



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

A letter from Dad: 20 June 2011

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Sun, Jun 19, 2011 at 11:00 PM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

Cc: joyce@larsen-family.us

Hello Dear Phillip,

Thanks very much for the kind Fathers Day wishes. It's nice to hear those sentiments. I have tried to be a good father. Over the years I've made some mistakes, and I think about them from time to time and feel some shame over them. However, thankfully the atonement makes it possible to be forgiven for those mistakes.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Cell phones. Proximity to the brain is the leading factor. Using a headset gets the RF energy away from the head. Even holding the phone an inch away is supposed to lessen exposure. Using the phone when the number of signal bars is really low forces the phone to use more power to connect to the cell phone tower. That increases exposure. Young children are more at risk because their skulls aren't as thick or fully developed. It is less of concern for adults. Length of call time is a factor. You probably don't make very long calls. That reduces exposure.

Ricky's emails concentrate on a more narrow description of things and don't really explain much of what he is doing on a day to day basis. You probably have spiritual experiences throughout the week. You probably capture those in your journal more than in the emails. I think it is unwise to try to compare mission experiences based on what you read in a short email. I think if you do your best and work hard each day and try to use your time well, that is what the Lord expects from you. I recognize much growth in you over the past 9 months. It is wonderful to see. You're doing great. Keep at it. :)

I hope your teeth are okay. Brushing and flossing is the best preventative care you can do. It is possible that you have inherited your Mom's softer teeth, making them more prone to cavities. If that is the case, you will always have to be more diligent in your care, just like your Mom has always been. If she hadn't been so careful, she would have lost all her teeth by now. She would sure look weird!

We went the package to the same address that the letters have gone to, but to President Dias like you told us in the email some time ago. Since you have been getting the letters, I have to assume that the address is correct. Hopefully the package will arrive soon.

NEW STUFF

This week as seemed to fly by for me. Here it is Sunday night and it feels like I was just doing this, writing an email to you.

I have attached pictures. We had the missionaries over for dinner Saturday evening. It was great having them here. On Sunday we had the annual Fathers Day celebration. I was honored and received three new white shirts, two green shirts, and two green ties. In addition to that, Heather mended the pockets on two of my long sleeved shirts and will mend the pockets on two short sleeve shirts that were in the mending pile for over two years. I also got candy. :)

"The" Rachel brought her flute over on Saturday and Sunday. I played around with it for a few hours trying to figure it out. I think I'd like to learn how to play the flute. I was able to get some notes out of it and go up and down the scales. It is tricky though and will take some practice. However, for right now I'm concentrating on the music for the July 3rd concert. I spent several hours over the weekend working on song after song. It is somewhat discouraging that I can't seem to get them perfect. It just takes some much repetition to burn some of the runs into muscle memory.

Joyce, Heather and I went to the temple Saturday morning for a 9AM session. The temple is now closed for cleaning until the first week of July.

This past Friday I went to the Travel Clinic and got vaccinations for my upcoming Egypt trip. It was somewhat amusing to me to realize that you had been there about a year ago getting your own shots in preparation for your mission. It never occurred to me at the time that I would be doing the same thing a year later. I still don't know when my trip will be. Carl still hasn't gone to Egypt, which he had planned on doing 3.5 weeks ago. So, I'm not holding my breath about it.

I purchased our airplane tickets for our trip to New Mexico. We will leave on Friday, July 15th, and return on Saturday July 23rd. Emmy will fly back with us. Julia and Emmy will attend EFY the Monday after we get back. Then the week after that they will be at YW camp at Camp Zion. That ends August 6th. Then Emmy will stay with us until August 16th and then fly back to start school on August 18th. It promises to be a very fun time for Julia and Emmy to be together for almost a month.

I finished listening to General Conference for the 5th time. I think I'm done with that for awhile. I also listened to the PofGP for the second time and started in on the BofM. I'm around 2 Nephi 22. I'll probably get the latest Ensigns on there that I haven't gone through yet.

I flubbed up the sacrament hymn today in sacrament meeting. It was a longer one and I lost track of which verse we were on. I thought we were done, so I lowered the pedal and was in position to play the tag line like I always do. Then Sister Shinn started another verse! My fingers were on completely wrong notes. I stumbled a couple of beats into the verse then stopped, looked up, said, "Let's try that again" and then waited for Sister Schinn to start the verse over. I don't mess up like that very often. The last big flub was when Sister Eberhard was still leading the music and I started playing the wrong hymn for the closing song. That was quite funny.

Well, the hour grows late again. I have a periodontal appointment in the morning at 7:30 AM so I'd better send this off tonight so that it will be waiting for you.

I love you and am grateful that you have this foundational experience of serving a full time mission. This is a great opportunity. I pray for you daily. I also put your name in the temple yesterday. People always ask how you're doing. Because you send such good emails we're able to share your experiences. Keep the faith and keep doing your best.

Love,

Dad

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John R Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>
<http://larsen-family.us>

18 attachments



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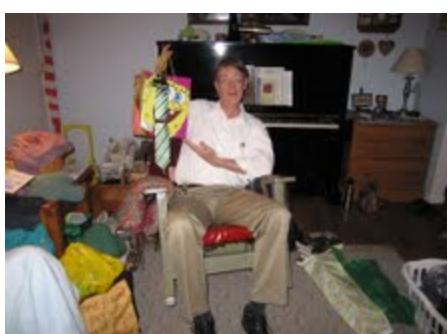
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