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Brasil Week 10 - Mom and Dad

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

Cc: John@larsen-family.us, joyce@larsen-family.us

Hello, my Dear Elder Larsen,

I've been thinking about some of the things you have asked about in this email. For Bradford, a couple of things might be good. I think he would really appreciate personal emails from time to time (which you may already do, I don't know). Also a letter or two, snail mail. And include him in your prayers, and in fasting. We maintain a good relationship with him, and I'm going to be meeting him tomorrow for lunch, actually. And it was his suggestion that we get together after I attend the Temple, which I'm doing tomorrow for Temple Service (hopefully working in the kitchen, my favorite!). I find it interesting that he looked up online how far it was from his apartment to the Temple, and told me of how to get there. He notices things, even though the gospel is not important to him right now. But his family is important. I keep praying that he will remember the gospel things he has learned in his childhood, and I make sure to invite him to family things and for extras. Dad and Bradford also went on a bike ride awhile ago. So for you, just writing to him would be good, telling him about things you notice in Brasil that you think he would enjoy hearing about and seeing if he could be there.

For your question about thoughts on worrying, also on the adversary using your weaknesses against you, it's good you recognize that. The adversary knows you very well, and knows how to push your buttons. He knows each of us very well. For me I tend to schedule too many things, all good things, but too many. And the adversary knows my desire to do everything, so he uses that against me. So instead of prayerfully considering which things I should do each day, I will often feel frustrated that I can't do it all. I don't enjoy the things I get to do as much, or feel satisfied with what I have accomplished, but just feel bad I can't do more. Those feelings are not from God. The adversary knows you in the same way. I think it might help if you work on the relationships you have now, in your mission (with your companion and other Elders in your apartment, with the people you teach, with the ward members, with President Dias and his family), just focusing on them whenever you feel worried about other relationships here. And what a blessing the phone and emails are! You can continue to have relationships because of technology! Being distant (while you are on your mission, also because the Wilsons have moved away) will most definitely change a relationship. But it will not end, that's for sure. I think you even noticed it in the year

after you graduated, that everyone moves on with their lives (college, jobs, moving to NM), and things do not stay the same. That is hard. It is hard for me, too. I was crying one day, missing you, and missing Stanford. But also missing my children who were babies and little, and are now grown up. That time has passed. So I want to be sure that each day, each moment of what I am doing now, will be happy memories when these moments are gone. And the way to make that happen is to not be wishing to have things stay the same. Which is much easier said than done! I guess I'm saying to just enjoy the wonderful adventure that being a missionary is! And enjoy the people who can be lifetime friends, whom you would never have met if you were not in Brasil! And when you return in September of 2012, you will continue to strengthen all of your existing relationships, through letters, phone calls, visits, and continue to get to know and love others of God's children, who are your brothers and sisters! And then those relationships will include many of the people you are meeting now, as well as high school friends and NH ward members.

Good luck with figuring out the garment situation. Just figure out whose are whose, and MARK THEM! Then it won't be an issue any more :). As far as the shirts not being as soft, it's because they are being dried by air instead of in the dryer with fabric softener sheets. They will get softer again when you can put them in the dryer with those sheets.

After I send off this email, I'm packing up the box and sending it off. I'm picking up Emerson Blanchette from her preschool this morning, so after I drop her at her home, I'll head to the post office. And you'll soon get your package! (No babies yet, BTW, for Sis. Blanchette. Each one is five pounds by now, and they will induce her on the 6th of June if the babies have not come by then).

A couple of quick news things:

Rachel and I went last Thursday night to a Farewell Testimony Meeting for Elder Wilder, who had dinner with us at General Conference. And guess who was conducting the meeting? Elder Koerper! No, not the original one, but his brother! When I heard the name, I remembered that Elder Koerper's brother was also called to the Massachusetts Boston Mission, and now here he is! I got to talk to him after, and it was fun. He has a KMP, too :). He, too, is a valiant missionary. He asked about our family, and I told him about you, and about Stanford, and about Bradford. I gave him Bradford's address, in case the missionaries can figure out anything to do for him. It was a really good meeting, and as always, I was grumbling about yet another night out and how far I had to drive, then was very glad I went. The Spirit was very strong. And we heard testimonies in English, Spanish, Cambodian, and Haitian-Creole, which sounds sort of like French

Beverly sent out an email the other day that she will be closing Ewe'll Love It by the

end of June. She is having sales to get rid of all of the inventory. I will really miss that shop. It is much more than a place to buy nice yarn. It is sort of like my "corner bar", in that I go there often to knit with friends (rather than drink with friends!). Beverly said that between the economy (people need to buy gasoline, they do not need to buy yarn) and her health issues, she can't keep up with the store. I don't blame her, I would do the same thing in her position. But I will sorely miss Ewe'll Love It. I'll let you know about Beverly. With the surgery they got all of the tumor. But she said a high percentage of people with her form of cancer have it go straight to their lungs. She will be having a CT scan this week, which will tell how things are going.

Nick Anderson's visa finally arrived. His Dad (I'm assuming) posted on his FB that he was on the way to Brasil, and would write to people if they would email/write to him. Then a few hours later there was a post that Nick had lost his papers in Atlanta. (Passport, visa, boarding pass, etc.) The papers have still not been found. So Nick is back serving in his stateside mission for who knows how long. It's a strange situation, and, I imagine, very disappointing.

My sister wrote to me about an Elder serving from her ward, who was originally called to serve in Croatia. Then was reassigned to New Hampshire. I'm guessing he is in the Manchester mission. Anyway, she said he is having a hard time, and I can only imagine it would be an adjustment. So I will pray for both of these missionaries to be able to see the Lord's hand in their lives, and to know that where they are right now is where He wants them to be. And I will continue to pray for you, my dear Elder Larsen. I love you, and I'm so pleased at what you are doing, and at how you are growing, and at your testimony. The gospel is a wonderful thing.

And now, off to get your box mailed out today!

Love,
Mom

P.S. It's fun to listen to the Portuguese language tapes. I need to see some of the words written out. Today I was saying the word for "something", as in "Would you like something to eat?" It is a fun word to say! But I can't spell it :)

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