



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

A rushed email from Mom, 10-17-11

Joyce Larsen <linenlady9@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 17, 2011 at 10:43 AM

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

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

Hello, Dear Elder Phillip Larsen,

I've been looking forward to your email all week long . . . and hope I get a good one out to you. In the first part of this sentence, I had to backspace and do words over three times. So, I'll just slow down a bit and think a bit more before writing.

I am supposed to meet Beverly today for lunch around noon, but she emailed last night that she had some medical issues so we may need to be flexible. So, we'll see. We continue to pray for her. But, given the way her health is, and our experience with serious and rare cancers, I don't have much hope for a happy ending to this. So, I pray for her, that she will have peace in her heart, and comfort, and that the doctors will know how to help her. It is in the Lord's hands.

Thursday I had Stake Relief Society Training. We had planned to discuss Handbook 2, which we did, but I thought and thought about how to make the evening worthwhile for the sisters coming. They all give up an evening for this training, and the ones from Keene and Peterborough come a long way, especially. I don't ever want to give them things they could get on their own at home, like reading from a manual they already have or something. So, the thing that kept coming to my mind was a talk on Personal Revelation, using a talk Julie B. Beck gave in Conference in April 2010, and which was used again in the Visiting Teaching message for September. I found it to be interesting that when I pulled out my Ensign to see the whole talk (after reading the line of it printed in the Visiting Teaching message), I found that part had been highlighted, and I had actually used that talk as my Visiting Teaching message in May 2010. A lesson on Personal Revelation seemed to go along with a lesson on Handbook 2, because so much of the handbook is geared to having the wards do what works best for them, using inspiration, and working with the Bishop. I wrote the other day to Ricky (just felt the urge, was it a prompting? I don't know.) Here is part of what I wrote to him (and the personal message to him applies as well to you):

"I love reading your emails, and am inspired by your testimony. Thank you for your faithful service. What a blessing it is to have the gospel in our lives! I gave a lesson to the sisters in the Relief Society Presidencies in our Stake on Thursday night for our annual training. (I am Stake Relief Society President.) I was pondering and praying

about what to discuss with them, and kept coming back to personal revelation, in addition to our lesson on Handbook 2, which we had planned already. Julie B. Beck said, "The ability to qualify for, receive, and act on personal revelation is the single most important skill that can be acquired in this life." She goes on to say how to qualify for the Lord's Spirit, and says, "Revelation can come hour by hour and moment by moment as we do the right things." I told them about an experience I had had the day before when I did not heed a small prompting, and how it taught me several things: the Lord is aware of even tiny details of our lives, and often eases the way for us with simple guidance (I was prompted to buy a zucchini and a cucumber at the grocery store in the morning, rather than wait for a farm stand where I would be later in the day. The opportunity to go to the farm stand never came because our car broke down and had to be towed.). Also, I wondered why I would receive a prompting for something so seemingly insignificant, and the thing I can think of is that it is a way He can teach me to feel what it is like to feel the Spirit."

Dad already told you about King Richard's Faire, also about the car breaking down. It was interesting how, as I passed the farm stand where I was planning to buy the cucumber and zucchini, passed it while riding in the tow truck, I thought of how I had felt an urge, several times, to buy those things at the grocery store along with the other groceries, but didn't do it. I knew that not having them was not a big deal, and we would manage, but I thought of how the Lord eases our way often on little things, and how He is aware of even the tiny details of our lives. And I am trying now to pay attention to what it feels like to feel the Spirit. Which is hard, sometimes, because I tend to have a hard time making decisions, and often choices are between two good things: should I go to the gym? or rake in the yard? (I tell myself I should do both, but in reality I don't have the time today for both. So I raked, which gave me the opportunity to be home as Dad was leaving for work, to remind him about calling Hanson's to see if the van was done, and the chance to go with him this morning to pick it up instead of waiting to make a special trip tonight.) So, anyway, I continue striving to decide what is actually a prompting, and what is just my own hard time in choosing things. I'll keep praying about it, and let you know how it goes!

One more thing, then I'll send this off so you'll have an email from me today. I was going through older emails from you to look for that little bit where you talked about Beverly and the advice she gave you in the book. I was reading other parts, too, and it was wonderful to see how the Lord takes care of His missionaries, and gives you opportunities to learn, and to teach, and to rely on Him, and have your own testimony grow. Keep doing it! Keep on keeping on! Keep studying hard, and focusing on the work, and listening to the Spirit!

I love you, and I'm so pleased you have this chance to be a missionary at this time to build up the Lord's kingdom! The gospel is true, and we are blessed to have a living Prophet on the earth today, and I feel very blessed to have emails, so we can keep in

touch even when there is a mail strike!

Love,
Mom