

**John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>**

Email from Mom, 3-19-12

Joyce Larsen <linenlady9@gmail.com>Mon, Mar 19, 2012 at 10:04
AM

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

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

Hello, Dear Elder Phillip Larsen,

Wow, another week. Amazing. I'm sitting here in the kitchen listening to the birds through the open window. Spring is sure early this year, and it's beautiful. We have lots of crocuses in the garden, which are lovely. Julia is not impressed by them. But, that's Julia! It is supposed to be warm and sunny all this week, and it will be delightful. We don't have soft yard waste pickup until the week of the 9th of April, but I can enjoy filling up the cans little by little. I'll just have to dig out the rakes from the shed. I'm sure it's not as warm as where you are, though! (Nope. I just checked. It's 84 degrees, with a "comfort" level of 94. Which must mean it's humid, right? Just be sure to drink plenty of water and stay well hydrated!)

Let's see, three news things. First, your notice for your driver license renewal came in the mail last week. It said you have to come into the DMV in person, and had a number to call for questions. So I called it. I think the reason you have to come in is that it is the first license after your starter one. I explained about how you are in Brazil and will return in September. And she said as long as you get the license renewed in the next three years, all you have to do is to take a vision test, and smile pretty for the camera. So, it's an easy thing to do, which we can do shortly after you return. Now you know, and no worries.

Second thing, Winston is doing "fair" on a scale of "excellent, good, fair, poor" for diabetes control. I need to talk to the doctor, but she said in the message (after a special blood test he had last week) that we will increase his insulin a bit, but she wants to talk to me about it. And I asked Dr. Kaas, who examined Winston and pulled out mats in his fur and cut his claws and such, how long cats live with diabetes. He said 2-4 years. That's good to know. Winston can be with us for a few years longer, especially if we can get the diabetes in better control.

Third thing, Ryan Bentall got his mission call, to the Guadalajara Mexico Mission! How awesome is that! He will leave in July. Steven Ogden is awaiting his mission call, too. His girlfriend, Keira, will be going on a service mission, and she will serve in the Church Office Building, and live with her grandparents. I guess service missions

are different, in that you provide your own living arrangements, because lots of people who serve them stay at home to do so. And she has some kind of disability so she can't serve a proselyting mission. I don't know what disability she has.

This past week I gave a talk in the Lowell Ward for their Relief Society birthday party. And I taught Relief Society in Nashua 2nd ward yesterday. It feels like I've been busy this past week, and when I looked at the calendar, I realize I have. In addition to those things to prepare for, I went to Julia's parent-teacher conferences (she is doing wonderfully and her teachers love her), and went to a yoga class at the gym. And I took Winston to the vet on Tuesday. These are in addition to the regular things. Life is good. Busy, but good.

For the talk it was a really good experience. I had thought to give the talk on "Making your home a refuge". That was after listening to the news one day while making the bed and being overwhelmed with how weird and how wicked the world is. And I thought that I can't do much about how the world is, but the thing I could do is to make our home a refuge for our family and friends, a refuge from the world. So I went about preparing the talk on that. Then on Thursday when I was putting the things together, organizing my thoughts, I found some quotes that I liked, but I knew I could not print stuff out from the computer because the printer was out of black ink and the new ink cartridge wasn't in yet. So they had to be quotes from Ensigns we have and such. And then I was reading "Daughters in My Kingdom", and there was a whole chapter that was basically my talk! Quotes and all! The same quotes, and the same scripture I was going to use! The talk went quite well, then for the lesson on Sunday I used parts of the talk, as well as some other things on reading the Book of Mormon and other ways to come unto Christ. I've really felt guided by the Spirit in these things.

Well, dear Phillip, I'll send this now, so you will be sure to get it and maybe have time to read it! I love you very much. I miss you a lot. And Julia has said recently how she misses you, too. But I'm so happy you're serving the Lord on your mission! What a wonderful time of your life! What a wonderful experience! I pray for you every day, as you know. Keep enjoying it all! And love your companion! And I hope you can love being a senior companion, too!

Love,
Mom