



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

A letter from Dad: 23 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 22, 2012 at 10:02 PM

Hello Dear Phillip,

It certainly feels very good to be back in the United States of America! Egypt is very hot this time of year. In addition to that the locals said that it was unusually hotter than normal for that time of year. It was easily around 110 degrees F or hotter. We are always awake for a very long time on the last day. We woke up about 7:00 AM Thursday morning, which would be 1:00 AM Eastern time. We worked all day and stayed up until we left for the airport at 1:30 AM Friday morning Egyptian time. The return trip was 3 hours to Rome with a 3 hour layover and then 9.5 hours to Boston arriving at 2:20 PM Eastern time on Friday afternoon. That was already 37 hours and then there was the taxi back to TCC followed by the drive home. I arrived home about 6:30 PM. So now I had been up for 41 hours. I finally went to bed about 10:00 PM making about 45 hours since my last night's sleep. I did get about 50 minutes on the Cairo to Rome flight and John Maher said that I slept for about 2 hours on the Rome to Boston flight. Sleeping on a plane is never very good. Attached are some pictures I took of the hotel. My room was on the 15th floor in one of the towers.

Okay... Sunday about 8:38 PM and we just returned from an open house at the Bentalls' to wish Ryan well. He will be set apart as a full time missionary Monday morning and leave for the MTC on Tuesday. From the MTC he will be heading to Mexico to preach the gospel there. He gave an excellent talk today in Sacrament Meeting all about D&C 4. Kyle Bentall was the youth speaker giving his first talk as a Deacon. He also did a good job. The final speaker was Sister Noel and her talk was also excellent. Attached are a few pictures from the open house. Ryan asked me to ask you to write him a letter when you get home from your mission. At one point in the evening at the Bentalls', Taylor and several others grabbed Ryan, removed his cell phone from his pocket, and then tossed him into the swimming pool. A few minutes later they did the same to Russ Noel. That's the action going on in the attached pictures.

The week in Egypt was somewhat frustrating. The equipment didn't clear customs until Monday afternoon, July 16th. We spent a good portion of Saturday, Sunday, and Monday morning in the hotel. The equipment finally was released Monday afternoon and we went there and quickly set everything up in their lab and tested it to be sure it was working. It worked fine, but by that time it was too late to do anything else. Tuesday we went back to their lab, verified it was still working, then moved everything to one of their facilities on a restricted access military installation. We got the equipment working there and then left it running overnight. Wednesday we went out to the facility and brought the remote management portion of the equipment back to the lab to prove that remote management worked. I also gave about 45 minutes of training to some of the generals. We then left everything running and went back to the hotel. Thursday morning we returned to their lab and then went out to the remote site and packed up all the gear and brought it back. The field trial proved to be a great success. We returned to the hotel Thursday afternoon. I hadn't realized how much stress I had been under until we were in the van driving back to the hotel Thursday afternoon. There was a huge feeling of relief. It was as if a huge burden had been lifted from my mind and I felt relaxed.

I am doing a much better job this time getting back on a normal sleep cycle. I went to bed Friday at 10:00 PM and slept for about ten hours. Saturday evening I also got to bed by about 11:00 and slept

until about 7:30 AM. I'm feeling really tired now and will try to get to bed at a decent time. Recovering after my first trip to Egypt was much more difficult. I made the mistake of sleeping in very late and then not being able to sleep that first night. It took me many days to recover. I also had a very bad case of diarrhea after that first trip. The second and this third trip I haven't had any trouble because I learned how to be more careful in what I eat and drink.

I was able to take advantage of some of the Beta tape video transfer project for this trip. I transcoded some of the movies that I made from the Beta tapes into video files that play on my Kindle Fire. I had four movies on there and ended up watching all four during the trip. I'm currently transcoding some more and putting them on the Kindle so that I'll be ready for the next time. I'm glad that I had it along. There was no video at all on the Cairo to Rome flight and I watched one of my movies then. I watched another on the Rome to Cairo flight. I haven't started in on any of the VHS tapes yet. I need to move the VCR downstairs and haven't done that yet.

I was able to use some of my Arabic on the trip. I realized pretty quickly that I didn't know much. However, I was able to pick out many words that I knew while people were talking around us. I still want to learn more. I just need to figure out how to do it. I finally had the thought to check on youtube.com to see if there are Egyptian Arabic lessons available. There seems to be quite a few there. I'll have to sift through it to see if there is anything of value that can enhance what I've already learned. I want something that allows me to use my commuting time. That's time that I can't do anything else but drive, so if I can leverage that time then it would be a win-win situation.

Well, this will be a shorter email than some of mine in the past. I'm tired and not thinking very clearly. I need to get ready for bed. I have a periodontal appointment in the morning at 7:30 AM and then a chiropractor appointment at 9:30 AM and then it will be off to work.

I'm proud of you and the awesome missionary that you are.

Love,

Dad

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14 attachments



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