



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

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## Happy New Year! Email from Mom 1-2-2012

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Joyce Larsen <linenlady9@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 2, 2012 at 9:00 AM

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

Cc: John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Dear Elder Phillip Larsen, my Dear Boy,

Happy New Year! It always feels funny to write the new year down. I've been starting to work on the new calendars for this year, the wall calendar, and putting things like Stake and school events on the calendar. We go about our days, one day at a time, one hour or one moment at a time, and the time passes, our mortal probation passes like that. And it's just when we do calendars or count the time that we realize how limited it is. Well, there's my philosophy for today, anyway!

Dad is still sleeping, for one last time before we get back into the regular routine. I enjoy very much getting enough sleep, and feeling like I can do things and not feeling like a zombie from being so tired. After every vacation, I'm determined to do better on daily life, and get to bed earlier. We'll see how it goes. It's always a struggle. And all of you kids have been night owls. Teenagers are that way, anyway, and you kids are especially. Did you have any difficulty adjusting to the mission times of bed by 10 or 10:30, and up by 6 or so every day?

As usual, Dad has given most of the news, the things we've done this week. Oh, a couple of things: your cousin, Shani (Ian's sister) is engaged! She will be married in April, so Ian will miss the wedding, but I'm sure it will be ok. I was reading Leslie's email last week, one she had written the night before, and I was reading it on Monday morning. Then another email came in saying Shani and Kyle had just announced their engagement. They had come in at 4:30 in the morning to talk to Leslie and Tim. I don't know why it was so early. Unless it was before Tim went to work or something. Anyway, Shani has been dating Kyle for quite awhile, and it's a good thing they will be married soon!

Also, their cat came back, the one who ran away. I don't know if I mentioned that to you. They have two cats, and one of them was lost, for several weeks. Ian mentioned him in his letters, and missed him quite a bit, and I'm glad the cat came back.

The missionaries asked me yesterday at the baptism if you have baptisms every week or so. I had to admit you have them more often than the missionaries here. I told the

Elders about the wedding and baptism on the same day. They said the Merrimack Elders had a couple like that.

What will you do today, on P-Day? Do you do your laundry and shopping first, then do fun stuff like go to the mall? I guess it varies week to week. I know the time you email varies somewhat. I always plan my Mondays around your email, and look forward so much to hearing from you! Today I'll also do the calendars, and make some poppy seed bread for the Deschenes, or maybe the new lemon bread recipe I got from Jeana Lopez, who made it for Seminary. We'll have one last day of having a fire in the fireplace, and watching a movie, maybe. For Christmas I got a little journal with Jane Austen quotes (she wrote Pride and Prejudice and others), with a few lines a day, for five years. I started it last night, and really want to make this journal-writing a part of my daily routine. How do you do your routine for the evening, as a missionary?

I feel like I'm really rambling right now, trying to write quickly, and knowing that Dad has already told you most of the things for this week. We did have good talks in Sacrament Meeting yesterday on Testimony. Garrett Hawkins spoke, and did an excellent job. (He has his driver license and a car of his own now, by the way.) Also, we heard from Darby Van Uiter, and Stephen Silvestro, who all talked about the same subject, and did wonderfully. And we started studying the Book of Mormon in Sunday School. I'm wanting to be sure I attend more regularly, and not get caught in the hallway talking. And the Relief Society lesson was on goal setting, which was also very good. For that, it was all things I already knew, but it was good to be reminded.

Well, Phillip, I love you very much. I think about you often, and am so pleased at the work you do. Yesterday at the baptism when I was talking to Elder Stephens, I noticed he was coughing a bit and his voice was going. I asked him if he was getting enough sleep and eating chicken soup and such, and he said his mother would be pleased to hear someone was mothering him there on the mission. So, I figure I can mother the missionaries in our ward, and hope you get mothered by sisters in Brazil! The gospel is true, and we are so blessed to live in this time with the fulness of the gospel. And I feel, often, so grateful for the inspired leaders we have, and how you are in Brazil, just where you need to be at this time! Take care of yourself, and more later!

Love,  
Mom