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A letter from Dad: 13 June 2011

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Mon, Jun 13, 2011 at 8:25 AM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

Cc: joyce@larsen-family.us

Hello Dear Phillip,

Answers to your questions:

There was some anti US backlash on the Bin Ladin operation, but I haven't heard much about it in the news the last several weeks. The people that hated us still hate us and still want to kill us. As far as how it has affected TCC, I wondered about that at first, but it hasn't seemed to have any affect. The Egyptian agencies TCC works with weren't tied into that angry group. My trip to Egypt keeps geting pushed back. Carl hasn't even left for his trip yet. I'm guessing that it will be many weeks before I actually go.

Ward Boundary changes. This usually doesn't happen unless it is part of a bigger change. e.g. When they made our current three wards out of two. A similar thing happened several years ago when the dissolved the Littleton 2nd Ward, created the Lowell Ward, and shuffled the boundaries. This is all driven by growth of the church. Many years ago when we were first put in the Nashua 2nd Ward (around 1988) that ward included Windham, Tyngsboro, Dunstable, and Dracut, as well as Litchfield, Hudson, and part of Nashua. That was before the Exeter Stake existed. The Nashua Stake covered about half of the Exeter Stake's current area over to Hampton and North Hampton on the coast. When they created the Exeter Stake they took the north part of the Nashua Stake. So, as I said before, there have been zero rumours about any boundary changes.

I've never heard what you heard about the prophet being named "David" when the Savior comes. There have been other "David" Apostles, such as David B Haight, who passed away within the last ten years. I think there are still many things that need to be done before the Savior comes. However, things can change fast. I remember in June of 1978 when I heard on the radio while I was at work that President Kimball had received the revelation that all worthy male members of the church could now receive the priesthood. That was very shocking to some people who had the opinion that that day was way in the future. For me, it was a very exciting day and I was really happy. When I was on my mission we were told not to seek out people from Africa. We also

weren't supposed to teach them. That was hard because those immigrants in France were the friendliest people and the most receptive. Anyway, the important thing is that we strive to be worthy so that we are ready no matter when the day comes for us, like in Stanford's case. As Russell M Nelson said in this past conference, "...the only death that is premature is where the person isn't prepared to meet God."

Hair in high school. I don't think it looked "weird." That isn't a very precise term, so I'm not sure what is meant by that. However, there were times when your hair was quite long. ::shrug:: I have never thought that you walked weirdly.

Picture 352 is not of Scott Carroll. I don't know how that kid is standing next to Cooper Noel. The Carrolls did move to Utah except for Jacob. He has been living with the Burgesses and will soon be entering the Marines.

Phones and cancer. There was an announcement on May 31, 2011, by the World Health Organization. Here is a brief quote from a CNN article. "Radiation from cell phones can possibly cause cancer, according to the World Health Organization. The agency now lists mobile phone use in the same "carcinogenic hazard" category as lead, engine exhaust and chloroform." The whole article gave lots of information. The synopsis is that there will continue to be research and it is all still a very controversial subject. For how little we use the cell phone, I'm not worried about it. Also, using the headset greatly reduces the amount of exposure.

So... now new stuff.

Mothers Day Phone Call: We've solved this problem, but I want to relate the story to you. So, after the Mothers Day telephone call we wondered how much it was going to cost us. I didn't have online access to my Fairpoint account before the call so I hadn't been able to even find out what calling rate to Brazil was. Fairpoint's website is really lame. It publishes no rate info on anything. So, we made the call assuming that since it was on a weekend, a Sunday afternoon, and we dialed the call to a landline telephone number that the cost would be somewhat reasonable, maybe a dollar a minute.

Well, the Fairpoint bill came in the mail and when I opened it up I was shocked to see that the 68 minute telephone call to Brazil cost \$405.47, almost six dollars per minute! At first I was just going to suck it up and pay the bill. I looked into how much it would have cost using Sprint. The international long distance plan there would have been a \$4 per month charge and then 15 cents per minute for the call.

Well, Joyce kept urging me to call Fairpoint and complain about this outrageous bill. So, I did it in two steps. First, early last week I called Fairpoint customer support and

"Rachel" helped me get online access to my account. With online account access I looked to see if that provided better rate information. It didn't. I was able to see my account and the services I that we had, but there was still very little information about rates. I did find info about their three different international long distance plans, but it only stated the monthly charge.

The second step was this past Friday. Following Joyce's gentle but continuous urgings, I called customer support again and explained my shock at the charges and how I had been unable to find any information online and how I wished I had used my cell phone because six dollars per minute was outrageous. Then I asked, "So, what can you tell me?" There was silence for several seconds and then the customer service rep, Sandra Rogers, said that she wasn't authorized to make any adjustments to my bill and that I would have to talk to her supervisor. I was put on hold for about three minutes and then she came back. She said that if I signed up for the \$5 per month international long distance plan that Fairpoint would retroactively apply that to our previous bill. That would save us \$377.04 and the call would only be 17 cents per minute for 68 minutes, which is \$11.56 plus the \$5 monthly fee. Well, that was a no-brainer, so I said yes! So, instead of \$405.47 the call was now only \$16.56. A happy ending.

I'm leaving the international long distance plan in place while you are on your mission so that if there is ever a need to call for any reason that we will be able to just pick up the phone and call.

The Ricky Nelson band was supposed to play at an outdoor gig this past Saturday. Unfortunately it started raining early Saturday morning and became quite heavy. The whole thing was cancelled. I have been practicing quite a bit the past several weeks since I got my new tenor saxophone. I have yet to use it in an actual concert. I guess the first time will be the July 3rd Merrimack Band concert at Abbey Griffin Park.

Shortly after I bought my new tenor saxophone I ordered a book "The Saxophone Manual" through Barnes and Noble. It is a really good book all about how the saxophone works and how to maintain and repair it. I've been reading through it and have learned a lot. Yesterday I was able to do some work on Stanford's alto saxophone. There were some pads that were leaking that needed to be adjusted. There was also a spring that was not in its slot. I also spent a couple hours cleaning the keys and body using cotton cue tips. There is more I want to do later on it in order to get it into as good of condition as I can do.

Yesterday Julia was sustained and set apart as the Miamaid class president. Her counselors are Melanie Nelson and Tracy Cole with Emily McFadden as secretary.

The seminary students were all recognized yesterday in sacrament meeting. The

received their certificates of completion. There were also certificates for perfect attendance, which Julia received. She didn't miss a single day the whole year, which is quite impressive. Julia also received the "Scripture Scholar" award, which involved memorizing all 25 scripture mastery scriptures, at least 80% attendance, reading the entire D&C, and naming the First Presidency and the Quorum of the 12 in seniority order. Your little sister is doing very well.

Yesterday after the meeting block Brother Noel, Brother Silvestro and I gave Brother John Cole a blessing. He is having surgery today to remove his prostate, which has cancer. If I remember correctly, John's father died of prostate cancer, so John has had regular checkups over the years monitoring this situation. Please keep him in your prayers. Brother Silvestro said this type of robotic surgery has a 97% success rate. Those seem like pretty good odds, but still, that's 3% that don't work.

PICTURES:

Heather and I walk everyday at noon as you know. There is new construction going on where Hill Side Avenue connects with Route 62. There are two existing homes. Last week one of them was suddenly 8 feet in the air floating there. The first picture is the floating house with Heather standing in front. Yes, she is holding an umbrella, not that it was raining, but to protect herself from the sun. Last week we both used our umbrellas on our walk, copying what you do. I think you are very wise to use an umbrella to limit your exposure.

The Blanchette twins were born last week. Ari was born on Monday, June 6th, and Ephraim was born on Tuesday, June 7th. Both are very healthy. The went home on Thursday. Sister Blanchette and the twins stayed home Sunday, but Casey and two of the older girls came to church. I've attached 5 pictures of that event that I downloaded from Facebook.

I'm off to work now. I love you and am proud of you. Continue being diligent in your efforts and the Lord will bless you.

Love,

Dad

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John R Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>
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6 attachments

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352K

Ari_and_Ephraim_Blanchette.jpg

41K

Ari_Blanchette-1.jpg

74K

Ari_Blanchette-2.jpg

68K

Ari_Blanchette-3.jpg

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Ephraim_Blanchette-1.jpg

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