



John Larsen &lt;theclaw56@gmail.com&gt;

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## A letter from Dad: 10 Oct 2011

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**John Larsen** <john@larsen-family.us>

Mon, Oct 10, 2011 at 8:57 AM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

To: Phillip Larsen &lt;phillip.larsen@myldsmail.net&gt;

Cc: Joyce Larsen &lt;joyce@larsen-family.us&gt;

Bcc: Rachel Glastetter &lt;glastetter@gmail.com&gt;

**FACEBOOK REQUEST:**

Carla Danielle. (Her picture is just a cartoon, not much help)

Hello Dear Phillip,

Another week has zipped by.

Attached is a picture of Joyce in front of a huge Bible and Book of Mormon. I had never seen these before. This picture is taken in the foyer of the Lowell building on Saturday afternoon. For several years the Lowell Ward has had a "Brazilian BBQ" once a year. It was on Saturday and Joyce and I went to it. We got there near the end, but there was still food and people. What was missing though was beans!

Today, Oct 9th, is your Uncle Doug's birthday. Of course, if you look on your calendar you will see that. He's 59 today. One more year and he will enter the 60s. I'm not too far behind him. How did it happen?

Monday, Oct 10th, will be our annual trek to King Richard's Faire. I'll wander around there wondering why I'm there... again. Pablo isn't there again this year, which is unfortunate, because I enjoyed his show. The regular stuff will be there, the tiger show, the jousting, the guy with the beer stein on his head, the guy running the bellows and making hilts for weapons, the guy making candles, the guy playing the dulcimer, etc. I'm going to take a book this time so I'll have something to do in case I get bored. We will eat at that same buffet on the way home. It will be a nice day with family, but just like last year it will be only five of us.

Due to Rick Nelson being called as bishop, the band is being discontinued under its current name. We were going to do a dance gig on Nov 11th, but it became very difficult to get any rehearsals scheduled and we were running out of time, so we "pulled the plug" and cancelled. The plan is to reform the band with a new name, keyboard player, and lead singer. We hope to do this in November some time so we can get some rehearsals going. I'm itching to play with the group again. We hope to

play for a couple youth dances next year. We will do 45 minute sets with 15 minutes of mp3 of CDs in between. That will give the kids some of their own favorite music and lots of live music.

The Merrimack Concert Band started up last Tuesday. It's good to have that group to play with, even if the music is for the most part quite easy.

Not too much happened this past week, at least nothing is really coming to mind right now. It was the same old routine, wake up, go to the gym, go to work, return home, go to bed, repeat. We have had amazing weather the past few days. Today hit 86 degrees. Tomorrow at the faire should be about the same. I went for a bike ride in Mine Falls Park on Saturday in order to take advantage of the beautiful day. I asked Rachel and Julia if they wanted to ride too, but they said it was too hot.

The van has sprung another water leak. We had tremendous rain the first few days of last week. Joyce said there was a very pronounced drip under the dash on the passenger side of the van. It created quite a puddle. Saturday I attempted to remove the windshield wipers so as to get underneath and see where the leak was, but didn't have the right tools. So, I gave up. The van won't pass inspection in March, so we will be replacing it. The van has been a good vehicle for us. We've had it almost ten years now and gone almost 140,000 miles in it. I hate spending all that money on a replacement vehicle, but it is a necessity. I'll look into a Toyota Sienna minivan.

Saturday, Oct 8th, was the one year anniversary of Tony Eberhard's passing. Joyce and I stopped by Pam Eberhard's house for a few minutes on the way back from the Brazilian BBQ. We wanted her to know that we were thinking about her. She was glad for the visit and glad that we remembered. Pam's mother and brother are visiting from England for about 3 weeks. That has been helpful for her to have them around.

A strange thing happened. Upon arriving at church this morning I went to post the hymn numbers like I always do, but the numbers were all gone, on both boards! Who would take the numbers? There was a partial set in the music closet that provided enough for one board. So weird. Why?

Arial Scott had emergency surgery out in Idaho last week. I talked with Shelly Scott about it today at church. The experience sounded similar to Stanford's, except in Arial's case it really was appendicitis. Arial got to the hospital before the appendix burst, but the doctors thought it might have already burst before they actually did the surgery. There is a 50% mortality rate when the appendix has burst. Arial is doing fine now and improving quickly. She was able to stay out at BYU and continue classes.

I downloaded the mp3s of all the sessions of General Conference two Sundays ago

and loaded them onto my iPaq. I'm just finishing up the Sunday morning session on my first pass through conference. There are many excellent messages. Elder Quentin L Cook's talk in the Sunday afternoon session is one that I'm looking forward to. It spoke about trials in life and seems to be in answer to my thoughts and feelings about Stanford these past many weeks. Another question I had going into General Conference was about using time correctly. I've been putting a lot of my free time into music and I've wondered about that. Elder Ian S Ardern of the 70 gave a good talk in the Saturday afternoon session about that. I need to study both of these messages more.

Well... I'm going to send this email now. It's Monday morning and we are preparing to leave for the long drive down to Carver, MA, and a day at King Richard's Faire. I trust that you have had a good week and that you have been diligent in your efforts. Hopefully the schedule upset from the move is all over. I remember several times during my mission when things "got in the way." For me it seemed the a "normal" week was more of the exception than my regular weeks. In the box we sent you many months ago were print outs of tracking pages and other stuff from my mission. You can see that my mission was quite different than yours. However, the Lord is in charge and puts with the companions we need and in the cities where we are needed. It is up to us to strive to be worthy of the Spirit so we can be guided in all that we do. So, keep striving and working and blessing the lives of those whom you have been sent to teach.

Love you,

Dad

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