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A letter from Dad: 11 April 2011

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Mon, Apr 11, 2011 at 8:08 AM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

Cc: joyce@larsen-family.us

Hi Dear Phillip,

You asked about using the ATM machines in Brazil. At the end of the email I have pasted in the information I found at the LFCU website.

We had our annual Ward Conference today. Bishop McFadden was the first speaker. He said he had fasted and earnestly prayed to know what he should talk about. He ran down a very long list of events of the past year just using single words or short phrases like: baptisms, confirmations, births, death, graduations, marriage, job loss, new job, hair loss, hair gain, hair color change, etc. Then he talked about the ward theme for the year determined by the Ward Council in January, which is "Things that matter most." He recommended that we use this theme each day to help determine what we should and what we should work on.

He used the Book of Mormon account in Alma 20 about King Lamoni and Ammon when they encountered King Lamoni's father as they were traveling to get Ammon's brothers out of prison. The old king was very upset with Lamoni, especially that he was in the company of a Nephite. He commanded Lamoni to kill Ammon, which Lamoni knew he couldn't do. So, the old king fought Ammon and was incapacitated to the point where he was willing to give up even half the kingdom if Ammon would spare his life. As you know, Ammon requested nothing for himself, but asked only for Lamoni's life and freedom to be king of his land. The old king was astonished by this and granted his request and then asked Ammon to come teach him. Later Aaron teaches the old king the gospel and he accepts it. He asks what he needs to do to have the great joy described by Aaron. He states that he is willing to give up everything, even his whole kingdom, to have this great joy.

This was the point that Bishop McFadden wanted to make. The old king's perspective had changed. He had discovered "the things that matter

most."

Bishop McFadden went on to explain that we are preparing now for the second coming of the Savior. He said that as we prepare joyfully for this event that we need to attend the temple more often, as often as we can. He said there are three "P"s that come when we attend the temple: Power, Perspective and Protection. In these very tumultuous times we need these three Ps in our lives.

The ward choir then sang "This is the Christ". They did an awesome job. I was touched spiritually by the words and music and the tears rolled down my face. After they finished Bishop McFadden got up and said that he loved our ward choir and felt they were the best ward choir. He then introduced President Evans of the Massachusetts Boston Mission who spoke for a few minutes about prayer. He said how his calling as mission president has been the hardest thing he has ever done. He said it has driven him to his knees daily. He described how he prays often and as he drops to his knees he often knows exactly what to pray for. As his prayer ends he often has the promptings of the spirit come into his mind and he knows the next step he needs to do. President Evans has grown and developed during his time in the mission.

Next was President Coopridier. He said how the statistical numbers for Nashua 1 have improved every year since he was called a \$12 Per Months stake president. He said that these numbers are merely an outward manifestation of the spiritual growth experienced in our member's lives. He said we have a wonderful ward. He then talked about the Stake theme this year. The stake didn't set any specific goals this year. Instead the theme is that "God has a work for us to do." Each member of the stake is supposed to find out what the work is that God wants him or her to do. The answer will be different for each member. He said we need to pray and ponder and find out what the Lord really wants us to do. He said not to try and rationalize what we want to do into being what God wants us to do. He then gave an example from CS Lewis' book "The Silver Chair." There is a scene where the character Jill has arrived in Narnia and is very thirsty. She hears the sound of water and goes toward the sound. She is dying of thirst. The stream is guarded by a large lion (Aslan). She asks if she can have water. She asks the lion if he will promise not to harm her. He won't promise. He says that he has consumed armies and individuals. She is afraid to go for the water. Aslan says she if she doesn't then she will die. Then President Coopridier said that the Savior is the only

way.

After the meeting block I saw Mike Scott and Amy Taylor waiting outside the Bishop's office. Amy is heading out to BYU Idaho this week. She will come back in August. She asked me to tell you "hello!" Mike is trying to get into BYU Provo even though he would be starting the semester late. If that doesn't work out he said that he will be signing up for an EMT class.

You saw in my email last week the picture of me with the short tie. I wore it to church again today. My excuse was that I was playing piano in primary and wanted to wear my primary tie. Well, after Sacrament Meeting I went into Primary and was surprised to see Sister Rackliffe at the piano. I told her that I was willing to play if she needed me to. I then told her that I had worn a short tie today because I was playing in primary. It turns out that the tie I was wearing belongs to James Rackliffe! I explained how Brother Gribble had found the tie for me last week so I could wear it to General Priesthood Meeting. I knelt down in front of James and asked if this was his tie. He said it was. So, I wore it the rest of the day and gave it back to him at the end of the block.

Sister Stevens attended Sacrament Meeting today, but I didn't have a chance to talk with her. According to Heather, Beverly was looking better at Friday Night Knitting Club. I talked with Sister Blanchette after the meeting block today. I told her that I've been praying for her everyday and that I put her name in the temple each time I go. I told her that I was talking with Julia yesterday about her and hoping that she would recognize the "ROI" on taking it easy right now. Julia didn't know that "ROI" stands for "Return on Investment", a business term. I told Sister Blanchette that in my prayers I ask Heavenly Father to help her recognize that the ROI of taking it easy for this short period of time will provide a HUGE ROI. She nodded. Casey Blanchette was standing nearby and smiled and nodded his agreement. So, I was able to tell Jenn the thoughts and prayers I have had in her behalf. She is looking very very large! I've never seen her look so huge.

This Friday is the dance with "Ricky Nelson and the Secret Agents" providing the music. We had a 4 hour rehearsal this past Saturday and were able to get through all 36 songs. We will be having a special rehearsal this Thursday to go over the songs that we feel need the most work. Then Friday, April 15th, is the dance. I've requested a

vacation day so that I can be available the whole day to help move equipment and set up. We're hoping for a large turnout. I'm going to send an email to everyone at work attaching a flyer about the dance. I'll let you know how we do. I don't remember if I told you that we found a trumpet player to replace Carl Belnap. I asked Janet Travis who plays trumpet in the Merrimack Band if she would be interested. She came to a rehearsal about a month ago and I think she recognized that we are a group of very clean cut men with high moral standards. She's a really good trumpet player. She is also a software engineer, so she fits in with the geeky side of the band. She has opened up more as she has gotten comfortable with the group. So, I've been responsible for finding Gary Cardone on guitar and Janet Travis on Trumpet. This is a potential missionary situation too, even if nothing comes from it. At least Gary and Janet will have a good opinion of Mormons and that we are good people.

I've done a little work on putting together a calendar for you with pictures. Wal-Mart's website has a pretty neat calendar application. It lets you upload pictures and insert them into a calendar in many different ways. I'll keep working on it, but right now were in "survival mode" with Joyce gone. Plus, getting ready for the gig is going to take up a lot of time this week. I'm making an 18 month calendar for you, which is the maximum that Walmart provides. Anyway, just so you know that it is being worked on.

I haven't made any progress on the bathroom project at all. There are door knobs on both new doors. I still need to seal to doors and cupboards. We still need to get a clock and soap caddy and hook for the new bathroom. Rachel uses that bathroom when she stays with us, like she did over conference weekend.

I talked with Brother Henkel a bit today and mentioned to him how you were somewhat homesick. He talked about his experience going to Germany and how it took several weeks to get past the homesickness. I hope that you are enjoying the days more and more. I hope that you enjoyed being in your ward with all the members for regular meetings. I hope that the language is coming better for you. Keep at it! Heavenly Father wants you to succeed. He also wants you to grow and learn. Every experience is something we can grow from.

Sorry about no pictures this week. I didn't take any.

I love you and pray for you several times each day.

Dad

Credit Union info. We are "Platinum" members, so we have the highest benefits. I suggest you try getting some money from an ATM and then I'll see what charges show up in your account. You'll need to tell me the amount you get. Based on what I've read we have unlimited limits because of our Platinum reward level.

Question: What fees do I have to pay to use a LFCU Visa Debit card?

Answer:

Visa Debit Card- Leave your cash and checks at home! Use your Visa Debit card anywhere debit cards are accepted or at thousands of ATMs worldwide. There are no annual fees associated with a LFCU Debit card. Your purchase amount is conveniently deducted from your checking account, and you have Zero Liability protection for unauthorized transactions. Plus you can earn points toward valuable rewards with every purchase. Open yours today.

Free ATMs - Get money from any ATM anywhere. You'll enjoy free access to 25,000 CO-OP ATMs and 5, 10, or even unlimited transactions at any other ATM in the world each month. See Relationship Rewards for details!

Free Transactions at Non-LFCU ATMs - Free Transactions at non-LFCU ATMs do not include surcharges that may be assessed by the institution/network that owns the ATM. Refer to ATM Surcharge Rebate details in the Relationship Rewards benefits chart to find out how these fees can be rebated.

Free ATMs - Get money from any ATM anywhere. You'll enjoy free access to 28,000 CO-OP ATMs and 10, or even unlimited transactions at any other ATM in the world each month.

Cash Back - LFCU rebates ATM surcharges! If another financial institution charges you for using its ATM, we'll pay you back automatically within 24 hours (up to \$3.50 per transaction).

Free Transactions at any other ATMs in the World (LFCU Fee Waived)
Unlimited

Rebates for ATM Surcharge fees Charged by Other Banks (Up to \$3.50 Per Transaction)
Unlimited

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