



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

A letter from Dad: 6 June 2011 - Part 1

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Sun, Jun 5, 2011 at 10:19 PM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

Cc: joyce@larsen-family.us

Hello Dear Phillip,

Answers to questions from your last email.

Apostles don't have to come from the 70. Elder Jeffrey R Holland was President of BYU when he was called to the 12. Elder David A Bednar was President of BYU Idaho when he was called into the 12. I'm sure there are others, but I know of those two off the top of my head.

There are priesthood requirements for splitting a ward. However, those aren't the only requirements. They also look at what will be the end result of the youth programs. They don't recommend splitting wards if only a few youth would end up in one of the wards. If you think about minimum numbers, you need the bishopric, ward clerk, executive secretary, High Priest Group Leadership, Elders Quorum Presidency, YM Presidency. That's about 12 right there. Requirements for a branch are smaller. Wards also have a minimum size requirement of active members. If a ward gets up to an average of 300 attending sacrament meeting they might consider splitting. If you get too small it puts a heavy burden on the active members. So, there are lots of factors.

Bishop McFadden has started his new job. I asked Brother Craig Nelson if he had heard what the timing might be. He thinks the bishopric will be changed by the end of June.

I still haven't heard anything from the Ensign about when my article will be published. They start planning the contents of Ensigns a year in advance. So, since I haven't heard anything yet, it is still more than a year away. I guess we could start praying for it?

Frank Salanger sent a Facebook Friend request. Do you want to accept him?

I mailed the flash drive to you on Tuesday, May 31st. They said 6 to 9 business days to get to Brazil. I don't know how long it will take for you to actually get it. The customs form has only one item on it, so hopefully it won't cost you an arm and a leg to get it. The drive is only worth \$32.

I took a lot of pictures at the Burgess BBQ on Memorial Day, May 30th. I'm splitting them up into two emails to ensure that the emails make it through.

Well, here it is, Sunday evening, June 5th. We got back a few minutes ago from the Church after attending seminary graduation. Julia had perfect attendance at seminary this year. She is sad that it is over. It ended last Friday, so for the next 2.5 weeks of school there won't be any seminary.

We had an unexpected visitor in sacrament meeting today. I finished playing the sacrament hymn and slid down into my chair next to the organ bench and looked up. There, about three rows behind Joyce, Julia and "the" Rachel was someone who looked very familiar. I looked again and realized that it was Elder Nichols! He had flown to Boston to interview with an accounting firm hoping for an intern position for next summer, a year away. I caught his eye and we did little waves at each other. After the sacrament I went down to sit the family and leaned over and said to "the" Rachel, "Elder Nichols is here!" She said, "Where?!?" I said, "About three rows back" and pointed with my thumb. After the meeting block we talked for several minutes in the foyer and then Joyce invited him over for dinner. There were people he wanted to visit so he rode home with me in the Toyota and then I let him borrow it so he could go see people. He came back a little before 5 PM and we had dinner together and had a wonderful time catching him up on everything. We then took him to seminary graduation where he hooked back up with the Bentalls. That's where he has been staying. I took a couple of pictures which are attached at the end of all the Memorial Day pictures.

I finished General Conference for the 4th time this past week. I also finished the Pearl of Great Price. I then decided to repeat that exercise, so I'm listening to conference intermixed with the Pearl of Great Price again. There is amazing doctrine in the PofGP.

There was some very strange weather this past week. For the first time that I can remember the whole area was put on a tornado watch. The sky had amazing sheet lightning and the wind was strong. Tornadoes actually touched down in Springfield MA causing quite a bit of damage. Someone actually got video of the tornado hovering over a river sucking water out of it. It was strange to see the water flowing into the funnel and going up through all the stuff blowing around and around. In Nashua we only had magnificent storms. It did blow down some dead trees in our front yard and partially broke off a large 6 to 8 inch diameter branch on a tree in the backyard. That

branch came down over another one and some of its top branches are now brushing the roof nearest to Anna's house.

On Saturday I stared at the broken branch for a while wondering how to clean it up. I decided to leave that for later and went about cleaning up all the other stuff. I used the wood saw from the shed and cut down some dead trees and cleaned up the dead trees in the front yard. I then removed the seats from the van and put the tarp in for protection, loaded up all the cut wood, and took it to the dump. After taking care of the clean up I vacuumed out the van.

We had a "Meet the Latter-day Saints" open house at the church on Saturday from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Every organization of the ward had a table set up with information about the organization. Members had invited their friends to come. I took our laptop and set it up with the LCD projector along with an audio amplifier and speaker. I then connected to mormon.org and the missionaries manned that station to show videos and other church content. During the open house I was at the organ most of the time. The folding doors between the chapel and the gym were halfway open so that people could step into the overflow area and listen to the organ and view the chapel. Brother Hood played for about a half hour and I played the rest of the time. We had a few people come and it was enjoyable to be with our ward family.

After the open house I gave the van and the Saturn their annual cleaning. Actually, it has been two years since the van had its cleaning. It took me about 2 hours to clean both "veHicles". At this time of year the trees always deposit messy stuff on the cars. The Saturn begins to look more black and yucky than white. It takes some elbow grease to get the job done, but now both vehicles look a lot better. Joyce had the Toyota during this time so it didn't get its bath yet. I'm not sure when it will get one either.

This coming Saturday, June 11th, the "Ricky Nelson" band is playing at and enjoying a cookout at Paul Merideth's house. He is the lead guitar of the band. We will play unless it is raining that day. We haven't had a chance to practice together since our last gig on April 15th. I've been practicing on my own a fair amount lately, especially since I got my new saxophone. I've mostly practiced music for the Merrimack Band, but practice is practice. It's all good.

I've often wondered how to resolve in my mind the seeming disconnect between talks from General Authorities. Talks are given that say the second coming is soon. Other talks are given that mention the importance of doing things so that our grand children and great grandchildren will benefit from them. That makes it sound like the second coming will be much later. How to resolve that? Well, as I was listening to conference for the 5th time I heard Sister Elaine S Dalton's talk from the General YW Broadcast. She talked about attending the temple wedding of a girl that she has known since the

day she was born. She related what the newly married couple said as they stood looking into the mirrors in the sealing room. "As the newly married couple looked into the large mirrors in the room, the groom was asked what he saw. He said, 'All those who have gone before me.' Then the couple looked into the large mirror on the opposite wall, and the bride said with tears in her eyes, 'I see all those who will follow after us.' She saw her future family—her posterity."

It was then that this insight came to me. I remembered that when Christ comes that will usher in the millenium. During that time there will be a mix of mortals and resurrected beings on the earth. The mortals will still be getting married and having children. That's a thousand years of posterity! Yes, the righteous will be lifted up to meet the Savior and the earth will be cleansed. Then Christ will reign personally on the earth. His Church will become the government. We are currently preparing the earth for His return. The church is the kingdom of Christ on the earth.

Now, Mormons aren't the only righteous people on the earth. If that were the case there would be no need for missionary work. There are millions and millions of righteous people. They are simply kept away from the truth because they don't know where to find it. The righteous will be lifted up to meet the Savior. However, they won't all instantly become members of the church. That's going to take some time. In the BofM Christ's visit to the Americas is described in 3rd Nephi. It takes place in about 34 AD. In 4th Nephi 1:1-2 it says how the disciples of Christ established the church throughout all the land. In verse 2 it says that in the 36th year all the people were converted unto the Lord. So, it took about 2 years to teach all the gospel to all the people and for them to all become members of the Church. We will be dealing with many more people. Our posterity will be there preaching the gospel and establish the church through the world.

So, in my mind there is no disconnect anymore. Both are correct.

Anyway, that's a lot of reading. Hopefully it won't take up too much of your time.

It's getting late here and I'd better head off to bed. I love you and am very proud of you. The Church is true. Christ lives. He is the Savior and Redeemer of all mankind. We are led by living prophets. It's a wonderful thing.

Love,

Dad

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20 attachments

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