



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

Email from Mom, with a virtual hug!

Joyce Larsen <linenlady9@gmail.com>

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

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

Hello, Dear Elder Phillip! I just received your email, and I'm already starting the next one :).

Monday, 21 March, 2011

It is snowing right now! To celebrate spring, we now have snow! I don't think there will be too much, but still, we've had some lovely warming days, and now there is snow again.

On Saturday I went to a meeting for training for ARP (Addiction Recovery Program) for my calling. I was talking after the meeting to Reta and Paul Brown, and mentioned that I was trying to learn a little Portuguese. I said that if I pass people speaking a foreign language, I can recognize German, French, and Spanish. But I can't yet recognize Portuguese. Paul Brown said that to him it sounds like someone is speaking Spanish, but with a sock in his mouth! I wouldn't describe it exactly like that, but I think Spanish is more clipped, more enunciated, and Portuguese is a softer language, the consonants are softer.

I think the challenges you are having with the language are pretty typical, though I know it is frustrating. One thing the Pimsleur language tapes said is that in different areas of Brazil, the language sounds different, in the same way that a person from Maine speaks English very differently from a person from Alabama. I know you'll get better and better with the language with each day.

It sounds like you don't have an actual companion, just yet. And how about Elder Yorgason? Do you both serve with the AP's for now? Are you living with Brasilian Elders, or are some of them American? Elder Wheat sounds like an American name, but maybe not. I can't always tell.

I was talking to Lori, and she told me she found some old pictures. One of them was from 1992, of you and Ricky together, when you boys were about a year old. It was captioned something like, "Future missionaries". And Ricky was holding a ball, and you were holding a Rubik's cube!

I am on lesson 3 of the Pimsleur language tapes. I go over each one over and over. I

talked to Shelli Scott about it, and she said her husband, Mike, did the same thing with Spanish. And she said he learned over and over how to order beer! When Dad was making the tapes into Mp3s, he said that same conversation is on the Portuguese tapes. I guess I'll look up how to say "milk", and substitute that when I'm doing that lesson :).

Wednesday, 23 March 2011

Happy Birthday to Elder Richard Mark Larsen today! And remembering Stanford Mark, who left us 50 months ago today to begin his mission on the other side of the veil. Amazing, how time goes by. Also, Happy Birthday to Elder Adam Hansen, in the Canada Calgary Mission. (His mother posted on FB). A time or two ago when we had missionaries to dinner, I bought a cake from Hannaford and had the bakery write "Happy Birthday Elder Wilder!" on it. That was our dessert, and we gave the rest of the cake to him to bring home. That was three days after his actual birthday, but I figured he would like it if people were celebrating with him. And, since I can't send an actual cake to my own boy when his birthday comes up, or to my nephew or friend, I can make sure our missionaries here are taken care of! I hope the members are taking good care of you and the others missionaries. It sounds like they did in TX, and hopefully they are in Brazil!

Sis. Hansen had a couple of things on FB one day from some people in her sons' missions (some pictures from Chile, posted by the lady of the house where the pictures were taken). I asked her about it, and she said Chris gave her email to people they were working with, so they could friend her on FB. Adam did, too, in Canada. So, if you meet some wonderful people in Brazil you would like to keep up with, you can give them my email so they can friend me. Of course, I'll have to learn Portuguese, I guess :). At least I can try! I can say Bom dia! now! (and I know that means "day", literally, "morning", and that it is a masculine word). I'm working on it!

Thursday, 24 March 2011

Happy Birthday to your Dad! I'm going to meet him and Heather today for lunch. Then we'll have the dinner, cake, and candle race on Sunday. This is the time of year when there are lots of birthdays in our house!

Amy Phillips posted the other day that she is expecting baby #6 in May. I wonder if she knows its gender, and what they will name the baby to go along with the other names?

Monday, 28 March 2011

I've liked this, writing a bit as I think of it. It helps me to remember to write things to you! On Saturday Julia and I (and Dad, too, for LOTS of help with equipment) went to the Young Woman's Broadcast, with a dinner and wonderful program before. I was sitting next to Kendall Hood, and she asked, "So how is Elder Larsen?" I told her of

some of the things in your last email, about struggling with the language, and some of the other things. She said it was bringing back lots of memories of her own mission to Lima, Peru. She said she had those feelings, exactly! She remembers the frustration, and thinking she would NEVER learn the language. But, she did! And she was remembering funny things, too, like being in the jungle, teaching a family. The little kids had never seen panty hose before, and while the missionaries were trying to teach this spiritual lesson, the kids were picking at their pantyhose, playing with them! She asked if you could receive emails, and I said I thought so, just that you have only an hour to read and write, and you can't email back. Can you print out emails from people, to read later?

Oh, last night, Bradford won the candle race! We also got lots of presents for Dad, more than I thought we'd think of. He had two things on his wish list, which we got, plus a couple of books that Heather found, and socks from Bradford, and Dad's usual favorite candy.

Next weekend is General Conference! I'm really looking forward to it, as always. Dad has listened to the last one again, and I would like to do that, as well. Dad is very good in listening to it over and over, and gets a lot out of it, and remember who says what, and when.

I travel to UT next Tuesday, the 5th of April. I have several things to do this week to get ready. It will be a different kind of visit than my last visit, which was focused on helping out Oma and Papa. I think I'll be able to see people more. It will be fun, and I'll let you know how it goes.

Keep up the good work, Phillip! Keep studying, and praying. Remember that I love you, and I'm very proud of you. And I feel very blessed to have a missionary serving from our family at this time. I miss you, but I know you're where the Lord wants you to be right now, and He'll bless you with what you need to do the work.

Love,
Mom

P.S. Ok, two more things: Sis. Racliffe had a baby boy last Sunday. His name is Peter, and I can't remember the middle name. But, congratulations to their family! Second thing: we picked up garments for you on Saturday, six pair. We'll mail them out soon. One thing the sister in the distribution center said is that if you are wearing the boxer brief kind, you will be hotter than if you wear just boxers. Both because it is close to your body, and the fabric it is made out of does not dry as q