

**John Larsen** <theclaw56@gmail.com>

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## 10 Oct 2010: Letter to Phillip

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**John Larsen** <john@larsen-family.us>

Sun, Oct 10, 2010 at 7:23 PM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

To: joyce@larsen-family.us

Missionary Name: Elder Phillip Larsen

Mission: Provo MTC

Date Submitted: October 10

Hello Dear Phillip,

It has been a very eventful weekend starting Friday. It saddens me to tell you that there has been an unexpected death in the Ward. Friday afternoon Brother Eberhard wasn't feeling well so he decided to take a nap. He never woke up. Pam found him about 5:00 PM and started doing CPR on him while Phil called an ambulance. He was taken to SNHMC where he was pronounced dead. Apparently he died of a massive heart attack.

The first I knew about it was Friday evening when I got home late from work, about 7:40 PM. Brother Noel had left a message on our answering machine at 7:00 PM informing us that there had been an unexpected death in the ward. They wanted to know which funeral home we used for Stanford. I searched around for a few minutes and finally called Joyce and then Heather when Joyce didn't pick up. They were at Friday Night Knitting. Joyce was talking with Beverly about some very serious health issues that I'll talk about later. Joyce said it was the Farwell Funeral Home so I called Brother Noel's cell phone to tell them. That's when I learned it was Brother Eberhard. I was stunned. I then called Heather back and told her and then she handed the phone to Joyce. It was a shock to her too.

Beverly Vasquez had just finished talking with Joyce telling her that Beverly has a rare quickly growing tumor on her left leg in the knee region. It has grown so quickly that her leg has swollen up and is very painful. It is most likely malignant and its possible that Beverly will lose her leg or even might die if it has advanced too far. Joyce can better explain what she has learned.

Tony's funeral will be this Saturday afternoon, Oct 16th. The viewing will be from 1:00 to 3:00 PM followed by the funeral at 4:00 PM. I've been asked to play the organ for the funeral and Joyce will be leading the music. Some of Tony's children live out of

state. David Eberhard lives in Utah and Morian lives in California. They both flew to New Hampshire on Saturday. Paul Eberhard is here also. Most of the children attended Sacrament Meeting today, except Simon, Steven and Sarah. Christine appeared very shaken up by Tony's passing.

We had a testimony meeting in High Priest Group today instead of a lesson. I took the opportunity to talk about Tony and all he has done for us over the years. I talked about how Tony and Morian helped us move into our Cherokee home in Feb 1986. I told about how Tony helped us put on a new roof. I told them how Tony came to the hospital on the day Stanford was born because I had asked him to help me give Joyce a blessing. Normally non family members aren't allowed in, but Tony told them that he was Joyce's brother. :) That's how he got in. I explained how in the blessing that he gave he said that the hosts of heaven would be there making sure that everything would be fine. I then told them how Tony was also there in the hospice house the day Stanford died, and how the hosts of heaven were there again on that day. I got quite emotional during the telling.

Pam seems to be holding up quite well. She has great faith. But, as I know from experience, it will be later in the quiet alone time that the emotion and grief of it really hits. We need to be there for the Eberhards. As the scriptures teach us, we need to mourn with those that mourn, lift up the hands that hang down, and strengthen the feeble knees.

Tony was amazing. He loved the Savior. He strived every day of his life to emulate the Savior and learn his word. He helped so many people. The day before he died he was over helping Sister Favey. I shook his hand at General Priesthood meeting a week ago. On General Conference Sunday I was in the FHC. I happened to look up and out the door just before the morning session and saw Tony walking through the foyer on his way into the chapel to listen to conference. In my testimony today I told the high priests that I felt Stanford had already welcomed Tony.

Aunt Gwen sent out an email at 10:10 PM last night informing everyone that Ricky's visa has come through. He will be heading to Brazil Monday or Tuesday. That is great news. I'm sure he will be very happy to be in his called field of labor.

We are going to King Richard's Fair on Monday. It will be a much smaller group this year than the previous two. I texted Maryann asking her the name of that buffet we ate at last year. It is the "Home Town Buffet". We're going to do that again, however it will be only five of us: John, Joyce, Heather, Rachel, and Julia. I'm out numbered 4 to 1. That seems to be a common occurrence these days. I texted Maryann that I wish they could all be with us again and she texted back that they wish the same, and told me to take lots of pictures. They will be getting internet soon in their home. Things change and we must move on and find joy each day.

Bradford came to our house on Saturday afternoon. I was at band practice from 10:00 AM until about 2:30 PM. When I got home Bradford was doing laundry, maintaining the aquarium, and going through his mail. Unfortunately he had to leave about 6:00 PM, just a few minutes before Joyce and Heather returned from their outing. Bradford was looking good.

Our band rehearsal Friday was a little rough. I was constantly thinking about Tony. My sleep Friday night was interrupted several times. I didn't sleep well. Every time I woke up I was thinking about Tony. Our band rehearsal Saturday went quite well. We're getting a lot tighter. John Carl said we're starting to get in the groove where it just flows because we know what everyone is doing, where they come in, and it is getting to be a lot of fun. I'm really looking forward to Friday's gig. Pam Eberhard said they are planning on coming Friday evening to the dance. The band will be dedicating the song "Lean on Me" to Tony. That seems like a very fitting song. We want to keep the band going.

I gave the Toyota and Saturn their annual bath Saturday after band practice. They were both very dirty, especially the Saturn. It took me over two hours to clean them. I'm glad it's done. They look so much better.

I still haven't sealed the basement cupboards or doors. Other stuff always comes up. Since it isn't something I've done very many times, it is easy to let other things get in the way. I really need to just get it done. Very little has been done to the house since you left as far as organizing and going through stuff. It is pretty much exactly the way you left it.

Brother Henkel is out of the ICU as of Friday evening. On Monday he will come back to Nashua either to a rehab center for a few days or directly to home. They removed his entire colon. While they were inside poking around they checked out his other organs and they all look fine. Apparently after someone's colon is removed the small intestine takes over that function and people live pretty much normally. Sister Belnap had her colon removed many years ago and she gets along just fine. So, that is good news about Brother Henkel.

You mentioned being out of touch with world events. Be assured that the world is still there and there are plenty of problems. There always will be. They will still be there whether you know about them or not. You will catch up just fine when the time is right. Election day is coming up the second Tuesday of November. From everything I read it looks like the country is moving more conservative. It could be a landslide year for the Republicans. I don't know if it will be any better under their control or not, but at least there is a better chance for it.

I'm thinking of borrowing one of your swords Monday for King Richard's Fair. I'll let you know.

I'm thankful you have this opportunity to serve the Lord full time as a missionary. It will be a great blessing to you throughout eternity. Have faith and be believing and all will work for your good.

Love you,

Dad

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