



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

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## Hello, Dear Elder Larsen!

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Joyce Larsen <linenLady9@larsen-family.us>

Thu, Jan 20, 2011 at 12:19 PM

To: phillip.larsen@myldsmail.net

Cc: theClaw56@larsen-family.us

Hello, My Dear Elder Larsen!

It's so wonderful having a missionary in the family! I realize this is temporary (even two years is temporary), but we are blessed just the same. We pray for you daily, and hope you can feel our prayers.

I am writing this using Pegasus, because I don't have the address book transferred over, but soon I'll write from Gmail, then I can use different fonts and colors and such. However, getting regular mail is important, no matter how fancy it is (or is not). Dad has told you the news already. Julia has had three snow days in less than a week. She was wishing for someone ("like Phil") to play with her in the snow. Oh, that reminds, me, at Tabor and Becca Rigg's home, there is a full-size igloo built. Garrett was talking about it this morning after Seminary, and I remembered seeing a picture on Facebook. It is amazing! He says five people can sleep in it, and several people have already. He said it is ice now, and very sturdy. And he was excited because Bro. Davies, who works for a company that makes camping equipment, needs to test out a new sleeping bag, so he and Garrett will sleep in the igloo this weekend. That will be a good test, because it is supposed to be very very cold, with a low of -6 one of the days. We are supposed to get more snow tomorrow, but I'm not sure how much. As Deborah Carl said, a New England winter does not disappoint! If you want snow, it will deliver, eventually! It was a bit late this year, but we certainly have snow now.

As Dad told you, my talk went well in Stake Conference. The theme was preparing for our missions in life, and the Sermon on the Mount. But Pres. Coopridge said for me to talk on whatever I felt inspired to talk about. So I began by describing your missionary preparation, and several people have said how much they enjoyed hearing about that. I've added my talk to the list of things to send you. I then talked about how we all prepared, in the Pre-Existence, to come to the Earth, and gave some scriptures about that (from the P of GP, and from Job). I talked about how we all have missions here on Earth, and it's our job to find out what those missions are and to do them. But how can we know what they are? Then I talked about personal revelation and how we can receive it, and having faith and increasing our faith.

Ok, the phone just rang, and the Caller ID said it was from TX. I almost answered it but whenever I do, thinking it's someone I want to talk to, it turns out to be a telemarketer. I'm hoping I did not miss a phone call from you! Please be sure to leave a message if we are not here when you call on your way to Brazil.

Now, back to the regularly scheduled letter . . . I had periodontal surgery on Thursday. It went well, but it was a different procedure than I have had before. I have had about 12 grafts in the past. Also, in the summer I had a tooth extracted, you remember, and a titanium implant. I'm just waiting on the crown for that. And I don't

remember ever bruising or having much swelling with any of them. But this time, three days before I was to speak in Stake Conference, I had both bruising and swelling, and people kept asking what I had done to myself, and did it hurt? It did not, but some people were concerned I had fallen on the ice or something. Anyway, what a time to have the bruising!

Dad bought a new vacuum on Saturday. I mention that because I remember Heather being quite surprised and upset when we bought the last one and she didn't know until she came home from BYU. I had told her about the van, so she expected that (instead of the station wagon), but she felt like we were going on with life without her and she felt left out. I do not want you to feel left out, so . . . we have a new vacuum :). I have been looking in the instruction manual to figure out things about it and having fun looking at our CLEAN carpet!

We did a factory reset of the iPod Touch. But since all of your things are on the computer, I thought this was the best way. I have my own account now, and have been putting things on it, and playing with it. Julia was sad when she picked it up to play a game she likes and it wasn't there. That's the trouble with doing that. I would like to have some of the things you used. I guess I'll just have to pick and choose and get some things back.

Did Rachel tell you she got her hair cut? It's very short now, and very cute. I'm always amazed when someone looks so good one way, and also looks good in a completely different way. I had thought I would not like her haircut, but I do. Rachel is working on making contact with the Manchester ward so she can attend meetings there on weekends when she has RA duty. That will happen more often now because several of the other RA's have gone, so that leaves more duty hours for the remaining ones to fill. Also, with our meetings at 9am, it's too hard to have her have duty until 2am, then pick her up in time for the 9am meeting block.

I went to the gym this morning to meet with a guy named Travis to help me set up a routine for my exercise. I think it will be good, but I'll just have to get into a regular habit. It's hard making changes all the time (no newspaper route, which is actually nice when it's icy and snowy, walking when I can during the day, going to the gym).

Dad mentioned last night's Relief Society book group. It was fun, but I didn't know we could fit that many people, sitting on chairs, into the room! I put a fire in the fireplace, and lit a candle. We put out all the chairs we have, and a couple of us ended up sitting on the floor. I pushed the table against the wall in the kitchen and put on a cloth and put out food (pretzels, goodfish, crackers and cheese, M&M's, Hershey's Hugs). I put out water to drink and hot chocolate (the main character in the book we discussed was always making hot chocolate). The ladies seemed to enjoy the book and the discussion. The book was called *Light on Snow* by Anita Shreve. It is about a girl and her father who move to NH (near Lebanon) after the death of her mother and baby sister in a car accident. They find an abandoned baby in the woods, and eventually find the mother. The book talks a lot about dealing with grief, also why someone would abandon a baby like that, and how finding the baby is a step in healing for the father and the daughter.

Well, time to send this, so you'll get it today. And time to get ready for another periodontal appointment (to see how things are healing and to finally take off the packing).

I love you, Phillip. I miss you, a lot sometimes, but I'm so happy you're serving a mission! The Lord is blessing us all for your service, and you are blessing the lives of the people with whom you work, and the lives of your

companions as well. Stay well and safe!

Love,  
Mom