



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

A letter from Dad: 2011-03-13

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Sun, Mar 13, 2011 at 10:01 PM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

Cc: joyce@larsen-family.us

Hello Dear Phillip,

You are very far away from home now. It doesn't really make any difference. I wasn't able to visit you anyway, but it feels like the separation is more complete now. I hope you are getting used to shock of not being in the USA. It is amazing to learn that people live in different cultures and do just fine. I think it is very helpful and educational to understand that the way we live here in the USA isn't the only way!

The phone call Monday evening, March 7th, during dinner was very exciting. The phone started ringing in the basement. Someone said, "A knock on the phone." I got up to check the caller ID and saw "Hobbs, NM" displayed and immediately picked up the phone. I was pretty certain that this was the call we had been waiting and praying for, and it was!

Now here it is Saturday, March 12th. We had the missionaries over for dinner today as one of the pictures below shows. They are Elders Wilder and Jones. Today we happened to have "the" Rachel and Heather with us too, which made for a more lively evening. Rachel shared her whole conversion story with them. They enjoyed chicken casadillas, cookies, and ice cream. Their spiritual message was about how the scriptures (especially the Book of Morrmom) help us cut through the deceptions of Satan and see clearly. It was a good message. We then all talked about how we go about studying the scriptures.

Last Sunday (Mar 6th) we had the family birthday celebration for Bradford. It was an enjoyable time. I've included some pictures from that event. Amy came over for the present unwrapping, cake, and candle race. Julia won the race this time, which is a rare occurrence for her. She won on Rachel's birthday, and the last time before that was on her own birthday in 2006. That's a long time!

Your phone call to us on Wednesday evening, Mar 9th, was really nice. We didn't expect a call, but it seems fitting to get a call since you didn't have a chance to send an email. I don't know what day your preparation day will be, but I'm guessing Mondays.

Your Mom got the Pimsleur Language Program for Brazilian Portuguese from the library. It is a 5 tape collection. I'm converting them over to mp3s so she can use the iPod Touch to listen to them. I'll probably give it a try too.

General Conference is coming up soon. I suppose it's about time for me to start listening through last October's talks again on my work commute. I've been concentrating on catching up with last year's Ensigns. I'm almost done with December. I'm in the book of Ether again and will finish that up too. That will be the first time through the BofM this year. I'll probably do that again at least once before the end of the year. I'm looking forward to General Conference again. It doesn't seem possible that six months have already gone by. We will be doing all the same stuff again, attending conference at church, going to Ruby Tuesdays with the missionaries along, more conference, lunch between sessions, and more conference. It will be a good weekend.

Julia tried out for Concert Choir this past week. On Friday, Mar 11th, she found out that she got in! She was very excited. I talked with her today about it some. Apparently there were about 7 or 8 freshman this year of those who tried out that made it in. She is looking forward to being in Concert Choir because it will be people who really want to be there instead of so many that are kind of forced to be in there. I'm excited for her and glad that she made it in.

Mar 13, 2011 - Sunday

Julia, Rachel, and I went to Heritage Park sacrament meeting today because Heather was speaking. She did a really good job on the conversion process of the plan of salvation. Thomas Kane was the second speaker and Tim Lapin was the final speaker.

In your last email you asked what led us to move to New Hampshire. In the fall of 1984 I started interviewing with companies that came recruiting at the University of Utah. I was going to graduate with a BSEE in June 1985 so I was trying to figure out what company I wanted to work for. I interviewed with about 8 different companies and also with the CIA. Sanders Associates recruited on campus because the UofU had a very good microwave engineering program. I impressed the recruiter, Leo Capello, quite a bit with my seven years of work experience at KSL Radio. They flew me out to Nashua in December 1984. That on site visit was followed up by an offer of employment. Joyce and I prayed about this decision and both felt that it was the right thing to do. So, I accepted the offer and we started getting ready to move. It was important during the months that followed to remember that we had received spiritual confirmation that this is where we were supposed to go, because it was a hard thing moving clear across the country where we didn't know anyone. The church was great.

That first Sunday we walked into the chapel and it felt like coming home. We've never regretted our decision to raise our family in NH.

You also asked what made the missionaries that served in our ward so great. I think the common quality that they all had was that they loved serving Heavenly Father by teaching his children. They truly loved the people. They were humble and full of faith. They were dependable. They worked hard. They had proved themselves through months of dedicated service. Remember that they were always zone leaders and many of them went on to be assistants to the president. You were blessed to get to know some of the best missionaries the mission had to offer.

Concerning the whole experience with Stanford... It still affects me every day. It has been harder for me lately for some reason. The emotions bubble up and at times I almost gasp with sadness. I have the screen saver on my computer at work. Sometimes I smile at the pictures. Other times I get quite emotional. I don't concentrate on the sadness aspect of it. I try to remember the good things and I think of what Stanford is doing now. I've worked through my grief in my own way. It has been important for me to write about it. The Ensign article was helpful, but it only tells part of the story. The book "A Day of Passing" was important for me to put together so that I could remember other people's experiences. At times it still doesn't seem real to me. At times I am just numb about it all. At times life seems stupid. Things that people worry about seem stupid and insignificant. I'm still learning and growing.

Many hours later. We took Rachel back up to her dorm this evening. She had the last week off for winter break. Unfortunately, she developed a headache during the afternoon and wasn't feeling her best when we dropped her off. Upon our return home we watched an episode of "Monk", read Luke 17, and are now getting ready for bed. I'm going to send this now and wait for your next email.

I trust that everything is going fine for you. This is a huge change and it may take some time for it to all settle down and for you to feel comfortable. Trust in the Lord. He is ever mindful of you and your needs and what you need to learn. I'm proud of you and love you very much.

Love,

Dad

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<http://larsen-family.us>

11 attachments



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