



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

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## A letter from Dad: 27 Jan 2011

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John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Thu, Jan 27, 2011 at 6:42 AM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

Cc: joyce@larsen-family.us

Dear Phillip,

Well, here it is Saturday, Jan 22nd. We had the missionaries over for dinner today at 5:30 PM. Elder Jackson was transferred a week ago being replaced by Elder Wilder. I've attached three pictures from their time with us. It was enjoyable and in my mind's eye I could imagine you being one of the missionaries eating with us. However, having you over for dinner is a pleasure that others get.

Joyce and I went to the temple this morning. Last year we were able to go on Jan 23rd, the actual anniversary of Stanford's passing. This year the 23rd is a Sunday, so we decided to go today. It's good to go and ponder the things that matter most.

There was another snow day yesterday (Fri Jan 21st). That makes 4 snow days that Julia has had in the past two weeks. We got another 8 inches of snow. I left for work at 9:00 AM and it took me 70 minutes to get there. I listened to "Preach my Gospel" the whole time.

23 Jan 2011 - Sun

So, today marks 4 years since Stanford started his mission on the other side. We went to church as usual. I'm glad we can do that and want to do that. As you know, I always play hymn #249 as the last song of the postlude music. I turned it around today and played #249 as the first postlude hymn. I wanted everyone to hear it. Paul and Russell Banks were visiting today and I wanted them to hear it too. 52 weeks times 4 years is about 208 times I've played that. That's also 208 times I've worn Stanford's shoes to church.

After church I stopped by the cemetery expecting to shovel a path through the snow to Stanford's grave. I was a bit surprised as I drove up to see that someone had already shovelled a path. I figured the path went to Brandon Gaudette's grave since he was buried only this past August, but the path was to Stanford's. I have attached two pictures of that path. You can see how much snow we have!. It seems that people come to the cemetery more frequently in the beginning and less frequently as time

goes on. As an example, the Fredette girl's grave hasn't been visited since the storms. The first year there was always a path. I don't visit Stanford's grave as often. I used to go at least weekly. Now it's probably more like monthly. Anyway, that's why I thought the path would go to Brandon's grave. I don't know who shovelled the path to Stanford's grave, but it was done since Friday's storm. I'm always happy to see signs that other people are thinking of Stanford too.

Sister Stevens' condition is not improving. My phone was charging this morning when she called so I wasn't available to answer the call. She left a message and said that her pain levels are the highest she has ever had in her whole life. She was wanting the sacrament to be brought over again. She was unaware that last week was Stake Conference and that's why no one came by with the sacrament.

Sister Stevens' land line telephone is broken. This makes it hard to get a hold of her because she doesn't want to use her cell phone during anytime minutes. I was sitting here wondering how to help her out. I couldn't think of any extra telephone that we had. I was looking around and then noticed the black two line telephone on the awesome-beast desk. That's an extra telephone, except that we use that phone when all the others are off. I got the old red dial telephone out and hooked it up in place. The ringer is a little loud, but it will work. I'll need to put something on the bells to dampen them a bit because they are too loud. However, once that is done then I can take the two-line phone over to Sister Stevens. That way she will have a land line again.

So, Julia and I took the phone over the Sister Stevens, hooked it up, and then visited for a while. She's pretty much bed ridden at this point. While talking with her I could observe the waves of pain come and go with regularity. She's on oxycodone, just like Stanford had, but at a much lower dosage. She asked about you and had a smile on her face. She enjoys the letters you have sent and hopes you will be able to write again.

27 Jan 2011 - Thu

The rest of the week slipped by rather quickly. There is a 90 minute delay for schools this morning due to yet another big snow storm that hit during the night. I'll go out and shovel in a few minutes. It looks like about 6 inches this time. Julia has finals today and tomorrow.

Rachel posted to Facebook a couple days ago "Worst day ever." Her iPod touch has gone missing. This is the text from her posting: "My iPod has gone missing and was mostly likely stolen by someone I work with. It was in the office when I went to check out and there was only one person in there at the time. She's new and we don't know her very well so it's very likely. Tuesday at 2:48pm." This is a later posting with a little more information: "Yeah, it really really sucks. My boss though agrees that is probably

this girl that's taken is and is going to confront her when she comes to work next. Hopefully I can get it back. If not, I'll use my old iPod. Then every week I'll put aside a little money until I can save up for a new iPod Touch. But it'll be a while... :(Tuesday at 10:35pm." I texted Rachel yesterday evening, but the girl doesn't work again until today or tomorrow. Most likely the iPod is gone forever. Theft is such a foreign thought to me. I had a few instances of that when I was a little kid, but my parents helped me learn that it is wrong.

EFY registration time is here. The plan is for Julia and Emmy to attend the Amherst session, which is the only local session this year. I haven't signed Julia up yet because I'm waiting to hear back from the Wilsons confirming that Emmy will indeed be able to come out here for EFY. The other part of the plan is for Emmy to also be here for Nashua Stake's YW camp.

Rachel has moved her church membership records to the Manchester 1st Ward. She went to church there last Sunday. Joyce talked to her Sunday evening about it all. She was nervous at first, but was very well received. There are Sister missionaries in the Manchester Ward, so that is cool. It will give Rachel a different perspective on missionary work. Maybe she will have opportunity to go out with them. So many RAs quit up at SNHU that the remaining RAs have a lot of extra "duty shifts" to cover. That makes it a lot harder for her to attend Nashua 1st Ward, which now starts at 9:00 AM. Her new ward has 1:00 PM meetings which she can more easily do after working until 2:00 AM on a duty shift. It is another step in her growth in the church. I was getting worried, wondering about her church attendance and if she would start to miss a lot. I guess I shouldn't worry so much. She seems very motivated and has a strong desire to attend church. I'm very glad that she felt very welcomed there, but will miss having her attend with us.

Well, dear son. I had better get outside and start shovelling the snow so we can get Julia to school on time for her finals. Thank you so much for the very nice private email you sent to me and your mom last week. I love you very much and am proud to be your father. I pray for you several times every day.

Love,

Dad

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

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5 attachments

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