



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

Re: Mom - 8/22/2011

Joyce Larsen <linenlady9@gmail.com>

Sun, Aug 28, 2011 at 10:24 PM

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

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

Dear Elder Phillip Larsen,

I love your emails so much. I look forward to them every week, and they are the highlight of my Mondays. I'm not sure if we'll have power back by tomorrow or not. Heather said that as of 8pm, there were 83,000 customers of PSNH without power, and we are one of them. Rachel has power back at her house. And Heather has power, too. Right now we have the generator running, but it will be off all night, and not on most of the day tomorrow. I'm glad I caught up the laundry! Ok, I just checked the PSNH website, and it is confusing to me. And the number Dad gave you is different than the one I just gave you. Anyway, we do not have power. Well, we do, but it's because of the generator. Yay for the generator!

My Portuguese is coming along, though it has been slower during the summer. I listen to the audio lessons when I'm at the gym on the treadmill, also when I'm in the car alone. And in the summer I often have other people in the car with me, and though I've been going to the gym, I've often skipped the treadmill in favor of a walk later in the day, which is nice this time of year, but it means no Portuguese. But I listened yesterday to almost a full lesson. I need to do more with the reading, I think, because some of what I hear I can say better if I know how it is spelled. Also, I don't recognize written words, a lot. But I understood most of what you said in the email to me! And in the language lessons, I can understand the conversations better than I can say them, which is often the case, I think, with a language.

I have a few ideas for Christmas presents for you. If you have suggestions, please let me know. I am collecting things, too, for your next box, which may be sooner than Christmas. How are your socks holding up? Do you need any more? Or more of anything else? the Banks boys had their Mom send them deodorant, but they had some sort of reaction to what they could buy in Brazil. Maybe you can find what you need just fine in the stores down there. And yes, I would LOVE a Christmas package! I don't want you to worry about it, or spend time shopping when you need to be teaching, but as you go around on P-day, I would love it if you collect a thing or two that is Brasilian, maybe some lace or whatever the area is known for (I would like that, plus it is lightweight to mail). And something for the others, too, of course :).

Oh, that reminds, me, we got the CD's you sent! Lots of cool pictures, and I kept wanting to ask you about things on them. You have lots of bugs in Brasil. And it was interesting to see your legs with the rash. It looked very uncomfortable, and I'm glad you're better from that.

Rachel has spent the last couple of nights with us. She will be at her own home for tonight. And she will be going back to school, moving in on Labor Day (5 Sept). She figured out that her records are in the Manchester Ward now, and she was getting emails from the Bishop in Manchester about church being cancelled for today. It has been nice having her around. I think that no matter what happens in the future with you and Rachel, she will always be a friend of the family.

Dad told you about Geoff and Kelly and Lydia being sealed yesterday. We weren't able to attend, and I felt bad about that. They posted a picture of them outside the Temple, and they looked very happy. I'm so proud of them, and so happy for them!

Dad also told you about Winston visiting the vet again. They took blood and urine to check for things older cats get (loss of body weight is one of the first signs of some of these diseases), like diabetes, heart problems, hypothyroidism, and kidney disease. I'm a bit worried about him, because of this, though he is eating fine, and acting fine, though not as active as he used to be. I'll keep letting you know of how he is, and though he is a cat, maybe you could keep him in your prayers. I'm sure the Lord wouldn't mind. He cares for His creatures, and He cares for us and the things that matter to us.

Beverly ended up not having her surgery. She had a CT scan a day or so before, which showed spots on a lung, which is not good. They did a biopsy on Thursday to find out if the cancer had spread (apparently it is common for people with her kind of cancer to have it spread to the lung). I have not heard what the biopsy turned up. But please keep her in your prayers as well, and please write to her, sooner rather than later. She said in her brief email that the surgery is postponed/cancelled because of the spots on her lung. I'll let you know what happens with Beverly, too.

One nice thing that is happening is that Maggie is getting married on October 1st. She has been living with her boyfriend, and now they will make things official, which is a very good thing, I think. They sent out a FB invitation, and I have not yet replied, because it the same day as General Conference and I want to be there for that. But we'll at least send a card and well wishes if we don't go to the wedding that day.

I was able to donate blood on Friday. My Red Cross card indicated that the last time I donated was August of 2010, so I need to do better, and donate a bit more often. They keep sending reminder cards for you to donate, too. It's kind of funny.

Bro. Henkel came to home teach us tonight, which Dad mentioned in his email to you. He said he needed to write to you. He asked how long you had been out, and we said almost a year. He said that now, newer missionaries are looking up to you as the example of how to be a missionary, and how to enjoy your mission. And he said that this is a unique time in your life, and it will be the only time it will be like this, where you don't have to worry about your living situation or job or whatever, but just do your things day by day that you are doing, teaching and finding, and bearing testimony. He said to just enjoy each day of your mission, which I know you strive to do, and it sounds like you are doing.

You asked last week if we would be coming to get you from your mission. I would dearly love to do that, but a couple of months ago when I was meeting with Pres. Cooprider, he mentioned that the Church discourages that from happening. He said it is because you are still a set-apart missionary until you see him when you get home and he releases you, and parents coming to pick up their missionaries can be distracting from the missionary work. Also, it sets apart the "haves" from the "have nots", meaning those who can afford such a trip from those who cannot. But he mentioned that some missionaries (and we've had several who have served in Nashua do this) will visit with their families months or a year or so after their missions. So, maybe you and I (and Dad if he wants to) could plan a visit to Texas and/or Brazil after your mission. I would LOVE to do this with you. But not in the summer! I have a hard enough time with the "winter weather" you have.

Well, time to turn off the generator for the night. I'm not sure if I will be able to write to you in the morning, but we'll see. If the power is back on, and I can think of something more to say, I will! But if not, please know how much I love you, and I'm proud of you! I miss you, too, but it was so nice to get those pictures it was almost like I could be there with you for a little bit.

The Church is true, and we're so blessed to have the fulness of the gospel. And what a blessing to have the scriptures, and the Gift of the Holy Ghost! Keep on studying and praying, and know that the Lord will guide you.

Love,
Mom

P.S. Yes, I did sent that email to Priscilla, minutes after I read it. I didn't hear back from her, but I'm assuming she got it because I also didn't get an email back saying it had not gone through.

On Mon, Aug 22, 2011 at 3:30 PM, Phillip Larsen <phillip.larsen@myldsmail.net> wrote:

Dear Mom,

Thanks for the email and all the updates! I enjoy receiving emails every week too. It is a nice thing, communication is a real blessing.

How is your Portuguese going? Como esta seu Português? Você esta praticando muito? Os verbos são mais difíces... Also writing in Português. I need to get better at my writing and reading. I can talk well.

I will think about Christmas present ideas this next week and let you know next week. Also, do you want me to send anything for Christmas to you guys? Let me know as well if you want a package.

Did you send that email to Priscilla? I wanted to send a letter to them and I have it all written but I didn't get to send it this week.

That is really awesome that Gideon's team won. Lots of marriages, and lots of news too. It is nice to hear from everyone though. How is Geoff doing? Still has been quite some time since I heard from him. Also Rachel. I haven't heard from her for a while and I feel bad because it has been a while, or I feel like it has been a while since I wrote to her. I have a letter, but Teresina lacks post offices nearby and we can't go to Centro every day because that takes time and money.

Well hope you have a good week. Enjoy the incoming autumn weather! Its my favorite season! :D

I miss you mom, love you.

Love,

Elder Phillip Larsen

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