



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

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## A letter from Dad: 4 April 2011

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John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Mon, Apr 4, 2011 at 10:27 AM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

Cc: joyce@larsen-family.us

Hello Dear Phillip,

FYI, Grandma is doing just fine now. Joyce and I talked with her for almost an hour on Saturday and she sounds good and "all together."

I'm at work and it's very hectic. The past week has flown by and the weekend with General Conference was super busy too. I've attached pictures from the past two weeks. We had a family birthday celebration for my birthday and Bradford won the candle race. Yesterday we had a family birthday celebration for Julia's birthday, and Bradford won the candle race. We did General Conference at the church like always. We took all four missionaries with us to Ruby Tuesday. That was a lot of fun. On Sunday we invited all four missionaries to have lunch with us in between sessions, and that was fun too. Pictures show us doing these things.

I must explain the picture of me wearing a very short tie. We recently received two new computers to replace the clerk computers in Keene and in the Stake. My plan was to get those computers up and running and configured during conference. I ran an ethernet line from the FHC into the RS room and worked on the Keene computer on Saturday. I still had more to do by the time the afternoon session was over at 6:00 PM so I stayed and kept working. I hadn't brought a tie with me, thinking that I would be going home before the Priesthood session. Brother Gribble and Mike showed up before Priesthood session and decided to set up in the RS room too. I mentioned that I didn't have a tie and that I intended to go look in the lost and found closet to see if there was a tie there. Brother Gribble left and came back a minute later and just stood by me without saying anything. I finally looked up and saw that he was holding that little clip on tie. I thought it was great, so I wore it to Priesthood. I wore it all day Sunday too and also when I went home teaching to the Carls after the last session. I'm thinking of wearing it to church this coming Sunday.

Were you able to attend conference? Did you listen in Portuguese or English?

Did you happen to notice the new members of the 70 that were sustained at the Saturday afternoon session? My favorite missionary companion, Elder Randy Bennett,

was sustained as a member of the second quorum of 70. That was awesome. I had a feeling that was going to happen.

Your Mom is heading to Utah tomorrow for a ten day visit. It will be just Julia and me at home. I hope we survive.

I really enjoyed the parts of conference that I heard. The new computer stuff got me too involved at times to hear it all. Of course I will be downloading all the sessions to my iPaq and listening to them several times.

I had an experience last week that I actually felt prompted to write in my journal. I don't write much in a journal, but felt this was important. I'll include that below.

I'd better get to work now. I love you very much and am proud of your dedication.

Dad

## **29 Mar 2011 - Tues**

This morning while driving into work I was listening to a podcast from the Mormon Channel from the "Why I Believe" program. I was driving down Route 2E towards Concord, MA where Technical Communications Corp is located, following my normal commute. The program I had been listening to was "Episode 31 - Troy and Anya Patti." They are both converts to the church. Anya was born in Russia.

This is all just background information. The part I want to describe is what happened to me while I listened to their closing testimonies. It also has to do with some of the messages I heard again while listening to Oct 2010 General Conference mp3s over the past week. I like to listen to the previous conference just before the upcoming conference to remind me what was said 6 months ago. Conference is coming up this weekend.

One conference talk, I don't remember which one now, the speaker related to frequently heard idea of asking yourself if you would do what you are doing if the Savior was standing there with you. I have heard this many times over the years, and I pondered on it again. Another talk, I believe it was Elder Bednar's talk about receiving the Holy Ghost, pointed out the wording of the sacrament prayers, about "... always remember him, that they may have his spirit to be with them..."

As I drove in this morning I thought of that, of how it would be if the Savior were actually sitting in the passenger seat of my car as I drove into work. This amazing feeling came over me. The tears started to gently flow down my face and I could feel the Savior there in the car with me sitting in the passenger seat. The feeling continued for several miles. Even now, a few hours later, the feeling is still there. I so much want

to be able to remember this. I want to be able to live up to the sacrament promise to always remember him. My weaknesses at times haunt me, weaknesses of a lifetime. I pray for help in always remembering the Savior and in keeping his commandments. I pray that Heavenly Father will be patient with me and help me to improve. I pray that He will surround me with his angels to strengthen me and bear me up and protect me from the fiery darts of the adversary. I so desperately need His help at all times.

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