



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

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**September 24, 2010**

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**Phillip Larsen** <phillip.larsen@myldsmail.net>

Fri, Sep 24, 2010 at 6:54 PM

To: John@larsen-family.us, joyce@larsen-family.us

Boa Tarde minha Familia!

So today I decided to write out a plan on what I am going to write about. How are you all? I'm doing great. Today we got to go to the Provo Temple on our P-day. I sent a snail mail letter to you with some pictures, I hope you'll get it soon. I'm so glad that my patriarchal blessing came in finally! When are you going to mail it off?

I'm glad you recieved my snail mail, I wasn't sure if you got it because other people had recieved return letters from their snail mail, but then I remembered I was sending to New Hampshire which is about a 5 day time?

The provo temple is great, but I like Boston more. It was fun going as a district. My experiences of Utah temples is that they are much different from other ones.

I really appreciate the dear elder letters, its so nice getting mail and its very nice to hear from home.

We started contacting in portuguese this past week, we're still getting a hang of the language but I can feel the spirit helping us learn the language every time we study. Each class, however, lately we've been very drowsy, maybe its because we eat so much at lunch and dinner.

Each day here at the MTC seems to go by so slowly! Yet the weird thing is that its already almost been 2 weeks, its already almost been 2% of our missions which is an alarming thing.

We had our room rated today and we got an acceptable, I had a little trash on my table, (empty soda bottles) that didn't allow us to get a commendable but I want to let you know mom that we are keeping our room clean! :) That's awesome that Danny got is mission call! When does he leave for the MTC? I'm so pumped for that! I already got Andrew's mailing address, but thank you mom! He sent a [dearelder.com](http://dearelder.com) letter so I was able to get his new address. I also have been mailing a lot of letters

while I've been here.

Having a full P-Day is awesome! How did you like the joke I had said in the first email I sent?

Uhh I do have a few requests as well. 2 Drier sheets here are 50c. Would it be possible to get a box of them sent to me? That would help a lot with that, I only get 6\$ a week on my blue card that I use around the MTC campus. I'd really like some picturesque shots of New Hampshire Autumn too, and maybe some leaves :) The trees are starting to change here a bit but Utah Autumn is nothing compared to the glorious New Hampshire Autumn.

Some addresses of people I'd like to write to are Ryan Rainey, Deb Stevens, and Sam Hilliard. I didn't get his address and I would like to write to him.

Having a plan while emailing is so much better and more organized... (I hope)

So the visas are going very slowly, not many are coming now and a lot of Brasil Missionaries are getting reassigned state side. Life in the MTC is pretty fun here though. Today Elder.Smith in our district got a letter from his girlfriend and his reaction was so funny, she had kissed the back of the envelope and I was in my room writing some letters after we had gone to the temple and he was cheering in the hallway quite loudly. I will snailmail you a picture that Elder Woolsey drew of our district, he made little comics of each of us and its quite funny looking.

Mom - Thanks for the email that you sent today. I like that, having something to look forward to when I write. Our laundry time in the MTC is at 3:00 so I would be going on the computer to email after that time. It is so packed here, and it is very hot with like a billion dryers and washers and lots of computers.

Unfortunately the oil holder Geoff gave me leaks! I don't know what to do. They sell the same one with a minor difference at the MTC bookstore but I don't know what I should do for that. Yes my companion Elder Smith arrived on the same day as me. We will be companions the entire time we are at the MTC and right now I am the senior companion, and we'll switch off halfway in the MTC, that is if our visas don't come before then. I think that is the only way we wouldn't be companions the whole time.

We had a TRC, (Teaching Resource Center) which is when we go as a companionship and teach an "investigator" who is either a real investigator volunteer or a member volunteer. We had an RM from Brasil and we were kind of bad on getting to know him in portuguese.

So a funny story about Portuguese class, we were talking with eachother outside for

an excersize and I decided to say a brief testimony with Elder Billin, another Elder in our District. I was trying to say "I know Jesus Christ lives..." which is Eu sei que Jesus Cristo vive" in Portuguese but instead of saying that I accidently said "Eu sou Jesus Cristo..." which means "I am Jesus Christ." Whoops. O\_o  
The elders in our district got a good laugh about that.

So a game that was started from me accidently taking the salt shaker from our table to another table is where the elders in our district try to sneak a pepper shaker or a salt shaker onto another Elder's tray. It is actually really funny to watch but usually they find out before they put the tray to get washed.

Dad - That is a scary but realistic thing. We are really almost done 2% of our missions. "The days are like weeks and the weeks are like days."  
Also, every Elder that I say "Bom dia" thinks I am saying Bonjour. They then say sorry I don't speak french and then I say "I don't either." Bom dia is pronounced "Bom jea"  
The pronunciations of portuguese are a little weird sometimes but I like it, it is a cool sounding language.

Julia - I'm glad you're enjoying High School, or at least the clubs that they have. Have you made any new decks? How is Art Club/ Chorus/ Anime Club/ and Gaming club? Are there a lot of people that attend it? I miss Winston. I want to have a picture of him so I can show other Elders him.

Heather - No I did not get a hymnal on the first day but I have bought one since arriving in the MTC. Also they provide a free engraving of your name on your books if you got them at the MTC so right now I am waiting to get my Bible, BOM, and Hymnal back and they'll have my name!

Another funny thing is this:

So Elder Smith was climbing into his bed and when grabbing onto the post of his bunk he pulled the top off and almost fell. He looked at the top of the post and it had several missionary's names written on it and there was a little letter inside from 1996 and it hadn't been found since 1998 so 12 years and then we found it! Other missionaries at the MTC call these Narnia Holes. We're going to leave some secret messages before we leave for Brasil.

Brad - How have you been? How is school doing? Have you had the chance to finish SC2 yet? Were you going to continue learning German? How is your back doing twist meister? I heard you got your couch finally, that's good.  
Well I got a minute left now so I gotta go,  
I miss you guys a bunch and hope to hear from you soon!

Love Your Elder,

Phillip Larsen

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