

John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

Brasil July 18, 2011

Phillip Larsen <phillip.larsen@myldsmail.net>

Mon, Jul 18, 2011 at 3:39

PM

To: John@larsen-family.us, joyce@larsen-family.us, Anki Larsen <shadrach.anki@gmail.com>, Bradford Larsen
 <julia@larsen-family.us>

Querido Familia,

So it is yet again p-day! This week has been pretty interesting... a lot has happened. This past week I hit 10 months in the mission already O_o

First off though: Dad I need to renew my debit card, it expires the end of August, Also do you have the addresses for mailing packages and letters on my facebook? If they don't send packages to that address that I gave you with the names and everything the package will be returned to the states. Just a thought that came to me to let you know.

But now for the email:

So this week has been eventful, yet also slow, and the work has not been moving along too fast. We met some awesome people last Sunday, but this entire week we did not get to talk to them and they weren't at church which was a bumber. Also, turned out that practically every person we tried to visit was not at home which after a while gets annoying.

A tragic event happened with Sandra, her Uncle was murdered this past week, but one thing really impressed me about how she handled it all. Her family is catholic, except her, and her cousin. Turns out that her uncle was a less active member too, but a death in the family is one thing that people do not expect, especially when it happens in one day. Sandra kept strong to her faith. She has been using this event to try and help her family accept the gospel and start coming to church. She brought her mom, and one of her cousins to church (She and her cousin went for both sessions of church at our building) It was pretty awesome. Especially if you knew how her mom was before. She looked very happy, and as they left she said "I'll be here next week" That is an exciting event, however it is sad what was required for her to have a change of heart.

Another cool experience that happened was that Sandra decided one day to put

1 of 3

together a family meeting where she would talk about the tree of life and read some scriptures and sing a song that is in the back of the temple edition of the ensign. She was very nervous and said a prayer asking for help. Well we decided we would go visit her, and when we arrived they just ended the opening prayer of the little meeting. It was a neat experience.

Question: What is the difference between the Ensign and the Liahona? (Besides different languages.) I was curious because the Liahona is also in English.

Another thing that happened this week was a visit with Jasminy, a less active member who lives in our area. We have been visiting her regularly to try and help her stay strong in the church. We talked with her for a little, and then asked if she would be going to church and she said she isn't going to go back. That wasn't what I wanted to hear. I then asked if she has been praying. Again, No. I was sad, but thinking and praying for some way that we could help her realize that she needs the church in her life. Elder Alonso and I testified and said everything that we felt we should and then finally left hoping that she would go to church the next day. It is sad to see someone leave the church, or want to leave after they have felt the happiness that comes from the gospel but then with the presures of life they make the decision to cut a few things and the one thing that they cut is going to church that will help them through those challenges.

Another really cool thing that happened was Johnny, a youth that I baptized, this past week passed the sacrament. When I saw that he was dressed in a white shirt, and tie, and that he took out the earrings in his ears it just hit me hard how he truely wanted to be baptized. I also had the opportunity and privelege of blessing the sacrament, for the first time in Português this past Sunday. Only had to say it once! :)

So Transfers... yeah... I don't really know. Our mission here has a little thing that happens where we don't know what is happening. So I don't know if I will find out tonight if I will be leaving or what is going to happen, but either way I made the efforts to take pictures with people here and say goodbye. It isn't fun. I really love the ward here. I am not sure though what is going to happen. I'll know soon though.

Gmail - Brasil July 18, 2011

Awesome pictures! Mountain view of epicness! Pretty awesome looking restaurant too... Brakes, pegs... Lucky! Have you taken it off any sweet jumps? Take pictures of their house too, I haven't seen inside it yet. Look forward to hearing about more of your adventures in New Mexico. From the small town of Hobbs I enjoyed my stay there for 2 months. Lots of good memories in the TLM.

To the Wilsons:

What is up!!

How are "y'all" doing? Do a lot of people say that up on the North side of New Mexico?

What have you all been up to? Congrats on getting your GED Miranda! Huzzah! How was your 4th of July? Mine was pretty normal... I was a bit sad because every other day, seriously every single other day there is someone shooting off fireworks, but on the 4th, nothing! It was pretty funny. Have any sweet firework show in Albuquerque?

The church building there is not your building that was flooded right? How far away was that restaurant from your house? Do you still have the ants flying into the rooms from the vents in the ceiling? How many people live in Albuquerque? Are there a billion trucks there? In Hobbs everyone and their dog had a truck. Or a corvette... hah. Are you guys all moved in now? Or is that still coming along?

Andrew, we were at this one less active member's house, they have a Ps3 and an awesome looking game, don't remember the name but it was a steampunk rpg. Don't know how good it is but looked cool.

running out of time, sorry about the shortness, talk to you later!

Hope you have a good week. I'm doing good, learning every day. The church is true. Jesus Christ is our savior and redeemer, and the work and glory of God is truely to bring the immortality and eternal life of man.

Love you guys, miss you, [Quoted text hidden]

3 of 3