



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

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## Patriot's Day Email from Mom, 16 April 2012

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Joyce Larsen <linenlady9@gmail.com>

Mon, Apr 16, 2012 at 10:33 AM

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

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

Good morning, my dear son, dear Elder Phillip Edward Larsen,

Well, as Dad told you, today is going to be very hot. I just checked [weather.com](http://weather.com) for both Teresina and Nashua, and it looks like we'll be hotter here today than you will. And you'll have more rain. We're humid here today, too, though not as humid as you, I think. It's supposed to be record-breaking for temperature here, and the Boston Athletic Association has told the marathon runners that only the most fit should run, and the others could get a waiver and run next year instead. (Today it will be around 92, and last year for the marathon it was 54.) They said that runners who have not trained in heat should not run. I guess you could run, because you've run sometimes to your appointments, and it's very hot there, so it's like you've trained, sort of, already :).

Ok, news for this week. Hmmm . . . I have made a list and have a few things. Thomas Kincade, that artist I really like, who does the artwork for the calendar I get each year for the kitchen, died this past week of natural causes. He was only 54, though, so I'm thinking heart attack or stroke, maybe, or a brain aneurysm, something that is quick. He will be greatly missed. I really like the peaceful feeling I have when I look at his artwork, and he is very spiritual and family-oriented, besides, and he painted this into his art. He was known as "painter of light". Some art people didn't like him, and I don't know why, maybe because he sold so much they viewed him as just a popular artist, but not one with artistic merit. But I know what I like. And many other people do, too.

Second thing: Mrs. Seusing will be leaving Nashua High South as Principal at the end of the school year because she will have a job as assistant superintendent. I'm sure she will do a wonderful job, and still be around doing things for the schools, just not at NHSS. I wonder who they will get.

Dad told you about Bradford's new job already, and I'll be glad to still see him around often. I like it that he stops by. I realize it is sometimes to do his laundry when he's around anyway to visit with Amy, but he also comes to play games with his sisters, and I join in too on occasion. They invited me yesterday, but I needed to fix dinner. (We had stir-fry.)

Lately when I arrive at church to pick up kids from Seminary, I stop in the classroom at the end and sit in the back and just listen. There was an awesome lesson last week on missionaries. Jeana had a video to show the kids about some missionaries in different places, and talked to them about preparing to serve missions. She had brought her scrapbook from her own mission, and it was so neat to see all of the pictures! We saw pictures of her husband, too, whom she met while on her mission. I just love hearing the lessons at Seminary. I've decided that a worthwhile goal for me is to memorize all of the Scriptures Mastery scriptures. I never memorized them as a youth, because we were just required to know the references to be able to find them, and know how to use them, not memorize the verses, themselves. And because of where I lived as a teenager (Germany, then UT), I had home-study Seminary in Germany for New Testament. Then the next year I started with Church History, but by then I was the only youth in the branch, and the teacher ended up moving, or we just couldn't get together or something, and I wasn't motivated enough or knowledgeable enough to do it on my own. Then in UT, I had Old Testament, and New Testament again. Never Book of Mormon. So, it's time for me to learn.

Dad also told you about Julia's Priest/Laurel outing to Albany on Saturday. She had such a good time! He was mistaken, and said they left at 5:30. It was actually 5:00 when they left, so she and I woke up at 4:20am, dark and early! They heard Clay Christensen for the keynote speaker, then had some wonderful classes, then a dance. They had SYC meetings on the bus, and they have put Julia in charge of the June activity because of her leadership abilities. I'm quite impressed with your sister. You've also set a good example for her to follow, and she is already excited for her mission.

Dad told me that Michael Scott has put in his mission papers again, and is just awaiting a call, which will come this week. We'll let you know when we hear any news.

I've been visiting Beverly several times, for several hours each time. She is back at her cottage now, and her sister, Dori, is the one who takes care of her. Beverly really can not be left alone anymore, so I have gone to help out so Dori could get out and do errands and maybe have a walk. A few other people have been doing this, too. The nurse adjusted some medication on Beverly, cutting back on the amount of some stuff they had been giving her to ease restlessness. Now Beverly is more alert and doing better. She is still dying, but has better quality of life now. Maggie is due to have a baby in the middle of May, and we're hoping Beverly will be here for that. Though I told Dori that if she is not, she will maybe be giving last-minute instructions to her grand child before he/she is born, seeing it off. Dori said she had not thought of that. But she seemed open to the possibility. I just wish I could somehow talk about spiritual things to Beverly. She hasn't even been awake much when I've visited lately.

On Thursday of last week we had Stake Relief Society training, which I taught, mostly. We had lots of things to discuss, and I hope I gave the sisters things they could use and that were valuable to them. Then on Sunday it was our ward's Ward Conference. Emily Maughan taught the Relief Society lesson, and did a great job. I'm liking her more and more as I work with her more and more as my new counselor. My other counselor, Reta Brown, has had some deaths in her family recently. Her father-in-law died last October. Then Reta was visiting her daughter, Heather, in TX, who just had a baby a couple of weeks ago. Then she had to cut that visit short to travel to Montana because her father died and she needed to go to the funeral. She returned home a week ago, on Monday. Then on Saturday morning her mother-in-law died. Reta had told us on Thursday that her mother-in-law was not doing well, and she hoped she didn't linger on in pain and discomfort. And she didn't. Life is interesting, and I'm so thankful for the Plan of Salvation. What a blessing it is to have a testimony of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

As I'm writing her on the laptop in the kitchen, I can hear birds very close to the window outside. There are a couple of nests in the ivy on the chimney. We can't see the actual nests, but we saw birds flying into the ivy in several places lately, and we can hear them very well. And when we had the Easter Egg hunt last week, I was in the garden looking at the ivy, and one bird was getting very upset at how close I was getting, and kept flying down low to scare me away!

One cute story to end: Bishop Nelson told us in his talk yesterday about a little family they knew in Cambridge when they lived there years ago. The father took the little four-year-old boy to a bridge overlooking a road where the runners for the marathon were running. He pointed to them, and said to his little boy, "Wouldn't you like to run the Boston Marathon someday?" The boy answered, "Oh, yes, Daddy! But I think I'll wait for my resurrected body!"

When I heard the Seminary lesson about missionaries, I felt extra proud of you and pleased with you, and extra love for you. I'm so glad you get to do this, to serve the Lord as a full-time missionary! I pray for you and think about you, and I do miss you. But what a great opportunity! How blessed we are to have the Gospel, and for you to be able to share it with the people of Brasil!

Love,  
Mom