



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

A letter from Dad: 2 July 2012

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Sun, Jul 1, 2012 at 9:43 PM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

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

Hello Dear Phillip,

Sunday was Fast and Testimony Meeting. Our Ward always seems to have non stop testimonies and this Sunday was no exception. Five members got up right after Bishop Nelson turned the time over to those who wanted to bear testimony. Your Mom went up after that group and bore a wonderful testimony about her experience with Beverly. The spirit could be felt as she described the events.

There were no computer related issues to take care of Sunday so I actually went to Brother Fletcher's Gospel Doctrine class and I also didn't miss any of Priesthood Meeting. I went home right after church so I could get ready for my Home Teaching visit to the Carls. It was a good visit. We had a discussion about some of the talks from last April's General Conference.

The Massachusetts Boston Mission president changed this past week. I talked with the missionaries assigned to our ward today about it. They will meet their new mission president this week. Apparently he is meeting with all the missionaries by having three zone conferences each day for three days. Your mission also has a new president now. How is he making his first contact with all of his missionaries?

This past week at work has been very hectic. We needed to ship all the hardware to Egypt by Thursday evening. In the past couple of weeks we have found some serious software bugs that we just had to fix. They were customer visible if they occurred, and that is something that you don't want to have happen. So, on the day before shipping we checked in those bugs fixes and loaded new images into the five 72Bs that we shipped to Egypt. We got everything working. I tested the whole setup before we buttoned up the shipping cases and everything is working. Hopefully it will all make the trip to Egypt and be working once it arrives. I worked several very long days this past week.

Wednesday of this week is July 4th, Independence Day. Of course we have that off as a holiday and I'm taking the 5th and 6th off as well using vacation time. That will keep me from hitting the "use it or lose it" threshold probably until about the end of

August. On Thursday I'll be spending part of my day at the Family Services office helping Patty Ogden resolve computer issues. I don't know how long that will take.

Friday we're planning a trip down to Ikea to pick up stuff for Joyce's new sewing room. She has made great progress on room preparation. She has the ceiling and walls painted. She now needs to paint the closet interior and the trim around the windows. This kind of project is a hard thing for her to do. She doesn't like to do it (neither do I). However, she will like the finished room!

The Merrimack Concert Band will be playing on the bandstand at Abbey Griffin Park the evening of July 3rd as we have done every year since the band was organized 22 years ago. The weather outlook is promising. Heather invited Adam to come and he will. Monday evening is the final rehearsal, so I'll be attending that.

I told Joyce that this year I want to see fireworks that are bigger than two inches in diameter. Last year we went to Bradford's and watched the Boston fireworks from a park near his apartment. The fireworks were tiny and there was no sound because they were so far away. The year before that I think we went to the graveyard over by the high school and watched the Nashua fireworks from there. They also looked like 2 inches in diameter. I want to see BIG fireworks and hear BIG booms. The current thinking is to go downtown and park where we normally do, and then go up to the top of the parking garage. Hopefully that will be close enough to actually hear and see them.

The Noels always have a party on the 4th for the ward members to come to. You've been there before, so you know how it works. There will be a couple of grills. People bring their own meat and something to share. We're thinking of going to that for a few hours then leaving in time to see the fireworks.

I'm still plowing through the beta tapes. Tape 90 just finished up. There are 12 more to go. A couple of them I probably won't even do. They were recorded by someone else on a machine without the Beta HiFi so the sound is poor. That means there really are about ten left. I should finish that up before I go to Egypt on July 12th. Then it will be time to move the VHS VCR downstairs and start working on the VHS tapes. I haven't really scoped out that project yet.

This past Saturday afternoon there was a wedding reception at the church for Kelsey and Gus. They graduated from the Heritage Park Ward Saturday morning when they were sealed in the Boston Temple. They didn't have any DJ lined up to run the sound equipment, so I just planned on the fact that I would need to set everything up and run it for them. It all worked out fine, but the timing was longer than I expected. I left after the playlist on their iPod was running and returned at 6:30 PM when it was all done.

Heather and Adam helped me clean up the equipment and then we went home. After our dinner the six of us (Me, Joyce, Heather, Adam, Julia, and Rachel) went to

Cinemagic and saw the latest Pixar movie "Brave". It's amazing how far digital movie making has progressed since the first Toy Story movie. The number of objects in the picture is AMAZING. They keep pushing the technical edge all the time.

I've been pondering what to do about the piano. Summer time there are no piano lessons, so that would be the right time to have the piano rebuilt, if that is what we decide to do. I searched online for piano refurbishing companies in the area. There are several around, but I don't know what the cost might be. It's also a risk. We could put a lot of money into the piano and not get a satisfactory end product. I removed the panels from the piano in order to take pictures to attach to an email that I will send to some of these companies seeking information. When the piano guts were exposed I started inspecting and figured out the reason that one of the notes keeps resonating after it is struck. The damper felt had become detached. I got out the trusty Elmer's glue and reattached the felt. That solved that problem. There are several notes that sound TERRIBLE. I played around with those and figured out that it is always the string on the right of the three strings that is off pitch. So, as a temporary fix I cut some weather striping and pushed it in between the strings to dampen those strings. That made a big difference on several of the notes. I then got to thinking that I should buy a piano tuning toolkit and see if I could simply tweak the tuning on the strings that are the worst. Our old piano tuner said that he was unable to do anything more with the piano and it wouldn't hold a tune. Well, that's okay. I don't mind tweaking more often the few strings that keep slipping. So, I think I'll buy a set of tuning tools and see what I can do. I think I can keep it sounding fine for awhile longer.

Dave Huntington retired from TCC. This past Friday was his last day. Carl and about 20 of us took Dave and Peggy to Vincenzos for lunch. We had a nice time there.

Dave has recently received a calling to serve as a counselor in the Boston Temple presidency. He will start in November and serve for three years. Peggy will also be serving as a matron in the temple. Serving like this is something that Dave and Peggy have been planning on doing for many years. I'm glad that they have this opportunity.

However, Dave has been a very important part of the TCC sales team and his influence there will be missed.

I finished listening to all of April Conference this past week. I'm continuing to listen to the Egyptian Arabic lessons working on two per day. That's fun to do. I'm excited to be able to try out my Arabic language skills in a couple of weeks.

Well, that brings you up to date on the major happenings around here. I trust that you're in good health and in good spirits. I'm impressed with your dedication and good work. I'm proud of you and love you very much.

Dad

--

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

<http://larsen-family.us>