



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

A letter from Dad: 2 Jan 2012

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

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Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

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

Hi Phillip,

I did feel really close to my mission president both during and after my mission. However, my situation was very different than yours. A similar thing is that my mission was also a new mission. It had been created in July 1975 and I arrived in November 1975. It was growing quickly as lots of new missionaries arrived. Because of that I was made senior companion after being in France for only about 4 months.

My second companion was Elder Rand Bennett (now in the 2nd Quorum of the 70). He and I transferred to Toulouse after serving together in Pau for about 2 months. He became AP to President Broschinsky and I became a senior companion to Elder Bates. After a few weeks Elder Bates and I were given a special assignment in the office. We went there for 2 or 3 hours every day to work on the "FTM Cookbook". Elder Bates had some drawing talent and did all the illustrations in the cookbook. I had good typing and layout skills so I did all the typing. In the middle of that project I was actually assigned to the mission office as the "Mission Member Recorder". The equivalent name today would probably be mission clerk. I handled all the membership records and did all the French correspondence for President Broschinsky.

I served in the office for about 11 or 12 months all together. During that time I interacted a lot with the Broschinsky family. The Broschinskys were only in their mid 30s when they served as a mission president. They had a young family and it was quite a challenge for them. My companion and I would often take Sister Broschinsky and her youngest two children grocery shopping. We would drive the car, push the shopping carts, keep an eye on the two toddlers, and bring everything inside the house at the end of the trip. We also would do yard maintenance things around their home.

I returned home in September 1977. The Broschinskys returned in July 1978. I met them at the airport when they came home. They owned a home in Murray, Utah. All their belongings were in storage in the basement of President Broschinsky's parents' home. I helped them move all their stuff into their Murray home. I also repaired their console stereo many times over the years until they finally replaced it.

The Broschinskys attended our wedding. They were at the sealing in the temple, came to the wedding breakfast, and reception. In the attached picture you can see Papa on Joyce's right. Directly behind Papa is Sister Broschinsky. Behind her is President Broschinsky.

We've kept in contact over the years. When we were out there in 2008 on our family reunion vacation Joyce and I went to the Broschinskys one evening and stayed for several hours. We talked all about Stanford and had a very spiritual experience with them.

So, as you can see, my relationship with my mission president is very different than you with yours. I don't think you can compare the two at all. One thing is certainly the same. Your mission president and his wife love the Lord and love his missionaries just like mine did and do. They are doing their very best to help build up the Lord's kingdom.

Here is a paragraph from your patriarchal blessing that relates to your mission president:

"Phillip, I bless you that as you work and serve with your mission president that it will be important for you to listen to the direction that he will give you. As you do so, remember to have love and respect for your mission president and for his wife because of the goodness that they will have. I bless you as you are going through this process that your testimony will increase in great leaps and bounds because of the work that you will be given and the affection that you will receive from your leaders and from your Heavenly Father. I bless you, Phillip, that as these things are happening that there will be many who will desire more of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and you will be among them. I bless you as these things are happening that this will increase the numbers of people who are part of this great church and it will be very important for the gathering of Israel that you will be a part of."

Love you,

Dad

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