

**John Larsen** <theclaw56@gmail.com>

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**Mom, and Dad, 5-2-2011**

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**Phillip Larsen** <phillip.larsen@myldsmail.net>

Mon, May 2, 2011 at 2:10 PM

To: John@larsen-family.us, joyce@larsen-family.us

Querido Mom and Dad,

So I have been thinking about my last email and how it was just really rushed so I am taking more time to write this one. I miss talking with you, well being able to talk face to face. I still get to talk to you through email. I am looking forward to the phone call. It is kind of like a Birthday call too since my birthday is so close! :D

I have been trying to figure out a lot more about following the spirit too Dad. I enjoyed your note on that and about promptings. There have been specific times that I can remember getting a thought, and unfortunately one time I didn't follow it and I could somewhat sense the result of me not following it. We were teaching this less active member who's dad just left them, and she was going through a lot. I was telling her about the importance and great blessing the gospel is through challenges, but I swayed away from going into detail on Challenges. Not that I am embarrassed about Stanford in the slightest, but I have been thinking a lot about that and how often do I want to share that very personal experience. It is a sacred, tough, and spiritual experience that I had, and I don't want to make it less valuable by sharing it with every single person that we teach.

Mom that is a very special experience too. I always try to write down spiritual experiences like that because I want to be able to remember them. Keeping a journal has been very useful because there are some activities in Preach my Gospel that have you look back in your journal.

Some questions that I have are these, I have been studying Principles of the Gospel, (I am so glad that you sent that with me mom, it is an awesome book and I am grateful that I have it.) I read the chapter on Exaltation, and sometimes in studies, I feel very inadequate, or not righteous enough. How do you find comfort from these feelings. I know that as long as you are trying and doing your best, then God won't expect more from you, its just hard sometimes because the adversary is constantly trying to bring us all down. How do you find comfort and peace with that?

Also Dad, how did you deal with trunkiness, or homesickness on your mission?

Also, Let Geoff know that I am sending him a letter soon. I don't know when I'll get to actually send it though.

Also Mom, about the writing letters, I actually don't know if I'd be able to pay for a letter for everybody's response, each letter is 2 Reais, so I don't know.

I haven't heard from some of my friends either, and this past week I had a very difficult day when I remember a lot of stuff about the Wilsons and though how it was already coming closer to a year since they moved. Have you been staying in pretty good contact with them? I sent a letter to Andrew, but still haven't heard from him for a while and I don't want to be annoying bugging all the time about that.

I also have not been sending emails to other people other than family because I don't want to lose the privilege of emailing you. That is something that I don't want to risk losing.

I love you both very much, and I am so grateful for the help and support you have given me all my life, and the love you have given me too. I am glad we are members of the Lord's church, and I am grateful for the opportunity to gather Israel!

Love you, and I look forward to talking with you next Sunday!

Love,

Elder Phillip Larsen

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