



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

A letter from Dad: 14 Nov 2011

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Mon, Nov 14, 2011 at 8:07 AM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

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

FACEBOOK FRIEND REQUESTS:



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Hello Dear Phillip,

Another week has flown by and I'm struggling to remember what I did! It's Monday morning and I just got back from the gym a few minutes ago. I don't like waiting until Monday morning to write my weekly email, but that's how it worked out this week.

Memory card report: The memory cards arrived last week on Monday. I took them to work first because my work computer has anti virus scanner on it. Neither card had any viruses. Unfortunately, your card appears to be dead. I tried it on two different computers with two different card readers and it simply doesn't ever show up. I plug in the card and it's as if I hadn't plugged in anything. I think your card has simply gone defective. Elder Ribeiro's card appears to be okay. There is about 1.8 GB of data on his card. I have copied it to the C drive on screamer and will burn a DVD of the contents. I'll then send this DVD back along with the memory card.

You can write protect secure digital cards. They have a little slide switch on the left edge. If you slide the switch in the direction away from the gold contacts it "locks" the card so it can't be written to. If you do that before putting it in your card reader and connecting it to the LAN computer you will be guaranteed that nothing can be written or erased on your card. That should give you some level of comfort knowing that your

data will be protected. Remember to slide the switch the other way before you put the card back in your computer.

Another important thing about memory cards. They are static sensitive. When you buy a card it comes in a little plastic case. This case is anti static and protects the card. You should always store the cards in their cases so they are protected. I don't know if that contributed to the failure of your card or not, but you put your two cards in a ziplock bag which doesn't provide any static protection. Next time you snail mail cards home be sure to put them in their protective cases.

Again, I'm very sorry that your card is dead. That's a real shame to lose those unique pictures and videos.

There was a fireside Sunday evening at 6:30 PM for parents of children 8 to 18 discussing "For the Strength of Youth". It didn't address it by topic. Rather, it was a discussion of the issues facing children of that age and how to to keep the communication channels open with our precious children. It was presented by Brother and Sister Lindsey. She has worked as a high school counselor for many years. It was an interesting fireside, but I felt that Joyce and I are at the opposite end of this journey with only Julia left at home. We have been greatly blessed with righteous children. Bradford is a very fine young man and is doing lots of good things. He just doesn't have a spiritual aspect to his life at this time, and because of that his decisions are based on the ways of the world. However, he has been taught in his youth and I'm confident that someday he will return.

You may have heard about this very sad thing that happened in Texas. Three missionaries were riding their bicycles on a two lane highway. A car tried to pass a truck and the driver ended up plowing headon into the three missionaries. Two of them were killed and the third was seriously injured. He has since been released from the hospital. One of the elders was a twin and his brother was on a mission at the same time, kind of like Paul and Russell Banks. I've heard that the twin is being allowed to attend the funeral of his brother. The other missionary that was killed had actually finished his mission and had requested an extension. He was serving in that short extension period when this happened. So very tragic. I shed many tears over this. As was pointed out, with 52,000 missionaries serving world wide, accidents will happen. Looking at this statistically, the number of accidents and deaths for the 52,000 missionaries is much much lower than an equivalent number of same aged young adults in the regular population. Missionaries are protected and because of the life style they live, their accident rate is low. However, it is still tragic and very sad for the families involved. We pray daily for your safety and the safety of your companions.

Josh Young was set apart as a full time missionary this past Saturday. He enters the

MTC this week. He is very excited. Amy Taylor has turned in her papers, so she should be finding out soon where the Lord calls her to serve.

I got my hair cut this past Saturday. It was long over due. Sue's daughter was the barber who cut my hair at "Chuck's Barber Shop." Almost the first thing she asked was how my son that went on a mission was doing. I told her that you're doing really well and really enjoying the work. She asked me to tell Joyce hello and let her know that they miss having her come in with her boys for haircuts, which I did.

I've been very busy with church computers lately. The Family History Center is getting all new computers and printers. I spent some time in there Sunday setting up one of the computers and one printer. The Linux box at Patty's office ran into problems after the big power outage. I configured a replacement and tested it at home for a week and then the hard drive died. I had an old 30 GB hard drive that I put in as a replacement and rebuilt the computer once again. It seems to be holding up, but I'm going to burn it in for a week before I declare victory. The Lowell Ward's computer died a few weeks back. Fortunately I had the old Billerica computer still and was able to simply pull the hard drive from the old Lowell machine and put it in the Billerica computer for Lowell to use. The network card is defective though, so they're stuck using a dial up modem until the replacement computer comes in. My Stake Technology Specialist calling is quiet most of the time, but then there are periods of heavy time commitment.

My trip to Egypt is only 2 and a half weeks away. I'm a little nervous about it. Fortunately I'm not going alone. We shipped all the demo equipment last Wednesday. I'm still "kicking the tires" on all our software getting myself ready to present to the Egyptians. I keep finding little bugs in the code that I fix.

Sorry that there aren't any pictures this week. There was no occasion to take any.

I'm on my sixth pass through general conference. I alternate chapters of the BofM between conference talks now. I'm finally starting to see the structure of the talks in my mind as I hear them. Once I finish this pass through I'll start listening to other stuff again.

Well, my boy... I'd better get ready for work now. I'm so thankful for my righteous children. I'm thankful that you have this opportunity to serve our Heavenly Father and bring his true gospel to his children there in Brazil. I pray that you have joy in the service each day. I know that there are challenging days, but with the right perspective and patience you can find joy. The Church is true. We have living prophets on the earth today. It is a wonderful thing.

Love,

Dad

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John R Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>
<http://larsen-family.us>