apartments at 7pm, but nobody wants to stay in Parelheiros for Carnaval, so the streets were basically just empty. Also, it was my brother's (shoutout) birthday, so I called the family for a quick little bit. Twas fire

- Wednesday and Thursday we had the mission tour! Wednesday we went in person and then Thursday was on Zoom. It was really incredible. He talked a lot about how we can increase our personal faith and then increase the miracles we get to see in the work! He explained that as we increase our personal faith and spiritual power, the funnel for miracles gets larger and more miracles can come through. (Hence the subject title of this email)

- On Friday, we had an exchange with the APs of the mission. Elder Adelino came to Parelheiros and had an absolute blast. We had an Integration Night as a ward (basically just a big ward activity), which was a talent show, and we rocked out to some fun acts.

- Yesterday was Elder Palmer's birthday, so we celebrated that a little bit, and then at 10pm, the Transfer News hit. I am unfortunately leaving the Parelheiros Ward, and am going to the Jardim Angela Ward. I've heard good things about the ward, so I am excited to see how it is! I'm actually going to be replacing my old companion in the MTC, Elder Kaylor, in that area so I'm excited to see what he's been up to the past 4 months.

Spiritual Thought:

In Elder's Quorum yesterday, a member said rather quickly and quietly as a throw away comment, "Getsêmani faz parte do caminho", which means "Gethsemane is part of the path".

It means that our trials are part of life, just as Christ's suffering in Gethsemane was a part of His. These trials don't necessarily mean that we're undeserving of blessings, or that we're wicked or whatever, it just means that we have to go through some hard things in our life, and it's all part of the plan.

What we can do in these trials, is wait patiently with faith that Christ will help us (which He will), and push forward. Endurance is so important in these moments. And endurance doesn't simply mean sitting down and waiting for the trials to go away, it sometimes means we have to roll up our sleeves and get back out there and just learn how to be better. And I know that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ will help us through these experiences, the same as when Heavenly Father helped Jesus Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Recommendation of the Week:

<https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/j-ty-hopkins/lessons-on-endurance/?highlight=Lessons+on+Endurance>

(It's like a thirty minute listen, and really good. I can't recommend it enough)

I'm so thankful for all of you! I miss you, but I am also so proud of where all of you are and what you're doing! Things will undoubtedly get better, and that's just a eternal truth. Keep strong, and keep trusting in our Heavenly Father's perfect plan for you. I love you, be safe. ❤️

- Elder John Randall Gee 🇧🇷

(Also shoutout USA Men and Women's Hockey for double gold medals, let's go 🏒)

Pics this week include:

- Last Coordination Meeting in Parelheiros with the GOAT Paulinho
- with Elder Adelino
- Us right after we kicked a bunch of pinecones at each other and right before a giant storm rolled into town
- The other Parelheiros Elder's *almost* submission for the photo contest.
- a few of us at the Shopping 😎





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