



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

A letter from Dad: 5 Dec 2011

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

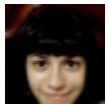
Sun, Dec 4, 2011 at 3:04 PM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

Cc: Joyce Larsen <joyce@larsen-family.us>, julia@larsen-family.us, Brad Larsen <brad.larsen@gmail.com>, heather@larsen-family.us

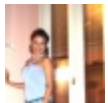
FACEBOOK FRIEND REQUEST:



Joyce Veceli Barros

Escola Modelo · São Luís, Brazil

617 friends · 70 photos · 81 Wall posts · 3 groups



Amandha Ferreira

Colégio O Bom Pastor · São Luís, Brazil

343 friends · 10 photos · 5 Wall posts · 2 groups

Hello Dear Phillip,

Please tell Elder Ribeiro that on Nov 29th I mailed back to him a DVD of the contents of his flash drive. I also sent the flash drive back in a case. I used a 5x9 envelop and sent it First Class. I imagine it will take a couple weeks to arrive at the mission home. I don't know how long after that it will take for him to finally get it.

Okay, it's Sunday evening for me, Dec 4th, at almost 6:00 PM. That means it is 11:00 AM for people in Nashua and 1:00 PM for you in Brazil. I'm in my hotel room at the Cairo Marriott. This is pretty much the first break I have had since we arrived in Egypt. What we expected to be a smooth running acceptance test for the ATI units has been nothing but one problem after another. We have been plagued with bad luck.

The flights over were very long. Our flight on Thursday, Dec 1st, was supposed to leave at 4:30 PM. We sat on the runway for an hour because the very strong tailwinds we have made us arrive too early in Frankfurt. We finally left and arrived in Frankfurt at 5:30 AM. I tried to sleep some in the airport, but that didn't work very well at all.

The next leg of the journey was the flight to Cairo which left at 12:30 PM. That plane had no entertainment at all, no audio, no video, nothing. I was in an exit row so had good leg room. I tried reading my Nook on the flight, but was too tired to read and couldn't sleep very well at all. We arrived at 5:10 AM and made our way to baggage claim. Once we had our bags is when the adventure began.

A last minute addition to the goals of our week long trip was for John Maher to demo a new TCC product. Since this was last minute it wasn't shipped to Egypt along with all the other equipment. Instead John used a carry on bag to bring the equipment. At customs there are two lines, "Nothing to declare" and "Stuff to declare". John approached the "Nothing to declare" booth where upon the customs agent asked to look in John's top bag. That happened to be the equipment which really raised the custom agent's eyebrows and red flags. In short, we all ended up being taken to the other area where we opened up all our bags. The stuff John was bringing all got confiscated and put into a vault at the airport. Two hours later we finally made it through customs. That made us late to the hotel, so we arrived after the dinner buffet was cleaned up.

The driving here in Cairo is CRAZY. It's semi organized chaos. Drivers are super aggressive, darting forward and cutting each other off. The horn is in constant use to warn and to complain. Almost every car has dents and scrapes. Lane markers are completely ignored. Cars wander all over. Another practice is for drivers to go into reverse and backup on ramps because it is too congested. They simply back up and up until they get where they want to be. Meanwhile other drivers are darting around them. Motorcycles and scooters are everywhere. They drive inbetween larger vehicles and cut in front of them. I saw a family of four on one little scooter. The father was driving and his 4 year old daughter was standing between his legs. The mother was sitting side saddle behind the man and was holding a 2 year old girl on her lap. They were weaving in and out of traffic and were as calm as could be. I saw a man on a scooter who was balancing this huge long board on his head. On the board were loaves of bread. This was on a side street, but he too was weaving in and out of traffic. I don't know how he kept the board balanced. It was crazy. Pedestrians simply walk out into traffic and weave their way through cars that are buzzing around them. There are street cleaners all over the place. They have a big bag hanging on their shoulders and a very worn out broom. Cars buzz around them as they sweep seeming oblivious to the danger. I've seen many vehicles broken down with people working on them seemingly oblivious to the cars and trucks zippy around them.

The call to prayers is going on right now at 6:17 PM. There are minarets all over the place. At some schedule that I don't understand a male voice blasts its way across.

I have only been able to take pictures from my hotel room balcony. Where I spend my

day working is in a military facility so I'm not allowed to take pictures there. I've attached some daytime and nighttime pictures for you to see. The daytime pictures show smoggy it is here. The river you see there is the Nile. Gas is cheap, about a buck a gallon, and there are millions of cars for the 18 million people that live in Cairo.

Saturday morning we went to the facility where the acceptance test was to be performed. The first hint of troubled waters ahead was when John Maher turned on the PC that TCC provided 2 years ago and that was working fine last year. Someone had used it in the mean time and it no longer worked. We have spent probably ten hours trying to fix it. We hauled it to our hotel twice and finally got it working Sunday evening.

When Bogdan started putting the TCC boxes through the tests, several problems showed up in areas that were a complete surprised. We have spent the last two days working on those problems with help from engineers back at TCC. It isn't going well. Carl arrived late Saturday night and went with us to the facility today. At the rate we're going, it looks like I will probably have to come back again possible in January.

It has felt strange today not going to church on a Sunday. While I was at the facility this morning it came up about how I don't drink coffee and never have. The Colonel that TCC works with asked why I have never had coffee. I said it was a religious restriction, coffee, tea, and tobacco. He was incredulous. He asked what religion that was. I gave the name of the church followed by "mormons". He had never heard of that religion before. That got me to pondering how it is that millions of Heavenly Father's children are born in countries where the gospel can't be preached. I know HF loves all his children. Why do so many of them go places where they can't hear the gospel? But we know that men will be judged based on how they lived up to the knowledge that they had during life. The blessings of the gospel will come to most of God's children after this life because they won't get the opportunity to receive it in mortality. There are only 14 million members of the church out of 7 billion people on earth. That's a very small amount.

Some of the areas we have driven past are in horrible condition. Some of the buildings look to be falling apart, but people are still living in them.

It is now 10:00 PM and I'm going to finish this up so I can go to bed and get more than 5 hours of sleep for the first time since leaving the USA. Because of all the problems we have had with the ATI testing, it looks like we won't be demonstrating the 72B stuff which is the reason I came to Egypt. Carl said something about coming back in January for that. So, another trip is probably in the works. Unless we get really lucky with the help from those working at TCC right now, we most likely won't even get the ATI passed off. That will mean another trip for that as well for Bogdan. I don't know what the arrangements will be, but it will be another trip. This will have been an

expensive trip for me. Airplane ticket was \$1100. The hotel is about \$1900. Other expenses will add up to a few hundred. That's just for me!

I know you're in a third world country too. It helps you have a much greater appreciation for the many blessings that we enjoy in the USA.

Love you,

Dad

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John R Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>
<http://larsen-family.us>

7 attachments



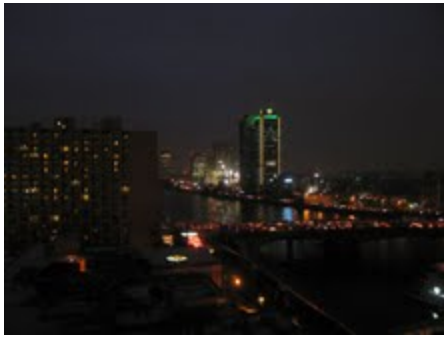
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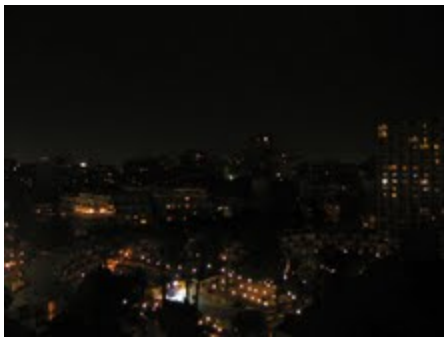
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