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A Final Missionary Letter From Dad: 3 Sept 2012

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To: Phillip Larsen <phillip.larsen@myldsmail.net>
Cc: Joyce Larsen <joyce@larsen-family.us>

Mon, Sep 3, 2012 at 12:12 AM

Hello Dear Phillip,

Wow! 104 weekly emails have gone back and forth since last I saw you. In some ways it doesn't seem possible. I'm very excited for Wednesday afternoon. You will be exhausted. Sleeping in airports is NOT fun. I've done that a number of times myself and it never works very well. Hopefully you experience no problems in all your connections.

When you get to Atlanta please use your calling card and let us know that you're there. It would be helpful to call just before boarding your last flight to Manchester just to let us know that you're on. Sometimes weather in Atlanta can delay flights. That has happened to me a few times when I've flown through Atlanta.

It was Fast and Testimony Sunday in our ward. I assume that it was the same in yours. Did you take the opportunity one last time to bear your testimony in Portuguese? Many people commented on the fact that you're coming home this week. A few that come to mind are Bro. Hann, Bro. Schinn, Sister Favey, Bro. Fry, Sister Cole, Bro. Cole, Bro. Gribble... There were others, but now I don't remember them all. Brother Cole was sustained as YM President today with Brother Mower as 1st Counselor and Brother Rigg as 2nd Counselor. I'm sure they will do a great job.

Okay.... it is now much later on Sunday. We went to a Seminary Fireside at church where the N1, N2, and Merrimack seminary kids and parents came for an introduction pep talk by Brother Austin, Directory of Seminaries and Institutes. It was a very well done and informative presentation on the purpose and goals of seminary. The RS room was packed to capacity. Heather went with us. I had been asked previously to play the piano for the opening hymn and Joyce led the music.

After the fireside we came home and a little later the 4 of us started in on a game of "Settlers of Catan". At the beginning of the game it was all going my way, but midway I stalled out and then momentum went Julia's way. It was a longer game than usual, almost 2 hours. Julia finally won much to her delight. She has a hunger to win whenever she plays any game.

School started up for Julia this past week. Of course it was only Wed and Thurs. She got Friday off and Monday is the Labor Day Holiday, which Heather and I have off. Bradford has it off too, but he plans to spend the day working more on settling into his new apartment. He is taking Tuesday and Wednesday as vacation days. He definitely plans on being at the airport on Wednesday to welcome "Phillis" home.

We are going to ride on the Nashua Rail Trail Monday afternoon. I'll figure out how the bike rack fits on the Honda minivan. We'll put Joyce's, Heather's, and Julia's bicycles on the rack and then I'll simply ride over to the trail head. We plan to ride down to the ice cream stand and enjoy the day.

Seminary starts for Julia Tuesday morning. Then we'll really be into the routine.

I finished recording the last commercial VHS tape today. There are 147 commercial tapes. I've done

the editing and rendering on 71 of them and the DVD authoring on 54. I finally have the offsite backup situation figured out. I ended up buying two 3-Terabyte drives. It took 29 hours each to copy all the files over. That's a long time, but it takes a long time to copy 1.6 TB of data. That's 1600 GBytes of data! It boggles my mind to think of that. The hard disk on the first PC we had in 1988 had a total capacity of 20 MB. So, in the same form factor they now put in 3 TB or more. That's about 250,000 times more data. Incredible. I still haven't started the non commercial VHS tapes of stuff that Joyce recorded off the air. That's another 40 or 50 tapes. That's going to be a lot of work. It's amazing though that 100 beta tapes and 147 VHS tapes all reduce down to fit on one hard drive.

Saturday I finally replaced the leaky faucets on the clothes washer. I don't know why I waited so long. I'm always fearful of disturbing old plumbing. It almost always ends up being a much bigger job than anticipated. However, this time it really was simply a matter of replacing two old faucets for two new ones. I cleaned up the mess behind the washer and dryer and re-positioned them better against the wall. The washer has been acting a little funny the last few days. The dial is turned by a motor and makes and breaks contacts as it rotates. I think there are some dirty contacts because it has started to simply stop. We've been able to get around it by spinning the knob clockwise around and around, hoping to scrap corrosion off the contacts. So far it has worked, but I fear that something more permanent is going to need to be done. I just checked to see when we bought that washer. It was July 1995! I guess we've had it awhile. That's a lot of loads of wash in 17 years. A replacement timer mechanism is about \$112. I'm not sure what to do.

The hour grows late. I'm going to send this now, but I'll probably be online when you come on so we can do our final "chat". I'm excited to welcome you home Wednesday. Stay safe. I'm proud of you and the excellent mission you have served and the excellent man you've grown into.

Love,

Dad

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