



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

A letter from Dad: 21 Nov 2011

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Sun, Nov 20, 2011 at 10:17 PM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

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

FACEBOOK FRIEND REQUEST: (You haven't been mentioning these the last several weeks)

John Aeischer

Detailer at Truck Country · Riverside Community College · Rexburg, Idaho

476 friends · 51 photos · 3 notes · 55 Wall posts

Hello Dear Phillip,

Yet another busy week has flown by here. I can't believe that Thanksgiving is this week! How did that sneak up on me? My first Thanksgiving on my mission... I don't know if I was in France yet or still in the LTM. It was right about that time that I left for France. My second Thanksgiving in France was when I was part of the office staff. Thanksgiving isn't celebrated at that time in France (if at all, I don't remember), but we cooked up quite a feast for ourselves. I've attached a couple pictures of that feast. We were so full afterwards. Around that time we had a "suit pull". One of my suits was pretty much worn out. It was one that was given to my by Elder Chilton after my suitcases were stolen when I arrived in France. It had already gone through most of his mission and had lasted a year for me. So, to retire the suit we had a suit pull. The other missionaries in the apartment grabbed arms and legs and ripped the thing apart. You can see the event in the two attached pictures. Just a little missionary humour and diversion.

The other picture is of your dear sweet Mother holding the award she received for winning the best overall chili in the Nashua 1 Chili Cookoff that was held Saturday, Nov 20th. That's pretty awesome that her recipe won! (Actually, it's Aunt Lori's recipe, but it is still awesome!) Normally the chili cookoff is held the same time as Trunk Or Treat, but that got cancelled by the freakish October snow storm. There was a very good turn out at the cookoff. I didn't think there would be that many people there. I jokingly said, "There will probably only be 3 families there counting us." We were running a little late. When we got to the parking lot I was amazed at how many

cars were there. It was a fun time.

Saturday Joyce, Heather and I went to the temple for the 9:00 AM session. Brother Potter was the officiator in the session, and it was his very first time. He was a bit nervous and made some mistakes. He and I happened to be in the FHC together today (Sunday) and talked a little bit about it. He enjoyed doing that and knows he will do much better from here on out.

I may have mentioned in a previous week that the FHC is getting all new equipment. That's 4 new computer systems and two new printers. That translates into a lot of work getting everything set up and working. I spent time two Sundays ago setting up the first new computer. There were problems so I didn't want to proceed until I got that all figured out, which I did during the last week. This past Sunday, Nov 20, I went into the FHC right after sacrament meeting and didn't leave for home until about 6:45 PM. I spent all that time getting two more systems up and running and getting the new multifunction printer on the network and visible to all the computers. I have one more system to get installed, but that will have to wait until next Sunday. It is different than the other three because it is the one the microfilm scanner is connected to. There will probably be some "gotchas" getting that one running.

I'm enjoying listening to the BofM again. I'm into 2 Nephi and I'm intermixing conference and chapters. I'm into the Sunday afternoon session of conference for the 6th pass through. I think I'm ready for a change! At the temple Saturday we picked up a copy of the November Ensign for you. That's the general conference issue.

After the temple session we came home, changed clothes, and raked until all 11 barrels were filled up again. This is the last week for soft yard waste pickup. I filled up several cans with the last of the detritus from the October snow storm. The city finally came on Cherokee Ave this past week and gathered up all the brush piles. Joyce said they were using a huge chipper machine that could handle branches up to 8 inches in diameter. That's some heavy duty grinding going on. I'm glad to have all that cleaned up and gone.

There.... I took a break from writing and practiced for about an hour. Now, I'm always worried these days that I'm really annoying family members with my practicing. It is something that I look forward to, and I'm always trying to get the sound to be "just right". However, that means I play things over and over and over and.... I try to time it when people are gone, like in the mornings. I go to the gym and when I come home often the house is empty so I can practice for an hour and then get ready for work. I'm trying to memorize some of the songs as well, and that means over and over and over... I need a sound proof practice room. This evening at least I broke up the monotony of it all by practicing through all the songs we'll be playing in the Merrimack Band concert in December.

I've been negligent in doing anything about the memory cards. They're sitting here on my desk and I see them everyday. I need to burn a DVD of Elder Ribeiro's card and get it in the mail. I'll try to get that done soon.

Melanie Larsen's final pathology report wasn't as good as their initial findings. They found cancer cells in several other places. So, instead of being early stage 1 it is really stage 3B. She has a 50% chance now. She started chemotherapy last week. Her description of everything that she put on her blog is way too familiar. There is no need for me to repeat any of it here. We've already been through it. I put her name in the temple yesterday and pray for her in every prayer I offer. It is entirely in the Lord's hands. If it is his will that she be allowed to live, then it will happen. However, we must demonstrate our faith in prayer and pleadings, praying that it is Heavenly Father's will that she be granted this blessing. Just like in Stanford's case, there is no lack of faith and hosts are praying for her. We petition the Lord for a blessing. Melanie's attitude is very good. She wants to win!

Time for bed now. I'm glad we can keep in touch weekly. It is much more "real time" than anything I had on my mission. At most there is a one week delay as thoughts build up the week between contact. I think of you often and pray for you everyday. I thank the Lord that you have this opportunity to serve him. You're an excellent young man, one of the elect. I feel honored and blessed to be your earthly father. I hope you find joy in the service every day.

Love,

Dad

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5 attachments



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