



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

101108: 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: November 8

Hi Dear Phillip,

It has been very very busy at work this past couple of weeks, especially last week. We have customers coming in on Wednesday and Thursday this week, and we've been working really hard to get ready for it. I ended up getting a call this past Saturday morning and ended up going in for over 5 hours. That pretty well used up the day. Last week I worked until 8 PM three days. I'm tired.

I've been rereading your latest email. That's neat that you got to hear Elder Ballard. I just listened to his conference talk on the way home from work today. He always gives a good message. I'm thankful for "true messengers" from our Heavenly Father.

Concerning the first Wal-Mart picture order... Things happen for a reason. Most times we don't recognize the reason until we can look back and see how events have played out. Sometimes we don't find out for years. However, in the case of the first picture order, I think it was important that the first order get lost. If it had worked as I expected, I never would have gone to Wal-Mart locally to pick up prints. However, because the order was lost, I had it reprinted and picked it up locally. Because it was printed locally, Sheena Durning saw the pictures as they came off the photo printer and she saw the picture of Stanford's grave. Because of that she knew that she finally had a way to contact us, Stanford's family. She had recently found on her computer the video of Stanford playing the sax that she had lost for several years. So, I believe that Heavenly Father arranged for that to happen so we could connect and Sheena could give us that video. We also brightened her day. I'm sure you have the pictures by now.

Sunday was Fast and Testimony Meeting for our ward. Brother Hann conducted the meeting and was first to bear testimony. He talked about all the wonderful events of October in the ward, but he left out completely any mention of Brother Eberhard. I

have been pondering Tony everyday since he passed away. After a couple of other ward members bore testimony, I got up there and talked about Tony and how much I missed him. I got somewhat emotional, but the things I expressed were what needed to be heard. Sister Eberhard thanked me afterwards for my testimony. She said that I had said things that she wanted to say, but couldn't on her own. Tony was an awesome man. I hope you enjoy reading his brief personal history.

I still haven't heard anything from the Ensign about my article. I'm not worried about it anymore. I used to fret somewhat about it, but now I figure they will use the article when the time is right.

We had the missionaries to dinner a couple weeks ago. In the living room by our big family picture I went through each member of the family and explained about Stanford last. I then printed out the article and a copy of the talk I gave in Stake Conference in January, and gave both to them. They spoke to me some a few days later about it, so I know that they read them and were touched by them.

I haven't heard anything about church burnings. I guess it is more a local news thing out there.

We had a birthday celebration for Rachel on Sunday. Joyce made a nice cake. We gave her some presents, sang happy birthday, she blew out the candles, and then we had a candle race. Julia finally won! It's the first time she has won since she won on her birthday in 2006. She is quite unlucky at candle races. Rachel came close to winning, but Julia's candle kept burning and burning with one of those really tiny flames that last a very long time. Rachel has never won a candle race yet either in almost two years of participation. BTW, that is a really cool birthday card you made for Rachel, I'm impressed with your creative abilities.

I hope by now you've had a chance to hook up with Elder Michael Scott. I'm glad you two can be there together for awhile and share that experience. Sister Scott forwarded the email that Mike sent on Saturday. He sounded really pumped up to be at the MTC. Ariel and John Robert both bore testimonies on Sunday. Ariel said how much she missed Mike... even more than she missed her sister. Ariel said that Mike was a lot louder and noisier, so the change was much more noticeable.

I don't remember if I told you about the YM/YW Christmas play coming up. It's more than just a play. There are other entertainments as well. Brother Carl was asked several months ago to spearhead putting together a youth band. He had asked me to help out a couple months ago. Anyway, the band has three saxophones in it, Garrett Hawkins, Jarret Johnson, and Daniel Bentall. John Robert will play drums and Niah Johnson is going to do guitar. I spent the typical 5 hours it takes to put music together for a song and came up with the three sax scores, and a bass score for "Jingle Bell

Rock". They had a rehearsal this past Saturday and Brother Carl said it is sounding really good. I'll be interested to hear it in December.

Well... the final total for "Food and Household" in October was \$625. That is still over \$400 less than the average we've had for several years. Another area that went down, that I hadn't thought of, was power usage. October was the lowest in the last 13 months. I guess it kind of makes sense. You and Bradford had computers going most of the time. Julia tends to use the laptop, so pretty much the only computers on 24/7 are zippy and lap-beast. Of course, we won't see any change in the monthly budget until next year when PSNH reevaluates our useage and adjusts our monthly payment. Still, it's interesting the changes that I didn't anticipate.

The front left tire on the van got really low again on Saturday, so low that I told Joyce to go get Rachel in the Saturn. I pumped the tire back up Sunday night. I haven't seen the van yet this evening, so I don't know how the tire is doing. It gets annoying. I wish it could just get fixed once and for all. I don't know if we need a new rim or what.
;;shrug::

Bradford was here in Saturday. He had a dental appointment in the morning and came over afterwards to do his laundry and be here for awhile. He and Julia played several rounds of Magic. He did some aquarium maintenance and ate dinner with us too. It was nice to have him here. It had been several weeks since we saw his smiling face. He's doing well in school and has a pretty comfy situation.

Julia is doing well in Seminary. She has perfect attendance so far. Sister Lopez-Carrassco says Julia has an amazing understanding of the gospel and contributes a lot to the class. I'm glad Julia likes to go and has a growing testimony. The gospel is the way to happiness.

Joyce, Heather, and Julia are all at "Eats, Knits, and Leaves" at the Toadstool Bookstore. I was worried that I'd have to work late again this evening. Looks like no FHE this week.

Well, I'm tired. I think I'll go get ready for bed now. I love you very much. I'm glad you are learning and growing so much. I can feel your growth through the letters you have written over the weeks. Keep working hard and the Lord will continue to bless you.

Love,

Dad

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

<http://larsen-family.us>