



John Larsen &lt;theclaw56@gmail.com&gt;

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## Another letter from Dad...

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

Wed, Dec 15, 2010 at 11:25 PM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

To: Phillip Larsen &lt;phillip.larsen@myldsmail.net&gt;

Cc: joyce@larsen-family.us

Hi Dear Phillip,

Here it is already Wednesday evening. Unfortunately this week I never started up a draft email to add to periodically, so I'll have to do it from memory. Let's see....

Your cousin Jimmy Larsen got home from his mission last Thursday. I actually talked with him a few minutes on the telephone this evening. He was going to report to the High Council this evening. I called to help him with his Vista computer. He wants to rebuild it, but before doing that he wanted to get all the data off. He or Uncle Doug didn't know how to do that, so of course I jumped in to help. I connected to Doug's computer using VNC through one of my SSH tunnels, and then talked Jimmy through sharing the C drive on his Vista machine so it could be mounted on Doug's computer. It turns out that there was 21 GBytes of data that he needed to move. I got that going and I assume it worked okay.

Also this week I've put a bunch of time into getting my Mom's new Dell computer up and running. Her 5 year old computer died the Friday after Thanksgiving. Mark ordered a new one from Dell and had it delivered to Grandma's house. Joyce and I paid half on the new computer. It arrived on Monday, Dec 6th, but Doug was unavailable until Saturday, Dec 11th, to get it online. It is running Windows 7 operating system, so this was a new experience getting all my cygwin environment stuff working, but after 200 minutes on the phone with Doug we were finally to the point where I could connect whenever needed. Then I spent many hours getting all of Grandma's data copied over from Nashua back to her new computer. However, as of this evening it is pretty much done.

Yesterday evening, Tues, Dec 14th, I went to YM/YW. They were having a rehearsal for the play that they are doing for the Ward Christmas party to be held this Saturday. Many weeks ago Sister Potter asked me if I would do sound for the play. I agreed, and last night was supposed to be the tech rehearsal, but they weren't quite ready. I'm glad I went so that I could get a feel for the whole production. It's an original play by Sister Potter and involves lots of cast members. Several weeks back I made an arrangement of "Jingle Bell Rock" for 3 saxophones, one bass, and drums. That's

being used in this play. A couple weeks back I created the left hand score for yet another song "Guardian Angel" because all they had was the treble clef melody line, but it had the chord markings. All in all I spent about 10 hours preparing music for this play. It was fun to actually hear the songs being used. There will be a 3 hour rehearsal this Saturday morning followed by choir rehearsal at noon for an hour. Then the ward party starts at 5:00 PM. So, another very full day. Then the Christmas Sacrament Meeting is on Sunday and we're all meeting at the McFaddens' at 10am for one final rehearsal. However, I've heard that there is going to be a Nor'Easter on Sunday. I wonder if that will mess things up?

Sister Stevens hasn't been able to come to church for 4 weeks in a row now. Her legs are causing her lots of trouble and the pain levels are high. She is on some pain killers that kind of mess around with her ability to drive. She hasn't dared drive very far at all. She left a message on my cell phone wondering how to arrange for the sacrament to be brought to her home. I gave that message to Bishop McFadden and he said they would be sure it happens.

I finally got around to getting my gmail address book populated. Then I sent an email out to a bunch of people that have expressed interest in getting snippets of your emails. 28 people have responded that they would like to get these. So, I have started with week 1 in the MTC. I edit heavily your email removing all the personal family stuff and things that wouldn't be of interest to the general audience. Then I forward the email out. I'm doing one in the morning and one in the evening every day until I get caught up. Then I'll just send them out weekly. I hope you're okay with this arrangement. There are lots of people who want to know how you're doing.

We still haven't set up the Christmas Tree. We're planning on spending time this Friday evening to try to get that done.

Work has been very very busy. It is the hardware/software integration phase. The kinds of bugs that show up now are really difficult to figure out. I've been working on one for the past week. Today we finally figured out what was going on. This time it turned out to be a software bug. The previous hard ones were all hardware. I enjoy this part of the development cycle a lot. I'm really good at debugging and it's very satisfying when the mystery is finally unravelled.

We went to the Santa Fund concert this evening. I love the processional. I loved the Messiah song at the end. The music program at NHSS is so excellent and HUGE. The three choirs did great and so did the band. Julia's freshman choir did three songs. The concert choir did 5 numbers as did the band. The chorus did 4 numbers. Bradford, Heather, Joyce and I went this evening. Joyce and Rachel are planning on going tomorrow.

I'm listening exclusively to Book of Mormon mp3s during my commute now. I've been doing that about a week. I'm already into 3rd Nephi. I really enjoyed listening to all the war chapters again. There are amazing lessons in there. I don't know if I will finish the BofM before the end of the year, but I probably will. I have 600 minutes of commuting time before the break. That's ten hours. I think I have less than ten hours to go. I listened to General Conference 6 times. There were lots of amazing messages there.

Well my boy.... I trust that things are going well for you. I know that I went through ups and downs on my mission. I got along with some companions better than others. You're much better prepared than I was. I hope you keep trusting in the Lord. There will be times of discouragement. When those happen, press on! The Lord will bless you, but He does so using his time table. I was talking with Bishop McFadden last night and told him how the Lord really is mindful of his missionaries. I explained how you don't do as well emotionally when the days get really short and the nights are long. Isn't it amazing how the Lord knows that and had you assigned to Texas? The days are longer there in the winter. Also the temperatures are warmer so it's easier to be outdoors for you. And when you get to Brazil you will be in the tropics where the days will always be pretty long and the weather always outdoor weather. That is exactly what you needed!

Anyway... take care. Keep working hard. Give it your best effort. Don't be hard on yourself when you make mistakes. Just learn from them and repent and press forward.

Love you,

Dad

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John R Larsen <[john@larsen-family.us](mailto:john@larsen-family.us)>  
<http://larsen-family.us>