



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

Hi, My Dear Elder Phillip Larsen!

Joyce Larsen <linenLady9@larsen-family.us>

Wed, Dec 8, 2010 at 10:48 AM

To: phillip.larsen@myldsmail.net

Cc: john@larsen-family.us

Hello, Phillip!

I'm sitting here listening to Christmas music from the computer, and have hot chocolate by my side. Well, it's on the cold side by now, but it's still good! I've treated myself to that today and yesterday. Usually I try to avoid it because of the calories, but occasionally it's delightful.

I have loved getting your emails! I feel the Spirit when I read them, and feel uplifted and closer to the Lord. I can just imagine how you must feel, doing His work so intensely each day. I know there are discouraging times, too, but to have your day focus on study and teaching of the gospel is a wonderful thing.

You never told us much about your Thanksgiving. What did you eat? Did you eat several meals? I thought of the Vicar of Dibley and how she had to eat about four Christmas dinners in her little town, when you described last Sunday's meals! When we had the Elders on Saturday to dinner, I assured them that the food was there if they wanted more but I would not be offended if they didn't take more!

The Christmas lights this year are really fun to look at. There are tons on the houses on Sagamore Road, and Julia and I have been going in the evenings to take care of the Potters' cats, so we see them all the time. I really like the lighted deer, and the polar bears. But they cost about \$70 for two of them, plus where would we keep them the rest of the

year? So I enjoy other people's. Julia and I saw a real live deer on the way to the Potters' last night. It scared me a little because I've heard of them jumping out right in front of the car, but this one just looked up from where it was eating and watched us. I slowed down the car and stuck better to the speed limit after that!

That's so cool you had companionship study with President Robison! How did that work? Do you study aloud and each of you finds scriptures to talk about? I love how you love to just walk around and talk to people about the Gospel! I always think about how Ryan Cole taught the Plan of Salvation lesson on the day Stanford died, and it was very real to him, very personal. The Gospel is so wonderful.

Where do you get your haircuts? And where do you do your emails? The missionaries here do theirs at the library. I don't know who cuts their hair.

Julia has Early Release today, and she and I will be picking up Rachel so she can go with me tonight to a Relief Society evening at the Noels. We'll also take care of the Potters' cats, and do some shopping, so we can get a package in the mail for someone special in Texas . . .

I got an email from Sis. Rigg just a few minutes ago asking if I would read a story at the RS evening tonight, and she attached the story. It is really cool, about a sister serving far from home and how some Mennonite missionaries learned "Come, Come, Ye Saints" to sing to them, for a present. The story was written by Emma Lou Thayne, whose husband grew up with Grandpa Larsen. I will send it to you if you like.

How is your understanding of Spanish going? Will you be completely confused once you're in Brazil, after speaking and hearing English and Spanish in Texas, but studying

Portuguese? I think it's cool that you are learning the languages!

I'm looking forward to your email . . . it's the highlight of my week, you know! I love you,
Phillip, and I'm so pleased you're on your mission, and feeling the Spirit!

Love,
Mom