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Email from Mom 9-12-11

Joyce Larsen <linenlady9@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 12, 2011 at 10:40 AM

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

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

Hello, Dear Elder Phillip Larsen!

Once again, I'm writing while you are writing. I guess I need to do the writing on Sunday, or much earlier on Monday morning. Do you write from an Internet Cafe again? And do you write before you go do other things? What other things do you do on P-day? I'm thinking laundry, grocery shopping, cleaning your apartment, and whatever sightseeing you might do. Just be careful in what you do, be wise, so you will be safe!

When you were transferred, how did you get to Parnaiba? Car? Bus? Train? Just curious how the logistics worked. Also, you mentioned that your companion, Elder Ribeiro, comes from a pretty cool place, the Amazon, Manaus. I want to correct you . . . it is a HOT place! lol That is where the Temple is that has the boat dock to it. It would be neat to go there sometime.

A couple of things Dad did not mention: we had lots of rain this past week, for several days, about 7" worth. That was the remnant of a tropical storm, Lee. I hadn't even realized it was part of a tropical storm until the last day. But today is beautiful and the weather is starting to be more autumn-like. We have one tiny maple tree growing on the hill that has red leaves. I'm not sure how it got there, or what to do with it, because it is beautiful but needs to be somewhere else, I think. My secretary, Judy Peterson, and I talked about it yesterday when she came by for us to drive to Peterborough together. She suggested moving it next year.

Yesterday was Peterborough's Branch Conference. It was a really nice day. In the lesson I gave in Relief Society, I was talking about how we care for people one by one, and minister to them in that way, and how the Lord does things like that, too. I talked about how people are baptized one by one, and all of the ordinances for the dead are done one by one. Pres. Coopridge made a comment in the lesson that he learned that for each person whose work is being done in the Temple, the person's name is spoken 23 times, for all of the ordinances. That's pretty cool.

In the evening, Heather and Julia and I worked a puzzle on the kitchen table. It was fun to be here with them, doing a quiet activity with time to talk and relax. The puzzle

is completed and is now our new table runner :). We should take a picture of it for you before we take it apart.

Another thing I thought of that you might not know: we have two LDS Presidential candidates, Mitt Romney, and Jon Huntsman, who was the governor of UT. So the church is in the news more because of them.

Can you get any recipes for some of the desserts and meals you've had that you especially like? Or a cookbook or something? I'll see what I can get from that blog I mentioned, also there is a cookbook I can get that was written by some LDS people who lived in Brasil for work for awhile. That might have some recipes in it using ingredients that we can get here. But if you can get any recipes, that would be really great, too.

I had my physical and the lady who did it said I have the labwork of a teenager! So that's good news. My cholesterol, and blood pressure, and everything are really good. Plus, she was pleased that I wear my seatbelt, and don't drink, and do exercise. All good things.

Karen Ogden comes home this Thursday. I plan to go to the airport to meet her, and I'll also go to her ward on Sunday to hear her homecoming talk. Cool stuff! Missionaries are great! Julia is getting more and more excited to serve a mission, too, though that is a number of years away for her. But she talked about it recently and was figuring out how she would work it, how she would go to school for a bit, then work to save money for a mission. That girl is a planner.

Well, I want to be sure you get an email from me this week, though I think you might have one from last week, too. I love you and I'm so pleased with what you are doing! How blessed we are to have the gospel, and how wonderful that you can teach the people of Brasil!

Love,
Mom