



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

A letter from Dad: 30 May 2011

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Mon, May 30, 2011 at 8:32 AM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

Cc: joyce@larsen-family.us

Hello Dear Phillip,

I tried logging into your phlars3n account, but I guess I don't have the password. Send it to me in a separate email with nothing else. I'll have the emails forwarded to my account. I already do that for the phil@larsen-family.us account, so all your Facebook emails and others come through.

Concerning Bradford and where he stands with the gospel. You mentioned that Elder Pearson said to just flat out ask him. I think that would be awkward to do through email. That is something that would be better done in person where you can have an immediate conversation. For now I recommend that you keep him in your prayers and that you keep in contact with him. He knows what you are doing. Be a good example, a hard worker, a dedicated missionary. I think that will be the best influence for now. I don't know when Bradford will come back, but I believe he will. I gave Stanford the assignment to help Bradford come back in my last father's blessing shortly before he died. I have asked Heavenly Father several times over the past years to allow Stanford time to carry out that assignment. For now we need to love him and include him in everything that he is willing to participate in. The gentle approach is what feels right to me.

Concerning missionaries who don't follow the rules the way they should... There were missionaries like that in my mission too. It also didn't seem fair, but sometimes they seemed to have the most success, if the only measure of success is the number of baptisms. There were other missionaries who were "straight arrows", who did everything right and didn't seem to have much "success", again if you measure success only by the number of baptisms. Heavenly Father has a very broad perspective. He sees the whole picture. He knows our hearts and intents. Missionaries, just like all of us, are all at different places in their journey back to Heavenly Father.

I was pretty much a rule follower, but I had some moments where I could have done better. I think that some missionaries are more spiritually mature than others. I wasn't very spiritually mature. I didn't fully recognize and understand the gospel. My

testimony wasn't as well developed as yours is. I didn't have a full vision of the work.

Now, having said all that, I also think the missionaries these days are much better prepared. You also have much better resources. However, that aside, it still comes down to an understanding of what you're there for. You have accepted the call and consecrated your time and talents for two years to full time service to the Lord. It is such a great opportunity to grow close to the spirit, to learn to follow promptings, to learn obedience. Read paragraphs 2 and 3 of your Patriarchal blessing. A mission is such a short period of time. Each day is like 0.15% of your total time. Each week is about 1% of your mission. Recognize how much time has already gone by.

Do you still have the printed copy of the blessing President Coopridge gave you when you were set apart as a full time missionary? I just reread that. There are many blessings promised you there. Always remember, however, that everything is dependent on the Lord's will and timing. (I've attached a PDF of that blessing in case you don't have it anymore.)

Today, Monday May 30th, is Memorial Day here in the USA. This year Joyce and I will be going to the parade instead of attending the special Nashua Stake Temple Day. I went to the temple last week instead. On the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays there is a session in the morning at 6:15 AM. I woke up at 4:40 AM, skipped going to the gym, showered, dressed, and drove down to the temple for that session. Afterwards I got to work by about 8:45 AM. That made for a very long day since I worked late that night, until after 9:00 PM. However, it was good to get to the temple. I'm going to do that again, at least once a month. I don't know if I'll do it both Wednesdays or not.

The Burgesses are having their annual Memorial Day BBQ again. This is the 13th year they have hosted this event. The weather promises to be good, in the 80s and maybe somewhat humid. It's almost like Teresina now. We've been running the AC in the house the past couple of days, and we're very happy that we have it.

Brother Henkel came home teaching Sunday evening, May 29th. He asked how you are doing and Joyce read snippets from your last few emails.

Joyce was finally able to get the package mailed! That has been quite the task, gathering, packing, customs forms, mailing. But it is done. We left out the thumb drive so that there would be no electronics in the box. I'll mail that separately this week in a smaller envelope, which ever way is the cheapest. You'll probably have to pay some tariff on it, but that's okay. It has content that you can't get in any other way. I was able to put a bunch more music on the thumb drive:

8 - Mormon Tabernacle Choir of which two are Christmas CDs.

6 - Danny Wright

- 3 - Lord of the Rings
- 6 - Tim Janis
- 1 - Enoch Train
- A couple of others that I forget now.

We all attended the spring concert at NHSS last Thursday, May 26th. The band started out with 4 numbers. Then the Jazz choir sang several songs followed by the concert choir. The freshman choir sang and then the chorus. Amy Lee (Bradford's girlfriend) was the guest accompanist for the concert choir and chorus. That was a surprise for all of us except Bradford who had been told not to say anything about it. The concert was awesome. NHSS has such a great music program.

Brother and Sister Jeans had their baby boy last week weighing in at 8 lbs 2 oz. They have named him Liam Andrew Jeans. They actually made it to church on Sunday (late) and I looked at Liam. "Better out than in?", I asked, and they both emphatically responded, "Yes!"

Sister Blanchette didn't come to church, but Casey did and brought the three girls. Jen has made it to her 36 week goal. Now her goal is to wait until June 5th so that she can attend Emerson's "graduation" from preschool. Heavenly Father has answered the many prayers offered in her behalf, and answered them in the way that we desired.

I didn't take any pictures yet this week. I will be taking some today, but I'll attach those next week because I want you to get this email before the day's activities get in full swing.

I love you and am proud of you. You're a fine young man and servant of our Heavenly Father and his son Jesus Christ. The gospel is true.

Love,

Dad

Some TCC work related things:

Don Hewson came into my cubicle at work last Thursday. As you might remember, he has been on chemo therapy for close to a year now. About a year ago he had surgery to remove several lymph nodes on the left side of his body. He has been giving himself three injections a week for about 9 months now. He had a CT scan recently and he is completely cancer free at this time. He was very thankful and I could hear the emotion in his voice. So, he is in complete remission.

On the other hand, George Camp, also a TCC employee is also struggling with

cancer. His situation is not so favorable. I don't know if you ever met George. For the past 2 plus years he has been going through very serious chemo therapy including stem cell replacement. It looked pretty good there for a while. He was coming into work some and was at the Christmas party in December. Then in January he started having the bone pain again and his cancer has returned. He has gone through very heavy duty chemo therapy again. His three siblings are being DNA tested to find out which might be the best match. They will try stem cell replacement again, but they can't use his own stem cells this time, so they are trying for the best match possible. However, the mortality rate for this approach is much higher. Time will tell there.

It seems odd to me that in a company as small as TCC that we have had these serious cancers. First was Stanford. Then Bob Lamprecht was out for over a year, but he is in remission and has been back at work for over two years. Then George Camp, and then Don Hewson. That seems like a lot of cancer to me.

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