



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

Phillip, read this email first! (Heather posting this)

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Sun, Oct 30, 2011 at 11:14 PM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

Dear Phillip,

Our power and internet have been out since Saturday afternoon. Please send your emails to these addresses:

theClaw56@gmail.comlinenLady9@gmail.com

If you send them to the regular addresses we won't get them them because we have no internet at home and our regular email addresses are all processed by zippy.

This very rare October snow storm broke all records. It dropped close to 9 inches of wet heavy snow onto trees that still had most of their leaves. This caused tremendous damage. In Nashua over 75% of residents are without power. The same in Manchester, Brookline, Hollis; pretty much everywhere in southern New Hampshire. Rachel texted Julia indicating that they don't have power at SNHU either.

Until about 11:30 PM on Saturday, Oct 29th, all our cars were in the driveway. Bradford and Heather had come over and decided it was safer to spend the night here. I looked out the living room window about 11:30 PM and saw that huge branches had broken off. One was laying on top of Heather's car. That prompted action. I shoveled off the backyard area next to the end of the driveway. Then I pulled the van forward followed by the Toyota.

I started walking toward the shed to get the bow saw. As I approached the shed a large crack rang out. I turned tail and ran back towards the house just as a very large branch broke off an oak tree and slammed into the ground just in front of the shed. There was already a smaller branch in about the same place. After waiting a couple minutes I finally had enough confidence to go into the shed and get the bow saw. I used the bow saw to cut away branches that were extending into the driveway that were blocking Heather's car. All the time there were creaking sounds above

us. We got Heather's car onto the grass and Bradford pulled his car into Thelma's driveway across the street.

Bradford and I then walked down Cherokee to see what was going on. The power lines going into the Lanctos' house had been knocked down by a large broken branch. The lines were hanging very low with only one place where we could walk through. We continued on towards the Deiberts' home. As we walked a bunch of loud creaking sounds started up. We ran to clear the trees, but nothing came down. Then we quickly returned home.

About 1:00 AM Sunday morning we turned off the generator, put it in the back of the van, and all went to bed. It's amazing how dark it gets when there is no power.

The next morning revealed the damage as shown in the pictures below. I spent about 3 hours shoveling, cutting branches, and cleaning up so that the driveway was passable and I could get into the shed. I'm hoping the city will have neighborhood tree branch removal like they've done in the past. Residents pile the branches up near the street and the city comes around and gathers them. We're going to need that for sure.

With Bradford's help we got the generator out of the van and set it up beside the house and ran it for about 5 hours Sunday until around 1:00 PM. I'm so thankful that we have that generator and transfer switch. We have used it several times in the past two years.

Church was cancelled for all three wards and Heather's meetings in the Heritage Park Ward were also cancelled. There was no battery voltage on the landline telephone. The signal level on all of our cell phones was roaming one bar or nothing at all. As I write this at 7:00 PM on Sunday there still isn't a normal cell phone signal. The landline came back at some point during the day and we were able to make calls out that way.

This is the most damage I have ever seen from a storm, greater than the few hurricanes we have had over the years and even the ice storms. The last picture is at the intersection of Sagamore and Shawnee where a utility pole has broken off at the base and is leaning into the street. Cherokee is also blocked off at the Lanctos' house, but we can get out going the other way.

So, that was the most excitement for the week. Because of the storm the annual Trunk Or Treat activity at the church was cancelled. I pretty much just stayed at home Saturday and Sunday.

School has been cancelled for Monday. So many people are without power including schools, and there are so many power lines down making travel very difficult, that they decided to cancel school. So, Julia gets a snow day in October! I think that is a first.

I'm writing this "email" as a text document at home and will copy it over to my memory stick. I'll either send it from work, or maybe even drive up to the church to send it, assuming the internet is working there. Heather has internet at her apartment. Maybe I'll saddle her with the task of sending this.

I'm guessing the power will be out for several days, maybe even a week. That creates some issues about how to run the generator during the day. I have devised a plan for that. I used the kryptonite bike lock cables to attach the generator to the van. That keeps someone from simply walking off with the generator. Joyce will use the Saturn to get around. I'll have to give Joyce a refresher course in "Generator School" so she will know what to do. I don't want to run the generator all day long because it is a rather expensive way to generate electricity with gasoline going for about \$3.45 per gallon. We can run it for a few hours in the morning, turn it off, and then run it for a few hours in the evening. That will bring the cost down and still keep the house warmed up and the refrigerators and freezers at correct temperatures.

The company that installed our new front door back in September finally came back and did the job right. They did that on Friday. One of the company owners did the work along with one of the original installers. He told Joyce that he was going to be chewing the guy out all the way back to their office. I'm sure the kid will learn a lesson from this. It's too bad that they had to do the job twice.

Well, that kind of summarizes what has been going on here from my viewpoint. Hopefully your dear sweet Mother will be able to get an email written as well.

I finished listening to conference for the third time through this week and have started the fourth listen. There were so many good talks. I enjoy listening to them over and over.

Love you,

Dad

THE FOLLOWING FROM MELANIE LARSEN'S BLOG:

I was discharged from the hospital last night and I am feeling alright.

The cancerous tumor was originally found when I went to see my infertility doctor to see about using our frozen embryos for another pregnancy. At that time, he told me we needed to remove what he thought would be a benign cyst on my left ovary before trying to get pregnant. In the meantime before having that surgery, I had severe and persistent abdominal pain that sent me to the ER where they ran scans showing cancer. Still my infertility doctor was sure it wasn't cancer because of my age and that he had seen tumors like that before that weren't cancerous. You can imagine his and my shock and horror that the 14cm tumor that was removed was in fact cancerous.

Because of the grade of the tumor he took out (grade 3- the highest grade meaning cancer throughout), it was determined my survival rate would be greatest if I had a hysterectomy. As sad and as hard of a decision as that was to make with the obvious agony of not being able to bear anymore children, I knew I couldn't take the greater risk of fertility-saving surgery that would reduce my survival rate dramatically. Already with Stage 1 (that is still my stage, thankfully) my survival rate is 85-95% but would have dropped to as low as 50% without the hysterectomy should the cancer not have all been removed the first time. If we risked that the chemo would take care of the rest but it really did come back, it would be terminal. I couldn't, with the family I am blessed to already have, take that risk.

I must say that I feel Heavenly Father lined this situation up much before now. He allowed Ammon and I to have "unexplained" infertility so that we could produce many frozen embryos that perhaps can be used later. He gave me the pain that sent me to the ER to determine what was wrong. In dissecting the tumor, pathology found that it rated high for estrogen and progesterone receptors which means cells that might otherwise remain dormant might become active if they are hormonally stimulated such as in pregnancy. So even if we saved my uterus and I was cured, when I went to get pregnant again, the cancer could be back and when it comes back, it is non-curable.

As hard as it was to even think about the option of hysterectomy, once I did, all these thoughts came flooding into my mind that essentially said "this is why you had infertility, you cannot get pregnant again, and this is the right choice to have the hysterectomy". I feel like Heavenly Father told me "there is no way you can carry any more children so this is the only decision you can make to be cured of this cancer". I have felt very comforted knowing God had the forethought, as He does in all things, to prepare a way for me to do what was necessary to save my life. And, once I am cured (which the hope is very

great for that and the odds are in my favor), then we can hopefully yet realize the family we desire.

I have no doubt that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ are there helping us through our trials. I have been through too many experiences to doubt their existence and their very careful involvement in my life. I know They live, love each of us and watch over us!

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19 attachments



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