



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

Email from Mom 6-6-11

Joyce Larsen <linenlady9@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 6, 2011 at 11:55 AM

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

Cc: John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Hello, Dear Elder Phillip Edward Larsen!

Well, I had all kinds of things to tell you, then I read Dad's email, and he has told you most of the news! But I can add to it. I always have something to say. (Which is why I have a hard time keeping my talks to the time limit they give me :).

Dad wanted me to let you know that Elder Dallin H. Oaks was a Utah Supreme Court justice when he was called to the Quorum of the Twelve. And Elder Uchtdorf wasn't a Seventy, either. And another thought I had on brethren being called to the Twelve that is that if men are called to be Seventies, there is inspiration there, and some of that may be to prepare them to be in the Quorum of the Twelve later. The Lord knows what is coming, so I'm sure He will prepare men to be apostles by putting them elsewhere first to prepare them, which is often being a Seventy, but sometimes not.

Yes, the McFaddens are definitely moving. Bro. and Sis. McFadden are gone right now to look at houses in California, and I'm not sure who is taking care of the kids. It was going to be Mallory Henkel, but George Henkel's mother died (at age 101!), and the Henkels will go out for a memorial service before the McFaddens get back, so maybe someone else will come in for the last bit to take care of the kids. It is sad to see things change. But, as Heather told me the other day, just because something changes does not mean it's bad. People are also moving into the ward. And we can keep in much better contact with the McFaddens and others than I ever did when we would move, or friends would move when I was growing up.

I am not sure of Beverly's new address, but I will get it for you so you can write to her. I know she would love to have a letter from you. You could write the letter and have it ready, then I will have the address for you for next week so you'll just have to address it and mail it it, if you like. I do not know Jesse Parent's address, but maybe Rachel can help me find it. And the Wilsons are here:

Gordon, MaryAnn, Miranda, Andrew, Emmy Wilson
11708 San Victorio Ave. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87111-5954

I am so glad you're loving the ward where you are serving! Ricky has been out just enough longer than you to have a few transfers, and he has loved each ward he is in. I know you'll love all of the wards. It's such a wonderful feeling! The gospel is wonderful!

Julia put a good quote on the white board. I don't know if she heard it somewhere or thought of it herself. But one comment you made in your last letter, about working on enjoying what you have when you have it reminded me of it (that's something I am working on, too). The quote is: "When life gives you lemons, say thanks."

Congratulations on the baptism you performed! That's great! You finally got to use your baptismal clothes! (Trivial reason to be excited about a baptism, I know, but still . . . !) That's great that she and Sandra support each other in their gospel activity.

I'm glad you're enjoying teaching English lessons. Does your companion also take the lessons from you? I just wondered what he does during this time, since he is not also teaching. How do you do it? Do you have books? Do dialogues? I like how I'm learning Portuguese, and I really look forward to it, though I've gotten some strange looks at the gym when I'm talking to my iPod (well, to your iPod, but you know what I mean!). I talked to the Nashua 2nd Ward Elders, who both speak Spanish, yesterday. They were preparing a translating box thing for Nashua 2nd Ward Sacrament Meeting, so they could help members understand the meeting. Elder Evans is learning Spanish, and the other Elder is a native Spanish-speaker, so he does most of the translating. I talked to them about trying to learn Portuguese, and they said I should get a Portuguese Book of Mormon. They have one they could give me, or I can get one this coming Sunday when I'm in Lowell for their Ward Conference. I have been learning all by listening so far, so I don't read it very well. That is, I tend to read it as if I am reading Spanish, pronouncing every letter, and I know that is not right. The Nashua 2nd Elders said they would get me a Portuguese B of M if I can't get one from the Lowell Elders.

How did the move go? How is your new house? Is it a house or an apartment? Is it bigger? I hope you're taking pictures of every place you live, etc. I wish I could see more (I know I will at some point), so I can visualize you when you're at home studying and such, and more pictures of the area where you are serving. And take pictures of the people you teach and the ones you baptize! I would love to see that! And food you eat, and wildlife you see.

Your Portuguese is growing! I know Karen Ogden said that she was thinking hers was not getting better, then saw some missionaries at a Zone Conference or something, ones she had not seen for awhile. She asked if she was doing any better, and they said she most definitely was. So you might not feel the improvement as much as it is actually happening. You said you end up speaking English with another American

when there is one around. Does that happen often? Do you see Americans very often?

Oh, I was talking to Shelli Scott recently and asking about John Robert. He is having some concerns with his heart and having some tests. He bore his testimony yesterday and looks very good, but I know they are working on some issues. Anyway, Shelli was telling me that another Mom at the hospital was telling her that her child was having some treatment that was from Brasil, and she wondered how good that was. (I'm sure she was thinking "third-world country medical treatment".) But Shelli said that there is cutting-edge medical technology from Teresina, so you live in the one of the best cities possible for medical stuff. Shelli said that you were in the perfect place to have that allergy taken care of, and that lots of really serious issues are being researched and handled in Teresina.

That's great about the weather, and how you're getting used to it! I told someone how it is autumn there now, and it is cooling down to 80 degrees sometimes, and the person was amazed.

I love your letters, my dear Phillip. I love that you are doing well, and loving your mission. Enjoy each day, all the adventures, the unusual food, the bugs, even!

Oh, while I was writing this, Papa called and we talked for a few minutes. He says to say "hi". So, "Hi" from Papa!

Ok, I was trying to think of a scripture to give you, or some insight or something to end this letter. I have been less successful on scriptures and journal-writing this past week. It's a constant struggle. But I will continue, because I know I will be blessed from it. So I'll just tell you that the church is true, we are so blessed to have the restored gospel, and a living prophet on the earth today! We have the Book of Mormon (which was "assigned" as summer reading to the Seminary kids by Bro. Newey last night at Seminary graduation, which is a great idea!), and we have missionaries (Yea! Missionaries!), and we have temples to do work for the dead. How blessed we are!

I love you, and I miss you, but I'm so thrilled with what I'm hearing from you, and to know of the experiences you are having! Keep the faith!

Love,
Mom