



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

Hello from New Mexico!

Joyce Larsen <linenlady9@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 18, 2011 at 10:57 AM

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

Cc: John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Hello, Dear Elder Phillip Larsen,

Sunday, 17 July 2011

Hello from New Mexico! It is fun being here. It's fun seeing how the Wilsons fit their lives into their current house, and into Albuquerque. I've also been reading a bit of some magazines MaryAnn sent us called "New Mexico", and it's really good to see the state from the perspective of people who love it and feel very much at home here. It is so different from New England. Very dry, very hot. The styles of homes are very different, some pueblo styles that do not appeal to me at all, but as I learn more about why the people build like that, the more I can appreciate it. Tomorrow we'll be going to "Old Town", and we'll let you know more about it after we've been there. Today MaryAnn and I spent some time making a list of things to see, and putting on a sort of calendar when each thing might fit in. And there's no question, there is more to do that we can do in a week, so we'll just have to come back. Oh, dear :).

We will likely be nowhere near a computer when you email this week, but we'll certainly look forward to hearing all about your week when we return from our outing. Heather is staying at the house, she said she slept in Julia's bed (Yuk, sheets have not been changed in months, and it's covered with kitty litter! But, maybe she put clean sheets on the bed . . .) and she is taking care of Winston and bringing in the mail, and such. She and Rachel were watching a Dr. Who movie when I called today. We have been taking care of the Hawkins' house and bunny while they were gone for a couple of weeks to be in the Pageant, and Heather did that for two of the days. And the day we get back she will take care of the Potters' cats, which I will continue to do for a week while the girls are at EFY.

I didn't make any notes for this past week, though it was a busy one. Julia had an art class on Tuesday at A.C. Moore, and has signed up for a couple more, one of them when Emmy is visiting and the girls will do it together. That is good for her, to have something fun to look forward to and to build her confidence in her artistic abilities. She did a watercolor of Winston, and really enjoyed it, and was actually pleased at how it turned out. I've been meeting with knitting friends, and while Julia was in the art class I went to Ewe'll Love It for a couple of hours, then on Tuesday night while she

was at YW, I went to Barnes & Noble to meet with some others. I have found that I have developed some really good friendships through the knitting groups, and I don't want to lose that once the shop closes. Other ladies feel the same way, so we are organizing other groups, other places to get together once ELI closes.

The Young Women went to the beach on Thursday, and I drove the van with several of them. It was a fun and relaxing day. Then in the evening Dad and I went to the home of Gail and Bob Fletcher to celebrate Gail's birthday for an hour and a half. Then came home to pack for our trip. It was a very busy day, but I'm glad I did all of those things. That's what is hard about being so busy: I don't want to be that rushed with life, but I also don't want to miss out on things. I guess the important things are to prayerfully consider what the possibilities are for each day and pick, then enjoy the moment, and don't keep thinking about all of the other things that I could have been doing.

Dad has told you about what we've done so far in New Mexico. I thought, when we were in Dallas, about how you had been at that same airport (it was that one, wasn't it?) back in March. I found a plane that was heading to Sao Paulo, and wanted to look at where it was leaving from, to see all of the people, and maybe hear some of them speaking Portuguese, but there was not time.

MaryAnn Wilson said there are three different cultures here in Albuquerque: Spanish, Indian, and American (Anglo-Saxon?). There are Indian reservations, and we could see some of them from the mountain top. The Wilsons live about six minutes from the Temple. Bro. Wilson said there is a Navaho session every Saturday afternoon. I thought that was pretty cool.

Monday, 18 July, 2011

Dad just said we might be here when you email, after all, because of the time difference. We'll see! Yesterday in church we had a lesson on the Resurrection. I just emailed my sister, who will be teaching that lesson in Gospel Doctrine this upcoming week, so I'll copy and paste the notes I gave to her about the lesson, to give her ideas on a possible way to approach it (I mentioned before and after the notes about how she was teaching the lesson, and I just included all of what I wrote to her):

You mentioned that you will be teaching the lesson in Gospel Doctrine on the Resurrection this coming week. We just had that lesson yesterday in the ward here in Albuquerque, and the teacher did an excellent job. I went up to her after the lesson and told her how much I enjoyed it, and she said it had not been coming together, but she prayed and prayed and decided to just do it the way the manual said, if nothing else came to her. But then the day before she got an idea, and it worked out really well. She had us talk about what are the benefits of having bodies? And she listed them on the board as we came up with ideas. She also asked us to think about what

we do now (not what should we do, but what do we do) to enjoy and appreciate the Resurrection. And towards the end of class, we talked about what we should do to appreciate the Resurrection. In the discussion, she asked us to imagine the Pre-existence, before the Plan was in place, and what would have made us excited to have bodies. Some of the reasons we wanted bodies that were discussed were:

- wanting to be like Heavenly Father, who has a body
- ability to receive some ordinances
- ability to hug
- we wanted our own families, not just being the kid in our heavenly family
- we can enjoy our five senses
- we could have trials and prove ourselves

I wish I had written down all of the things we came up with, because there were a lot more. Anyway, at the end of class, when we talked about what we should do to appreciate the Resurrection, we came up with things like: taking care of our bodies by exercising and eating right, appreciating and enjoying the bodies we have and being thankful, realizing that the aging process and things that can go wrong with bodies are going to be fixed so to not worry so much about those things because they are "but a small moment", and living righteously so that we will be able to be with those who have gone before. The teacher said that the Resurrection is the "freebie" part of the Atonement, that we all receive. It was a very good lesson, and I hope these ideas might help you with your lesson, at least a tiny bit.

(Back to regular email now :)

Leslie sent the email from Ian. He has been transferred each transfer, and he said with each time, the area is whitewashed after he leaves, and this time there will be Sister missionaries come in. He is getting good at packing up quickly. I will be interested to hear if you got transferred or not this time, and looking forward to your email! I love you, Phillip. The Church is true, and we are so blessed to have the gospel and to have a living Prophet. What a blessing that you get to serve a mission!

One more thing. I am trying to read the Book of Mormon with the youth in our Stake who are doing the whole thing through the summer. But I have gotten behind on the reading chart. So, on the plane, in an effort to catch up a bit, I listened to it instead of reading it, and knit while I listened. I also had my scriptures open so I could follow along a bit. Anyway, it was really interesting how I picked up and noticed different things while listening than I do when I read. And when I read quickly and for longer periods of time, I get different things than when I read a few verses and ponder. Just a thought. There are benefits to all different ways of studying the scriptures. When we get back to NH, I'll listen and read with the Portuguese Book of Mormon, though that will be more for language study than scripture study. I'll let you know how it goes.

I love you, and I miss you. I'm working on getting the Wilsons to write, though it may

take awhile. They love hearing about you!

More next time!

Love,
Mom