

Sorry dude, there's a pool in the way

26 Jan 2026

Hello my dear friends, I hope you are feeling blessed today. Today is a beautiful day to count your blessings 🙌🙌

To watch 10 (with more to come in the future) Brazilian Food Reviews that border somewhere between "barely TV" and "Unwanted nonsense", join the Google photos album: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/4P9d4ozmNzrzknWr7>

This week felt very long so I am very thankful for this day to just chill out and call my family and email all of you. Elder Alvez and I had a good week but it was really tiring

Now it's time for this week's...

Notable Events:

- Last p-day, it rained the entire day and when we got back to our apartment we had lost all of our power. We decided to visit our Bishop and his family, and he let us charge our phones and bought us pizza!

- On Tuesday, we helped Aline and Wesley (our friends who have a baptismal date in two weeks) have a birthday party for their kids. It was a really incredible experience to be with them for that, and we even got to share about the gospel to Aline's parents and everybody. Plus, we discovered that the whole family can be baptized together on the same day. It was really fun, and I'm thankful that God put me here so I could meet them.

- Thursday, I had an exchange with Elder Hostetter, who I live with here in Parelheiros. It was pretty fire. We took some baller photos, and visited one of our Recent Converts, Henrique, and gave him a Priesthood Blessing of health. What a blessing it is to give a blessing.

- Saturday, our ward had a giant activity at a ranch that we were lucky to be invited to. It was a beautiful day and there were so many awesome ward members to talk and play games with. Afterwards, Elder Alvez and I visited with Aline and Wesley and bought churros in celebration after a great lesson with them.

- On Sunday, us Elders in the ward had the privilege of doing this week's prelude. We sang "Que Cristo me ama eu sei" which is "I Know That My Savior Loves Me" And 5 minutes before Sacrament Meeting started, one of the Bishopric Members (one of the leaders of the ward) asked if any of us could lead the music. I said that I could do it, even though I haven't done anything like that since before my time at USU. It was rough, but I am thankful I was able to help out in any way that I can.

Spiritual Thought:

This week, I've really struggled with feeling incapable of doing this work as a whole. It's tiring, and I'm barely speaking a language that I barely understand. It's been difficult and I have felt as though I am simply not doing enough and I am not enough for the Lord's work.

But I am reminded that these feelings are not from the Savior, or from our Heavenly Father. There's an incredible talk from Elder Vern P. Stanfill of the Seventy, entitled 'The Imperfect Harvest' that has helped me time and time again remember that it is okay to fail. Here's the link for those who want to read: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2023/04/54stanfill?lang=eng>

In the story when Jesus Christ feeds the 5,000, Christ accepts the humble offering of five loaves of bread and two fish from a young man and then uses it to feed every person there.

My friends, we do not have to be the ones who turn the bread and the fish into what is sufficient for 5,000. But we are to become the ones who can humbly offer the bread and fish to the Savior. **Things do not have to be perfect for it to be enough in the eyes of God or Jesus Christ.**

Elder Stanfill says, "*Regardless of how insignificant our efforts may seem, if we are sincere, the Savior will use us to accomplish His work. If we simply do the best we can and trust Him to make up the difference, we can become part of the miracles that surround us.*"

I testify that we are to do what we can, and do our best. Try your best, and give the rest to Jesus Christ, who will perfect your offering, and in turn, He will eventually perfect you.

I love you all, and I know you have a fantastic week ahead of each of you. Shoot me an email, I would love to hear from you and the things you've learned recently. I miss you and I know that you are loved by a Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Até próximo p-day,
- Elder John Randall Gee

Pics this week include:







