



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

Happy Monday!

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

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

Hello, Dear Elder Phillip Larsen!

Freuliche Montag! I don't know how to say that in Portuguese just yet, so I'll use a different foreign language :). The next emails Dad and I send will be from New Mexico, since we leave on Friday. Maybe Julia will write one as well.

Dad told you about the missionaries coming by yesterday. They asked how you were doing, and I told them really well, then, so I wouldn't have to try to remember your last email, I brought the laptop into the living room and read it to them. They really liked it, said it was a good letter. Everyone is impressed with how much you write (so am I, and keep writing like you are!), and I think it may help them to think of things to say in their own letters. You write a good combination of missionary experiences, spiritual thoughts, and Brasilian culture and experiences. I'm so glad you're enjoying your mission, in spite of some homesickness sometimes. Oh, and your end greeting . . . I was able to figure that out with the help of my Portuguese/English dictionary. Cool! ("Until next Monday", isn't that right?)

This last week has been really busy for me. Good, but quite full. Dad told you about Monday, the 4th of July. It was a fun time, and I'm glad Bradford likes to visit with us, and wanted us there. And I'm glad it worked out that Heather left CT when she did so she could join us, and glad that we left the house late so we got her phone call and were able to make that work. It felt really good that all of the kids in our family who could be with us were with us. And the other two, you and Stanford, are in your appointed places. How did the kite flying go?

Tuesday we had a Youth Temple Trip. The Nashua kids met at our house, and we drove down in two cars, not the two that were originally going to drive (our Saturn and Cheryl Potter's car), but two others (Rackliffe and Estes). It was a good trip, but with about half the amount of kids as usual, because of summer travel, and also because of many of the Young Men doing some scuba class in preparation for a trip to FL next year (maybe for their High Adventure?). I did the towels for part of the time, and tended the YW in the dressing room for the rest. And they sang in the chapel, which was really nice.

Wednesday I had RS Presidency meeting in Littleton, which was a little sad because it is likely the last one with Sis. Nancy Carl there. She will be called to something in her own ward, and I need to find another counselor. I don't like changes! I need to continue to make it a matter of prayer to find who the Lord wants me to have as counselor.

On Wednesday afternoon Julia was signed up to be a "mother's helper" to Jenn Blanchette, and Rachel and I were going to Target, but I realized Julia does not have the experience to be a real help to Jenn, so Rachel and I went with, and had a good time with it. Amber Fox-McNeil and her daughter also came, and the five of us were kept busy with the twins and the other kids and the house. I can only imagine how it must be for Jenn and Casey other times when they are on their own. After that we went to Target. Rachel is doing a major cleaning of her room in preparation for her friend to visit and sleep over, and wanted bins for storage. I had some things to get, too.

Thursday I chaperoned Youth Conference, which was service projects in the afternoon. Julia and I arrived at about noon and we ate sack lunches and listened to Bro. Newey talk and also Sis. Gold, and some of the youth. Then we divided into groups for the service projects. Julia and I were in the same group and went with a bunch of kids and Sis. Cooprider and Bro. Christensen (I drove the van full of people) to a baseball field close by the church that I never knew was there. We painted fencing around the baseball field, the posts white and the rails green. In the sun, all afternoon. The leaders pretty much made sure the kids had water, poured paint into their containers, and picked up trash, and otherwise supervised. Also, there was a new convert, the YW Secretary from Nashua 2nd Ward, who is just 20 years old and had been dating someone from the Littleton Ward who is now on a mission. I got to talk with her for a bit, and it was awesome. After, I stayed for Brasilian BBQ that the Lowell Ward put on, then came home for the evening.

I took Julia back to the church on Friday morning at 6am, then enjoyed two days of solitude and getting things done around home. I wished I could have gone to the Pageant, it sounded so wonderful, but I felt good about being the support person so the Hawkins could be in the pageant. We're taking care of their animals and yard while they are gone.

Dad told you about Rachel going to Pageant, and it was so nice to see how excited she was about it! And he gave you Jacob Carroll's address. Jake posted also that his name should be written: RCT Carroll, Jacob D. Also, no packages or foodstuffs, only letters. And only write the address, etc. (I'm guessing no artwork or clever stickers and such on the envelope). When I just looked up what he said on FB, I noticed your post that Dad did with the profile picture change, and Shani also posted a comment: "Shani Schow Check out my stud of a cousin!" I thought you'd like to know that :)

How is your companion's father, the one who had a heart attack?

Oh, Dad told you about how he and I went to the Brasilian BBQ on Canal Street. It was fun to be able to actually speak Portuguese, just a tiny bit! The guy asked me to come back a lot, so he could practice his English, because he speaks Portuguese all day long, and so I could learn more Portuguese. Cool! Muito bem! (Maybe I spelled that right :).

I'm heading out now to knit with Anne Senter. It is 96 outside, and humid, in honor of you in Teresina now. And tomorrow will be similar. I love you! And I'm so pleased with what you're doing, and pleased you're enjoying your mission. I pray every day for your safety, and that you will have joy and satisfaction in the work of the Lord, and have your testimony increase day by day. I think those things are happening.

Mit Liebe,
Mutti

Love,
Mom