



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

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## A letter from Dad: 18 June 2012

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John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Mon, Jun 18, 2012 at 8:02 AM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

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

Hello Dear Phillip,

It's Sunday afternoon. We had Stake Conference the past two days. Our visiting General Authority was Elder Bruce A Carlson of the 2nd Quorum of the 70. He is a retired 4 star general and served in the Air Force for 37 years. He was a jet fighter pilot for many years. I attended the Saturday afternoon Priesthood Leadership Training session. Joyce, Heather and I attended the Saturday evening adult session. There was a lot of good teaching going on. I took some notes, but I wish it were possible to assimilate more completely all that is taught. My mind tends to wander at times thinking about the logistics of the meetings.

After the adult session I was busy setting up 5 different monitors in 5 different rooms. I also had to set up the big amplifier on the stage which involves several pieces of equipment. Then Sunday morning I got there early in order to get everything turned on and verify it is working. Everything went quite smoothly this conference. We have five new flat panel monitors on carts that make the set up much easier now. There is only one old style CRT TV left in the building.

The Nashua 1st Ward Choir provided the special music during the Sunday session. I really enjoyed listening to them. They had prepared well and did a great job.

At times it gets discouraging hearing talks and realizing that I'm falling short. I think we are given a particular set of weaknesses that we have to work on our whole lives.

I struggle with things like praying with meaningful intent. Maybe it's the ISTJ type of personality or my engineering mentality. I tend to dissect and analyze problems or situations and come up with the solution. I depend on my own abilities too much.

Another area where I need to improve is scripture study. I have never been very good at "study". I've gone through the scriptures many times, especially listening to them. Listening to scripture mp3s is certainly a viable method, but I'm thinking I need to read the actual books as well. For me this has always been somewhat difficult. I fall asleep. :P I've done better when I'm reading the scriptures in French and have to look up words. My mind wanders too much. It's always been this way as long as I can remember. That's what I mean about things that we have to work on our whole

lives.

Today is Fathers Day. According to wikipedia, Mother's Day in the USA was first celebrated in 1908. Celebration of a day for Fathers was started after the success of celebrating Mother's Day. It didn't really catch on nationally until the 1930s.

Now it's Monday morning, June 18th, at 7:10 AM. Joyce just came downstairs. She received a text message from Beverly's sister, Dori, from about 15 minutes ago. The nurses at the Hospice House have been checking on Beverly and it appears that Beverly's passing might be imminent now. Joyce is going to throw on some clothes and head over to the Hospice House. Julia has an eye exam appointment this morning at 8:45. Fortunately I was finishing up my "morning things" and hadn't left yet for the gym. I have a chiropractor appointment at 9:50 this morning. I'll take Julia to the eye appointment instead of going to the gym today. Joyce will come over in time for me to be able to make my appointment.

The news about Beverly kind of puts an emotional damper on the email. Most things about "life" seem trivial in moments like these. Events like these almsway make me ponder back to our family's own experience with this. I'm thankful for my testimony of the plan of salvation and the reality of God and our Savior Jesus Christ. I'm thankful for the hope of a glorious resurrection.

Now on to more mundane things. I will finish capturing the last two beta tapes to computer today. That makes 100 Beta tapes of our own that I've copied. About 4 of those had to be captured twice due to audio problems. I also did Mandy's 15 tapes, and some of those were captured twice due to learning curve issues. All together I've probably captured around 125 beta tapes at 4.5 hours each. That's about 560 hours of capturing time. On average the most I could capture is 2 on a week day and 3 on a weekend day. But, capturing is only the first step. Editing and rendering is the next step and that is a more involved process. I've processed all 15 of Mandy's tapes and 63 of our tapes. I have about 36 of ours left to do.

After I finish the Beta tapes I'm going to start in on our VHS tapes. That means I'll move the Beta machine to a storage shelf somewhere and put the VHS machine in its place under awesome-beast's monitor. In addition to our own tapes I've told my sister Lori that I want to do a service project for her. You might remember from their trip in the summer of 2010 that she has a video camera and likes to take short video segments of events. They have about 100 VHS-C tapes that each hold about 30 minutes of video. The VHS-C format is a small tape that can be put in an adapter tape making it playable on a regular VHS VCR. I told Lori that since we live out here in New Hampshire that we're never able to help out with taking care of my Mom. Lori and Chris put in lots of time helping my Mom with things around her house. I always feel bad that I can't help out. Well, this is something that I can do to help Lori and

Chris. I'm going to capture all their VHS-C tapes to computer files and possibly put them on DVD as well. That way they will be preserved and protected. Bradford looked up the cost of transferring a VHS-C tape to digital media and it looks like it is about ten bucks per tape. So, if they have at least 100 tapes, then this will save them a ton of money too.

(Stares at the clock....) I'll need to get Julia moving soon.

I took last Friday off as a vacation day. I was in the "Use it or Lose it" situation again, so I decided to "use it". I had a chiropractor appointment in the morning and then a meeting at the church with the Facilities Maintenance (FM) group to talk about Meetinghouse Internet plans for the stake. Then I went home and worked on video tapes and read some in the latest Sci Fi series I've been enjoying since about December. I also practiced the alto saxophone for over an hour.

Wednesday and Thursday evenings were fun because my best friend in high school and the Best Man at my wedding, Kevin Lund, was able to come to Nashua for a business meeting with BAE systems. He lives in Maryland and works for Boeing. He is involved in the contract management side of the business and they had a meeting with BAE to fulfill contract requirements. Wednesday evening just Kevin and I went to dinner at the new burger place "Red Robin" in the Pheasant Lane Mall. Thursday evening we all went to Pine Street Eatery. We haven't seen Kevin since 2005 when our paths happened to cross in Utah. That's the year Joyce and I went to Utah to attend Heather's BYU graduation and bring her back to New Hampshire. Kevin and his wife Brenda happened to fly into Utah from Washington state the day before we left for NH. We arranged to meet in Murray, Utah at the Olive Garden restaurant.

Before that I don't think we had been able to see each other since the mid 1980s. I was the best man at Kevin's wedding. They were married in July 1979 and Joyce and I were married in Sept 1979. They have 5 kids and we have 5 kids. Their youngest is in high school and living at home and so is ours. If the BAE contract is extended Kevin might be up here again in a year.

Your Mom has made some pretty good progress in her "sewing room". The plan is to paint the room this Thursday evening. On Saturday I finished taking apart the loft and moved the pieces into the basement. I also got several heavy boxes out of there.

The room is almost empty now. On the other hand, your basement bedroom is packed solid with only a narrow walk way to get around. That will be cleaned up before the Wilsons come later this summer so that Maryann has a place to sleep.

The Toyota is in the auto body shop this week to have some rust fixed before it spreads. It will take about 3 days to get the job done. The weather is supposed to get hot and humid about mid week, in the 90s. I'll be driving the Saturn while the Toyota is in the shop. That means I'll have working AC for a few days at least. After that it

will be back to rolling down the windows in the Toyota. Oh well. It usually isn't too many days when it is hot like that.

I'm guessing that Joyce won't be home much today. I don't know if she'll be able to email more or not, but I'm guessing not given the Beverly situation right now. We'll probably be attending a funeral this week.

I'm proud of you. You have grown a lot and are doing a wonderful work. Your whole life will be blessed for the service that you are doing on your mission. The "world" doesn't understand how taking two years at the time when the "world" thinks you should be doing college or other preparations... the world doesn't understand the blessings that come. However, the blessings are real. Keep the faith. Keep up the dedicated service.

Love,

Dad

ps. Pictures. Most are from the Fathers Day celebration. A couple are from dinner out with Kevin Lund. Bradford made an awesome strawberry tart a couple weeks back and there are two pictures of that.

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**30 attachments**



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