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A letter from Dad: 23 Jan 2012

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Sun, Jan 22, 2012 at 11:37 PM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

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

FACEBOOK FRIEND REQUEST

Gheisa Monteiro wants to be friends with you on Facebook.

396 friends · 7 photos · 32 Wall posts · 2 groups

You have "Joyce Barros", "Amandha Ferreira" and "Lucas Saldanha" as mutual friends.

Hello Dear Phillip,

Hmmm.... so, it's about 10:00 PM on Sunday evening... I guess that would be Sunday night really. It has been a full Sabbath day. First our regular meeting block that ended at 2:00 PM. Then I drove down to the Lowell building with the new printer for the Lowell Ward. Finally I was to finish that job. I was unable to put their new computer into service at the end of last year because their current printer at the time didn't work on Windows 7. So we had to wait for a new one to be ordered and received. The new printer arrived Friday so I was able to finally get all the new equipment installed and take the old stuff away. Huzzah!

A quick stop at home after that for some food and then it was off to a baptism at the church at 6:30 PM. A Nashua High South senior Amanda Marois was baptized today. She started coming to church only three weeks ago. This is a quote from an email from Shelli Scott:

"Yes Amanda is the sister of a school mate of Michael's. He introduced them both to the gospel, but only Amanda was interested. I think it is fast too, but I leave that part up to the missionaries. Amanda lives with her grandparents. Her parents were not actively involved in her life and have been apart for many years. No one in her family supports her decision, and at this point none of them plan to be at the baptism. Her mother is in the final stages of cancer. She had originally said she would come to the baptism, but has recently changed her mind. Amanda is an awesome girl, very smart, very resilient. She lives not far off exit 4."

It turns out that many family members and friends came to her baptism. The primary room was packed. Sister Blanchette gave a talk on the Holy Ghost and Mike Scott gave a talk on Baptism. The Scotts and the full time missionaries sang the song "Heavenly Father... are you really there..." for which I played the accompaniment. Then the baptism occurred. The YW then sang "Daughters of Virtue" for which Kendall Hood accompanied. Then there were the welcomes followed by (of course) refreshments!

Following the baptism I set up the LCD projector for the Seminary satellite broadcast at 8:00 PM. When that was done I put stuff away and then went around checking that the building was all locked up. Then I stopped by the credit union on the way home to make a deposit and finally made it home about 9:30 PM. Wheww.... quite a day.

The busy Sunday is offset by a lazy Saturday. It started snowing in the early morning hours on Saturday making driving somewhat treacherous, so we decided to skip going to the temple and just stayed home. We watched a movie "Shall We Dance" in the evening with a log in the fireplace. It was a nice end of the day. We also had the missionaries over for dinner in the evening as the attached pictures show. Elder Jones found out later Saturday evening that he is being transferred. He has been in our ward since the end of March last year. That's a long time in one city. He was sad to be going, but had an awesome last Sunday here by baptizing Amanda. He only has one transfer left on his mission. Elder Stephens is still here, and that's great.

Today in Sacrament Meeting the Elders provided a special musical number. Elder Stephens played the piano and Elder Jones sang. It was a familiar primary song, but I can't remember what it was now. Elder Jones approached the microphone and I could tell that he was somewhat filled with sadness knowing that he was leaving the ward. He started singing in a low voice but as he went on he became filled with the spirit and his face radiated joy and his singing became more clear and powerful as he bore his testimony through song. They are such great missionaries.

We almost had a band rehearsal on Saturday, but it got cancelled again a couple days before. However, this coming Saturday it is looking good to have a rehearsal. I'm looking forward to that. As you know, I've been practicing a lot. We have another new song "Make Me Smile" by Chicago from 1970. It is one of Brother Carl's all time favorites. I spent a few days getting the horn and piano parts put together and have been practicing it quite a bit this past week. I have it mostly memorized now and it has some challenging parts. There are lots of awesome drum solos and licks throughout the song. I can understand why John Carl wants to play it so much.

This past week I have been driving the Saturn to work and back. The Toyota is in the body shop getting the right front fender repaired. As of Thursday afternoon the work

was all done, but there was an issue with the insurance payment. They didn't quote enough for labor so the body shop was trying to get that cleared up. So the car wasn't ready for Friday pickup.

Anyway, as I drove into work Friday morning I noticed that the windshield wipers were running kind of slowly and the washer fluid didn't spray up very far on the windshield. When I got to Route 2 I noticed that the MPH gage was showing zero and the RPM was also zero. That was weird. I figured that the speedometer cable had gone bad. However, awhile later I noticed that the engine temperature was rising and approaching the red zone. I then tried turning on the radio and it wouldn't come on. That's when I realized that there was a general electrical failure going on. I turned off the headlights and then the radio slowly started coming on. If I tapped the brakes the radio would die because the brakes lights were taking the power. If I turned on the headlights it also killed the radio. I was just hoping to be able to get the rest of the way to work before it overheated. If it had been summer time I'm sure the car would have overheated, but since it was only 20 degrees F outside that kept it running. The radiator fan wasn't working because of the electrical problem. I did make it to work. Huzzah!

Once at work I did some more trouble shooting and then realized that I wasn't going to be able to drive the car home. I called AAA and had them tow the car to Hanson's. Fortunately Heather also works at TCC so I had arranged a ride home with her. Then in the afternoon Bob Berg sent an email out saying that the company car, the Chevy Volt, had become available if anyone wanted to drive it. I called him and was able to get the Volt. Huzzah again! The Chevy Volt is an all Electric car that Carl Guild had TCC purchase. Employees can sign up to drive it for a week at a time. Paul Hureau decided he didn't want to drive it in the snow, so it became available for me. Isn't it interesting how the Lord blesses us? So, instead of only having one car for the weekend, we had two cars again.!

I don't know what we'll do with the Saturn. If it is the alternator and if the car will pass inspection in March, then I'm willing to put in the money to get it repaired. If the car won't pass inspection without a lot of expense, then I'm inclined to say goodbye to the Saturn. I hope it can be saved.

Tuesday I ended up working very late with Al Paulhus getting two 72B units reading for vibration testing. We ran into all sorts of problems and I didn't leave work until about 12:45 AM Wednesday morning.

Tuesday morning the Colonel from Egypt made his visit to TCC. We were all in the kitchen so people could get coffee. While he was standing by the coffee machine I spoke up and said, "Teheb tishrub shwayit shay owe shwayit ahowa?" which is arabic for "Would you like to drink some tea or some coffee?" His eyes got big and a

surprised look came on his face and he said, "That was arabic! My ears didn't expect to hear arabic!" I then said, "beth ham ottobee shwaya, mish quayis owie" which is "I speak arabic a little, not very well." He looked at me and said that that was about 50% arabic and 50% english because of my heavy accent, but he did understand what I said. That was kind of fun knowing that all those hours of study actually worked. I need to get some more lessons to listen to soon. There will be one more trip to Egypt to do the demo that I was supposed to do in December. Our demo done at TCC was successful and he wants us to come back to Egypt. He has been promoted since our trip in December and he is now a Brigadier General.

And now you're all caught up with what I've been doing. I'm sure your week was different than mine.

Today, Jan 23rd, as you know, marks 5 years since Stanford died. It doesn't seem possible that five years have passed. I've attached two of his senior year pictures. I will probably read through some of "A Day of Passing" and try to think of happy memories as well. I'll post something to Facebook about it and will send out an email to the stanford_status email list. However, because of the gospel we know that we will see Stanford again. It will be a glorious day.

I love you. I'm so thankful that you have this opportunity for full time missionary service. I pray for you every day.

Love,

Dad

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

<http://larsen-family.us>

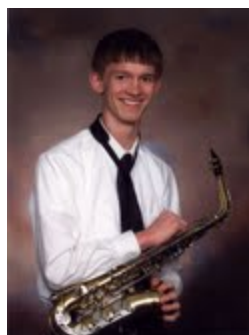
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