



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

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## Email from Mom, 16 July 2012

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**Joyce Larsen** <linenlady9@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 16, 2012 at 10:43 AM

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

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

Good morning, Dear Elder Phillip Larsen!

How is Phillip E. today? I've been a little concerned with how you said you get tired more quickly and more easily. How are you feeling? I talked with Taylor Bentall yesterday at church, and he said he got really tired the last couple of months of his mission, because of how hard he was working. I'm hoping it's that, also the heat, and not anything to worry about. I've been praying for you this past week, to have energy and strength and health to do your work.

Julia stayed up late to write to you, so you should have an email from her. I had asked her at one point to send you a copy of the talk she gave last week, so I don't know if she did that or not. She did a really good job with her talk. And I keep hearing from people what a good job she does at leadership things, and yesterday I heard from Sis. Petrie from the Merrimack Ward that her daughter loved being paired with Julia at Youth Conference on Saturday for the missionary activity they did, and went on and on about how fun it was to be with Julia. I'm very pleased with the fine young woman Julia is growing to be, and I'm sure you'll be very pleased and proud of her, too.

I have a list of things this week, and keep adding to it. That reminds me of something someone said once, that when you write letters all the time, you find lots to say, and when you don't, you can't think of anything to say. In some ways that doesn't make sense, you think you've said everything and what more is there to write about? But then if you've been keeping up with communicating with someone, you know details of each others' lives, and have more to talk about than if you only write at Christmas or something. I'm thinking it's the same way with prayer: the more you pray and the more you discuss with the Lord, the more you will have to say.

I started my morning by reading Ian's past emails that I hadn't read. I like it because Leslie sends along his email, and the one she wrote to him at the bottom. So I get news of the whole family. I read hers first, because he will often comment on something she says to him. It sounds like his mission is hard, in finding people to teach, and they do lots more finding than teaching. He had a baptism recently, and it was quite a moment for celebration. He recently had to speak in Sacrament Meeting, with about five minutes' notice, and was able to do it on a topic of his choice, and he said he chose obedience, and gave lots of scriptures from 1 Nephi, so it went well. And he said that he ordained a man to the Priesthood, which was a challenge in Dutch, then he has been translating his line of Priesthood Authority into Dutch for this man. Have you ever ordained someone to the Priesthood? Do you get letters from Ian?

In my conversation with Taylor Bentall yesterday, his brother, Ryan, was standing beside him. Ryan goes on his mission in the next week and a half. His missionary farewell open house is on Sunday evening, then he'll be set apart on Monday morning, then leave on Tuesday and report to the MTC on Wednesday. Both Taylor and Ryan took Spanish in High School, so they had a bit of a jump-start on the language. Ryan goes to Mexico, but I'm not sure which mission. Taylor said he would be sure to call you when you return, and he was excited to hear you would be at BYU-I, because he'll be there, too. And he said he would talk about girls with you, too 😊.

That brings me to another question: how does your mailing address change with your new mission

president? I'm guessing you just put his name in place of Pres. Dias' name on the address, but I wanted to be sure. So here is where we would send letters (for the next seven weeks, until you return home!):

Elder Phillip Larsen  
Brazil Teresina Mission  
Pres. Siedschlag (only we need his full name, right?)/Elder Phillip Edward Larsen  
Cpx: 2321  
Teresina--PI  
Cep: 64001-973  
Brazil

Is this correct? That is what is on the back of the program at church.

Including you, I have eight missionaries I write to (or will be able to write to, once they leave). I would like to write more often, too, the way Shelli Scott does. These missionaries are: you, Ian Schow, Andrew Larsen, Steven Ogden, Miranda Wilson (leaves October 10th), Mike Scott, Amy Taylor, Ryan Bentall (leaves July 24th). How cool is that?! Do you get the letters from Shelli Scott? Here is Steven Ogden's address, so you can write to him:

Elder Steven Ogden  
363 E. Palamino Way  
Grantsville, UT 84029

Ok, here are a couple of things regarding your homecoming. One is that you got a letter from BYU-Idaho the other day, congratulating you on your mission, and giving you information about enrollment. They expect you in January, and it sounds like things are in place for that. That's nice to know, so that you can continue to focus on missionary work, and not worry about the future, because it's all set. (New England expression there 😊). The other thing is, how do we know your travel plans? Elder Piacitelli who is serving in our ward, who left at the same time you did, said his mother already has his travel plans. I wondered how we will find out. Maybe you don't know. I'll ask Pres. Coopridge, if we can't find out another way. I'm sure he could tell me how to find out.

Ok, I just got in from putting water on the garden, and from talking to Anna. She will give me some pink coneflowers from her garden, and I went to look at them, and they are so pretty! And there was a tiny yellow bird perched on one, very cute. I'm enjoying the garden more this year than before, and trying to just enjoy doing something in it every day. I planted some little pots of flowers the other day, and this morning a basket of flowers and fun things like little fairy statues was a mess all over the porch. The plants were not damaged, but I had to gather up the other little things and put them back. And last night we heard something knock down the rakes and broom that lean against the house. Anna said there is a raccoon around that gets into her trash and tears up the mulch every night in her garden.

Mrs. D. posted on FB the other day that her little dog, Sadie, died. Sadie was old and sick, and I could tell when we last had lessons that she wasn't doing well, so it was not a surprise to me, but it's still sad. Mrs. D. posted a very cute picture of Sadie, and I suggested to Julia that she make a drawing or a painting of Sadie that she could give to Mrs. D. when lessons start in the fall. I think she would like that. And Julia would enjoy doing the art work.

Derek Fry is the new Ward Executive Secretary, now that the Theobalds have moved out. Changes all the time, in life, and in callings. I guess that's the nature of things. He will do a good job, I'm sure. And now he will be the one people run from when he gives out talk assignments!

This past week I was alone for several days, all by myself. It is the first time in over 30 years that I have been alone in the house at night, because whenever Dad has traveled in the past, there have been kids at home. But everyone was gone. However, I was busy taking care of the Hawkins' animals

and the Potters' cats, I had Patty over to stitch on Saturday afternoon, I did some painting (and hope to finish it today), and went to Friday Night Knitting. I was actually pretty busy, and Winston kept me company, though he seemed confused about nobody else here, and he kept looking at me as if he wanted something.

Last night I went to a beautiful memorial service, a celebration of life, for little Alex Hansen from the Merrimack Ward. I don't know if you knew her, or knew of her. She is from the other Hansen family (not Lisa Hansen), and she was 12 years old, and the oldest of four girls in the family. She had been fighting cancer since she was 3 1/2, and finally passed away on the 12th of June. The service was so lovely, a sacred reminder of things of eternal significance. The chapel was full, and the gym was half full of people, and many people from her school and the community came, as well as church members. It was sad, and hard, and beautiful and sacred, all at the same time. I wanted to greet Alex' parents after, but there was a very long line, so I came home instead, and will write them a letter today or tomorrow. I love sacred reminders of the Plan of Happiness, even if they are hard life experiences. I go to something like this and I want to be more mindful of the choices I make, and to treasure my family and friends even more, and to savor each moment of life, and the blessings Heavenly Father gives us.

I love you very much, dear Phillip E. It's amazing that your mission is nearing the end, though you still have seven weeks, so keep working hard! Heavenly Father has more people for you to teach, more experiences to have!

Love,  
Mom