



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

A letter from Dad: 9 July 2012

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>
Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us
To: Phillip Larsen <phillip.larsen@myldsmail.net>
Cc: Joyce Larsen <joyce@larsen-family.us>

Sun, Jul 8, 2012 at 9:47 PM

Hello Dear Phillip,

Sunday evening and I'm tired of sitting. I feel like I've been doing an awful lot of that the past few days... There.... just got back from two times around the loop. That felt good.

This has been a kind of slow relaxing Sunday. There weren't any extra meetings after church or in the evening. Joyce and Julia are taking care of the Hawkins' rabbits, but the Potters are back now so there is no cat care going on right now. I did spend about three hours working on computer/network issues at church, about two more than I expected to do. Add that to the 5 or 6 hours spent last Thursday at the Family Services office solving computer/network issues there, and I feel very much like "Nick Burns... Your Company's Computer Guy." Add to that that last Wednesday, the 4th of July, I rebuilt the laptop. Now, that was a job that took many hours. The laptop was really performing poorly.

The final straw was that the USB ports started becoming intermittent. I searched and found the recovery DVDs that came with the laptop, and restored the thing to "out of the box" condition. It was just like it was in November 2006 with all the crappy extra software loaded on it. I spent many hours removing unwanted software, installing all the Windows updates (hundreds) and then reloading all the software that we did want back on to it. So far it seems to be working much better. So, that was even more "Nick Burns" stuff.

I finished the Beta tape to computer file project! So, let's see... what is the chronology of this project? Hmmmm... The project really started with Mandy's beta tapes three years ago. After a brief burst of activity the project floundered. I picked it back up in late March or early April. The oldest "finished" file for Mandy's stuff was made on April 16th. I continued with Mandy's tapes until about May 5th. Then I started working on our own tapes. I see that the date for tape_01.mpg is May 7th. The last video rendered was on July 7th. So, in 2 months I recorded 98 beta tapes to computer and then edited all the files. There are 376 individual files. This includes 76 Donna Reed, 93 My Three Sons, 18 Dick Van Dyke, 27 Poldark, 8 Brooklyn Bridge, 27 classic black and white movies, and dozens of others. I created a folder on the Joyce's desktop on the laptop that has all the files sorted into categories. That was a huge project. Now, it's on to the VHS tapes, but I'm going to hold off on that until after I get back from Egypt.

Last Wednesday was July 4th. We just kind of hung around the house until the afternoon when we went to the Noels' for their annual 4th of July cookout. Pictures are attached of that. We had an enjoyable time. Adam came with us. After that we went to see the fireworks. This year we parked in the place where we usually do near East Pearl Street, but instead of walking all the way to Holman Stadium we went up to the top of the parking garage. There were lots of people there. We walked up just as the show started. It was a pretty good compromise. The fireworks were large enough to enjoy and the sounds were there, but delayed of course. However, Joyce finally said that even though that was pretty good that it's best being right at Holman to watch them. So, next year we'll either go into Boston and take the next day off to recover, or we'll go to Holman Stadium and put up with the crowds. We still haven't watched "1776" yet. Dang... the weekend is almost done and we didn't do that. It's still July though. We'll need to do that soon.

Last Tuesday evening was the annual concert at the band stand performed by the Merrimack Concert Band and the Chorus. There are a couple of pictures of that. Adam went to that as well. We all had root beer floats but Joyce only had ice cream. It was perfect weather for the concert. It is uncertain if the non profit Merrimack Concert Association will still be running in the fall or not. Most of the current board members are retiring. I hope it keeps going. I think it will.

Saturday afternoon was an important day in the life of Miranda Wilson. She had her "Mission Papers Opening" event. We "attended" through a Skype call. There are pictures Bradford took with his new iPad attached of that, and I think Bradford probably emailed them to you as well. Miranda has been called to serve in the "Salt Lake City West Mission". It is a new mission that was created on July 12th, 2012. The whole mission is just a small section of the Salt Lake Valley. She enters the MTC on October 10, 2012. Awesome sauce! Saturday evening we also had the missionaries over for dinner. Later that evening they were to learn about transfers. It turns out that neither of them was transferred. They're coming over for dinner again on July 28th. They requested "Hawaiian Haystacks" for dinner.

There are two pictures attached of the Activity Day Girls washing our Saturn. I'll let Joyce explain that event because she was here when it happened a week ago.

As I mentioned last week, I took two days of vacation time for Thursday and Friday. Friday was our "Ikea Trip" that has been long planned but never executed. Joyce, Heather, Julia, and I drove down and walked all through that huge store. Joyce picked out four "Billy Bookcases" for her new sewing room. We also found a swivel chair that is pretty comfortable. We actually bought two of those because the computer chair I've been using for many years is finally getting to be quite uncomfortable. We also bought a new mattress for your bed and one for the drawer in Julia's bed. We tried out many couches and other seats along our journey. I also laid down on one bed that had a mattress like the ones we bought. We then went to the cafeteria and ate a late lunch. As we cleaned up our dishes and started walking away I realized that my iPaq was no longer in my pocket! It had fallen out somewhere in the store. Julia and I started retracing our steps to check out everything that I sat in where it could have fallen out. The first thing we came to was the mattress. It wasn't visible, but Julia picked up the pillow that was at one end. I was thinking, "There's no way it could be under the pillow. It couldn't slide out of my pocket and crawl up under the pillow." But, when she picked up the pillow, there it was! The fact that it is such old technology... heavy... thick... stylus... whoever found it decided they didn't want it, but had the presence of mind to put it under the pillow knowing that the owner would probably be back to find it. I was very glad to find it. However, I'm about fed up with iPaqs and Outlook. We're investigating getting iPod Touches for me and Joyce and using Google Calendars. iPods can synchronize with Google calendars. That might be the direction we go. I'm still thinking about it.

The annual TCC company party is this Thursday. That is also the day that I fly to Egypt. Our flight leaves at 10:55 PM. I'll return the following Friday, July 20th, at about 2:20 PM. I've really been hitting the Egyptian Arabic language lessons hard. I also found a tourism website that had about 287 wav files of different words and phrases. I downloaded all of those last Wednesday and then did the laborious task of creating my own "language lessons". The words are in various categories such as "travel", "at the restaurant", etc. So I recorded my own voice in English saying the English word. Then I used my audio editor "Goldwave" and spliced it all together. The English word followed by 3 seconds of silence, then the Arabic word followed by 3 seconds of silence, then the Arabic word and another three seconds of silence. Then the same pattern for the next word... etc. So, now that I spent all that time creating the mp3 files I'm hoping that at least some of the words will stick. I'll just have to listen to them over and over until I start remembering. My next email to you will be sent from the Cairo Marriott Hotel next to the Nile.

Well... that seems like a fairly comprehensive summary of the week. I look forward to Mondays because we get a snapshot into each other's lives. It's good to keep up to date on everything that is going on. Keep the faith! Keep working diligently and the Lord will continue to bless you. I'm proud of you and the fine man you have become.

Love,

Dad

ps. The picture of flowers in the bottle is of the arrangement that Joyce took to Beverly's funeral.

--

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

<http://larsen-family.us>

25 attachments



IMG_1237.JPG
166K



IMG_1242.JPG
264K



IMG_1243.JPG
257K



IMG_1244.JPG
171K



IMG_1258.JPG
133K



IMG_1259.JPG
209K





IMG_1260.JPG
157K


IMG_1261.JPG
155K




IMG_1262.JPG
208K


 **IMG_1263.JPG**
94K


 **IMG_1264.JPG**
143K


 **IMG_1265.JPG**
115K


 **IMG_1266.JPG**
162K


 **IMG_1267.JPG**
131K


 **IMG_1268.JPG**
249K


 **IMG_1269.JPG**
239K

 **IMG_1270.JPG**
243K

 **IMG_1271.JPG**
156K

 **IMG_1272.JPG**
160K

 **IMG_1273.JPG**
115K

 **IMG_1274.JPG**
152K

 **photo 1.JPG**
125K

 **photo 2.JPG**
166K



photo 3.JPG

114K



photo 4.JPG

105K