

Yooooooo what is up my best friends? I hope you're having a fantastic week wherever you are.

Join the google photos album because it's cool and has good photos (I'm hoping that'll work to advertise): <https://photos.app.goo.gl/4P9d4ozmNzrznkWr7>

This week was a blast. As the title may suggest, our two great friends, Emilly and her little brother, Melky, made their first covenant with the Lord yesterday. I'm so proud of them and I hope that their examples will continue to shine to everyone they meet. But I will talk about it later as I go into our...

**Eventos Notáveis** (I'm keeping it in Portuguese por enquanto e não pode reclamar):

- Tuesday, we had a fire video call with Emilly, Melky, and their mom Kimberli. We did it at the chapel and so we used one of the chalk boards to explain the Plan of Salvation. We felt that a lot of our lessons with them were just kind of boring, more informative, less fun than we would like. So we had a lot more fun with that lesson and it really helped the vibes.

- Wednesday, we met this group of kids who live in a viela (basically an alley way) in our area. They're super chill, and pretty funny. They love to talk to me because I'm American and can therefore give them dollars (of which I have none to give). They don't really talk to Elder Choque which is odd but whatever. We also met a new friend of ours named Clara who is super cool!

- Friday, we helped out our Elder's Quorum President who just moved out of nowhere. He sent a voice message into the Elder's Quorum group chat basically saying, "Yo guys, I'd just like to thank you all, I ended up moving to another city. Tchou tchau"

- Sometime this week, Elder Lundgreen (who is from Minnesota) said the word, 'Warm' and it was super weird. Instead of saying it like 'War' with an 'M' at the end, he said it like 'Arm' with a 'W' at the beginning. It's actually affecting our friendship.

- Saturday, we had someone come to our English class for the first time in my entire time being in this ward. Also, it was Kimberli, Emilly, and Melky, so bonus! They brought their two friends Lia and Elian (who are members of the ward) as well, so it was a fun class.

- Sunday was the baptism!! Their family ended up arriving twenty minutes late to church but all is well. Emilly asked me to baptize her, and Elder Choque baptized Melky. Kimberli and Deilson (the dad) absolutely loved it. Deilson said that although he's super busy, he wants to get to know the church a little

better. Sunday evening, we also helped teach a temple prep class to one of our youth and his mom, and then went to a ward member's birthday party. Was an awesome day.

- About Emily and Melky: About 6 months ago, Emily had a sleepover with one of her friends, Lia (mentioned earlier in the email), and in the morning, they went to church. Emily really liked it, and continued going, bringing her brother, Melky, her mom, or her dad, depending on who was available and wanted to come. At the beginning of this transfer, we finally got Kimberli's number, and from that, we were able to get a visit scheduled with them in their house.

### ***Pensamento Espiritual:***

This week, as I was reading in the Book of Mormon—specifically in 3 Nephi when Christ visits the Nephites—a scripture I like a lot spoke to me in a new way I had never realized. In 3 Nephi 8, we read that for three days, there's a thick vapor of smoke that covers the land, as well as earthquakes, fires, floods, and furious whirlwinds that destroy many wicked people. These things were prophesied to happen as signs of Christ's death on the earth. In 3 Nephi 9, in the darkness, the voice of Christ speaks unto the remaining peoples, promising that He will save them if they will come unto Him.

Finally, in 3 Nephi 10, the darkness clears. Verse 10 of this chapter reads:

*10 And the earth did cleave together again, that it stood; and the mourning, and the weeping, and the wailing of the people who were spared alive did cease; and **their mourning was turned into joy, and their lamentations into the praise and thanksgiving** unto the Lord Jesus Christ, their Redeemer.*

In this moment, the Nephites had their hope restored to them. They had their mourning and lamentations turned into joy and thanksgiving. I know that through Jesus Christ, this can happen to us, too.

Christ has a transformative power that can turn sinners into saints, normal fishermen into Apostles, Paul into Saul, and our tears and burdens into joy and smiling faces. As we increase our connection to Him, this power only becomes stronger in our life. All of us, no matter our beliefs, our backgrounds, our looks, have access to this transformation as we invite Him into our lives. He is in relentless pursuit of you, and He will do anything to help you come unto Him.

***Reading Recommendation of the Week*** (I had to keep something in English):

**God's Intent Is to Bring You Home** by Elder Patrick Kearon

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2024/04/45kearon?lang=eng>

I am so, so, so thankful for each and every one of you. I hope you each have a fantastic week, and that you get to do something every day that makes you happy. Shoot me an email, and let me know how you're doing!

Love you!!

- Elder John Randall Gee 🇧🇷 ❤️

Pics this week include:

- Me and the new Elder Gee (shoutout Richard Miguel, the coolest cat in Ala Jardim Ângela)
- The Plan of Salvation is a Plan of Love
- Baptism pic: (Left to right) Elder Choque, Kimberli, Melky, Emilly, Deilson, and Me





