



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

Saturday, Nov 27, 2010 thru Wed Dec 1, 2010

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Wed, Dec 1, 2010 at 9:45 PM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

To: Phillip Larsen <phillip.larsen@myldsmail.net>

Cc: joyce@larsen-family.us

Hello Dear Phillip,

Believe it or not, I've started this email three times now, the first time was Sunday, Nov 21st. I didn't expect your p-day to move early by a day, so my second start on Tues, Nov 23rd, also didn't work. Then, on Wed, the 24th, I didn't check my email after coming back from a walk until later in the afternoon, and that's when I saw your email sitting there. It was too late to respond. Heather says she had sent you an email earlier, so you should have had at least one.

I have really enjoyed reading your two emails from Texas. Your enthusiasm brings a smile to my face and to my heart. You have already had more teaching opportunities in your first week there than I did in my first area. It was very slow and difficult in France.

This morning I got out my one and only missionary journal. It has been years since I opened up its covers. It's interesting to see what my concerns and frustrations were. I wasn't a very diligent journal writer. There seem to be many entries like "I need to do better at writing in my journal." It's interesting as I peruse my journal to see all the ups and downs I went through. I know you're better prepared than I was. My sense is that your testimony is also stronger and more developed than mine was at your age. At some point I might try to find some interesting journal entries and send them to you, if I can find any. :)

We went to see the latest Harry Potter movie today. There were five of us: John, Joyce, Heather, Rachel, and Julia. The movie was good and I enjoyed it. We went to the 11:30 AM showing and got good seats. I'm sure you will enjoy both HP movies when you get home. For now, don't spend any energy worrying about it. There are so many opportunities for your time right now, and time really is short. Each day is important.

One morning this past week, I think it was Thursday or Friday, I was listening to the Priesthood session of October General Conference. As you might remember, a choir made up of MTC Missionaries sang for that session. They sang an arrangement of

hymn 264, "Hark, All Ye Nations." I've sung this song many times over the years, but for some reason, listening to that choir, the words hit me differently than they ever have before. The fact that it was a choir of missionaries being trained for service must have made the difference. Also, the fact that my own son is serving as a full time missionary made the difference. The whole song was wonderful, but the third verse especially touched me. "Chosen by God to serve him below, To ev'ry land and people we'll go. Standing for truth with fervent accord, Teaching his holy word." I loved that verse! It brought tears to my eyes and the spirit was strong. I ended up humming and whistling that song all day long.

The holiday season is upon us. We went to the Coles' home for Thanksgiving. Bradford went to Amy's home instead. We did see him for a few hours in the afternoon before we left, which was nice. I hope you had an enjoyable time celebrating Thanksgiving. In France that is just a regular day, so we made a feast for ourselves, but I don't remember what day it was on. I have pictures of the feast we did while I was serving in the office. My first missionary thanksgiving was in the mission home I guess, because that's the week we flew there and I didn't go to my first city until Friday. The next year I was part of the office staff. The following year I was already home.

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This morning driving into work I listened to the rest of the general priesthood session plus several chapters of Alma. I really enjoyed the closing song when the MTC Missionary Choir sang "Called to Serve." In my mind is an image of you seeking out and teaching Heavenly Father's children. It gave me a wonderful feeling. I'm proud of you!

The NHSS Jazz Bands played at Barnes and Nobel this evening in the cafe. I went after work. Garret Hawkins was in one of the jazz bands. They all did a good job and I enjoyed listening for over an hour.

It's late here at home. I need to eat something light and get to bed. I hope everything is going great for you.

Love,

Dad

ps. Yes, I remember the Ramos family. Brother Ramos was the HP Group Leader when I was the Ward Executive Secretary for Bishop Farar. Their children were about your age at the time. I know that I was in their home a few times back then, but I couldn't tell you now where it was. The boundaries of our ward were much larger back

then.

pps. We haven't yet set up any Christmas lights or decorations at all. I thought about it on Saturday, but there was so much stuff in the living room that would have to be moved first that I just gave up and decided to scan Eberhard pictures instead. I've done about 180 pictures so far. There are another 50 in the book I'm working on, and then another 20 or 30 loose pictures in a box.

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