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Email from Mom, 2 April 2012

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

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

Hello, Dear Elder Phillip Larsen!

Happy April! Julia will be 16 tomorrow, and after Seminary this morning, Sadie Olsen said, "Julia will be 16, old enough to date! Do you hear that, Garrett? James? Jarrett, and Niah?" It was pretty cute. Amazing to think my baby will be 16.

Beverly is actually doing a bit better now. I have visited her every day this past week, for an hour or two. The first day I thought she was ready to die, for sure. She was standing and walking, well, wandering around, but Maggie was there with her the whole time, and Beverly was not really coherent. Maggie is so good and loving and patient with her. She has been accepted to nursing school in the fall, and I can see she will do well with it. She is really turning her life around. Anyway, Beverly has perked up, she had a haircut (yes, her hair is growing back after the chemo), and a manicure. She has been eating a bit, and knitting some. The doctors and staff at the Hospice House said she is not following the pattern they expected, so they are just going one day at a time, to see how she does, and what happens. They have talked about physical therapy, probably to strengthen her a bit. I will be going there this morning for a couple of hours to be with her so her sister, Dori, can do some errands and have some time to herself. Many people have visited, and it's good to see the love that is shown, and also to feel the sacredness of the place, the Hospice House, though it was especially hard to go there the first day.

Wasn't General Conference great?! I always love General Conference. This time the weekend was less relaxing than in the past. I was thinking a lot about Beverly, I was supposed to go to a party for Nancy Carl on Saturday night (which I ended up missing), we had a baptism to attend on Sunday morning (where Dad played the music and I led the music), and Dad left for Egypt before the second session yesterday. I put away the equipment. So, several extra things going on, and to think about. But it was wonderful to get direction from the Prophet and apostles, and wonderful to feel the Spirit. Deborah Carl said there were several talks with deep doctrine, and gave the example of Richard G. Scott's, about recognizing revelation in dreams. I have to admit, I dozed off during that one, because I was so tired by then, and I will listen to it again soon.

We took six missionaries to Ruby Tuesday, and it was fun to talk to them. Elder Godfrey's (Nashua 1st) brother served in the Brazil Teresina mission, and I'm not sure when, or if it was before it was its own mission. Elder Ah Wong (Nashua 2nd Ward) is from New Zealand, has a Chinese name because of a Chinese great-grandfather, is Samoan, is serving in the Boston Mission, and was called to be Spanish-speaking. Elder Stephens (Nashua 1st) shares a birthday with Julia, and we got a cake from Hannaford and had both their names put on it. Four of the missionaries (all of the Nashua Elders) joined us for lunch between sessions on Sunday, and it was funny, too, that Dominique Favey and her mother also gave them lunch before the sessions started. So they had a meal around 11:30, another one around 2:30, then had dinner appointments around 6:30. I teased them that it was like *The Vicar of Dibley*, the episode where she was invited to about four Christmas dinners, and was expected to attend all of them, and eat lots of food at all of them. I heard they once went to four Thanksgiving dinners.

There is a lady visiting the Merrimack Ward from California, named Debbie (last name I don't know). She is the only member of the Church in her family, and her mother recently passed away, so Debbie came out here for that. She was baptized in her 30's, and went on a mission when she was 34, to Belgium (French-speaking), and was spending time with the Faveys. It was neat that she could speak with them so well, in their native language. And they all joined us in the Relief Society room to hear Conference.

In between the sessions on Sunday there was a really neat video about the King James Bible. I would like to see it again, when I can watch uninterrupted. I'm sure it will be available at some point to see. I think it is called *Fires of Faith*, or something like that (because of the people who were burned at the stake because of their faith). Lots of people have sacrificed a lot to be sure we have the Bible available to us today. It gave me a greater appreciation for what we have.

Oh, news! Your cousin, Jimmy, is getting married on June 1st. And my Mom said Savannah will marry her baby's father on a Saturday in May, though Oma does not know the date. It will be a quiet family wedding and celebration, and Savannah wants to be sure her baby has a father, which is admirable. I think she is growing up a bit with this experience. Though I know there will be many very hard times ahead for her.

I'm still deciding whether to go to UT around the 13th or the 16th of April. I guess I had better decide pretty soon, or it will be too late! But, it sounds like I can go to a wedding no matter which month I go. My purpose is a visit, though, and it's nice if there is a wedding happening to make it at the same time. But I'm kind of wanting to wait to see what happens with Beverly. She has been a good friend for so long. And I don't want to be traveling when it's time for a funeral. Especially when Maggie has

asked me to speak. I looked at dates, and leaving on the 16th (Monday) felt lots better than the 13th, for some reason, even though it makes for a shorter trip. We'll see, though. I've been praying about it, quite a bit. And going on the 16th feels like it might work. Or maybe I'll just wait until late May or something. So many good things to choose from.

How did you listen to Conference? Did you get to go to all sessions? Did you hear it in English or Portuguese? Did you have lunch with members between sessions? How has your week gone? How is the weather?

Oh, I forgot to tell you, Rachel came to stay for the weekend. Julia and I picked her up on Friday afternoon, and the girls and I took her back last night. It was nice to have her here, and nice that she wants to be here for Conference. It's a tradition! She'll be in Nashua this coming weekend, too, for Easter, but she'll stay with her family, and do things with them. But she is going with us on Saturday to the *Savior of the World* play. And I'm planning to have Julia's candle race on Sunday night, and depending on the timing, Rachel may come for that. I don't know when else to have it. Dad is gone until Friday. I suppose we could have it Saturday night. I'll have to ask about that. And I need to get presents for Julia!

Well, time to get ready to visit with Beverly. I was thinking I may tell her about some of what Julia has been learning in Seminary recently, about the book of Isaiah, and some of the chapters deal with death and resurrection.

As always, Phillip, I love you very much. I miss you. But I'm so grateful you're serving a mission! What a wonderful time in your life, to share the gospel of Jesus Christ full-time! I know Heavenly Father loves us, and wants us to return to live with Him, and makes it possible for that to happen. We just need to obey the commandments, and have faith in Jesus Christ.

Love,
Mom