



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

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## Email from Mom, 9 April 2012

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Joyce Larsen <linenlady9@gmail.com>

Mon, Apr 9, 2012 at 10:03 AM

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

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

Hello, Dear Elder Phillip Edward Larsen!

How are you this week? I thought of you yesterday, as we were hunting Easter eggs, feeling a little bit chilly because of a slight breeze, and cool April weather, and thought of how it is NOT cool in Teresina, and you would not ever be wearing a sweatshirt or gloves to stay warm while outside! I'm sorry I was not there when you emailed last week. I was sad to miss our "chat". But I was visiting at the Hospice House, in the morning so Dori, Beverly's sister, could do some errands.

Today is my clean-up day, where I get caught up with dishes and laundry and such, after our Easter dinner, and after Julia's birthday celebration. Dad said last night, "Didn't we just do this?" (about the candle race), and Bradford said, "Well, it *is* Birthday season." What did you do for Easter? Do they have special food, the way we tend to have ham, or some people have lamb or even turkey? Though that is not a usual thing in all families. Some just do baskets for kids or egg hunts or such.

One thing Dad didn't mention in his email is the play, *Savior of the World*. It was an amazing production. Dad and Julia and I went on Saturday for the 2pm performance. Rachel was going to come with us, but ended up spending time with her family instead. Heather was with Mandy at Anime Boston. I think you would have loved the production, and you would probably have been in it if you had been here. All the performers said they were changed by being in it. Their testimonies were strengthened, and they had spiritual experiences. I saw a picture of them at the Temple, for a temple session they did for those who could attend. I could feel the Spirit very strongly at the play, and it was a wonderful way to celebrate Easter. The first act was about the events surrounding the Savior's birth. Becca Rigg was Mary, and Bro. Orr (Shannon's husband) was Joseph. Lori Forsyth (Lowell Ward) was Elizabeth, and Rick Pearson (Merrimack Ward) was Elizabeth's husband, Zacharias. The second act was about the resurrection. Shannon Orr played Mary Magdelene, and also did the costumes. There was a choir, and also a support choir on the floor of the gym. There was a full house on Friday night, no more seats available, and 300 attended for the Saturday afternoon performance, and about 375 for Saturday night. It was awesome!

In mentioning Rachel and her family, I'm not sure if I told you, or if she has told you, that her Mom's boyfriend, Mark, is living at the house. And now Matthew's girlfriend, Sarah, who is pregnant, is also living there. I asked Rachel if Matthew and Sarah would be getting married, and she doesn't know. She says Matthew is nervous about it. Rightly so, I'm sure. He's and Sarah are very young (18). But no matter what, there is a baby in the picture, so he has a lifetime responsibility of that, whether or not he and Sarah get married. I just wish they had the gospel. Rachel said she thinks Mark would be more receptive than her Mom. She said Mark suggested they pray once on a meal, knowing it would be important to Rachel.

Your cousin, Savannah, is getting married on the day before Mother's Day, the last I heard. I never know, week to week, what is happening there, but it sounds like that is the latest plan. I had thought of going to UT for Shani's wedding (on April 19th), but then have decided not to do it, for two reasons: the timing would be tight because of Stake RS Training before, and then April vacation after, and also because of Beverly. She is still hanging on, and today goes back to the cottage from the Hospice House. Dori, her sister, said she will have a hospital bed, and has basically gone home to die. Beverly can't be left alone anymore, so Dori needs help so she can do errands and get away now and again. So those who will be visiting will arrange ahead of time to go, so Dori can plan some time out. This will be for only a short time, I'm sure. I'm planning to visit a couple of times this week, and will pray to know what I can do to be of best help.

I talked to my Mom about the UT trip, and she and also Leslie, said it would be good for me to be here at home. And with Savannah getting married in May, and Jimmy getting married in June, I could go for a wedding just about any time I choose! However, this is a busy time of year, with April vacation, and concerts that Julia is in, and awards nights and such.

Dad is out now, putting the license plates on the new van. We get to use the same plates the other van had, which is nice. He wasn't sure until he went this morning to get it registered if we would have to get new plates. Little by little, the new van is feeling more like our van. It doesn't have that strange smell (new car smell? vinyl smell?) that both Julia and I noticed at first. And we're putting things where they belong, and figuring out what we want to keep in the van.

Dad told me to tell you that Bradford did not get offered a job in California, so he will NOT be moving. Yippee! I think Bradford is glad to be staying in the area. But he does want a job offer from somewhere. He is being diligent about applying, and we'll keep praying that things work out for him.

For Julia's birthday, I made Marshmallow Krispie Treats out of Fruity Pebbles for the Seminary kids, and they really liked them. Jeana also brought lemon bread for her,

which is so nice. She is always doing nice things for the Seminary kids. Then after I picked up Julia from Gaming Club, we went to AC Moore for some shopping for her, and I bought her some art supplies, which I am counting as part of her present. Then we got some stir-fry food from Hannaford that they have started carrying, where you pick out a meat, and a veggie, and a sauce, and a starch, each one pre-packaged. Then you stir-fry it together and it serves about 3-4 people. It was really good, and I have been getting those occasionally. And Julia and I watched a show while we ate. So it was a nice day for her.

Well, my dear son, I'm so happy for the good work you're doing as a missionary! It's awesome! It's awesome being a "Missionary Mom"! Stephen Ogden got his endowments on Friday, but I didn't attend because of Dad coming back from Egypt, and errands to do. But it's so nice having missionaries in the field. What a wonderful time, to preach the gospel like that! I love you very much. And I'm excited about talking to you on Mother's Day! Or I guess it will be the day before, if you Skype. Oh, dear, I don't know how to work that! That's the day of two concerts, and Morgan's wedding reception, and Craft and Chat and the Compassionate Friends Blood Drive. Hmmm, we'll have to figure something out here. Keep the faith!

Love,  
Mom