



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

---

## Email from Mom, 23 July 2012

---

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

Mon, Jul 23, 2012 at 9:58 AM

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

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

Good morning, dear Elder Phillip Larsen!

Today I have a periodontal appointment but I think that will be after our "chat". Julia is having Melanie Nelson come over for the day, and her Dad was going to bring her, but she isn't here yet. And this week is the week I FINISH painting my new room, and clean out your bedroom to be a guest room for MaryAnn for when she arrives on Sunday evening with Emmy. We are not going away this year for vacation, but are, instead, doing things around the house, and taking day trips with MaryAnn. Or at least, I am! And Julia will go to EFY with Emmy. So, we have fun things planned, though not a vacation, to speak of.

Saturday we had missionaries to dinner again, and we served Hawaiian Haystacks, at their request. It was fun! And it was the second dinner appointment in a month, which was also fun. I figured that sometimes it will work that way, so I should take advantage of it when it does. Dad forgot to take pictures, though. But, he is still recovering from his Egypt trip, also the missionaries are the same ones we had the time before, so it's ok. Bradford arrived about 20 minutes before they did, to do his laundry. I didn't know if he would be coming or not, but I'm glad he did. He seemed to enjoy their company, and yesterday in church I thanked the missionaries for the spirit they bring to our home, so that Bradford could hear the message. Sandy said Bradford has a confidence about him, and seems to enjoy people, and even though he chooses to not go to church, he respects others who choose to be active. Her boys (Devin and Weston), do not like to be around when Home Teachers or Missionaries come over, so they just eat and leave. (Well, Devin is not living there, but that's how he is when he is there on occasion.) She said it's like they are ashamed or something, and they don't even want to be around members. She said at least Weston has not gotten tattooed and he does not wear black.

Yesterday I taught Relief Society in our ward, and several sisters said I did a good job. It was the Teachings for our Times lesson, and the two Conference talks that were used were "Mountains to Climb" by Henry B. Eyring (about trials how to deal with them, and building a firm foundation of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ), and "Sacrifice" by Dallin H. Oaks (about sacrifice, of all things!). The last time I remember teaching one of these lessons is the day after Stanford's funeral, and it was on similar topics, on "Sunday Will Come Again", and on "Healing", which Bro. Gribble, who was in the High Council at the time, said he knew were to be taught on that day.

Today marks 5 1/2 years since your brother died. Sometimes it seems like forever, and sometimes it seems like yesterday. I want to feel like Stanford is closer than he is. Julia suggested I pray about it, because she said Heavenly Father can make things happen (like that I might dream about him, or something). I guess I just want to feel like he is here with us, a bit. The blood drive Patty does in his memory is happening again in August, and that's good that people come to that to honor and remember him. I know where he is, and sort of what he's doing. I would just like a bit of news on occasion! Maybe he is teaching Beverly's Mom, as well, who died on Sunday morning. Dori, Beverly's sister, who had been taking care of Beverly, went to settle things with her Mom right after the funeral, and is now dealing with this. But she is a woman of great faith, and said she was by her father's grave, praying and praising God, when she received word that her Mom had passed away. I used her story in the lesson I gave.

Bro Ure is the new Ward Mission Leader. I think I mentioned him in last week's email. He came in to Relief Society again and encouraged the sisters to talk about the church, to take opportunities to talk about the gospel. I realize I do that all the time, in my knitting group and other places. Not big lessons, but things that get people to ask questions and for me to be an example of the church.

Well, I hope you're doing well. Please let me know about the correct mailing address for you, for these last weeks, so I can put it on the program at church. And please let me know if you know what Sister Silva wants! I'm assuming a Hymn book, in Portuguese. Is that correct?

What a blessing that we have the fulness of the gospel! I'm so grateful for my knowledge of the truthfulness of the gospel, and for spiritual experiences every day that show me of Heavenly Father's love for me. One thing Ryan Bentall said in his talk yesterday is that when you share your testimony with someone, the spirit will bear testimony to you if it's truth, so that sharing your testimony helps it to grow. That is so true.

I love you, and I'm excited to have you come home, and I'm excited to hear what you do in these last six weeks of your mission! Sister Silva said in her email (besides the request for Hymns), "Your son is a great missionary. I see miracles happening here for his work." I love reading your emails, and hearing about those miracles!

Love,  
Mom