



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

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## Happy December 12th! Email from Mom

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Joyce Larsen <linenlady9@gmail.com>

Mon, Dec 12, 2011 at 9:47 AM

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

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

Hello, my Dear Elder Phillip Edward Larsen,

(No, you're not in trouble, I just thought it would be fun to use your full name today:). As I wrote the subject line, I remembered when we had the Advent Calendar out, and how the 12th was the last day of the top line of pockets. You kids were always so excited for Christmas to come! And I was always so panicked that there were only 12 days left! Things are calmer now, but I still have too many things to do, and get stressed. I realized, the other day, however, that it's a combination of two things, both of which I can change: too many commitments (I don't HAVE to go to every event that is announced, etc.), and each day I've dived right into my list of things to do without focusing first on the essentials: scriptures, exercise, enough sleep, taking a walk, time to write in my journal, etc. So, I'm looking at my list, and trying to change things around a bit.

Dad mentioned the Pageant, and how he didn't go. I went to the Saturday 6pm one, and before that the Stake Single Adult Dinner (I'm on the committee, because of my calling). And we came to the church directly from Dad's concert. So this past weekend has been busier than I would like it to be. The Pageant was good, as always. This year they left things until the last minute, though, and it make it harder for the people working on things to do it. Like, they called Dad during his concert on Saturday afternoon, saying they could use his help with the sound. I was going to invite Lucy, but I kept forgetting, and still haven't contacted her. It could have worked out somehow, but it's hard to take care of an investigator when I have so many other things I'm doing at the same time (Dad's concert, helping out with the SA dinner, cleaning up after the SA dinner). So, I'll keep Lucy in mind for something else, I guess.

Dad's concert was good, and I was able to see the whole thing. I was afraid I would have to leave early, because we needed to be at the church by 5pm, both for the Stake SA dinner, and for Julia to get a ride to a dance in Concord. When we were at the concert, I thought of the year we brought Mildred Meserve. And of the year my parents came, which was the year Stanford was sick. Lots of memories with that concert.

The weather has turned seasonably cold, but no ice or snow, for which I am grateful now. It makes driving much easier. I know the snow will come, but I don't mind the clear, pretty mornings at all. It's very peaceful and nice.

Julia has gone to several dances. She is becoming quite the social butterfly, with her crowd at church, especially. She went to our Stake Christmas Dance on the 2nd of December, and to a dance in Belmont on the 3rd. Then she went to Cooper's birthday party on Friday, the 9th, and a dance in Concord on the 10th. She likes our own Stake dances the best, and knows more of the people. Our Young Men are good boys. They are good friends, and they make sure to dance with the girls from our ward. She gets along well with the YM, and they seem to like her, too. She is not flirty at all, but just a good friend. And she is good friends with Melanie and Tracey. Did she ever tell you she is Mia Maid Class President? And I think Tracey and Melanie are her counselors.

Heather and I mailed out your Christmas package on Monday, the 5th. I still have several things to send you, that wouldn't fit in the box, so we'll be sending another package in a week or so, but all of the Christmas stuff is in the one we already sent. Except for Rachel's gift, which she will give to us to include in the next package. So, something to look forward to! It's actually handy to have all of your mail go to the Mission Home, so we don't have to worry about your address constantly changing. It just means you don't get daily mail to look forward to.

I visited Beverly last week, and took her dinner. She is looking good, but starting to lose her hair. I noticed she had a haircut, and she had donated it, and now it's falling out. She said it's only hair. She was having the same chemo as is used for ovarian cancer, so probably the same kind that Melanie Larsen is on. And she said she felt lousy about 90% of the time. But now she is taking a break from the chemo, and is going with Ben to Colorado this week for a spiritual retreat, and for horsebackriding. Then on a cruise to the Caribbean in January with all of her family (her two sisters, Maggie and husband and son, and Ben). Beverly's sister, Barb, was at the house when I visited, knitting a chemo hat for Beverly. The house was cozy and warm, and decorated a bit for Christmas. She was glad to get the dinner. She also mentioned the letter and picture you sent, and was amazed, and said Ben was too, that you had some fond memories. Beverly is funny sometimes! Anyway, we still don't know how things will work out for her. But we know Heavenly Father loves all of His children, and takes good care of the, so they can return to Him. And He allows us to have trials that will build us and make us better people.

The missionaries serving in our ward go their transfer information, and they will both be staying one more transfer, anyway. They were excited about that, to not be transferred right before Christmas! I gave them a bag of goodies: clementines, a paper tree you build yourself that will stand about 2 feet tall, and leftover breakfast

casserole that was in the freezer since the Stake RS Temple Day, plus muffins. Elder Jones has been in our ward since before the General Conference in April, so a long time.

Well, I should sent you this email, so you can read it! I love you, Phillip! I'm excited to talk with you for Christmas! It will be very exciting to see you, too, on Skype!

Love,  
Mom