

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

A letter from Dad: 22 Dec 2010

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Wed, Dec 22, 2010 at 9:34 PM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

Cc: joyce@larsen-family.us

Hi Dear Phillip,

16 Dec 2010 - Thursday

I'm reading your email and enjoying it very much. Your description of "trunky" was interesting, but you didn't go to the origins of the phrase. I'm wondering if you heard about it or not. In earlier days before jet planes, missionaries went to their field of labor on train and boat. They packed their belongings in large trunks, similar to that blue trunk we used to put the dress up clothes in. Some missionaries would start to lose motivation as the end of their missions drew closer. They were described as having the trunks all packed up ready to go and sitting on their trunks waiting, hence the term "trunky". It never meant being homesick in my mission. A trunky elder was one who wasn't putting in the effort towards the end of his mission. Some elders got trunky very early in their missions.

Transfers are a big part of missionary life. Usually it is a hard transition. I usually welcomed transfers. There was only one time where I was really really sad. That was when I left Limoges and went to my last city of Rodez. I really loved Limoges. I actually cried on the train when I was by myself on the way to Rodez.

Facebook. I have only been posting the pictures you send. As I mentioned in my email, I just got started this week with the email forwarding list. It seems like posting edited emails might be a little much?

17 Dec 2010 - Friday

We finally set up the Christmas tree. We watched "It's a Wonderful Life" while setting it up. Heather did the lights this year. They look pretty good, but it would look better with one more strand on it. Oh well.

18 Dec 2010 - Saturday

This was a very busy day. The ward Christmas party was this afternoon. The YM/YW and extras have been working for weeks on this. AS you may recall, I composed a sax trio with bass of "Jingle Bell Rock" for it. Garrett Hawkins, Jarret Johnson, and Daniel Bentall played the trio and John Robert Scott did the drums. It went pretty well, but

Daniel couldn't figure out how to do some of the sharps. Sarah Fox was one of the two "Guardian Angels" and sang "Guardian Angel" for which I wrote the left hand and filled in the right hand. There was rehearsal at 9:00 AM for three hours followed by choir practice for an hour. Then I went home for a couple hours and came back at 4:00 PM. The party was well attended and the musical/play had a good message and was very well done.

19 Dec 2010 - Sunday

Today was our Christmas program for Sacrament Meeting. First, however, the choir met at the McFaddens' home at 10:30 for one final rehearsal. I came home after that for a few minutes before heading out to church. The program was in cantata format with song followed by reading followed by song, etc. It also had a very good spirit about it. The final number was "Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring." The accompaniment was organ and violin. Sister Fox McNeal played the violin and I did the organ. It went quite well and people enjoyed it. Finally, after church was all done, all my external obligations are done. No more concerts, choirs, plays, etc. It feels good to have that all done.

21 Dec 2010 - Tuesday

I finished listening to the Book of Mormon on the way home from work. It's good to hear it and feel the spirit of it.

22 Dec 2010 - Wednesday

I had a dream this morning that Joyce and I had been called from the pulpit to serve as full time missionaries in Taiwan. In my dream I started figuring out what that would mean. I decided to quit my job and take early retirement. I figured that Julia would have to live with someone else while we were gone because she couldn't be with us. I figured that we would back up all our stuff in a storage unit somewhere and rent out our house while we were gone. It all seemed reasonable in my dream. Then I woke up and told Joyce that we were going to need to pack up the house and prepare for our mission to Taiwan. She gave me a very funny look. I'm glad it was a dream, because it isn't the right time yet to do that.

Sister Bentall attached a picture of Elder Taylor and Sister Ogden. I shrank it a little and attached it below.

I got a small pay raise this year of 1.2%. Heather got over 5% and I'm glad for her. We both got bonuses this year. TCC had its best year financially in its 49 year history. Carl and the board compensated us nicely. On the list of possible things to do with my bonus are get a new piano, fix the upstairs bathroom, and finish the basement. We'll ponder that for a while before making any decisions. Another change at work is that they have discontinued the forced plant shutdown week of vacation. Employees can now schedule vacation when they want it. That's a nice change.

I'm listening to mp3s of "Preach My Gospel" now. That is an amazing book. You're really blessed to have it. I compare the level of preparation and training you missionaries have now to what I had 35 years ago. You are so fortunate. The whole program has so much more of the spirit involved in it now. It's a wonderful time to be a missionary.

Joyce and Julia are off to the Potters' now to take care of their cats. They went up to Rachel's school this afternoon to eat dinner there with Rachel and then bring her back to Nashua. They dropped her off at her own home.

We look forward to talking with you on Christmas day. We need to know the logistics of making the call. Please give us the particulars in your email. Who calls whom? What number, what time, etc.

Love you!

Dad

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

<http://larsen-family.us>



Sister_Ogden_and_Elder_Bentall-2-small.jpg
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