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News from Mom 3-3-11

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

Cc: John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Hello, Elder Phillip Larsen!

I just re-read your email from last week, and looked up Roswell on Wikipedia, and now I get it about the aliens! I didn't know that whole story, or at least I didn't remember it, about aliens landing and being recovered by the military (who say it was really a satellite that was recovered). Your apartment looks good, and I'm glad you took that picture. I would like to see more pictures, all around your apartment, with Elders in the pictures, too. Whenever we would move from an apartment or house, we would be sure to take pictures of each room. I'm glad we have them. I would love to see where you live, too, in even more detail.

Julia and I are taking care of the Hawkins' house and bunny (Bugsy) and fish while they are in UT this week (February vacation). So we all had to go over there on Sunday afternoon and shovel the driveway there, as well as our own. Julia and I will spend a little more time there today than we have been able to do, and maybe let Bugsy out of his enclosure to do some exploring. Except that his middle name must be "Houdini", because I went over there on Tuesday afternoon to pick up a notebook I had left by accident, and found Bugsy hopping around the house! Somehow he had figured out how to get out of the cage. So I have since closed the door to the basement, put up a baby gate to keep him from going upstairs, and closed the toilet seat to keep him from falling in and drowning. He hasn't left the enclosure since then, but you never know. I'll be sure to let the Hawkins know, so they can find where he is before opening the door up to bring in luggage when they return on Sunday. Their house with its addition is amazing, by the way. They have some neat features they have built that specially meet their needs. For instance, they have a big closet in the mud room that is just made for sporting equipment. And they have a playroom just off of the boys' bedrooms. And they have a homework room, with a long desk with a space for each of the boys to work on homework. It has been fun to see it.

Last week Julia said to me, "Mom, Garrett is going to UT, Sadie is going to Bermuda, and the McFaddens are going to Florida. Why don't we ever go anywhere?" I told her I would take her to Barnes and Noble, and she said, "That works for me!" So that's what we are doing today, also buying her some new clothes, and some birthday presents for Bradford. We'll be having dinner and the cake and candle race on

Sunday, and we'll let you know how it goes. Bradford has requested stuffed shells, which I haven't made for a very long time. Mostly because they take a long time to put together, though they taste delicious. And he wants carrot cake. We'll take pictures and send them. Also, with Julia's comment, I pointed out that I had offered to take her with me during February vacation to UT, but she said it would be too strange to go without the whole family, so she didn't want to. So, as Dad mentioned in his email, I'll go by myself in April.

I think I told you that Ryan Rainey returned from his mission at the end of December. He was on Facebook briefly, and I haven't heard from him since. So I don't know what he is doing. Though I have seen his sister post, so I could ask her how he is doing. Also, Jon Banks got married and we went to the reception in January. Those two things were on my list of things to tell you, and weren't checked off, but I can check them off for sure now :).

Yesterday was Bradford's birthday (he will open the card from you when he comes on Sunday--thank you for sending that!), and also Oma's birthday. Oma is now 79 years old. I tried calling her last night, but there was no answer, and they apparently didn't have the answering machine on. I'll try again shortly. It was also Dr. Seuss' birthday, so I guess everyone should have eaten green eggs and ham to celebrate!

Dad told you about how we went to the Temple on Saturday to do Initiatories, then went later on Saturday down to Weston for that wonderful fireside. I'll see if I can type up the notes from the talks at the fireside. It was a really wonderful experience. Afterwards Julia and I went up to shake the hands of Elder Christoffersen and Elder Matthew Eyring. And Elder Eyring thanked me for coming and for bringing people to the fireside.

Last night when we went to the Temple for youth baptisms, the Nashua kids met at our house. That is the first time they've all met here, and it was really nice to have them come here. Sort of at the last minute, Olivia Toth wanted to come, and her Dad emailed me to ask if there was room for her. And Rashel Tyler came, too. I'm glad these girls are wanting to come to these things. Olivia felt quite an outpouring of the Spirit at the fireside, and she and I had a FB chat the next day about it.

One thing that strikes me sometimes is how many languages are spoken by people in our ward. When I was in the baptistry handing out towels, at one point I looked around at the people in that room, and in addition to English I saw French (Dad), Tagalog (Bro. Frye), Portuguese (Bro. Rackliffe), Korean (Bro. Schinn) and German (Bro. Schinn). In addition, there is Spanish (Bro. Fletcher), Dutch (Sis. Carl), and Portuguese again (Sis. Jeans). Pretty cool! And Bro. Noel (German) had been in the baptistry earlier.

Well, I'm running out of things to say for this week, and I had better send this if you will get it this week. I hope you're doing well. I'm making it a matter of more fervent prayer for you to get your visa soon, and Fast Sunday is this week, so I'll fast for that as well. This morning I read a missionary experience by a missionary who served in the Fortaleza mission and was there when it changed and he finished up his mission in the Teresina mission. It was a scary experience he had, but also shows the Lord takes care of ths missionaries. I printed it out and will send it to you. I love you, Phillip, and I'm so pleased you're serving the Lord in this way!

Love,
Mom