



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

A letter from Dad: 12 Sept 2011

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Sun, Sep 11, 2011 at 9:42 PM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

Cc: joyce@larsen-family.us

Hello Dear Phillip,

Still need the 3 digit security code from the back of your debit card.

I did a bunch of work on all your pictures this past week. I got them all split up into a separate folder for each date and I rotated them as needed so they are all right side up. I have them all arranged by city of service and chronologically within each city. They are on my webserver, but they are not public. There is no public link to get at them. I've shared the private link with family members so they can enjoy looking at them. Since they are your pictures, I don't know if it is okay for you to look at them or not. Here is the link in case you are allowed to look at your own pictures:

http://larsen-family.us/pictures/phillip_mission

I'm writing this on Sunday, so it is "9 11", the 10th anniversary of that event that changed the world. So far as of almost 9:00 PM there hasn't been any terrorist attack in the USA. There was a large car bombing in Afghanistan near a military base that injured 70 US soldiers and killed two civilians. None of the injuries to the soldiers is life threatening. I was fearful that there might be some kind of attack and I'm thankful that nothing has happened.

Attached are three pictures and a map. This past Monday was Labor Day, so Heather and I had the day off. As you know, I had arranged with Bradford to go on a bike ride. We went to the "Fells Reservation" not too far from his apartment. I never knew this place even existed. It is kind of hidden just like Mine Falls Park is hidden. People drive through it all the time and don't even know that it is there. It is the same with this place. It straddles I93 about where the Stoneham Zoo is. You've driven through it many times and not known it. The trails were somewhat more difficult than expected. Bradford thought it would be more like the carriage roads in Acadia National Park, but it wasn't at all. Bradford's gear shifter for the front sprocket doesn't work, so he is stuck in one gear up front. That made it a challenge. We rode a little over 6 miles in a big loop around the lakes, and it was a real workout. We were both sweating up a storm. Bradford is somewhat out of shape and got tired out. I'm 55 and I got tired out

too. :)

Joyce, Heather, and Julia came down to Bradford's apartment later in the afternoon after we were done with the bike ride. They then went to the store and bought dinner which we had with Bradford. This was very similar to what we did on the 4th of July. It was a fun time. We played one of Heather's new games that she recently bought, "Dominion". I did much better than I thought I would and came in second after your Mom. I'm not very good at games.

Last Thursday, Sept 8th, was our anniversary. I'm sure it is noted on your calendar, so you were probably aware of it. We have been married for 32 years now. That doesn't seem possible! We were busy with meetings on Thursday so we celebrated on Friday by going to The Mileaway restaurant in Milford, NH. We like that place a lot and typically go there on our anniversary unless we're on a bike trip to Martha's Vineyard. We would like to do another bike trip and are thinking of doing that in the spring.

Priesthood Leadership Training was held Saturday evening. The Aaronic Quorum presidencies were invited to attend. It was a good meeting with lots of interaction and discussion in small groups and then as a whole assembly. They showed a couple of videos from youth.lds.org website. One was about a young man in a small branch in Florida. He was the only priest in the branch and felt lonely. So, he invited his friend to come to church with him. That friend ended up getting baptised and then invited one of his friends. It kind of snowballed with each new young man inviting other friends. It quickly grew into a quorum with 26 members in it! The video was cool showing how their love for each other and willingness to simply invite friends to attend resulted in this. The other video was "The Same Jersey" which is about two young men in Thatcher Arizona. They had been friends for years after meeting while playing baseball. As they grew older they ended up going to different high schools. Each became the starting quarter back on their teams, which were arch rivals, the football event of the year. One boy was a member of the church and wondered what he should be doing to live up to D&C 4, which they recited every week in Priests quorum. He decided that he needed to invite his friend to come to church. There was no pressure and the invitations would come in the form of text messages Sunday mornings asking if he wanted to go to church. The boy started taking the discussions from sister missionaries and they challenged him to baptism. He accepted and the date was set for Sept 4, 2010, the day after the big rivalry football game. So, the day after the game one quarterback baptised the other. A few months later the new convert baptised one of his friends that he had invited to come to church. These were awesome videos. We're planning on watching them for FHE.

President Coopridge read from his son Joe's email. Joe is in the MTC right now. You know what that is like with lots of General Authorities coming through to train and motivate. Joe said they had just finished singing the hymn for the devotional "Come

Listen to a Prophet's Voice". The missionaries were all wondering who would be speaking that day and were kind of kidding each other that it would be President Monson. Well, shortly after that Elder Jeffrey R Holland came in. The missionaries were all smiling and excited to hear him, but Joe said that Elder Holland didn't look happy at all. He looked weighed down with some burden. He spoke with them and at one point in his talk he mentioned how a recent woman convert had said that the only people she knew that were pretty much perfect were the missionaries. Elder Holland said, "Don't any of you ever do anything to make her think otherwise!" He then talked about sacrifices that are made by missionaries to serve. He said some give everything, some give their lives. From that comment Joe and the other missionaries knew that something had happened, but they didn't know what. The next day they learned that a sister missionary serving in Utica, New York, was killed that day in an automobile accident. That happened last week. I hadn't heard anything about it until Saturday's meeting. President Coopride said that he was sure that Elder Holland had just heard the news before he came into the meeting, which was why he was late. He felt the burden and sorrow for the sister. President Coopride then looked at all of us and said that we as leaders are looked up to by members of the church in our wards and branches. He said that he never wants to hear that anyone of us has done something to make the members think we are less than "perfect". It is important to always be striving to do what is right.

I'm happy that you have a new area of service. It is hard to leave friends behind, but it is also a way to grow and meet even more people. I hope that you keep "living your language" so that you improve. It is tempting to speak English, but don't. It looks like you are on the coast. That will be a neat experience. When I worked at ATC from 1991 to 2001 there were areas in that building where I would hit my head if I weren't thinking. Some doorways in the basement lab area were short and I had to duck. There were also beams that were too low. After many years of working there it became second nature to duck at the right places and I rarely hit my head. Hopefully you'll develop those habits too.

Well... it's time for bed. Our schedule is earlier now that seminary has started again. The goal is to be in bed at 10:00 PM and turn the lights out by 10:15 PM. That gives Joyce 7 hours. I think we were successful once last week, but we're doing better.

Send another DVD of pictures when you have the chance. I haven't posted any pictures on Facebook yet. I suppose I could select some to put up there. I know which ones are appropriate, but I don't know how to describe them.

Love you!

Dad

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

4 attachments

IMG_0703.JPG
273K



IMG_0704.JPG
266K



IMG_0705.JPG
317K



Fells_Reservation_Map.jpg
530K