



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

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## A letter from Dad - 27 Aug 2012

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**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, Aug 26, 2012 at 10:29 PM

Hello Dear Phillip,

Wow! We're down to a single digit count down. I've tried to be careful in my letters to you to not talk much about the fact that you're coming home soon. I didn't want to be the cause of any "trunkiness" on your part. We're all excited to welcome you home. I was talking with Heather about how at the same time it seems like a very long time and a short time. I described the look you had on your face in the airport the day you left. I've attached picture 9695.jpg of you looking through the glass, the last time we looked at each other before you continued on your way. The terrifying unknown was spread out before your thoughts. Does that seem like a long time ago to you? Or, do you wonder how it is possible that almost 2 years have passed since that day?

Something to think about and let us know either today or next week. We plan to take everyone to a restaurant for dinner after we pick you up at the airport. Where would you like to go? What kind of food would you like to eat?

Andrew Wilson is anxious to come visit. When Maryann and Emmy were here a few weeks ago, Maryann mentioned how Andrew would love to come visit for awhile. Andrew actually called very recently wondering if he could come in the middle of October. The price break for tickets starts at that point. Joyce said that we would need to talk with you before making any plans like that. It might be best to wait until you get home to see how this works out. That would simply move the ticket price break farther out making his trip later in October or early November, but that would be okay.

This past Saturday Julia asked me to take photos of the pictures she has drawn this summer. She cleaned them up and cropped them and has posted most of them to her deviant art account. I've attached the raw pictures to this email so you can see what she has been doing.

Amy Lee sent me some of the pictures she took at the restaurant on Friday, Aug 17th, when the Lee and Larsen families got together. I've attached those as well.

On Saturday Bradford and Amy came around noon and borrowed our minivan. They drove down to Ikea and did some shopping for furniture for their apartment. Joyce and I dinner at the Pine Street Eaterie in the evening. After that Joyce and I drove Bradford's car back to his apartment in time to help Bradford haul everything out of the minivan into their apartment. Fortunately we had the green hand truck and that made it a whole lot easier to do the job. Still, some of the boxes were quite heavy. Thankfully there is an elevator in the building. Amy's mother arrived while we were hauling stuff around and it was nice to visit with her a little. Joyce was able to see the apartment. Amy's grand piano was moved into the apartment last Thursday. I didn't take any pictures this time. However, you'll be able to go down yourself in a couple weeks and see it in person.

Last week I was helping John Krieger at work. He was floundering, unable to figure out how to modify some software for a handheld encryptor that TCC is making. I had been asked by Joe Madden and John Maher to help Krieger get passed this hurdle. I think it was last Thursday that I was sitting in his cubicle when my phone started to vibrated. I looked at the number and it was a very strange number.

I answered the phone and heard an accented voice asking to speak with Elder Larsen's father. That was totally unexpected and I didn't quite understand at first. I think my phone is starting to show its age after 5 years. Calls aren't as clear as they used to be. I asked him to repeat, which he did. I said, "Yes, I am Elder Larsen's father." He was calling to be sure that we had received the email with your itinerary attachment. It hadn't occurred to me to reply to that email. I told him that we had received it and repeated back to him your arrival date and time. He then said that was correct and we ended the call. It's good to know that they are taking good care of the missionaries.

On the VHS video project front... After a few restarts because of mistakes made, I finally started the project in earnest on July 30th. Since then I've captured to computer 101 commercial VHS tapes. I still have about 30 to go and then all the commercial tapes will be done. I've done the video editing on 61 and the DVD authoring on 39. I try to keep all three computers busy doing their assigned jobs. It seems kind of crazy in a way to think of the computing power that I'm using to do this task. awesome-beast does the video capturing. zippy does the editing and video rendering. screamer does the dvd authoring. I have the production line going here. Aunt Lori will start sending me her VHS-C tapes from her camcorder soon. When those arrive I'll pause my project and work on hers. I'm going to be busy for many weeks to come.

We received some distressing news this past week. My Aunt Casey, whom you've met, had a colonoscopy recently and they found a large mass. Further analysis shows that she has stage 4 colon cancer. There are also spots on her liver. Our immediate family has intimate experience with this and it doesn't have a happy outcome. Casey is 89 years old so she needs to decide what kind efforts she wants to take. The doctors, of course, encourage her to do everything possible even though the treatment might extend life for only a few more months. Most likely Casey will have the surgery to remove the tumors in her colon. That could involve removing the entire colon or just the affected part and try to connect what is left. The doctors recommend chemotherapy as well, but that could result in a very crappy quality of life. We haven't heard what she has decided. Part of the diagnosis is for her case to be reviewed by the "tumor board", which will meet in about a week. That same process was followed for Stanford. The tumor board reviews all the available data and makes recommendations on the treatment that should be followed. It is a hard thing. I haven't been out to Utah since 2008. I thinking I should take some time and make a trip out there to visit before it is too late. Uncle Don is 91 or 92 and is fearful of what will happen to him. If Casey is gone then he will need to be in a nursing home. He is unable to take care of himself. End of life decisions are tough ones.

Julia starts her junior year on Wednesday. She is looking forward to most of her classes and feels like this is going to be a good year. We'll be back into a more regular schedule soon. Early morning seminary has a way of locking the schedule into place. Rachel heads back up to SNHU this Sunday. We'll probably swing by her apartment to pick her up on the way to the airport to pick you up.

Bishop Gustafson of the Merrimack Ward was released today. The new bishop is Brother Richard Pearson. He has been serving as Stake Executive Secretary for awhile now and was Stake Clerk before that. One of the constant things in life is "change". I don't know if anyone has been called yet to be Stake Executive Secretary.

It's Sunday evening about 10:00 pm. We just finished up a game of "Settlers of Catan". Joyce, Heather, Julia and I played. Rachel sat beside us at the table doing computer stuff. Julia took a commanding lead early in the game and continued on to win. I came in last. My strategy was good, but the dice didn't agree with me.

That's a wrap for this week. I'm sure your dear sweet Mother will fill in what ever I missed.

Love you,

Dad

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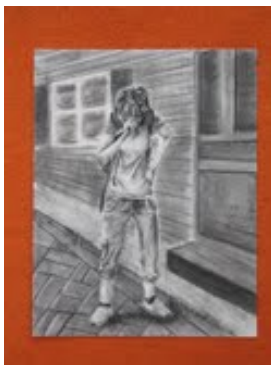
John R Larsen <[john@larsen-family.us](mailto:john@larsen-family.us)>  
<http://larsen-family.us>

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## 18 attachments



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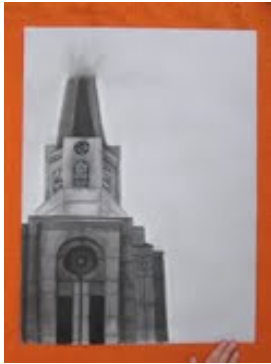
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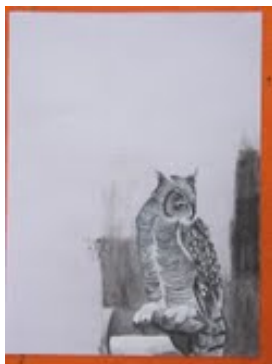
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