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Email from Mom, 11 June 2012

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

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

Hello, Dear Elder Phillip Larsen (how fun to be able to say that!)-

Last night (or early this morning, I guess) I dreamed that you were getting off the plane after returning from your mission. You were speaking in English to me, until about ten minutes in, when you started speaking in Portuguese. I reminded you to speak in English so I could understand. And for some reason, I was the only one to pick you up. Hmm, I wonder if I dreamed that because of your mission (and I'm getting a bit excited to have you back, though at the right time, not now!), or because of a movie we watched on Saturday, "The Incredible Hulk". Sounds strange, doesn't it, that that movie would make me think of your mission? But, in a part of it, Bruce Banner (who becomes The Hulk when he is upset or angry) spent time in Brazil. It was fascinating, and I looked up the area on Wikipedia. It turns out it is Rocinha ("little farm") Favela, which is a shanty town. The views of it are amazing, and it is all on a hillside. It was fun to see Bruce Banner living there, and speaking Portuguese to the people. He worked in a bottling plant for Guarana. Anyway, I know that is far from where you are, but it is Brasil, which makes me think of you. I have to keep reminding myself that the country of Brasil is almost as large as the continental United States. So it would be like saying someone is in California, but I saw a movie that takes place in New York, so it made me think of the person in California because of it being in the same country.

As Dad said in his email, the move for the Fletchers was on Saturday. I also went over, and carried a few things, and mostly visited with Gail while we stayed with the belongings that were left because they wouldn't fit in the first truckload to the new place. It was nice to visit with her. The missionaries from Nashua 2nd, as well as from Nashua 1st, came to help out. I had forgotten missionaries would do that, for some reason, and was surprised to see them there. The Nashua 1st Elders had their nametags clipped to t-shirts they were wearing with long shorts and sneakers, appropriate for doing a move. The Nashua 2nd Elders did not have their nametags on, but I knew who they were anyway. I thought of you and how that is the type of thing you and your companion might do for service.

Speaking of missionaries (which we do, every week, since we talk of your mission!), Ian had his first baptism. Leslie posted a picture on FB of Ian and his companion,

along with a couple in their baptismal clothes. People were posting their congratulations, and someone commented that it is quite a feat, in Belgium. Ian's Mission President writes a blog and talked about it in the blog, plus he said his mission covers two countries and five languages, not including numerous dialects that are found, as well. The Mission President comes from UT, the Salt Lake valley, sort of near where Oma and Papa, and Grandma, live. Where does your new mission president come from? I think you've told me, but now I can't remember. Because our mission is getting a new Mission President, too, in July, and the Elders have told us about him a little when they've come to visit, so I'm getting the information mixed up.

Beverly is still with us. She continues to surprise everyone, though I think it won't be too much longer before Stanford will be teaching her in the Spirit World. I last visited her on Tuesday of last week, and I arrived at the same time as Maggie and her children. It was fun for me to be able to hold the baby a bit, too. Beverly slept for most of the visit, and I'm not sure if she even knew I was there, for sure. I'm planning to visit again today if it works out for them.

On Friday Kemper Ure came over for a couple of hours to help me with "THE ROOM"! We mostly emptied out your old bedroom, and put the stuff, piled up, into the downstairs bedroom. I was going to put it in there carefully, organized in boxes the way it needs to be, but she said that for her, it's more motivating to get a project done to see results fast. So, we're working on making this upstairs bedroom my sewing room (I'm still not sure what to call it, exactly), then I'll work on the downstairs bedroom. I'll make the downstairs room nice for MaryAnn to sleep in when she and Emmy visit in August, and nice for you to come home to in September. I'm excited about getting this done! Both of these rooms! I'll buy paint and supplies this week, then Kemper is coming over again on the 21st in the evening, or maybe during the day earlier than that if that were to work out, and paint. Then Dad and I will go to Ikea to buy some shelves for one corner, and I'll put things in there the way I want to. Anyway, it's finally becoming a priority, and I need to spend the time to make it nice. Then in a few weeks I can really focus on your bedroom in the basement. If I get around to painting it, is there a particular color you would like? It's blue now, leftover from the blue paint in the living room.

I've had one little "Ah Ha!" moment in recent days. I'm still having trouble making time for journal writing, and have gotten quite behind with even my little daily journal. I was pondering about how to deal with it, and the thought came to me that I need to do the essential things FIRST in my day. The scripture reading and journal writing should be what I do first thing in the morning, as well as a morning walk, not after the day has gone, if there's time. It's so easy to just start in the day, and just do "one more thing" before starting on these focus activities. I need to make it a matter of prayer for extra help in this, I think. The schedule for the day is changing, starting today with no Seminary. Then Julia finishes school on Thursday, and I'll have to have more

self-discipline to get up early in the morning to start the day. Do you find you get the right amount of sleep, more or less, on your mission?

Well, dear Phillip, keep on keeping on. The gospel is true, and the Lord loves you. I love you very much, and I'm so pleased you're on this mission, and doing so well with it!

Love,
Mom