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A letter from Dad: 28 Nov 2011

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Sun, Nov 27, 2011 at 11:20 PM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

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

FACEBOOK FRIEND REQUESTS:

Kelvin Francisco

84 friends · 3 photos · 2 Wall posts

Daniel Santos

Uniararas, Araras - SP/Brasil

71 friends · 10 photos · 2 groups

Hello Dear Phillip,

Sunday afternoon this time. Your Mom is napping, Julia is reading something while sitting on her bed, Rachel is watching something on her computer, I'm typing on zippy in the basement. I thought I'd get the Christmas tree down from the attic, but looking in the living room kind of put a damper on that feeling. There is too much stuff in there. Heather started a project months ago of going through all her books in the attic and putting them in bins. She has made a lot of progress, but it means there are always boxes in front of the fireplace. There are plants on the video cabinet that stretch almost to the floor. I don't know where to put those. There are plastic bins to the right of the couch by the front door that have autumn decorations in them. In short, there isn't anywhere to work on putting together the tree. I was hoping to get it done this weekend because this Thursday I'll be heading to Egypt for 8 days. That means the earliest I could get to it will be Dec 10th. Oh well, it will all work out.

Friday I did brave the holiday shopping traffic and went to Home Depot by the Nashua Mall. I was pretty much able to get in, buy the outside lights that I wanted, and get right out. I attached a picture of the new LED icicle lights. They are very cold looking and have a bluish tint to them. Joyce is having some trouble getting used to them. Hopefully when the window candle lights are put in place it will offset the starkness of the LED lights. I bought some self adhesive velcro hooks to hang the light strands. Those went up pretty easily. The weather this past weekend has been amazing, in the 60s. That made putting the lights up a lot more comfortable.

On Saturday I ended up actually going to the Pheasant Lane Mall. That was my only day to get some stuff needed for my trip. I got one of those "around the neck" wallets similar to what you got for your mission. I'll put my passport and most of my money and credit cards in there. I also bought an inflatable neck pillow for while I'm on the airplane. I'm hoping that might make me a little more comfortable. The last thing I got was a power adapter that converts 240 VAC down to 120 VAC. I don't know if I'll need that or not, but after staring at it for several minutes I decided it was better to have it just to be prepared.

I still have more preparation to do for the trip. Truth be told, I'd rather not go on this trip. Some people really look forward to travelling. I'm not one of those people. That said, it is usually after the trip when I look back on it that I enjoy it. Then the second time I go to the same place it is much more enjoyable. The first trip to Prince Edward Island was like that. It was very stressful to prepare and go on that trip, and then the station wagon broke down in Maine and we were stuck there for almost 3 days. That added to the stress. However, many years later we look back on that whole Shin Pond adventure with fond memories. So, I need to remind myself of how often that is the case and look forward to things with a better attitude.

So... last Wednesday evening when I got home from work, "The Rachel" was at our house for the evening. I told her that I was worried that she had gone inactive and joked that since she had turned 21 she was probably off drinking and doing drugs. She assured me that wasn't the case. I then mentioned how no one had heard from her. I had asked Julia and Joyce if they had heard from her, which they hadn't. I then mentioned how she hadn't even answered my text message from a few days before. She was very surprised and said, "What text message?" She got a new iPhone recently and searched through her text messages. I looked it up on my phone and told her the exact date and time. She never got the message. I resent it and she read it. I told her that you had wondered if Rachel was okay because you also hadn't heard from her in a long time. I kept tweaking and teasing her about it. In any case, she is doing fine. She is going to church in Manchester. She went with us this past Sunday.

So... Joyce and I just got back from taking Rachel back up to SNHU. She came over Saturday evening and stayed the night so as to be here for church in the morning. Attached are some pictures from the birthday celebration we had for Rachel Sunday evening. I won the candle race.

You mentioned in your last email that a family you have been teaching was preparing for their baptism this week. I hope that has worked out well.

There is an Elder serving in the Nashua 2nd Ward who is from Peru. He has been around for several weeks. He is one of the Elders that we took to Ruby Tuesdays on conference Saturday. I think Joyce may have talked some about him in previous

emails. He came directly to the mission field and had no language training at all. He has been learning English and is doing somewhat better. He was sitting in the back of the chapel before 2nd ward's sacrament meeting so I sat down and talked with him for a while. I spoke slowly and tried to speak very clearly. He was having trouble with some things in English. He asked, "What does 'wanna' mean?" So I was able to explain that English speakers are very lazy and take short cuts. I pulled out a brain cell and wrote down a bunch of things. I explained about 'wanna' and 'gonna' and "watcha" and several other things. Hopefully it will help him some. I won't be able to talk with him next Sunday because I'll be in Egypt.

I finally burned all of Elder Ribeiro's pictures onto a DVD. I also used a software tool I have that allows me to look at all the deleted space on a drive. The tool shows all the deleted files and their condition. There were hardly any deleted files on the drive. Those that were deleted were in "poor" condition meaning that they couldn't be recovered. Based on my analysis I don't think there are any files lost on his drive. Now that the DVD has been made I need to send it and his memory card back to him. Please tell me his full name so that it doesn't get sent to someone else by mistake. There could be more than one Elder Ribeiro in the mission. (BTW, I tried reading your memory card one more time to no avail. It is toast.)

The hour grows quite late here. I need to get to bed. I hope you have had a great week. I don't know if I will be able to email from Egypt or not. I don't know what kind of internet access I'll have over there. I'll ask Joe Madden and John Maher tomorrow. They've both been there and can give me an idea how it is going to all work out.

I love you!

Dad

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10 attachments



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