



John Larsen &lt;theclaw56@gmail.com&gt;

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## (Fwd) Printable Copy of Letter

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Joyce Larsen <linenLady9@larsen-family.us>  
To: john@larsen-family.us

Thu, Sep 30, 2010 at 12:40 PM

----- Forwarded message follows -----

To: [joyce@larsen-family.us](mailto:joyce@larsen-family.us)  
Subject: Printable Copy of Letter  
From: [printable\\_versions@dearelder.com](mailto:printable_versions@dearelder.com)  
Date sent: Thu, 30 Sep 2010 10:20:17 -0600 (MDT)

Hello, Phillip, Elder Larsen!

I'll be heading out to the post office after sending this letter, so you'll finally get a package.  
More things will be coming as we get them ready, but this is good for a start. It has four garment tops, the kind you like. I was finally able to exchange the others we had gotten, so hopefully you'll be all set with the same numbers of tops and bottoms. It has a bunch of dryer sheets that I have cut into fourths, the same way I use them at home. They're in a ziplock bag. Bradford doesn't like using the small ones, but I think they work fine and that's a way to save money. So they won't get there in time for this week's laundry, but you'll have them for later. And if you need to cut dryer sheets you get tomorrow when you do your laundry, that will help them to go farther. I put in your USB camera cable, and also the tube of Pearl Drops toothpaste (since you're the only one to use it). And your Patriarchal Blessing, and some printouts of pictures, and a couple of other little things. The treat I'm sending is one Bro. Henkel brought over on Sunday when he home taught us. We all ate ours, and Dad never ate his, so he said we could send it to you. Julia and I really liked ours.

I'm not sure about Heather and Rachel.

First, to ease your mind about Bro. Bentall and Bro. Henkel: Bro. Bentall's surgery turned out to be a heart catheterization, and while that is an invasive procedure, it is done to see what's gone on, and they found he has no blockages. As he posted on FB, "all is well". Bro. Henkel did well with his surgery and will be in the hospital until at least Monday. We don't know details of what they found as far as the cancer goes, but we'll let you know once we know. Keep them in your prayers. Sis. Henkel will mostly need to be taken out to lunch sometimes, to get away from things. I can do that!

Today it's very rainy. They say it will get more rainy, and we'll have 2-6 inches of rain, or more, by mid-morning tomorrow. This is from a tropical storm. I think this is lots more than Provo gets, maybe even as much as what they get in a year! Ok, no, I just looked it up. Provo gets 16 inches per year. So what we'll get today and tomorrow is what Provo sees in about four months' time.

I'm trying to re-read your letters to answer any questions. Yes, it is very quiet around here. Not only are you gone, but so are all the friends (Wilsons, Geoff, Mike Scott, etc.) who would come over regularly. I'm still trying to figure out how much food to buy and to cook! Heather is coming over tonight, and she came last night, too. Rachel comes on the weekend. We'll be inviting Geoff and Kelly sometime, too. But I haven't even bought more cereal at the store since you left! But Julia and I are working on writing, and Sis. Blanchette came last night to pick me up to visit teach and Julia told her she and I are writing, and Sis.

Blanchette said in the car, "Did you see how her face lit up when she said you and she are writing? She is so excited!" So I'll be sure to make that a priority. Who knows, maybe I'll be an author before you get back! At least I'm practicing by writing you letters!

I'm planning to get a Portuguese/English dictionary soon so I can look up the words you write. Keep writing Portuguese things! Kate Deschenes gave me a picture dictionary she had from her school. It's fun, and I'm sure a good way to learn some words and phrases. I liked the P-day joke you sent! I showed Lesley Bentall, and she thought it was funny, and hadn't heard that one before.

The trees are starting to change a little bit here, though they have a long way to go. In your box is a bag of leaves. The larger ones came from the Compassionate Friends cookout we went to a couple of weeks ago. The smaller ones came from our street while I was delivering the papers. Yesterday I went up to visit my friend, Karen Buchanan (my Craft and Chat friend who lives in Raymond). We did a bit of shopping, then went to Masabesic Lake (probably spelled wrong) for a picnic, and we sat and watched the ducks and looked at the trees around the lake and knitted/crocheted. The lake is near the Mall of NH, and we've met there a few times before. It was lovely to enjoy one more summer-like day like that.

I'm glad you're eating well. I've been losing weight, and I think I'm not as interested in eating lately. So I'm the one who needs to eat better!

I loved hearing about your dream about learning the language. I told that to Sis. Banks, and she was getting goose bumps just hearing about it. I think it's neat how the Lord prepares us in little ways for things. I remember getting "stray" thoughts in the shower as I was getting ready to meet with Pres. Cooprider the day I got my calling. I thought "What if it's a calling for Stake RS President? No, we have a perfectly good one. But if it is, how would you choose counselors? Rely on the Lord." Then I figured it wouldn't be that, so I should forget those thoughts. Then it was, and I wasn't totally shocked!

Thank you for the list of what you ate. I loved hearing about that. I wouldn't mind more details. And especially once you get to Brazil, too!

It's a great idea to write out a list of what to write about. I do that, too. It helps to remember everything.

I'm glad your room is at least acceptable! Your room here at home is not yet my craft room, but it is more acceptable than it was. I moved things around to organize them, found more laundry, vacuumed, and made it so I can open the shades in the morning without using a pogo stick to get over the piles of stuff! Little by little . . . Oh, one thing I found in your room is a list called "Practical Preparation for your Mission". I think it must have been a handout from YM one time or something. Anyway, I read the list, and you've done just about everything on it! I think the only thing you weren't really strong on is "Keep your room clean without having to be told". But that reminds me of one other thing. On Sunday Bro. Henkel told me he really really liked your talk in your farewell. He said you were so prepared

for  
your mission and he could feel the Spirit as you spoke. I thought you'd like to know  
that.

Danny (whose endowment session Heather and I attended on Saturday) leaves for  
the MTC  
on October 13th. So if you're still there, you may see him and can welcome him in.

I still need to send you notes on the Temple fireside. I have that on my own list, so  
maybe  
next time . . .

I was reading in a book last night, called "Odds Are, You're Going to be Exalted" by  
Alonzo  
L. Gaskill. I'm borrowing it from Sis. Potter. The author in one chapter is talking about  
vicarious work for the dead, and the courage of the Prophet Joseph Smith in the  
things he  
did, so these ordinances are available. He quoted D&C 1:17-23, and the last verse,  
"that the  
fulness of my gospel might be proclaimed by the weak and the simple unto the ends  
of the  
world" really struck me. While you are not weak and simple (in a negative sense), the  
young  
missionaries at the MTC and all over the world are "weak and simple" in that they are  
just  
barely out of childhood, not yet having started on their own lives (careers, marriage,  
etc.).  
They are trained through their lives in Seminary, at the MTC, etc, but not in college for  
their  
missions, they are giving 18-24 months of their lives to proclaim the gospel, and the  
Lord is  
using very young people to take His precious truths to all the people of the Earth. And  
how  
wonderful that is! It's so neat to see these things come to pass!

Well, I'm off to mail your package, and to buy groceries. I love you, and I'm proud of you, and how blessed we all are to have the gospel, and to have a missionary serving from our family!

Love,

Mom

----- End of forwarded message -----

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