



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

2010 Oct 6: Letter to Phillip

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

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Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

To: joyce@larsen-family.us

Missionary Name: Elder Phillip Larsen

Mission: Provo MTC

Date Submitted: October 6

Hello Dear Phillip,

I hope everything is going well for you. I trust in the Lord to "make it so".

I just finished figuring out how to use Wal-Mart's online photo printing service. I uploaded 34 different pictures to the site and had them all printed as 4 x 5.3 prints on luster paper. I put your MTC address as the destination. According to the website they "Will arrive between Wed and Mon, 10/13/10 to 10/18/10". Sorry it has taken so long to figure out how to do this.

Here it is already Wednesday and I haven't written you since last Friday. It has been a busy time. General Conference was enjoyable as always, but it felt quite empty at church. I've included some pictures from both days. At Ruby Tuesdays they put us at the same table in the middle, but only set it for 7. It was a bit sad not having the Wilsons there, but we enjoyed having the missionaries along.

During conference I was in the Family History Center finally getting the replacement Linux box completed. I was able to switch over to it with just a few minutes to go in the last session on Sunday. All in all it took about ten hours to get the job done. Because I was putting attention into that task I didn't quite listen to conference the way I wanted to. However, I have (as usual) downloaded all the mp3s to my iPaq and have already listened to the first two sessions over again while commuting to work. I'm in the priesthood session now. I'm getting more out of the talks the second time around. I'm so thankful to have living prophets and apostles to show us the way.

We're still figuring out the new "normal" around here. We don't go through as much food. There is a lot of ice cream in the freezer. It lasts a lot longer!

Tuesday evening was the first Merrimack Concert Band rehearsal. They started about

a month later this year than last. We're only doing three concerts this year instead of 4. This is all part of the cost savings efforts. We had about 13 players, but there were a few who weren't there but plan to be. I've been practising a lot because of getting ready for the "Ricky Nelson and the Secret Agents" dance, so I was in good shape for the concert band rehearsal.

The dance is a week from Friday. We'll be practising Friday evening, then Saturday morning. We'll have one more rehearsal next week on Wednesday, then the dance is on Friday, Oct 15th. I'm taking a vacation day that day so that I can help Brother Carl move all his stuff to the church. We also need time to get everything set up and tested. We want to get a monitor system setup this time so there is new equipment for that.

I'm looking forward to the gig, but I'm a little worried too. It turns out that Bruce Houghton needs to be in Washington DC starting Tuesday and coming back on Friday, the day of the gig. His plane doesn't leave until 3pm getting into Logan airport at 4 pm. What worries me is the volatility of weather patterns and the impact they have on flight schedules. It's possible that his flight gets delayed or even cancelled depending on what weather there might be. So, there is a risk that our bass player might not be there for the gig. That would really suck.

You remember Gary Cardone from work? Well, it turns out that he plays guitar, bass, rhythm, and lead, plus signs. After talking about the band several times over a couple week period, he finally came to rehearsal last Friday. I think he had an enjoyable time of it. He already knew several of the songs. So, he will probably continue with us and play in the gig. This is a great opportunity for him to associate with a bunch of Mormons. Hopefully he might become interested in knowing more about what we believe in the future. In any case, it is always good to expose people we know to favorable experiences.

Julia seems to be settling into the school and seminary routine. She is diligent in always being prepared for seminary. I'm glad that she likes it. It is good to have a spiritual experience each morning, and Sister Lopez-Carrasco is an awesome teacher.

The van was making lots of noise recently and it has also been leaking brake fluid over many weeks time. I've had to top off the master cylinder several times. It really started getting noisy over the weekend, so I took it to Hansons last night. Good thing we did. The left front caliper was stuck and the brake pad had worn all the way through into the rotor. Also, the rear brake cylinders needed replacing as well as the brake shoes. I don't know how much the total is yet, but I'm guessing somewhere around \$400 to \$500 bucks. However, brakes are something you don't want to mess around with. It's a huge safety concern. Now the van is safe to drive again and should

be quieter. As soon as Joyce gets home we'll go pick it up.

Last I heard about Brother Henkel was Tuesday. John Carl told me that he and Deborah went to Mass General Saturday to visit him. He was supposed to come home Monday, but ended up running a low grade fever and was put back into ICU on Monday. I haven't heard anything more yet, so I don't know what his current status is. Please continue to pray for them.

I'd better get ready to go now. Keep working hard!

Love you,

Dad

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