



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

Happy Valentine's Day to Elder Larsen! From Mom, 2-13-12

Joyce Larsen <linenlady9@gmail.com>

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

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

Hello, Dear Elder Phillip Larsen,

As Dad said in his email for today, the weeks just fly by. I think, sometimes, of Jacob 7:26, " . . . and also our lives passed away like as it were unto us a dream". Except that the rest of the verse is very sad, I think. (" . . . we being a lonesome and a solemn people, wanderers, cast out from Jerusalem, born in tribulation, in a wilderness, and hated of our brethren, which caused wars and contentions; wherefore, we did mourn out our days.") But I guess that's what it was like for him, having been born in the wilderness. I'm glad our family is happier than that, and I'm glad Jacob had abiding faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, in spite of his trials, and passed along his testimony to us.

We've already signed up the missionaries for dinner for this month, and for March, which will be on the 31st, the first day of General Conference. I'm sure we'll have them come in with us for lunch between sessions on the Sunday, as well. I hope Elder Stephens is still around, because he and Julia have the same birthday, and it would be fun to have a cake that day for the two of them.

On Heather's birthday, which was Wednesday, I drove down to her work and went out to lunch with her and Dad. It was fun. We walked to the place called "Dabblers", which is a hobby shop with a lunch corner in the back, and had delicious sandwiches there. Then we went across the street to a new dessert place. Dad had ice cream, and Heather and I had crepes, hers being lemon with powdered sugar, and mine being with fresh strawberries and ricotta cheese. Very filling, and I didn't even make dinner, after all of that food! I'm planning to make Brazilian Beans and rice sometime this week, and I always take a bite for you, when I make it! You'll have to let me know how authentic the taste is.

I've been learning how to do some more counting in Portuguese. It's fun to say 40 and 50. Those words sort of roll off your tongue! But I'm having a great desire to see the words written, which I have not so far. Occasionally I'll see something written, like when you write a line in Portuguese, or when Karen Ogden posts something on her FB, and I'll figure out what it's saying, and the look of the words always surprises me, because it's not like Spanish, where you say all of the letters of all of the words, and

the pronunciation is pretty close to what we say in English. And it's not like German, which I've studied enough to know what the sounds of the letters are. One of the songs Julia sang in Nashua Sings! is from northern Brasil, and is in Portuguese. It's a pretty song, but Julia said the words are silly. Their meaning, that is. I'll have to find them on the internet, or have her write them to you.

That reminds me, on the way to school today, she remembered she had not yet written to you. She was even thinking of ways she could sneak off to the library from one of her classes to send you an email! Sadie suggested she just tell them she needs to write to her brother, who is in Brasil. I think it will actually be next week when she writes to you, but I thought it was funny.

Do they celebrate Valentine's Day in Brasil? I'll be bringing some treats to Seminary tomorrow, and Julia will be bringing Valentines to the kids in the class, and to Sister Lopez. Sister Lopez is an awesome Seminary teacher, and does some really fun things to get the kids excited about being there, and also gets them so excited about the gospel. Sis. Noel was recently called as the Seminary teacher for Hollis-Brookline, and she is a little overwhelmed by it. She said she is not a natural teacher. She likes to listen, and not to have all eyes on her. And she is still adjusting to the early hour. I'm sure she'll do well, and I'm praying for her.

Well, that's all I can think of for today. The weather here is cold today, and we've had flurries and sunshine at the same time. Very strange. No snow on the ground. It's not as festive, but it is sure easier to drive on clear roads. I love you very much, Phillip. I've been listening to movie sound tracks recently, and tend to associate different ones with different kids. Today was Lion King (Bradford, because he liked that as a little boy and had a Lion King sort of birthday party one year). Before that was Sound of Music, and South Pacific (yours, because you were in the plays). I've also listened to Incredibles (Stanford, because he really liked that). I have Fiddler on the Roof for next time. Maybe I'll listen to Lord of the Rings (yours, plus you have memorized the movies!). I don't really have ones for the girls.

So, I guess I did have something else to say! Also, I know that God lives, and He gives us spiritual experiences if we are just open to receiving them, to let us know of His love and His influence on our lives. And I'm so happy you're serving a mission, and can spread the gospel!

Love,
Mom