



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

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## A letter from Dad: 27 Mar 2011

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John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Mon, Mar 28, 2011 at 7:14 AM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

Hello Dear Phillip,

A long, long, long time ago.... I was born. :)

I liked the card a lot. Thanks for remembering.

I read your "homesick" email and have been pondering on it over the past week. Your concerns about the language are so familiar to me. Also, your comments about how it is hard being with the APs because of the uncertainty was also very familiar to me.

What I've attached might be more than you may have time to spend on it. If that is the case please let us know and I could print it out and send it to you.

I pulled down the box that has all my old missionary stuff in it and looked in it for my old missionary log book that I kept. Back when I was a missionary they didn't have the daily/weekly planner that missionaries are given these days. It was up to each missionary to keep track of his hours and goals in whatever way he came up with. Being quite anal I made my own book. The attached image "John\_Larsen-Proselyting\_averages.jpg" is a scan of the summary page where I kept track of all my proselyting hours for my whole mission. It doesn't have dates on this page, but it starts out with week 1 in the field with my first companion Elder Carter, and continues on, showing the weeks with each companion.

My first companion was a zone leader. I was his junior companion, but not a zone leader. Our mission had just been created in July 1975 and had been growing so fast that they didn't have enough experienced missionaries to have two zone leaders as companions. So, right from the beginning I was tagging along on zone leader visits and proselyting hours were low. Then Elder Carter had his emergency transfer and I was in a threesome for a week with a sick companion, so we couldn't go out much. Then Elder Bennett came in as ZL and I tagged along around with him.

I went senior companion only 14 weeks into my mission. That was scary. My French wasn't all that good, and there I was having to lead out. Even then, however, I was called into the office and given a special assignment to do the typing and layout of the

mission cookbook. That cut into our hours and my average was only 42.34 hours per week with Elder Bates. Then I got called into the office full time as the Mission Member Recorder with companion Elder Duckworth. That was my hardest companionship. He was a jock and I wasn't. We were together six months. The last three months were great, but the first three were really hard. Being in the office meant very little proselyting. My average with Duckworth was only 10.78 hours per week. With Elder Morris it was only 9.52 hours per week. Then after close to 11 months I was transferred out of the office and was made a zone leader with Elder Aamodt. All the travel and other administrative tasks cut into hours again, and we only averaged 31.45 hours per week. Aamodt left and Elder Fresh came in. Thirteen weeks averaging 35.02 hours per week. Finally I was transferred to my last area where I served as District Leader to a 4 man district and had a greenie as a companion, Elder Evans. I was there for 13 weeks and we averaged 53.12 hours per week, the highest average of my whole mission.

Now, those are the proselyting hours. Teaching hours were very meager. I don't have a summary page for that, but I did make some graphs. Teaching hours were so low during the time I was in the office that I didn't even bother keeping a graph for that period. The second attached picture is a scan of my teaching graph for the first part of my mission. The hours were always low in France. The third picture is a scan of a typical week in my last city when I was a district leader.

Now, I'm sure your mission will be very different than mine was. Have confidence that the Lord will bless you with a growing ability in the language. You have a quick ear for things like that. Also, you are in a mission where the people are friendly and willing to talk. They were closed and not very approachable in France.

I've scanned 4 pages of my missionary journal for the first week or so when I got to France. These show my mindset somewhat at that time, the fears I had about possibly not being able to learn the language, the fear of too much to do and not being able to measure up. These sound similar to what you have expressed.

I forgot to take the camera to church today. I intended to take pictures of people at church and have prints made to send to you. With General Conference this weekend I won't be able to take pictures then either. I'll try to remember to do that on April 10th.

I love you and think about you all the time. Joyce and I went to the temple this past Saturday morning. I put your name in the temple along with the names of several other people. I know the prayers of faith have power. Heavenly Father wants you to succeed and grow and to be able to share the gospel with his children who are searching. He will help you find them.

Love,

Dad

ps. I don't want to bum you out, but you do need to know this. Christopher Gribble's trial ended on Friday, March 25th. He was found guilty on all counts and has been sentenced to life in prison without possibility of parole. Such a tragic situation for all involved.

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<http://larsen-family.us>

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**7 attachments**

**John\_Larsen-Proselyting\_averages.jpg**  
616K

**John\_Larsen-Teaching\_hours.jpg**  
358K

**John\_Larsen-Typical\_week.jpg**  
464K

**John\_Larsen-Journal\_p1.jpg**  
337K

**John\_Larsen-Journal\_p2.jpg**  
327K

**John\_Larsen-Journal\_p3.jpg**  
320K

**John\_Larsen-Journal\_p4.jpg**  
300K