



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

A letter from Dad: 19 Dec 2011

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Sun, Dec 18, 2011 at 7:48 PM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

Cc: Joyce Larsen <joyce@larsen-family.us>

Hello Dear Phillip,

Skype info: My Skype account is: john.larsen1956

That is the account we will use for the call. We need to arrange the time today (Mon, Dec 19th) so we can all be here when the call occurs.

You asked how much money was in your account. As of Dec 12th there is \$2884.19 in checking and \$2068.70 in savings. We've been able to make the monthly ward missionary payment out of the family budget so far.

Oma and Papa have given you \$25 as a Christmas present. This money will be put into your checking account. It is available for you in case there is something there in Sao Luis that you would like to buy for yourself. They gave you \$25 last year too in case you don't remember. Also, Grandma Larsen gave you \$10 last year which is also in your account for you to use.

Many times I feel like Jacob when he said in Jacob 7:26 "...and also our lives passed away like as it were unto us a dream..." The week passes, I find myself at the keyboard crafting another email, and I wonder how this came about so quickly.

So... this was somewhat a "recover from Egypt trip" week. I struggled to stay awake in the afternoon on Monday. I was really dragging. By Friday I felt that my body clock was fully on Eastern Time. Tuesday was kind of a surprise. I woke up around 4:00 AM with the tune to "When you've really got to go... diarrhea..." going through my head and my body. I picked up something in Egypt that finally really settled in. It was so bad that I called in sick to work. I don't think I could have driven to work without an accident in my pants. That was my first sick day in 3 years. I already had a prescription for Cipro that I got last June when I went to the travel clinic for shots. I took that to Medicine World and took it that morning. Things started to improve by late afternoon, and by Wednesday morning I was fine. That antibiotic did the trick. I was very careful in Egypt to only drink bottled water. However, food is still washed under tap water and I probably picked up some bug through that.

Saturday morning was the annual Ward Christmas Breakfast. As usual I set up the microphone and connections for iPod. The turn out looked small at first, but people finally started rolling in and the gym was pretty full. We had choir practice after that, preparing for the Ward Sacrament Meeting Christmas program. Garrett Hawkins specifically asked me if I was going to sing in the choir. I felt that I needed to. Fortunately everything we sang was hymns from the hymnal.

We had a nice program Sunday with the YW being the readers in between musical numbers. Julia read two or three times. The YW and their leaders also sang "Christ Child" and did a very nice job of it. Julia's experience with concert choir is reflected in how she sang Sunday, She still has no desire to sing in the ward choir, but she does really well when she does sing. I'm looking forward to the Santa Fund concert this coming Tuesday and Wednesday. I'll go Wednesday.

Saturday evening we had the missionaries over for dinner. Elder Jones has been in our ward since late March. That's a long time. Elder Stephens has been here since July. They will probably be here until late January when the next transfers occur. They were both really excited to find out they were both staying when the last transfers happened a week or so ago. They love our ward. Your dear sweet mother thoughtfully had presents for each elder to open. You can see in the attached pictures that they were both excited to have presents. Bradford was here Saturday evening and Amy came over. Heather, Bradford, Amy and Julia played "Dominion" for many hours throughout the evening.

Joyce checked out the Pimsler Egyptian Arabic language learning CDs from the library this past week. I ripped the CDs to MP3s and put them on my iPaq. There are 8 lessons and I've gone through the first three. It's been a lot of fun working with them. I worked through the first lesson about six times before moving on to the second lesson. I queue up the lesson and follow it with BofM chapters. That fills up my morning and afternoon commutes. This set of CDs is the "short course". I put the longer course on my Christmas wish list. (I actually made a wish list this year. It has about six items on it.) Since I'll be going back to Egypt early next year I thought it would be neat to try to learn some arabic. I have no clue how any of this is spelled. Languages are very interesting, fascinating actually. Arabic has masculine and feminine forms like French does. I'm thinking that I need to start writing down everything that I learn, but just do it phonetically. At least that way I'll be able to more easily review what I've learned.

I'm in an unusual vacation time situation, one I've never been in before. I have so many hours accrued that come January I would have to start taking days in order to not lose them. So, to get around that issue I've decided to take Dec 27 to 30 as vacation. That will give me ten days off in a row. I'm not sure what I'll do during that

time. There are many projects around the house that need attention. Maybe I'll get motivated enough to do some of them.

The building inspector for Nashua is coming on Monday to inspect out shed. I don't remember if I mentioned how we received in the mail a "notice of violation". I didn't know you had to get a building permit to build a shed. Apparently you do. Someone in Nashua city government has been reviewing aerial photographs and identified that we have a shed without anything on file with the city. We got the notice and were told we could do an "after the fact" permit process. It cost \$60 to get the permit and Monday the inspector comes. I'm worried that the shed is too close to the property line. We will probably have to move it a few feet away from the property line. I'm not sure how to do that yet. However, before worrying about much I'm going to wait to see what the inspector says.

The Elders in our ward have been teaching an investigator for the past several weeks. He has been coming to church and staying for all the meetings. I haven't talked with him, just over heard him talking with others. Well, he has a baptismal date before the end of the year. I don't remember the exact date. That's exciting.

Last Monday we were invited over to the Noels' along with several other families for FHE. The main activity was decorating sugar cookies. We also did some Wii game involving dancing. I'm sure Stanford would have been tops in that. I wasn't ever the bottom score, but I was far from being the top. Attached pictures below show what was going on. Julia made a Patrick Star cookie as you can see.

Well... time to click "send" so this will be waiting for you. BTW... Oma and Papa made a \$500 contribution to your mission and Ian's mission. That's very generous of them. They did this a year ago too. If you write them at some point to thank them for your Christmas present, they would also love to have a word of thanks for the mission donation as well.

Love you,

Dad

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

25 attachments



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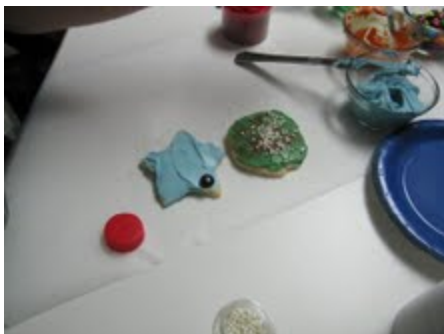
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