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Email from Mom, 30 July 2012

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

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

Hello, Dear Elder Phillip Larsen!

Happy Monday! Happy P-Day! What are you doing today for P-Day? Did you get transferred, for one last time? Or do you get to stay in Teresina for the rest of your mission?

Dad told you all about the home project we've been doing. I'm headed out in a few minutes to take the girls (along with MaryAnn Wilson) to EFY, so this will be a shorter email, and I will likely be gone when you are on, so no emails back and forth ☹. However, we're so blessed to be able to do emails, and not have to wait weeks for news through the post office!

Several comments on what he said: Boy, you have a lot of stuff! I know you'll be going through it all when you are home again, and I'll be happy to help you. It's nice to have it in neat boxes, which makes it look better, plus it's easier to go through just one box at a time. I finally did with your stuff what I should have done two years ago, but, it's nice to have it done! I found treasures and trash, and it has been quite the experience. And one thing that I noticed is that the Lord blessed me with extra energy to work very hard in the past days, to get the job done. I truly felt the hand of the Lord, when I wasn't exhausted after moving boxes and boxes, and when I could think clearly about what to work on next. I pretty much worked without a break on Saturday, until 2 in the morning on Sunday. And even now, I'm tired, but not excessively so.

We had a Youth Temple Trip on Wednesday, and as usual lately, Dad and I both went. It's such a blessing to be able to do that! And I look forward to our next Endowment session as well. We also have some sealings of family files that Leslie did. One of these days I'll do my own work to gather family files, do more with family history. But it feels like a huge project is being done now, with the house stuff. A project that has really been years in the dreaming, planning, and doing.

Christina Mendolia spoke yesterday and it was an excellent talk. She started out by telling how she got the talk assignment, which is sort of a tradition. Her assignment was on the Parable of the Good Samaritan, and because she did not grow up in the church, she had no clue what the story was all about. She told about how she had two weeks to prepare, but each day there would be no time, because she was helping her manager at work, and also helping her step-aunt, whom nobody in her family liked. She was sleep deprived and lacking in time, and every day she would pray for time to prepare her talk, and every day would be filled with service she would do for these people. And she still, until two days before the talk, had no idea what the Good Samaritan even was. Finally, just a couple of days before, she talked with Robbie Parker, her friend, and asked if he knew what it was. He did, and he told her. She had said she prayed for help in doing the talk, and asked the Lord why He didn't give her time to write her talk, if He wanted her to speak. Then, when she found out what the Good Samaritan was, she realized that the Lord had given her a full two weeks of experience in doing with her step-aunt and her manager just what the Good Samaritan did in the story. I was so touched by the story, and realize the Lord teaches us in many ways what He wants us to know.

Well, it's time to get the car loaded for EFY, and finish up what we need to go, and get on our way. It's a beautiful day here, and I hope it's a beautiful day for you, too. Have a wonderful P-Day, and remember you are doing the work of the Lord, and you are in His Hands. I love you very much.

Love,
Mom