



John Larsen &lt;theclaw56@gmail.com&gt;

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## A letter from Dad: 20 Mar 2011

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**John Larsen** <john@larsen-family.us>

Mon, Mar 21, 2011 at 7:16 AM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

To: Phillip Larsen &lt;phillip.larsen@myldsmail.net&gt;

Cc: joyce@larsen-family.us

Dear Phillip,

It's Sunday afternoon. It has been a beautiful day today. Spring has arrived. However, we're a far cry from your 90 degrees with 90% humidity. Sister Scott gave a talk today in sacrament meeting. She has a glow about her and her love for the gospel really shines through. As she spoke I realized that she and Mike have the same smile. Their faces are so similar, yet Mckayla's face is softer and prettier. They are a neat family. - As I sat on the stand I looked around counting families and inidividuals who have moved into the ward since Stanford passed away. My rough count was about 19 that have moved in since that event and about 26 that were here before. So, roughly 1/3 of the ward has moved in since. That means that about that many have moved out too. Strange to think about.

I hope you have enjoyed your sabbath day in Brasil. Hopefully you're able to understand more of the meeting this week than last. It was difficult for me after being in France for only a few weeks. I worried that I'd never get the language down. It just takes time and effort. I found that constantly looking up words in the dictionary helped. Sometimes I'd just read the dictionary looking at words. I'd find a cool word and then notice that it was being used all the time. I had just never noticed. So, use your dictionary. However, I'm sure you'll have the advantage that I never did have, being companions with a native speaker. I'm excited to hear how that goes.

I've been scanning some of Grandma Larsen's pictures again. There is no way I'll even come close to getting done before your Mom goes to Utah in April, but if I can get some of them done then she can take them on the plane back to Grandma. Of all the pictures I scanned I have attached only three. I thought they were interesting. Picture 1 is your Great-Great Grandma Jenny Erickson taken in 1900. She married Soren Nelson and they were the parents of your Great Grandma Judith Nelson Larsen. Picture 2 is Great Grandma Larsen at age 1 taken in 1903. Picture 3 is Great Grandma Larsen in 1988. It is interesting to look at these pictures and think about the people in them. Their time on earth is done. I see pictures of my aunts and uncles when they were young, before they were married, before World War 2. So much promise before them. The future unknown at the time. And now, looking back, the

chapters of their lives are complete.

This made me think of this quote from Elder M. Russell Ballard from Oct 1990 General Conference:

"Each one of you must look into the future to understand the consequences of your actions, both good and bad. The cartoon character Ziggy said it this way: "Our future is shaped by our past, ... so be very careful what you do in your past!"

Hopefully we can all be very careful what we do in our past!

The week seemed to fly by. Wednesday evening we went to NHSS to attend the music department's March concert. There were 4 groups, the Freshmen Choir, the Choral, the Concert Choir, and the NHSS Band. The concert was excellent. I don't think I've ever heard them perform so well. They are at "the top of their game" right now. The concert choir will be going to Maryland to perform for the the National Music Educators convention. The band is going to the large group festival in Bow, NH in a week. So, they have been working very hard to get ready for those events and used this concert as a dress rehearsal. I'm excited for Julia to be part of the Concert Choir. They were amazing. They sang 6 songs. The Freshman choir was great too. They were a little week on the male voices, but overall it was good.

Tuesday was Merrimack Band practice and Friday was the Ricky Nelson band practice. It looks like the trumpet player I recruited from the Merrimack band to play in the Ricky Nelson band is going to work out. Janet Travis is her name, and she came to rehearsal again this past Friday. That's two weeks in a row, which is a good sign. That means she is enjoying the group. I need to practice some of our songs. I transposed several of them to Tenor sax and need to work on them so that they play as easily there as on the alto sax.

I spent several hours today and yesterday (Sat and Sun) doing church computer work.

Sister Stevens has been able to come to sacrament meeting several times. She was there this morning and it was good to see her able to come out.

Here is a Facebook posting:

**Nathan Rackliffe**

Peter Timothy Rackliffe was born at 4:43 PM on March 20, 2011 after 14 hours in the hospital. He clocked in at 7 lbs 6 ozs and 20.5". Mary and Peter are both doing fine.

That's very cool. :) I attached a newborn picture of him that Bro. Rackliffe put on Facebook. I played the piano for primary today and will be for the next several weeks until Sister Rackliffe is up to playing again. The little kids in primary sure are cute.

They have so much energy!

Well... it's time for bed now. I have another dental appointment in the morning (Monday) to replace a leaking filling and polish the surface of a couple others. Of course, I'll do the gym before that. So, I really need to get to sleep so the week can start out well.

Love you bunches,

Dad

ps. I finished the BofM mp3s on Friday and all the Ensigns for 2010. I'm back into October general conference mp3s and am currently in the priesthood session. It is good to hear the counsel of God's chosen leaders for our days.

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<http://larsen-family.us>

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**4 attachments**

**1-Jenny\_Erickson\_Nelson.jpg**  
123K

**2-Judith\_Viola\_Nelson-1903.jpg**  
113K

**3-Judith\_Viola\_Nelson\_Larsen-1988.jpg**  
118K

**PeterTimothyRackliffe.jpg**  
100K