

Hello my incredible and wonderful friends! I hope you have had a fantastic week wherever you happen to be!

To watch a nature documentary of my first encounter with Capybaras, join the Google photos album: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/4P9d4ozmNzrznkWr7>

As the title suggests, I am back in another trio, which is lowkey a little crazy. As I mentioned last week, Elder Alves had some health issues with his teeth, and so he returned home to do the treatment. I've now been put with our Parelheiros B Elders, Elder Hostetter (from around Miami, Florida, USA) and Elder Palmer (from Brigham City, Utah, USA). The three of us are having to cover both areas at the same time, so our day is usually split between different neighborhoods and different areas depending on the needs of the people we are teaching/helping. It's been chaotic but it's been a lot of fun working with them.

Also Carnaval is happening! It hasn't been crazy here in Parelheiros but it's definitely a thing that is happening.

This week ended up going pretty fast because we were running everywhere, but here are some fun...

Notable Events (with some random funny bits thrown in):

- We stopped by a member of ours for a quick little visit and she insisted on making us dinner (it was fire), she also talked our ear off about some nonsense, her dog bit Elder Hostetter on the hand (no, it doesn't have rabies, we already asked).
- One of our newer people, Gisele, has been progressing really well! We gave her a tour of our chapel (plus a lesson about the Restoration of the Church) and she really enjoyed it, and then she came to church yesterday! She's super smart and loves reading in the Book of Mormon which is pretty awesome.
- We taught Elder Palmer about Samson, twas awesome. 🧔
- I went up to the Mission Office this week to go to the Polícia Federal so I can finally be legal here in Brasil, but when I got there on Thursday night, they told me, "Oh yeah we're missing one of your forms but you had to come so you don't get a fine for missing your appointment". So I just went up to basically hang out??? No, but they told me I gotta come back another day soon, so we're just biding our time over here
- Finally found our coveted Stranger Things Ice Cream 🍦

- We had a noite familiar (family home evening) with our Recent Converts, Aline and Wesley and their family. They made us lasagna and we found out that they're able to go to the temple with us in about two weeks. I'm so very excited for them. I hope I get to stay here to be able to go with them, but nevertheless they're still gonna go to the temple so it doesn't really matter

Spiritual Thought:

This week when we were teaching English class, we talked a lot about faith and practicing English. If we do what we can in faith, God will magnify our efforts and increase our capacity, and we can do things we thought were impossible. This is because we are literal children of our loving Heavenly Father, and we have divine potential. There's a fantastic talk from October 2021 by Elder Clark G. Gilbert—who happens to be the newest apostle of the Lord on the earth. The talk is entitled, "*Becoming More In Christ: The Parable of the Slope*".

In the talk, Elder Gilbert, quoting another general authority of the Church, says,

"...the Lord will 'help you more than you can help yourself. [So] involve the Lord in this process.'"

As we do our best and put all of our faith in the Lord, I can promise that He will help us increase our abilities and we can be able to do things that we have not been able to do before. We are not limited by what we were before. We do not need to fear that we are not good enough, or not smart enough, or not diligent enough—or that we are simply not enough, because in the eyes of God and of Jesus Christ, we are always enough.

Reading Recommendation of the Week:

Becoming More in Christ: The Parable of the Slope - <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2021/10/16gilbert?lang=eng>

I love you all, and I hope you have a fantastic week! Like always, please feel free to send me an email or simply just a short message, I would love to hear from all of you! I'm proud of y'all and I'm very thankful for your love and support as I serve the people here in Brazil. Keep being awesome!

- Elder John Randall Gee

Pics this week include:

- After "Team Gringo" beat a bunch of Brazilian kids in street futebol
- The sky is bigger here, I swear
- Got into a fight with Pudding, lost...
- In front of the nice chique lake







