



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

A letter from Dad: 30 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 29, 2012 at 11:01 PM

Hello Dear Phillip,

It's Sunday evening and I have a few minutes between the visit from our home teachers and the arrival of Maryann and Emmy Wilson. We enjoyed the visit from Bro. Henkel and Bro. Burgess. It's been a few months since their last visit. The living room wasn't half full of Joyce's stuff the last time they visited. (I attached a picture showing the stuff in the living room and Heather sitting on the couch.)

However, it won't be long now until the stuff in the living room is moved into its new home in "Joyce's Room." I've attached a few pictures taken Saturday of the room. They are a little underexposed, but you can get a sense of what it is like. Your Mom has done a really nice job of painting and preparation. It isn't a job that she enjoys so that makes it all the more of an accomplishment.

Saturday was "The Day". All of Joyce's work to that point made it possible to start putting the room together. The first thing I did Saturday morning was replace all the outlets in the room with brand new ones that were white to match the newly painted room. We also have new white outlet and switch plates. Next Julia and I assembled the 4 Ikea book shelves that were purchased many weeks ago.

We got those done and I also assembled Joyce's new chair. We moved the "sewing table" into the room and then I took the pictures. I also was able to sand the top of the closet door enough with the power sander so that the door closes easily now. (I need to do the same on our bedroom door because it has always been sticky.)

While Julia and I were doing that Joyce was very busily working on your bedroom so that it would be ready for Maryann to use during their visit. Joyce had been working on the basement bedroom for many days getting stuff sorted and into boxes. Those efforts paid off because we were able to get all the stuff out of that room and get it ready. I've attached a few pictures of that room to show you that it really does look livable now. We won't be leaving the "changing table" in there, but that is a good place for it now because it provides Maryann a place to put her clothing. The other dresser is full of your clothes. The plan for later is to buy a nice wardrobe from Ikea to put in there. Probably the computer desk will need to be moved out, but we'll figure that out more later. For now the area by the octagon table and where the sewing table used to be are very full as you can see from the attached pictures.

BUT... PROGRESS IS BEING MADE! It's rather exciting to have it start coming together. The boxes have all been labelled and there are many with your name on them waiting for you to go through to decide what to keep and what to toss.

Joyce and Julia have gone to pick up the Wilsons now.

So... I moved the VHS VCR down to the basement last Wednesday and got it hooked up to awesome-beast. The VHS transfer project has begun. I worked my way through about ten tapes and decided that I'd try to make a DVD out of one of the ones that Heather wanted, "Titan AE". So, I did all the work to copy files around and then refresh my memory on how the DVD creation software works. I haven't done it enough times for it to be automatic yet. I made a DVD and Sunday morning I tried playing it on the DVD player upstairs. The audio had lots of distortion in it. Uh oh I told myself.

Something isn't right. I started testing the setup and realized that I hadn't adjusted audio levels correctly. The old Beta player had lower audio output levels so this wasn't an issue. The VHS VCR

has a hotter output and it was clipping a lot during recording. I've figure out the correct settings, but that means I need to start over and rerecord all the tapes I had done so far. No biggie. I'm glad that I discovered it now before I had gotten too far.

It took me a few days to fully recover from the Egypt trip. About last Wednesday morning I felt like I was back to normal. One thing about the trip that I don't like is that I put on about 3 pounds. It doesn't seem fair that the weight can go on so quickly and most of it is right where I don't want it to be, on the belly and "love handles". Bleh. I've decided to cut out extra sugar for awhile until I can lose it again. I did this about ten months ago when my weight was around 208 pounds. I stopped eating candy and treats and also eating smaller portions. I was able to get down to 185 and then I was able to start eating "fun food" again. The Egypt trip was a killer because we ate in restaurants several times and also I had lots of "fun food" to snack on, which I did. Also I wasn't exercising at all that whole week so it was the "perfect storm" for weight gain: no exercise, over eating, and lots of treats. I'll get it off again. It takes some discipline to skip the snacks and just eat more healthy food.

I saw Ben Schinn at church today. He is back in Nashua for a brief visit, but he will be returning to BYU Idaho soon because he has a job there and needs to earn money for school. It sounds like he is on the same track that you might be on, the Winter/Spring track. I told him that you would be coming out to BYUI in January and he liked hearing that. Other kids are heading off to college. Kristina Mendolia is heading out. Sara Fox and Gwen Noel are also heading out. The Olsen family is finally actually moving to Texas. They are about 18 months later than they expected, but will be leaving in mid August. We've had some new young families move into the ward. I can't remember their names right now. It's nice to have families moving in. For awhile there it seemed like families were only moving out. The Blanchettes are selling their home, but they will be moving into a rental home a couple blocks from their current home. Their mortgage payments were sinking them and they will be able to rent a house for much cheaper. Their twins have put some financial strain on their budget. They tried to refinance, but so many people are trying to do the same thing that they were unable to. So, their only choice is to sell and rent for now. I'm glad they are staying in the ward.

The Wilsons are here! See attached picture.

Well... this is kind of a short email. I'm tired. It's late. A new week is upon us. Julia is off to EFY with Emmy. Joyce and Maryann will play all week. I'll work and do video stuff in the evenings and maybe practice the sax some. Oh... the Merrimack Concert Band will continue. They found replacement people for all the board members so they meet the requirements of NH state law. That's good. Tuesday evenings for practices are perfect and concerts are on Saturdays and that works well too. John Carl still wants to do the other band, but nothing has been happening there for a long time. I'm still hopeful.

Keep the faith! Keep giving your best effort. You still have 5% of your mission left!

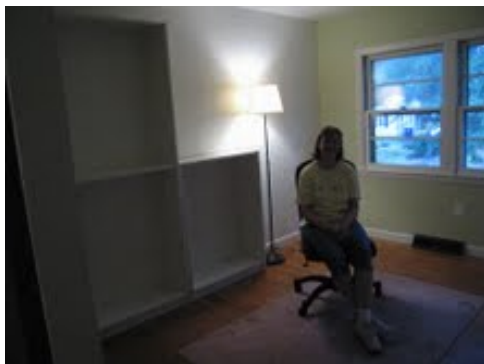
Love you,

Dad

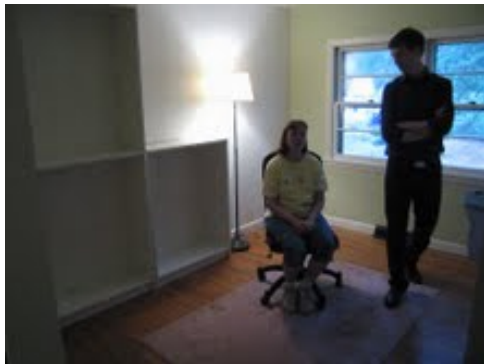
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John R Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>
<http://larsen-family.us>

15 attachments



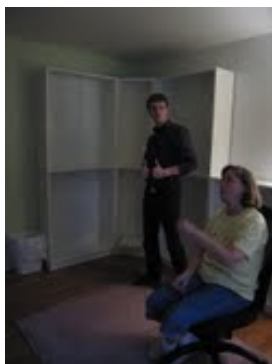
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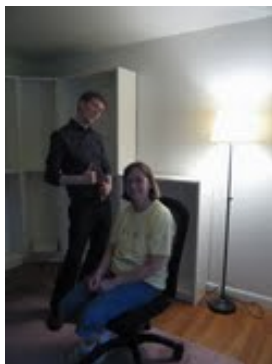
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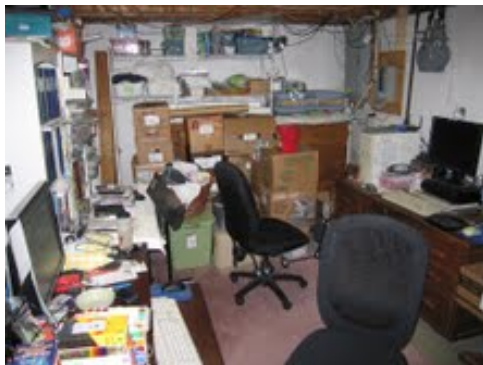
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