

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

Mom's Weekly Email

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To: Phillip Larsen <phillip.larsen@myldsmail.net>, John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Hello, Dear Elder Phillip Larsen,

As soon as I've sent you this email, I'm heading out to the post office to finally send you a package--each time I send something I keep thinking it might not get there before you head to Brazil. So I just need to send it and hope for the best! This one will contain, among other things, thermal underwear and a rice bag, to keep you warm. Dad is concerned you don't have a microwave, and I really don't know if you do or not, but if you don't have the rice bag with you, you definitely can't use it. It is heavy, so when you head to Brazil, where you won't need it, you can either (a) send it back in the box of stuff you send that you won't be taking with you, (b) hand-carry it so it won't add weight to your checked luggage, or (c) leave it in the apartment for someone else to use. The thermal underwear was on your list of things to bring anyway, so you might need it at some point down in Brazil. Sis. Gribble said that even close to the equator, in some of the higher elevations it can get quite cold at times. And Lori, who served in Costa Rica and Panama, said she sent back her long-sleeved shirts, thinking she would not need them, but then went to an area of higher altitude, and she said she was never so cold in her life. She also said during the rainy season, it would rain every afternoon for about a half hour, at around the same time of day, then clear up. Today in Teresina, it is 91 degrees, 55% humidity, feels like 100 degrees. Mostly cloudy. Tonight the low will be 75. Tomorrow chance of rain, and for the 5-day forecast it is about 50 or 60% chance of rain every day. Hot, humid, rainy! But it may be like what Lori experienced, with rain coming at certain times then clearing up. Also, Patty Ogden said Karen sent a picture of herself sitting inside the refrigerator to cool off, because of no AC! So it will be different than the weather right now in Hobbs, that's for sure!

Sis. Wilson has sent two emails recently, on Sunday nights, to us and family members. I will print them out and include them in your package. If you like, I can forward them, but I don't know how many people are sending you emails (except that I know Dad and I are, and your siblings from time to time, and Andrew Wilson sometimes, also Jacob Carroll wants to email you). I am happy to forward the emails, but I don't want all of your email time to be spent reading stuff so that you don't have time to write much to us! I love the emails you send, every bit of them! And Lori said she loves your emails too, and Ricky's comment about how long your emails are was just rude! (That is what she said :). So, keep up with the long emails! Though, for

Ricky, I guess you could do the quick summary paragraph like you did last time. But I want the whole thing, and so does Lori!

Heather's birthday was on Tuesday, as you might remember. She had Institute, Dad had band, Julia had YW, and I went to Patty's house. But Dad took Heather out to lunch, and Bradford is planning to take her out for a sushi lunch maybe on Saturday. We'll have the candle race and presents and a special dinner on Sunday. I haven't told Rachel, but maybe I should. She is not planning to come back this weekend, as far as I know, but I do know she loves candle races. We'll see.

I've left this email until the last minute, but really don't have too much news. Julia has actually had full days this week, all of them! But there was no Seminary on Tuesday, I think, because of a delayed opening for Hudson and Litchfield. I've gone to the gym twice this week so far, and plan to again tomorrow as well. I'm quite liking it, but I feel inadequate. I just have to remember I'm already improving, and I have to start some place. Oh, and on Saturday Heather and I went to two yarn stores for their Super Bowl Sales. We both need yarn, you know :). And I thought it was funny that on the way home from church on Sunday, I asked Dad if he remembered who was playing in the Super Bowl, and he said he had no idea. And both Heather and I knew! (Green Bay Packers, who won, and Pittsburgh Steelers) We knew because of displays at one of the shops. But we didn't watch any of the Super Bowl. Lori said her boys record it then get up on Monday morning at 4am to watch it, before they go to school and talk to all of their friends about it. That way they aren't watching on Sunday. (I don't see a problem with that, myself, as long as you aren't missing church meetings, but Lori and her family like to keep sports off of Sundays, which is fine.)

Here is something from the new Handbook, which you can see online, but still, this part struck me:

Minister to Others

Like the Savior, leaders seek to minister to individuals and families, both spiritually and temporally. They care about each person, not just about managing an organization. They reach out to new members, less-active members, and those who may be lonely or in need of comfort.

The purpose of ministering is to help others become true followers of Jesus Christ. Ministering to others includes:

- Remembering their names and becoming acquainted with them (see Moroni 6:4)
- Loving them without judging them (see John 13:34-35)
- Watching over them and strengthening their faith "one by one," as the Savior did (3 Nephi 11:15; 17:21)
- Establishing sincere friendship with them and visiting them in their homes and

elsewhere (see D&C 20:47)

This was section 3.2.3, in case you have opportunity to look at the handbook online and want to read more. I just really like that. I have wondered what exactly the angels did when they ministered to the Savior while he was fasting in the wilderness. How do you minister to somebody? I mentioned that at my Presidency meeting yesterday and Nancy Carl said when you minister to others, you do for them what they need (advice? a hug? a meal? chocolate chip cookies? a testimony borne? help moving?). Also, I have often thought that my strength, though I have difficulty remembering people's names, lies in connecting with individuals, and even when I'm speaking to a group, which happens fairly frequently in my calling, it's when I connect with individuals that it feels best and I can most often feel the Spirit, also tell if I am reaching people. So I guess that's ministering to people.

Well, it's time to get to the post office, also to wait for your email! I love Thursdays, for that reason!

Bro. Bates bore a powerful testimony on Sunday, and said that this is Heavenly Father's work, and He is in charge. That is true. And whether you are in the Texas Lubbock Mission or in Brazil, you are teaching and helping people in the Lord's kingdom, you are doing His work. So, keep the faith, and keep doing your best! I love you!

Love,
Mom

P.S. Be sure to keep eating right, also get a picture of all of your companions and roommates, also a picture of Milla!