



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

A letter from Dad: 6 Feb 2012

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Sun, Feb 5, 2012 at 10:09 PM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

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



Vilma Dos Santos Pereira (friends with **Jordan Meireles**) wants to be friends with you on Facebook.

Management

120 friends · 13 Wall posts · 2 groups



Karol Costa wants to be friends with you on Facebook.

Universidade Federal do Piauí (UFPI) · Teresina

426 friends · 48 photos · 33 Wall posts · 5 groups

I posted the pictures from your last week's email to your Facebook account and these are the responses:

Tricia Boyd Glastetter commented on your photo.

Tricia wrote: "Punch Buggy!"

Jorge Guilherme Ferreira commented on your photo.

Jorge wrote: "hummmm! saudades de Panquecas...rsrr"

Dear Phillip,

This has been a much less busy week for me than the previous week. All I did was eat, sleep, work, read, and practice the sax a bunch. Sunday evening I went home

teaching to the Carls'. We had a good visit.

Saturday at 1:00 PM we had another band rehearsal. We were missing three people at the last minute, but we had a rehearsal anyway. Kenta Hood is our keyboard player and that was only his second time playing with the group, but he played with good confidence. We played "Take Five" three times and, for me at least, it was awesome. When I went home teaching John Carl said the sax really sounded good. That was gratifying to hear. All that practicing is paying off.

I've been reading through a science fiction series of books written by David Weber. Heather introduced them to me about mid December. There are 12 books and I'm in book 8 right now. It gets pretty exciting and I've been spending a bunch of time reading those. Thankfully I'll still have more books to read to easily carry me through my upcoming Egypt trip.

I'll be leaving Thursday evening about 7:00 PM on Air France going through Paris to get to Egypt. This trip follows the pattern of my previous trip. I'll arrive Friday evening and we'll go to the Marriott Hotel again. I'm traveling with John Maher and Carl will also be coming over a day or two later. We'll start working on Saturday and have two days to get everything ready to demonstrate. Monday will be the demonstration of the equipment. I'll fly back Tuesday and arrive in the evening about 7:00 PM.

In preparation for the trip I'm going to listen through all the Pimsleur Egyptian Arabic language lessons again. This will probably be my last trip to Egypt and my only chance to really try out arabic.

I'm much better prepared for this trip mentally. I've been through it all once before now so I know exactly what to expect. I know that I'll have internet access. I should take my headset with me and make sure I have skype set up on the laptop I'll be taking. We have a headset at home too, so I could skype with Joyce and Julia while I'm gone.

I've been listening to pod casts from the mormon channel lately. I intermix BofM chapters in between episodes. They have a series called "Legacy" that features all sorts of interesting interviews with people who know lots about various aspects of the early church. I am enjoying that. I also listened to a "Conversations" episode with Sister Sylvia Allred, 1st Counselor in the General RS Presidency. She grew up in El Salvador and joined the church when she was 15 years old. You most likely have heard her speak in General Conference before. She served a full time mission back in the 60s and started when she was only about 19 years old. After her mission she made her way to Provo and attended BYU where she reconnected with an Elder Allred who had served in the same mission with her. They dated and eventually got married. They went back to El Salvador on a trip so that grandparents could see their

baby daughter. Elder Allred ended up getting a job in El Salvador and they lived 30 years all over South America. I really enjoyed hearing about their lives and their great faith and all that they were able to do in the service of the Lord.

Rachel sent me a text message on Sunday telling me about three things. She told me not to worry and reassured me that she is going to church. She then said that the Elders serving in her ward were coming to dinner with her. I guess that means they are coming to the cafeteria on campus and she is paying for their dinner. The third thing is that she is going teaching with the Sister Missionaries in her ward. I told her that that was awesome! I'm glad she is doing lots of good things and is staying active.

Saturday evening Bradford, Amy, Joyce, Julia, Heather, and I played a spirited team play game of "Asia Ticket to Ride". I've played regular Ticket to Ride a couple of times and actually won the second time I played. This was the first time I played in team mode. Joyce and I were a team and we lost. Bradford and Amy won, and team Heather and Julia came in second, much to Julia's dismay. Having played it in team mode once, I think I'd understand it much better another time. I'm glad that Bradford likes coming over and I'm glad all our children get along well and enjoy each other's company. It cheers parents' hearts to know that their children love each other.

Sunday evening we started watching "Downton Abby" again. That's a "Master Piece" theatre series from England that we watched through over a year ago. Season 2 is just coming available on DVD this week and it seemed like a good idea to rewatch the first season to refresh our memory. We really enjoyed it last time and have been looking forward to the next season.

An update on presidential politics. Saturday was Nevada's caucus. Romney had a huge win there getting 48% of the vote compared to Gingrich's 23%. Romney also had a decisive win in Florida about 9 days ago. However, 9 days before Florida was South Carolina where Gingrich came from single digits in the polls to defeating Romney by double digits. Gingrich did very well in debates before the election and surged in the polls. The media was predicting gloom and doom for Romney. It is still topsy turvy, but Romney is now the only candidate that has two consecutive wins and three overall. It will be interesting to see how it all plays out, but Romney is in good position for the next few contests. He has good organizations in all states and has the money to go along with it.

Sorry about no pictures this week. There wasn't any event to photograph.

Love you bunches!

Dad

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