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A letter from Dad: 17 Oct 2011

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Sun, Oct 16, 2011 at 10:14 PM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

Cc: Joyce Larsen <joyce@larsen-family.us>

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Tiago Ibiapina

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Vanessa Mello Teodoro

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Hello Dear Phillip,

Yes, another week for us and 1% of your mission has passed. I hope you had a good week.

From the email you sent to me and your mom last week it sounds like you have had some nostalgia and become a bit distracted in recent weeks. Most likely being around American Elders and having a division with Elder Yorgason gave you two time to talk and think about earlier times and future times. I can remember similar times for myself on my mission. I suggest you put your time and energy into your mission and we'll figure out homecoming stuff when the time gets much closer.

So, what happened here at home during this week? Hmmmm.... Well, we did King Richard's Faire as I've described below in the pictures section. The Merrimack Band rehearsal was cancelled this past week, which was a disappointment. Wednesday was another day of safety and protection from the Lord. We often pray that we will be watched over and protected. I think we constantly are and don't even know it most of the time. Every now and then it becomes very obvious to us.

You'll remember that about three months ago that the brakes gave out in the van when Joyce turned onto the street where the Noels live. That was on a Sunday for the farewell openhouse for the McFaddens. Well, Wednesday Joyce and Julia were taking Winston to the vet in the afternoon. As they approached the intersection just

before Mercy Hospital the light turned yellow and Joyce applied the brake pedal. It sank to the floor and the van mostly kept going and very slowly came to a stop. Fortunately no accident occurred yet again. Joyce pulled into the parking lot, went in for Winston's appointment, and then we analyzed the situation over the phone afterwards. The brake light stayed on and Joyce could see a lot of brake fluid in the ground near the left rear wheel. Joyce called AAA and went with the tow truck to Hansons. Sister Carl helped us out by coming to get Julia and Winston and take them home. She then came and got Joyce from Hansons and took her home. Thankfully for now we still have the Saturn. Hopefully the van will be repaired soon.

As you know, Winston has diabetes and has been going through treatment for that. Well, it is adding up to quite a sum of money. I did my "hobby" Saturday and got the budget up to date and did some totalling of expenses. I'll quote here what I wrote in Sacrament Meeting in my notebook: "I've been struggling with the amount of money that we have spent on our family cat Winston. Since August we have expended \$600. During the sacrament I was thinking about this. In my morning prayer I was asking HF to help me understand this situation. During the sacrament it came to me that Winston provides Julia (and Joyce) great joy and happiness. She also loves him greatly. So, why would I not want to do something that would bring joy to Julia? Winston was essential to Julia during the very difficult time of Stanford's illness and death. With Phillip and Bradford gone from home, Julia is an "only" child. Winston provides continuity. So, I would always seek happiness for Julia and family members. We buy presents and provide opportunities. Winston is something that Julia loves. So, HF opened my eyes and understanding and put this in proper perspective. I will approach medical expenses for Winston as providing presents and opportunities for Julia (and Joyce) whom I love."

Geoff Nelson gave a really good talk in Sacrament Meeting. I think Joyce took better notes than I did, because I was busy writing the above paragraph at the time. Hopefully she will share some notes.

After the meeting block I updated all the computers in the FHC and then went late to choir practice. When I walked in they were going over the women's parts. I noticed Mike Scott sitting on the front row of the chapel taking care of Liam, so I sat down to talk with him a few minutes. He talked with Bishop Nelson today. Mike would like a more definite date to shoot for to leave on a mission. If it is going to be out there a ways he wants to go back to BYU because he has friends there. Around here he doesn't have friends who are spiritual, and he misses that. Today in sacrament meeting the congregational hymn was #249 "Called to Serve". Mike told me he loves singing that hymn because he thinks about Stanford when he does. He taught the lesson in Elders Quorum today and told me that one thing from his lesson was how righteous Elders when they get to the other side are involved in teaching the gospel 24/7 over there. He said he knew that Stanford was busy teaching the gospel. I

mentioned how they must have time to rest because even HF and Christ rested after the work of the creation was over. I also told Mike how on the day that Stanford died that I gave him a father's blessing just before he died. In that blessing I gave Stanford an assignment, to do what needed to be done on that side of the veil to get Bradford back into the church. I told Mike how I've asked HF in my prayers from time to time to allow Stanford to have the time needed to fulfil this assignment. Mike got teary eyed over this. I then mentioned to Mike how Stanford was endowed with power because 3 weeks after he died we went to the temple to do his work; how I was Stanford's proxy, and Joyce and I were the witness couple, and the Farars were the officiators on the session, and how about 35 ward members were there. He didn't know that. I also told him about the special band arrangement that Andrew Cote had written "For Stan". He didn't know about that either. It was a very nice 20 minutes of talking that we had together. He said that Stanford is his idol and that Phillip is his friend. I'm glad I talked with Mike instead of actually attending choir practice. It was the right thing to do.

Our home teachers (Henkel and Burgess) came over Sunday evening. It was nice to have them here. They also home teach the Silvestro family, whom they had visited just before us. It turns out that Steve Silvestro had surgery in the last couple weeks to remove a cancerous tumour on his tongue. They caught it in the earliest stage one state. They had to remove 20% of his tongue and a bunch of lymph nodes. However, everything is clean now and it looks like he will be just fine. His speech hasn't been affected at all by the surgery, which is a great blessing. Very few people were aware of what was going on, but now that it is done I guess they are telling more people. Their family can use our prayers.

Garrett Hawkins brought his saxophone over on Sunday asking for some diagnostics help. He had several very sticky keys and was having trouble hitting the lowest notes. There was also one key that squeaked rather loudly. The horn is the one his dad played in band and his grandfather played it also. It's an old horn, but they have had the pads all replaced in the last few years and it plays pretty well. I was able to clean the pads and also oil all the keys so that the squeak is gone. The action is a lot smoother too. We checked for leaking pads and all of them are fine except for three of the bell pads for the lowest three notes. They have slight leaks, but I was able to play the horn just fine. There wasn't enough time to try to "fluff" up the pads to remove the leaks. Larry and Garrett were going home teaching. However, it was to be able to help Garrett out and also give him some tips on hitting the low notes.

Saturday our ward combined with the Merrimack Ward for a "Day of Service" as requested by President Eyring in April conference to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Church Welfare Program. Julia and I went to the church about noon and dropped off a food donation. We also talked with with several people at the "service fair" that was being held in the gym. Other people had signed up to rake

leaves, paint walls, and other service projects.

Well... it's now 10:10 PM on Sunday evening. I'd better send this off and get ready for bed.

Jesus is the Christ. The Church is true. The Book of Mormon is the word of God. Thomas S Monson is God's prophet on the earth today. We are greatly blessed to have the light of the gospel in our lives.

Keep the Faith.

Love,

Dad

ATTACHED PICTURES:

539-540: That "floating house" of which I attached pictures several months ago is undergoing a strange change. They've ripped the roof off of it and have removed the entire back. I talked with a guy onsite and he explained that because of its historical classification, some of the original house must be preserved. He said only the front and side walls were being saved and the rest was going to be built new. Weird and expensive.

541: This fuzzy cell phone picture is of Jacob Carroll and Steve Ogden taken at church on Oct 16th. Jake looked quite awesome in his uniform.

757-764: Pictures from our day at King Richard's Faire. I tried a "Turkey Leg" this time. It was a bit much and hard to eat without cutlery which I finally broke down and used. I've pretty much had my fill of going to King Richard's Faire. It's very much the same every year. Also, the spirit there really isn't very wholesome. We are counselled to "stand in holy places". I don't think the spirit is able to make itself heard at King Richard's Faire. I took my iPaq with me as well as a book. For part of the time I sat on a bench and read the book. When I started falling asleep with that I started listening to general conference on the iPaq and walked around. The Country Buffet that we went to with the Wilsons and also last year has closed. We had intended to eat there on the way home, but when we drove into the parking lot the building was empty and the signs had all been removed. So, we drove to the Friendly's by BJ's and ate dinner there.

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11 attachments



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