



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

Happy Birthday! Freuliche Geburtstag!

Joyce Larsen <linenlady9@gmail.com>

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

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

Hello, my Dear Elder Phillip Larsen,

Happy Birthday! I was trying to figure out how to say it in Portuguese, and even went back to the email you sent me on my birthday, but it's a birthday song, and the birthday wishes are in English. But in color! Which is cool. I need to figure out how to do that. Will you have cake? Will you have cake ingredients thrown at you?!! Your birthday package will be late (sorry :()), but it will have fun things in it for you. Oh, and this morning I asked Julia if she had emailed you this week and she said no. She asked me to send along a message to you: "Happy Birthday! You're really old, now" LOL. For some reason, to her, 21 seems really old.

Oma asked if you said anything about getting a birthday card from them. I said you had not mentioned it just yet. They always ask about you. I think they don't read the emails, though we send them every week. They're not much for technology. But I could tell them, if you tell me. Have you gotten a card from them?

Ok, first, to ease your mind: Winston is still with us. We took him to the vet on Monday afternoon, where he was x-rayed and blood drawn. I was fearful of a tumor or something, but it turns out he was full of . . . poop. That's right. Very constipated. So, he ended up staying overnight, and given a couple of enemas to clean him out. And now, (\$512 later) he is doing better, though not back to normal yet. I'm not sure if he ever will be, really. He is an old cat. They shaved off some mats, and he looks pretty scruffy right now. But he is eating again, though not as much as before, and he likes his medicine, which is a sort of laxative that he licks off a spoon or I put in his food. I am not giving him insulin just now, but I'll take him in for a blood test this week to see what we need to do about that.

This week, and until May 12th, Julia and I are taking care of the Potters' cats. The Potters are on a cruise in Europe (lucky!). I'm trying to talk Dad into planning a similar cruise for our 35th anniversary. Or maybe before :). I think that would be really fun. I've taken some pictures of the Potters' cats while we were there the other day, and then I was looking at the pictures on my camera the other day, and realized I have four different cats on it! I have pictures of Winston, and of Mary, the Ogden's cat, when we were taking care of him. And of the Potters' two cats. Very fun. I need to

learn how all of the buttons and such on my camera work, and learn how to upload the pictures on the computer (again--it takes me awhile to get technology things down), and send you some of them.

Dad got a really nice letter the other day from Elder Ribeiro, in quite good English. He said he was getting help from Elders in his apartment. And there were lots of stamps all over the envelope, much like the Wesley's would put on a letter! It was addressed to just "Larsen", so Heather and I opened it when it came and read it. I would very much like to meet him sometime. I would love to travel to Brasil and meet people from your mission.

Last week we put together a puzzle of Nauvoo which we had. When I have visited Beverly at her cottage, she had a puzzle on the dining room table, and one morning I was there and Beverly was sleeping so for about an hour I worked the puzzle while the sun shone in and the birds sang outside. Very peaceful. So when I got home I remembered all of the puzzles we have (we still have several), and decided to get one out. The Nauvoo one is a puzzle we had never worked, so Heather and I put it together in one afternoon, on Sunday. We took a picture of it before we took it apart, and maybe Dad can send it to you next week.

I haven't seen Beverly for a few days, not since Sunday of last week, I think. She is currently at the Hospice House, and might possibly go home again today. Maggie is due to have her baby in the next couple of weeks, also to finish up a semester of her schooling. (She will be starting nursing school in the fall.) And Maggie's husband, Dave, does not have a license for some reason. And the baby is breech (head up), and they're going to try to turn it around so it can be born properly. Otherwise Maggie will have to have a C-section, and won't be able to drive for six weeks. Oh, and Maggie's Dad, who had been going to take care of Maggie's boy, Caleb, during the birth, won't be able to do it now. So, lots of complications. I've been helping out and need to continue, I think, though I need to also do things at home and our own errands. I'll just prayerfully consider what needs to happen, what my part is.

This past week has been busy, but also relaxing, with Julia having April vacation. I like getting enough sleep. It's always a challenge to get to bed on time normally, so we're normally quite short on sleep. We'll have to work on it. One thing Dad did not tell you about this past week is that Julia and I went to visit with Karen Buchanan and her daughter, Ashley, and we painted ceramics. I did a bowl, and Julia did a little lizard that looks like the Geiko one. We'll get them back the next time we see Karen. The pieces have to be fired, and the place is in Exeter, so she'll pick them up and bring them to the next Craft and Chat.

We will have to decide by next P-day when the Mother's Day call will be. I'm very much looking forward to talking to you! On the Saturday before, Dad and Julia both

have concerts in the evening, so we would have to Skype in the afternoon. After we go to Morgan's wedding reception. Or do a phone call on the Sunday, which would be lovely, too. Oh, and I would love it if you have the time to make another WAV file of you talking. I love those!

Dad mentioned the Youth Temple Trip on Wednesday, which was a really nice time. Heather and Adam went to the 6pm session at the same time, so it was really nice to have family members and friends there in the Temple. In the chapel of the Baptistry, when the guy was asking if all the brethren there were Melchizedek Priesthood holders and Endowed, I thought of Stanford, and how he is both. So, I wondered if he might check in from time to time, maybe coming to the Temple if someone he has taught is having ordinances done there. And maybe he was there that night because three members of his family were there, too. That is a nice thought.

I was in the baptistry next to the font, talking briefly with Sis. Olsen, Sadie's Mom. They had some family file names to do, and she wanted to be in the font area when the names were done. I have usually done the towels, but this time I spent more time in the chapel. I had thought I should leave and go be with the boys who were still in the chapel, who were sure to be rowdy, I thought. I looked up to check, and there was Garrett Hawkins, leading them all in singing! It was amazing! At one point, they were all standing while they sang, and it turned out they were singing the Star Spangled Banner. We have a great group of youth. One of the temple workers asked if our kids were always like that, and Sis. Olsen said, "Yes, pretty much." Then someone asked Meesa Jeans the same question, and she gave the very same answer. It was cool! And it's great when a Youth Temple Trip is one of the highlights of their week.

How blessed we are to have the Gospel, and to know about Jesus Christ and the Atonement! And to have a Temple nearby, and to have valiant men and women serving as missionaries! I'm so proud of you, Phillip. And I love you very much. And I miss you, but I know you're on the Lord's errand, and doing exactly what you need to do right now.

Love,
Mom