



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

A letter from Dad: 19 Sept 2011

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Sun, Sep 18, 2011 at 10:38 PM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

Cc: joyce@larsen-family.us

Hello Dear Phillip,

FACEBOOK STUFF:

Friend request from Junior Lima. See attached picture.

On your one year anniversary Jesse posted the following to your wall:

Jesse Parent

Hello good sir. My facebook status on this day last year reminded me that you've been away for a year already! I hope all is well down in Brazil, and you'll be back here again before you know it. Maybe we'll all greet you with an army of nerf guns =P

NEW STUFF FROM THE PAST WEEK:

Well... It is Sunday evening again. Amazing how quickly the week seems to pass and I find myself writing another email.

I really enjoyed your email last week. That was wonderful to hear that Oseias got baptized. The gospel does change lives for the better. I'm glad you were able to give a talk in sacrament meeting with so little advance notice. Your language skill must be improving. Keep working at it. Study some every day.

I spent a lot of time working on music in the evenings. I finished up two songs this week, "Sing Sing Sing" from 1937, and "Take Five", a song that Stanford really liked and had played before in a small group. "Take Five" is in 5/4 time and that's why Andrew Cote in the tribute band piece he wrote put in a large section written in 5/4 time. John Carl said he would like to do that one, so I spent about ten hours getting it as accurate as I could. I've found that the best way to do this is to use Audacity to slow the tempo down to 50% normal speed. The pitch is preserved. It makes it much easier to figure out the timing and the chords being used. It's kind of addicting

working on music. It's hard to pull myself away from it. I'm driven to finish the song, to get it perfect. However, I won't have as much time to work on new stuff because rehearsals will be starting up. I got 7 new songs ready, and that's more than we can possibly get ready. We'll probably only get two at the most ready before the next gig.

Last Wednesday was the annual school open house. Joyce and I both went and met with all of Julia's teachers. Of course they all really like her.

On Thursday Joyce went to the Manchester airport to welcome Karen Ogden home from her mission.

Friday Joyce and I went on a Mall date. We ate dinner in the food court, went in a few stores, then came home and watched an episode of Fraiser. We're slowly making our way through that season's DVDs.

Saturday I had an eyeglass emergency. I was drying my glasses off after my shower and the left lense fell out of the frames. The retaining screw had come out and was lost. I quickly finished up and used my old glasses to see while driving over to the optometrist. Fortunately they had a screw that worked fine. After that I went to Home Depot and bought a new shop vac. Our old one died two weeks ago. It started making really loud noises and then sparks started flying all over the place. I turned it off and carried it outside. On garbage day I put it in the dumpster and away it went. So, we needed a new one, which I picked up.

While at Home Depot I bought some galvanized sheet metal to use on the van. It has some bad rust in a few places. Dennis Hanson passed it this past inspection, but at the time he told me that some work would need to be done to make it pass next year. In my mind that meant I needed to do it like I did on the old nova back in October 1989. So, I pop more pop rivets and sheet metal. I was outside Saturday afternoon getting started. I looked at where the rust was and what I would need to replace. I got down on the ground and was looking at clearance for the drill. I realized that it would be much easier to remove the slider and work on it that way. I analyzed how the slider was held on and determined that by removing 12 bolts I could lift the door off. As I contemplated that the overwhelming desire to NOT DO THE JOB came over me. I started asking myself why I was doing this? I realized that the situation in 2011 is very different than in 1989. Back then we had hardly any money. Finances were very tight. There wasn't money to get the car fixed. So, I did the whole job myself, spending about 67 hours on it every evening and weekend until it was done. The car lasted about three more years after that. However, in 2011 we're not broke. I have money saved up towards a replacement vehicle. The worst case is that we have to replace the van. If it fails inspection in March then I can ask Dennis what exactly needs to be done and see if there is someone that will do an ugly job but one that will pass inspection and make it last a year. If it costs too much then I'll replace the van. I

don't want to spend my time fixing rusty cars. Besides, as I was crawling around on the ground looking at things I realized how hard it was for me to see what I was doing. I kept having to adjust my glasses down my nose and back up my nose. I simply couldn't see! It was very frustrating. So, I put everything away, texted Joyce that I didn't want to do the job, and then worked on music the rest of the day. That was more fun and fulfilling.

Sunday Joyce and I attended Nashua 2nd Ward Sacrament Meeting so we could hear Karen Ogden's home coming talk. It is a wonderful thing to see how much she has grown and how firm her testimony is.

Sunday was also the stake youth fireside. For 14 years old and up there was a "dating panel" where the kids could ask questions about dating. Earlier in the week I received an email from Kemper Ure asking for help with the fireside. It turns out that one of the panel members was now in Provo attending BYU. They wondered if it would be possible to have him still be on the panel by making a Skype video call. I thought about the logistics and decided that it would be possible to do. It is something we've never done before. I got Skype working on our laptop. I gathered cables and supplies on Sunday and went to church about 4pm to set up. After a lot of troubleshooting I was able to get it all working. We used the LCD projector and a screen to set Jacob Berrey up next to the panel. I had an amplifier and speaker set up so he could be heard by everyone in the gym. All the microphones went through a mixer so that I could back feed what was going on. The webcam on our end was aimed at the panel and presenters. When Jacob's face appeared on the screen there was a delightful murmur of recognition that made all the effort worth it. The whole thing went really well technically. He was able to answer several questions. Pulling this technical feat off kind of raised the expectations bar on what we can do in the future. I put in a bunch of time, but that is my calling, Stake Technology Specialist. Magnifying my calling comes in bursts of business. I was glad to help out and it made for a more interesting fireside.

I finished up April Conference mp3s this past week and listened to the September Ensign. I also did 26 sections of the D&C. I'm really looking forward to October Conference in two weeks.

Well, once again it is time for bed. I love you and am proud of you. Keep doing your best and the Lord will bless you.

Love,

Dad

ATTACHED PICTURES:

717: This is the puzzle that Joyce, Heather, and Julia put together on Sunday Sept 11th. I didn't participate. Puzzles are not my forte.

718 to 723: On Tuesday, Sept 13th, the front door was replaced. These pictures show the before, during, and after. Unfortunately, they didn't do the job correctly. The top isn't square. The gap at the hinge side of the door is narrower than the gap at the opposite side. The weather seal on the storm door doesn't make contact. Another problem is that the deadbolt doesn't work. The deadbolt doesn't line up with the striker plate. And a third problem is that they gouged the surface of the top of the frame. I'm not impressed. I called and explained the problems. They said someone would come out this week to fix it. For the price we paid it should have been done right the first time.

736: Karen Ogden came arrived home on Thursday, Sept 15th, exactly one year from the day you started your mission. Joyce went to the airport along with about 20 other people to welcome her home.

538: This may look like an odd picture. It was taken with my cell phone camera and it didn't work very well. There was a really cool spider web in the back of a truck. You can kind of see the spider just above the roof peak of the white house in the back ground. The wind was blowing and the web would move back and forth.

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10 attachments

Junior_Lima.jpg
11K



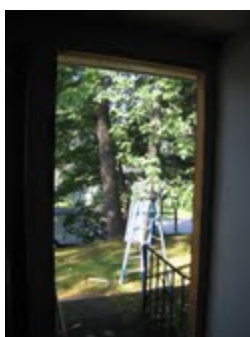
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