

Hello my friends? How are we all doing today? I hope you're having a great day and a great week ahead of you.

Join the google photos album to see my absolute wacked-out dominoes hand (with which I still almost won): <https://photos.app.goo.gl/4P9d4ozmNzrzknWr7>

This week was awesome with the new transfer. Last week, I said I would be training a new missionary (which is still true thankfully) but that I would be in an area called Capão Redondo A. Well, last p-day, after the Brazil game, I got another call from the APs asking if I'd be alright moving to an area called Casa Grande A instead. I said yes. In fact, the Casa Grande Ward sits right next to the Parelheiros Ward, which was my first area here in Brazil. It's been a fun week, but definitely difficult.

My new companion (and trainee)'s name is Elder Ribeiro from the great state of Espírito Santo here in Brazil. He's great and a spiritual giant (despite being 5'4").

Eventos Notáveis:

- Monday was my last day in Jd. Ângela, and it was pretty cool. We watched the Brazil vs. Japan game (let's gooooo) and then at night, I said goodbye to some friends, including the entire Viana family (members). One of the members, Valdete, gave me a tie, and then Ricardo gave me a new tie clip (which is fantastic cause I definitely lost one of mine a few weeks ago). I miss that ward a lot, but I'm grateful to be here.
- Tuesday was transfers. Because I didn't have a comp for a day (Elder Ribeiro arrived on Wednesday), I spent the day with a Elder Moreno who is in a ward nearby. He was sick, so we spent the day inside and I just studied and read.
- Wednesday, Elder Ribeiro arrived and I had a feeling he was gonna be my comp from the get-go. I got to see some friends at the office, and it was awesome. We arrived at the house and it is insane. My last apartment was the smallest house in the mission. This house is the biggest house (hence the email title). It has two floors, two bathrooms, a nicely-sized kitchen, and also a hammock room. And we're the only Elderes living here. It's insane how spoiled I am 😊
- The rest of the week was a blur. Just a lot of meeting members and friends and such. Lots of people not responding but that's life. A highlight would definitely be a lesson we had on Saturday with a woman named Helena and her husband, Alceu. Alceu is practically blind. He maybe has 10% of his vision and even then, it's blurry. We got there and Helena told us, "He's super atheistic", but we learned that he just doesn't enjoy most churches because they don't preach and do as Christ did. He was also a little bit

hostile in his words. We had a lesson about the Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and at the end, he was sat up and paying full attention. He was joyful, and he was kind.

- Sunday, one of recent converts in this ward, Eduarda, is coming back to church because her 8 year-old daughter wanted to get baptized. After Church, Isabele made her first covenant with God!
#WardBaptismsForTheWin. We also watched the game against Norway, and Brazil lost but whatever. They had lots of chances to score, but just couldn't finish it. And Neymar got a courtesy penalty goal (Norway's goalie didn't even try) so at least we didn't go home empty-handed. After that we had a great noite familiar with Irmã Ivonete, who is just precious.

Pensamento Espiritual:

As I was reading the scriptures this week, I found a great verse in Alma 5 that explains how I feel about the restored gospel, and how it can help others feel the same way. Alma 5:7 reads,

Behold, they were in the midst of darkness; nevertheless, their souls were illuminated by the light of the everlasting word;

Despite being raised in the gospel, and having known of the Church my entire life, for many years I felt in the midst of darkness—that I couldn't measure up to standards of life; that nobody would want to hear what I have to say; that there was little hope in finding joy and peace.

But these feelings are not of Heavenly Father, and as we draw near unto Him and His Son, Jesus Christ, we begin to come into the light. Our souls begin to be illuminated by the light of prayer, of the scriptures, of Jesus Christ. It is no wonder that one of Christ's titles is, "The Word".

For Alceu, before feeling the spirit, he just wanted to complain about other churches and people, but after feeling his soul illuminated by the light of the everlasting word, he was cheerful. He wanted to tell stories about himself and about his and his wife's youth.

I know that Christ can change people. It is because of Him that we are allowed to change, that we are not condemned by our mistakes, and we can be set free.

Reading Recommendation of the Week:

Consider the Goodness and Greatness of God by Elder Dale G. Renlund

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2020/04/26renlund?lang=eng>

I'm so thankful for you, my dear friends. Happy 4th of July 🇺🇸 Happy 250th, USA! Feel free to send me an email and let me know what you're thankful for. Sharing our gratitude will only increase it. Amo vcs, meus amigos, se cuidem 🤞

-Elder John Randall Gee 🇧🇷

P.S., pics this week include:

- Nossa foto de perfil no WhatsApp
- Elder Liddell and I (we're both training so two newborn outfits only made sense)
- Guys I might be cracked at Domino
- Elder Ribeiro, Isabele, Me, and Eduarda









