



John Larsen &lt;theclaw56@gmail.com&gt;

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## Email from Mom 5-30-11

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**Joyce Larsen** <linenlady9@gmail.com>

Mon, May 30, 2011 at 1:20 PM

To: Phillip Larsen &lt;phillip.larsen@myldsmail.net&gt;

Cc: John Larsen &lt;john@larsen-family.us&gt;

Hello, Dear Phillip E., Elder Phillip Edward Larsen,

I love so much hearing from you! Monday is my favorite day, because of that. We pray for you every day, and think about you all the time. I dreamed about you the other night. It was funny. You and your companion were transferred to Nashua for a short time, and your hair had gotten long. (You had it in little elastics to keep it off your face, but then you could comb it out and it wasn't too bad!) So I suggested you get a good haircut at the barber shop before you left again for Brasil. I guess that dream came from what you said about your last haircut. Have you found a barber yet? Maybe you don't need one yet, since your last very short haircut. Maybe you'll have your companion cut your hair again, and just use different clippers.

I have found a list, actually several lists, of things to ask/tell you, and things to send to you. So I just now combined them into two good lists, and I will hopefully remember to keep only those two lists, and not keep making more! One of the things, which was not checked off, so I'm not sure if I told you about it, is the scripture I found, Alma 13:22-24. I thought that was a good description of what you are doing right now! I'm thinking maybe I already told you, back before Christmas, but anyway, there it is.

Do you still need any recipes? I know the things you can buy at the grocery store are very different from what you buy in the States, so maybe you would not be making Stroganoff in Brasil, but let me know if you need that recipe or any others.

How is your new mission bag? I remember that was one thing you were looking forward to, getting that bag. I love bags! (Dad says I am a bag lady, you know!)

We never did watch Ben Hur this year on Easter. I'm glad you remembered doing that, though. We'll have to be sure to watch it another time. And we'll be sure to watch 1776 around the 4th of July! Good traditions.

Well, that's my list, for now. I finally made it to the post office on Friday, and picked up a bunch of customs forms for next time, so I will be able to do all of that ahead of time. I'm making a list of things for the next box we send. In the meantime, maybe you can find some kind of shoe polish there. (Shoe polish did not make it into the box

we sent.) I'm sure people sometimes polish their shoes in Brasil! I put a picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe on your package. Patty Ogden uses that picture for the letters and packages she sends to Karen. She said she is a Saint from South America. So I figure a South American saint is a good one to put on your boxes. I found one male saint, too, which I may use next time. I hope and pray that the box gets to you intact, and in good time. I did send your Ocharina, though I debated whether to send it or not. Also garments, a couple of journals, some pens and pen refills, some correction tape (some we had at home, not the brand you wanted, but it will work. And the case is pink because it was for breast cancer research.), some candy, and other stuff I can't remember. Oh, we sent our copy of the Conference issue of the Ensign, and we'll pick up another one at the Temple.

I picked up paint chips from Home Depot, and am considering painting the rooms bright colors. I have liked going to the Olsen's house (when I used to visit-teach Chris Olsen), and to the Blanchette's house, and they look bright and pretty and cheerful. I'll start with your old bedroom/my craft room, and it will be yellow, I think, sort of a bright buttercream. Sandy has offered to help, also Patty Ogden, and Sadie Olsen suggested asking the YW to help, who would like to do projects for their YW medallions. So, we'll see.

Sis. Potter and I went to the beach last Thursday. She drove, and we went up to that restaurant where we took Grandma when she came out to your graduation, the one that is right on the beach. Then Sis. Potter took me to The Cliff House, which is a large hotel that has been around for over a hundred years. Maybe Dad and I will go there sometime for our anniversary, and bring our bikes.

I feel like I've been out a lot this past week. I guess I have! On Tuesday I worked in the Temple cafeteria (I set out the salad bar, throwing out lots of old food and making it look new and pretty, also washed a lot of dishes), then I met Bradford for lunch. He is right, his apartment is about five minutes from the Temple, if you go the back roads, which I was able to do, thanks to Google Maps. We had lunch in the sushi place next door to his apartment. Then on Wednesday Julia and I went to The Big One while Sadie Olsen was working there and had ice cream cones. Then to the beach and lunch on Thursday with Sis. Potter, then to breakfast/lunch with Dad on Saturday.

I'm glad there are so many things I like and want to do. When you were saying recently that Satan knows your weaknesses and plays upon them by making you worry about things, I think he does that for us all. For me, it is the desire to do so many things, so I over-schedule things, or I feel dissatisfied with what I have been able to do, and always think I need to do more to be able to enjoy life or to be acceptable to the Lord. In reality, I know this is not true, but it's hard to remember sometimes. This morning I got up, determined to read my scriptures. I read them regularly, but it's often when I'm about to go to bed, so I'm tired and don't focus too

well on what I'm reading. I did much better when we had a Relief Society challenge, and got points for reading for 15 minutes (which is not a long time, I know), every day. I would write in my study journal things I had read, or questions I had, and I made sure to do it earlier in the day. Anyway, I got up this morning, and ended up being sidetracked by a Sudoku puzzle, and by making lists and cleaning piles of papers. Those are all right things to do, but I need to make my scripture-reading, also journal-writing, higher priorities. I work best with some kind of schedule, routine, and I think it's neat that missionaries have study time each morning.

How is it going now, with you speaking Portugues all the time? I can imagine your language skills are growing. We have been praying specifically for you to be blessed with the Gift of Tongues on your mission. I used to think people would be blessed with spiritual gifts in the same way in stories a fairy godmother would *zing!* bestow something on the princess, and then she would have beauty, or cleverness, or whatever, without any effort on her part. But gifts are given to us, and we still need to work for them, though we will notice the Lord's help in our lives.

The rhododendrons in the garden are in full bloom right now. We will take some pictures of how lovely they are. I like how they look against the chimney that has ivy growing all over it.

I know this Memorial Day will be very different for you, probably an ordinary day in Brasil, though you'll have other holidays and festivals we do not have here. I guess it's time for me to make potato salad and Congo Bars for the cookout. I love you, and I'm so happy for the progress you're making, in so many areas! Have a lovely day.

Love,  
Mom