



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

Hello to My Missionary!

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To: phillip.larsen@myldsmail.net

Cc: john@larsen-family.us

Hello, my Dear Elder Phillip!

Well, I've been six days now without the newspaper delivery. I'm still working on the details

of the new schedule. I'm trying to think always of enjoying what I have (my stitching and

knitting and book stashes) and spend less money, I'm figuring out how the morning routine

will go without newspaper delivery, and I'm trying to fit in a walk every day or so. So far,

I've taken nice long walks on Tuesday (35 minutes) and today (50 minutes), and it's lovely!

It was 19 degrees when I left this morning, but I had on layers and it was fine. I've noticed

I'm sleeping a tiny bit better, if only 15 minutes later, but that's a good thing. (I'm not waking

up at 4:30 and tossing and turning until I have to get up.) I still like waking up early.

And

I'm trying to do journal-writing before getting kids from Seminary to take them to school.

Oma and Papa said they sent you a Christmas card, and wondered if you had gotten it. I

know they sent us a check, which is deposited in your account. Also, did you get a box from

Suzanna and James? She had called for your address. I think that would be popcorn balls.

And a card from the Senters? They also asked for your address. And how about from Grandma? Those are all of the people I can think of right now who mentioned to me they

were sending you something, or who asked for your address. I still need to update your

address on your Facebook page, but since you can check at the other apartment for mail,

you might want to do that occasionally in case someone sends something to you there. I

suggested to Dad that he make a blog with your emails, that way people could catch up if they want and he doesn't have to worry about it, but just post your emails (edited, of course).

Beverly had surgery last week, on the 28th. Did I tell you about that? She is doing well, and came home on Friday. They got all of the tumor, they think. They had to take most of her hamstring muscle, unfortunately, which will affect her mobility, but she still has her leg. She is without health insurance as of the 1st of January, and still needs to take care of a blood clot in her left leg, also a thoracic aneurysm, which will require surgery. I don't know how that will go, but she is sounding good (on Facebook--I have not yet seen her in person), and from reports of people who have talked to her.

I love that quote you wrote in your last email, that Elder Yorgason told the Hopper family.

That is so true! I was thinking today about how you are blessed as a missionary because of your sacrifice (two years) and service. And thinking of how we, as your family, are blessed, too. Shelly Scott said that, too, how she feels blessed all of the time because of her children's missionary service. And I was thinking that it is because it is a sacrifice for us, as well, to have you gone for that time, but one we are all making to serve the Lord. It's pretty awesome.

Three more things, then I should send this email so you can get it today. And I'll write an ongoing list next time, so I can remember all of the things I wanted to tell you!

1. I'll work on using gmail rather than Pegasus. That will make it easier to do emails from anywhere, also to see the pictures you send, which are pretty big and I can't see them all at once the way it's set up. Dad said he starts a draft of an email to you, which he works

on all
week long and then sends in time for your p-day. I could do that, too.

2. We're supposed to have snow maybe tomorrow and Saturday. We'll see how much actually comes. I talked to a lady yesterday who owns a gift shop and they also own a landscaping business. She was a bit concerned that there has not been much snow, because they rely on snowplowing during the winter for their landscaping business. So, I hope there is enough to help out there. I guess snow is not something you need to worry about!

3. Patty Ogden said they talked to Karen on Christmas, and that she had trouble speaking English! She said that would be us next year! Michael spoke in Spanish to Karen, and she spoke in Portuguese to him, and they could both understand each other. Pretty cool!

4. Ok, I thought of another thing. I was feeling smug and relieved that I wouldn't have to speak in Stake Conference on the 16th, because I hadn't heard anything about it and I know they plan it well in advance. Then Pres. Coopriider called me on Monday and asked me to speak, so I guess I'm not off the hook after all! I asked him the topic, and he gave me a few suggestions, but said to talk on anything I felt inspired to talk on. So I've been pondering that and praying about it. I'm thinking of talking on personal inspiration and how to recognize it, and working it into the suggestions he had (Sermon on the Mount, preparing for our life's missions the way missionaries prepare for their missions). What did you talk on when you found out you were speaking in Sacrament Meeting right after Christmas?

Well, I love you very much, and pray for you and think of you. Huzzah for missionaries! I'm a Missionary Mom! That's so cool!

Love,
Mom