



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

A letter from Dad: 24 Feb 2011

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Thu, Feb 24, 2011 at 8:38 AM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

Cc: joyce@larsen-family.us

Hello Dear Phillip,

Wednesday evening again. The week has kind of flown by. Thank you for the personal email to Joyce and me, and thank you for the letter received via snail mail. I enjoyed reading them both.

Concerning Rachel, I suggest you don't even worry about it at this time. You have over 18 months of your mission still to go. A lot can happen during that time. Even if she still is "waiting" for you when you get home, you aren't committed. You've told her that you think she should date other guys. She knows this. Just enjoy her letters and be glad for a friend that is supportive and wants the best for you.

Concerning "being yourself lately." It seems that is something where Heavenly Father can help you most. For these two years you have accepted the calling to represent him and the Savior. As you follow the counsel of your mission president and strive to be the best missionary you can, you will be lead by the Spirit. I'm sure you have heros in the scriptures. Study their characteristics and try to emulate them in your life. Don't be too hard on yourself. Learn to forgive yourself of weaknesses. I think you're an awesome son. I'm proud of you and what you're doing.

We started home teaching Deb Stevens about 4 years ago when she was baptised. That was around May 2007. I think it is a good thing for her to have another home teacher. I still home teach the Carls. I'm companions with Brother Hann and we are supposed to combine out assigned families. Brother Hann home teaches the Potters and Amy Taylor. I figure I still have Rachel. She has about 3 months of school left and then she will be back here. Her records are still in the Nashua 1st Ward. They were never transferred up to the Manchester Ward because we don't have a functioning membership clerk right now.

The attached pictures give you an idea of what we have been doing this week. Bradford came up on Saturday and then we all went to see "Cold Comfort Farm" at Groton Dunstable Regional High School. It was a stage play. John Forsyth and his wife were in the play as Amos Starkadder and Judith Starkadder. They did a good job

and it was fun to attend. On Monday the four of us went to Applebees and used the gift certificate that Mark and Dixie sent us for Christmas. I set the camera up on the table across the aisle and snapped that picture. Tonight was "Empty Bowls" at the high school. The four of us went and enjoyed the soup, bread, cake, and music. The jazz band shot has Garrett in the front row. Garrett and his mom joined us at our table after the jazz band finished performing.

I don't remember if I told you about the problems with my new glasses or not. After two weeks of struggling to get used to them I finally determined that something must have gone wrong somewhere in the process. I took them back on Monday, Feb 14th. They tested them in their lab and compared them with my old glasses and determined that the optical lab had messed up on the prism. They remade the lenses and I was able to pick them up last night after work (Feb 22nd). They got them right this time. They aren't perfect, but my old glasses were a little off as well with regards to prism correction. However, these new glasses are great! I'm so thankful to live in a time when high quality glasses are available. What a blessing!

I gave my talk this past Sunday. I spent about 8 hours on Saturday, Feb 19th, getting it ready. It went well and I got a lot of comments from many people about how much they liked it. I had printed out visual aids, and I think that spiced it up some. I had prayed many times asking for guidance on what to prepare and how to present it. Bishop McFadden came up to me afterwards while I was playing the postlude music and said, "That was an awesome talk!" I won't attach my talk to an email because it would take up too much of your time to read it. Instead I'll print it out and snail mail it to you so you can get an idea of what it was about. I created an outline for the talk and had all my scripture references on additional pages. Then I worked my way through the outline using parts of it as directed by the Spirit.

I'm at work now and it's Thursday morning. I don't know which order you will read the emails. Your Mom will be the one to talk about Elder Mike Scott's situation.

I love you and admire you. Please don't be hard on yourself. We are all learning everyday and striving to follow the Savior. It takes time, years, to overcome and grow and repent and perfect. God's time isn't our time. Be forgiving of yourself and of others.

Dad

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6 attachments



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