



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

A letter from Dad: 18 April 2011

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Mon, Apr 18, 2011 at 9:00 AM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

Cc: joyce@larsen-family.us

Hi Dear Phillip,

It's Monday evening, April 11th. Joyce is still in Utah. I came home from work early and went with Julia to NHSS to attend an awards ceremony. Julia had straight A grades the first semester of her 9th grade year and was honored along with all other students who accomplished the same. Garrett Hawkins also received an award. I've attached a scan of Julia's certificate, a fuzzy picture of Ms. Susing giving Julia the award, a picture of the Hawkins, and a picture of Julia with her art club friend Hannah Scaer, a senior who has had straight A grades for all four years of high school. They had lots of cookies before the awards ceremony.

When we got home I pulled all the pictures off the camera, updated the website, and then decided to watch "Joseph Smith - Prophet of the Restoration." The Church has made that movie available streaming online. I had started it several days ago, but got interrupted after about ten minutes. So, since Heather was gone this evening, I watched that as FHE. I think you commented about how good this movie is while you were in the MTC. I agree with you. It made me appreciate Joseph Smith even more and strengthened my testimony. The gospel is amazing.

Now it's Monday morning, April 18th. The week has flown by here and it has been very busy. Work has been quite stressful this past week being driven by some tight deadlines coming up. Even though I was getting to work about 7:45 AM every morning, I still wasn't able to get away at 5:00 PM like I had hoped. With Joyce gone to Utah I was skipping the gym and going into work directly after dropping the kids off at high school after seminary. The idea was that I would then get home earlier so that Julia wouldn't be home alone so long. That worked maybe two days. All the other days I was stuck at work until the regular time.

Last Thursday, April 14th, was especially stressful because we had a

code freeze the next day and that was also the day I needed to get to the Manchester Airport to pick up Joyce at 5:39 PM. I was late getting there, but it was a beautiful day and cell phones made it possible to know exactly what was going on. I had another Secret Agent rehearsal that evening, the final one before the gig on Friday.

I took a vacation day last Friday, April 15th, so I would have the time to help move all the equipment from Brother Carl's basement to the church and get it set up. Setup and a final sound check to us up until 5:00 PM. The dance started at 7:00 PM. Joyce took pictures, but unfortunately I think the camera was still setup on manual with slow shutter speed from the last candle race and the pictures didn't turn out quite right. I have attached three of them anyway so you can get an idea of what the setup looked like. These were taken during the playing of "Secret Agent Man". I brought three of your nerf guns with three darts each, and we had a little battle during the guitar solo of that song. We had about 14 measures to shoot each other a few times. The kids in the audience loved that part. The attendance was less than I was hoping for. I think the PR before the event wasn't as good as it needed to be. We talked about it afterward and have some ideas on how to improve that for the October dance. The band is sounding really good. We got lots of very favorable remarks from people about how good we sound.

Today is "Patriots Day" in Massachusetts, the annual running of the Boston Marathon, and Heather and I have the day off. Joyce and Heather are going to do "girl things". Bradford also has the day off so I have arranged with him to bring our bikes down to his place and he and I will do some riding on bike trails down there. There is a rail trail called the "Minuteman" that goes through Arlington right near his apartment. Bradford said there is another trail something like Minefalls in nature that is also nearby. That might be too muddy to ride as we had quite a bit of rain on Saturday. Hopefully it will warm up some. This morning it was only 36 degrees when I went to the gym at 6:30 AM. That's a lot different than what you're used to in Brazil.

Sister Blanchette has made it past the 30 week mark. That's one of the important dates. She was at church on Sunday and looking HUGE. Every day that she can keep the twins in utero gives them more of a chance for development. We keep praying for her.

Amy Taylor flew out to Idaho last week. She's been at BYU for about 4 days now. From her Facebook postings it sounds like she is really

loving it out there. She commented that the spirit is there all the time and it feels like being in church. She loves it.

The SNHU choir that Rachel is in is performing a concert this evening at the Palace Theatre in Manchester at 7:00 PM. We are planning on attending. I'll get up there before it starts. Joyce and Julia have piano lessons today, so one or both of them will be late. I might go out to Mrs D's to get Julia after her lesson and then drive up to Manchester. Joyce would follow us up and be a bit late. We'll have to see how the timing all works out. However, we will be going to support her.

Last Saturday, April 16th, was a "recovery day" after the stressful week. I didn't get home from cleaning up after the dance until after midnight. I was very tired and we slept in until almost 10:30 PM. It was a relaxing day with nothing on the calendar at all. In the evening we went to the high school to attend the Senior Play. Garrett Hawkins was in it even though he was only a sophomore. They did an excellent job. It was 8 stories from different countries all about Greed. I'm glad we went. It was very "last minute." Julia remembered that it was on, then we called the Hawkins and found out it started at 7:30 and that gave us just enough time to eat and get there.

Both Johnson families are moving out of the ward. I don't know if you ever met Travis and Jamie Johnson, but they are moving to the Cambridge area. Nathan and Amanda Johnson will be moving back to Utah this summer. Matthew and Suzanne Bate are also moving to CT this summer. Brother Fry got a new job, but it is at Dell here in Nashua where Brother Carl works, so they aren't going anywhere. I also heard a rumour that The Davey family might be moving out. Brother Davey is Julia's Sunday school teacher right now. Sister Bates is the choir director. Brother Johnson is still the Ward Mission Leader. So, changes are in the works.

I need to close now so that I'll have time to get bikes ready and shower and etc. I hope you have had a good week. We pray for you everyday as a family and I keep you in my personal prayers daily. I was talking with your Mom this past week about how the gospel is amazing because it answers all the questions. It is so simple. It is amazing how it all "holds together." As we study the scriptures and the teaching of modern day prophets the gospel opens up into a panorama of truth and knowledge that explains everything. However, it is so easy to get distracted. Satan is an expert at getting us

distracted. We constantly need to refocus and ask for Heavenly Father's help. I know that the gospel is true. Daily prayer and gospel study are essential to keeping on the path.

I love you,

Dad

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7 attachments

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