



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

A letter from Dad: Jan 16, 2012

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Mon, Jan 16, 2012 at 12:07 AM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

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

FACEBOOK FRIEND REQUESTS:



Mariana Ferreira wants to be friends with you on Facebook.

São Luís, Brazil

103 friends · 6 photos · 3 Wall posts

Gilda Meireles wants to be friends with you on Facebook.

1 friend



Ingrid Maia Cavalcante wants to be friends with you on Facebook.

Colégio CPI

188 friends · 11 photos · 6 Wall posts · 1 group

Dear Phillip,

Greetings my son. Another week. How does that happen? This past weekend was the Nashua New Hampshire Stake Conference. As usual I set up monitors in all the various rooms around the building and made sure everything ran smoothly technically. We had priesthood leadership training meeting Saturday afternoon at 4:00 PM. In between sessions I was invited to eat dinner with the Stake Presidency and the Stake RS Presidency. Joyce and the others did a really good job and it was a yummy meal. The adult session started at 7:00 PM. It was interesting in that the first two speakers were the missionaries serving in our ward, Elders Jones and Stephens, who are also the Nashua Zone Leaders. I don't remember a time in the past when the

full time missionaries were asked to speak like that. Elders Jones and Stephens are excellent missionaries and have been serving in our ward for a long time. Transfers are coming up on Jan 26th. It seems likely that a change will be made, but Elder Jones only has one transfer left, so I suppose it is possible that he could finish up his mission here.

The general session was at 10:00 AM on Sunday. The talks were all very good and music was provided by a stake YM/YW choir. They did a great job too. You remember Amy Taylor I'm sure. She has received her mission call to the Montana Billings Mission and reports to the MTC on March 7th. She was asked to speak in the general session. Our family was sitting on the very back row in the gym so that I could be near some equipment that needed tending, so it was kind of hard to see all the way to the stand. I looked carefully and it seemed to me that Amy Taylor was sitting on the stand. Now, you may remember that Amy struggled with anxiety issues and had a hard time being in with even a group of 20 people. It is amazing what the gospel does for people who live it and trust in the Lord. Here she is, a member for about 18 months, and speaking in Stake Conference in front of 1400 to 1600 people. She did an excellent job and it wasn't obvious at all that she was nervous. I spoke with her after the meeting about it. I think she's going to be a great missionary.

The Stake goal presented by President Coopridge is for each member to learn more of Christ. They haven't dictated some kind of program for it because they recognize that everyone is at a different place in their understanding and progression. However, that is the emphasis for this year. The adult session was all about missionary work and bringing people to Christ. The priesthood leadership session was on Family History Work and Temple Work. It was very good and emphasis was made on how these aren't separate programs, but are really two parts of the same program. You can't have one without the other.

Last Tuesday was the New Hampshire Primary. Mitt Romney handily won the primary getting almost 40% of the vote. Ron Paul was next with 23% and everyone else was in single digits. That means that Romney has made history in that he won the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary. That hasn't happened for a candidate in many many years. The day after the primary all the candidates went to South Carolina to campaign there. The SC primary is on Saturday, Jan 21st. Romney will have strong competition there, but he is still doing quite well in the polls. I received an email alert a little while ago that John Huntsman is dropping out of the race and will be endorsing Romney on Monday. The field is narrowing and it is looking better and better for Romney. I think he would be a great president.

Sunday we had the family birthday celebration for your dear Mother. Presents have been on the piano since last Monday, which was her birthday. She didn't open them because the family celebration was scheduled for the 15th. Bradford came up and

cooked a very yummy dinner with help from Julia and Rachel. Heather baked a carrot cake with help from Rachel and Julia. We enjoyed the meal, then Julia, Rachel, and I drove to Rachel's house to get all her stuff to take back up to school including her refrigerator. We then came back and had the present opening part and candle race. You can see the event in the attached pictures. Joyce won the candle race on her own birthday. A very good thing to do. After the race Joyce and I drove Rachel back up to school and carried everything into her room.

As I have mentioned before, I have been studying Egyptian Arabic language lessons. There are only 8 lessons and I've gone through all of them several times each. This Tuesday will probably be my only opportunity to try out my limited Arabic. The Egyptian Colonel will be visiting TCC that day to see the facility and have a demo of our 72B optical encryptor. I want to try out my Arabic to see if it is even close to what they actually speak. I'll then need to decide what to study next. It will either be Spanish or Portuguese. I'm not sure which to study. It seems that Spanish might be more useful than Portuguese. It has been fun learning the Arabic, but there really isn't any application around here for it. It has mostly been just to learn something new.

We dropped off the Toyota at the auto body repair shop Sunday evening. They will have the car for 3 or 4 days fixing the right front fender. Heather used the Saturn 4 days last week. Her car decided to quit working on 495 as she was heading into work. She ended up calling AAA and getting her car towed to Hanson's. Joyce then picked her up and then she drove the Saturn into work. Dennis was able to finally get the car to stall the same way it did for Heather and then isolated the problem to the distributor. Dennis found a new one and installed it on Thursday and Heather was able to pick up her car that evening. The timing was good because I'm going to need the Saturn this week while the Toyota is getting repaired. That old Saturn has been a great asset. Having a 3rd car as a backup has been a great blessing.

Julia has Monday off from school, but Heather and I have work. We don't get Martin Luther King day off.

Well, it's after midnight Sunday night and I'm tired. I'm going to head off to bed now. I hope things are going well for you and trust that the Lord is watching over you. I'm proud of you and love you very much.

Love,

Dad

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

<http://larsen-family.us>

14 attachments



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