



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

A letter from Dad: 23 April 2012

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Sun, Apr 22, 2012 at 9:08 PM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

Cc: Joyce Larsen <joyce@larsen-family.us>

FACEBOOK FRIEND REQUEST

**Ana Paula Dutra** wants to be friends with you on Facebook.

Works at Missão Brasil Teresina · Ceep 2 Ano em Contabilidade · Teresina

539 friends · 64 photos · 45 Wall posts · 12 groups

Evelyn Matos wants to be friends with you on Facebook.

Evandro Caiafa Esquivel Prof · Diadema, Sao Paulo

468 friends · 199 photos · 53 Wall posts

**Crystal Leann Bates** wants to be friends with you on Facebook.

Volunteer at Humane Society for Greater Nashua · Nashua High School South

315 friends · 247 photos · 1 note · 130 Wall posts

Hello Dear Phillip,

Another week has zipped by. Monday was Patriots Day as I mentioned last week. It was nice to have a day off and get some things done. We raked that day and filled up all 11 garbage cans with leaves and yard waste. The "garbage boys" picked that all up Friday so Saturday I filled up 6 of the cans again. I finally raked all around behind the shed and then a bunch of the leaves in the area of the "woods" bordering the back yard "grass". I got tired of raking after a few hours so I quit. Also on Saturday I disassembled the AC compressor that is behind the house. I never have covered it up in the autumn and over time some leaves have made there way into its interior. About 3 inches of leaves had accumulated in the bottom and it was bugging me. So, I figured out how to take the top off and balance the fan assembly with one hand while using the other hand to vacuum everything out. Now it's clean. I also tested the AC and proved it is still working. This fall I'll put a tarp or board on top of it so the leaves can't get in.

We had the missionaries over for dinner Saturday evening as you can see from the attached pictures. Elder Stephens was replaced by Elder Piacitelli. He has about as

much time left as you do as does Elder Godfrey. At times a mentally stand back and think about it. These missionaries are pretty much your same age and also time in the mission field. I'm happy to take care of our missionaries and trust that members in Brazil are doing the same for my son the missionary. It's an awesome thing.

Bradford was over on Saturday doing laundry, eating with us, and then Amy came over later in the evening to play games with Bradford, Heather, and Julia. They were having a fun time. I didn't play any games this time. I took a few underexposed pictures of them playing games.

I've been consumed the last few weeks trying to figure out how to manipulate video files. I've mentioned that project in previous emails. I finally figured out a method that works, but it took me many days to get there. I tried so many different approaches. So many of them seemed hopeful at first and then ended up not working. I've been spending so much time trying to figure it out that I ended up skipping the gym two days last week. I'd wake up and my mind would immediately start thinking about the next thing to try. I'd tell myself that I'd go downstairs just for a quick look, and then it would end up being a couple of hours and I'd miss the gym. Saturday morning I started in almost first thing. That's the day that I finally found a video editor that actually worked! It does exactly what I was looking for and more. I'm able to import video clips into a project and easily edit them and combine them. Then I'm able to render the whole project into a wide variety of output formats. Being able to do it on my Linux box with its quad core processor and 8 GB of RAM makes the processing much faster. So, the only thing I need to do on the old awesome-beast is the video capture from the Beta tapes. All the rest of it can be done on the Linux box. I've even figured out how to render the video so that it plays on my Kindle Fire tablet.

I'm plowing through all of Mandy's Beta tapes now. There are several tapes with Christmas shows on them. Some of them are familiar like "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" and "Charlie Brown Christmas", but there are a bunch of them that I don't ever remember seeing before. Many are along the line of "Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer", the claymation kinds of shows. I'm able to record them onto the computer and load the file into the video editor and cut out all the ads.

There was no band rehearsal this past Tuesday and there won't be one this Tuesday either because it is vacation week. Since there was no band I was able to attend the recognition program at NHSS for students who achieved straight A grades the previous semester. For Julia this is actually three semesters in a row and it is looking good to make it four in a row.

Winston is being weird right now (Sunday evening about 8 PM). He is just sitting in his litter box, kind of camping out. It is raining here and every now and then a drop makes it down the flu and makes a noise. That makes Winston's ears perk up and he

stares for awhile. However, he's just sitting in his litter box. I've never seen him just stay in it. Earlier he spent time in the closet in my room. Earlier he was sitting on some bins in the food storage area. Weird. Now he got out of the litter box after being in there for 5 or so minutes, and he is laying beside it.

This week is vacation week for Julia. That means Joyce and Julia will be sleeping every morning. I'll have to have all my stuff gathered the night before. That means I won't be able to practice the sax at all in the morning. I'm thinking I might try to get to work earlier so that I can leave earlier. That would give me some time in the evening to practice.

This Wednesday is our ward's youth temple trip. I'll be going directly to the temple from work. It is always nice to be with the youth in the temple.

I'm studying Egyptian Arabic every week day. I work on a lesson driving in to work, and then again driving home. I put a chapter of the Book of Mormon before and after the lesson. It takes me about 4 passes through a lesson before I feel comfortable to move on to the next lesson. I'm on lesson 13 of 30 right now. It's fun to learn a language.

Mike Scott still hasn't received his new call yet. I talked with him Sunday about it and he said it looks like it is going to be another week.

POLITICS:

Last week I forget to bring you up to date on the primary situation. The week before that, on April 11th, Rick Santorum ended his bid for the Republican nomination. The "delegate math" made it impossible for him to win the nomination. So, Romney will be the Republican candidate for President. The party is coming together behind him.

The primary has been brutal and divisive. I think there is enough time for wounds to heal. Obama's political machine is going to be very well funded and will be attacking Romney very hard. The race is very close. Some polls show Romney ahead by a few points. Other polls show them neck and neck. It's going to be very close. Of course I hope Romney wins.

Well, my son, that about wraps it up for this week. I depend on the Lord to look out for you and keep you safe, well, and happy. I'm thankful you have this opportunity to serve and bring the true gospel to Heavenly Father's children in Brazil.


Love,


Dad

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John R Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>
<http://larsen-family.us>


15 attachments


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