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News from Mom, 10 October 2011

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

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

Hello, Dear Elder Phillip Larsen,

I just finished reading the email Dad sent to you (he sends it to me, also), and as he said, another week has passed. One comment about the band . . . though the band has been . . . disbanded . . . for now, the music keeps going through my head! It's because Dad is playing it so much, and the tunes are so catchy. So I guess I don't even need to have a performance, because I hear it so often, all the time!

We'll be leaving shortly for King Richard's Faire. It's a beautiful day, and though I'll enjoy being with family members and going to the Faire, I would be just as happy staying home, working in the garden, doing home projects, and knitting. And maybe eating at Friendly's! We'll have to eat at Friendly's another time though. They declared bankruptcy, and a bunch of the restaurants in New England were closed. But ours stayed open, so we need to go there from time to time to celebrate! How does that sound? (A fine excuse to eat out :).

I went to Keene yesterday for their Ward Conference. It is a beautiful drive, though long. And once again, we were spiritually fed. We were also fed after because of a linger-longer, with lots of delicious soups and salads and desserts. My favorite dessert was a pumpkin whoopie-pie. One thing about the Sacrament Meeting, I was needing to pull together a lesson I would be giving in Relief Society, so I had thought I could ponder that while President Cooprider was speaking, because he has given basically the same talk for each Ward Conference. But then I decided to listen and take notes as I always do, and maybe it's like each time when you read scriptures you get something different out of it, or each time Dad listens to General Conference, he gets something more out of it. But I was glad to listen to the talk again and take notes. And I was able to put together the lesson for Relief Society during the Sunday School block.

There is a new personal study manual that has come out for the Relief Society sisters, called "Daughters in My Kingdom". Do the members have it in Brazil yet? It might take a few months for it to be translated into the different languages, but it's one Sis. Beck talked about in the Relief Society Broadcast, with histories and stories about women and the gospel. President Cooprider wants all of the brethren in the Stake to

read it, too. He told the ladies in Keene that yesterday. So, one of these days you could read it as well. I think it's available online.

Poor Winston has shaved spots on his belly. I've been taking him to the vet weekly, because we still have not hit on the exact amount of insulin to give him to get his blood sugar right. (Hopefully it will be fine this week.) Anyway, he has had some big fur mats and on one of his visits to the vet they shaved the mats off. It makes it easier for him to keep himself clean, but he looks funny, in certain positions. It is starting to grow back, and I know he'll be his usual beautiful self again soon. And I bought a new brush, so maybe we could help him sometimes with the grooming.

Dad told you about how we attended the Brazilian BBQ in Lowell on Saturday. Heather came, too, and brought Joanna. The food was delicious, and there was plenty of it, because there were somewhat fewer people than they were expecting. In addition to the grilled meat, they had a potato salad with lots of vegetables, and I guess they call it "mayonnaise" something, because it has mayonnaise that combines it all. There was also a sort of custard pudding that was really good, for the dessert. Plus chips, and cakes, and vegetables and dips. They had decorated with an American flag, and with a Brazilian flag. Bishop Granger, of the Lowell ward, sat at our table and talked to us for a few minutes. He served his mission in Recife, and when I said "thank you" at the end in Portuguese, he said I had even gotten the gender correct. (I said "obrigada", though I'm not sure I spelled it correctly.) He said that they keep making new states in Brazil, so the flag has one star for each state, but there are more on it now than when he was on his mission. He said his mission was about 105 degrees in the summer, and about 80 degrees in the winter. You're further north, so it is likely hotter there for you.

Saturday morning Heather and I went to a place called Harrisville Yarns, which has looms and weaving as well as yarns they make. We shopped there and loved the drive out. It is about 2/3 of the way to Keene, so this weekend, I'm doing a lot of travel. We really enjoyed the time we spent together, and always enjoy yarn things! I just wish there were not so many good things to choose.

I just signed up this morning to bring Beverly dinner on Wednesday. She is having chemotherapy for a few weeks to try to get the tumors under control. So far it hasn't worked very well. Ben is back in town, apparently, but I don't know what his plans are now. He spent about a month in Peru, learning to be a shaman. And Maggie got married on the 1st of October, though we did not attend because of General Conference. She sounds happy, from her Facebook posts. Anyway, please continue to pray for Beverly. I'm not sure what will happen for her. It is in the Lord's hands, as all of our lives are. We just need to continue in faith, day by day.

I love you, Phillip. I'm so grateful you are serving a mission and grateful for the

testimony and growth I see in your life from week to week. I hope you're seeing daily miracles, and writing about them daily, too. We pray for you every day. I miss you, but I know you're on the Lord's errand, and He will bless you, and bless our family because of your service. I look forward to your email when we get back from King Richard's Faire.

Love,
Mom