



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

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## Email from Mom, 16 January 2012

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Joyce Larsen <linenlady9@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 16, 2012 at 9:33 AM

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

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

Good morning, my Dear Elder Phillip Larsen!

I'm sitting here enjoying the warmth of the kitchen, while it is a balmy 7 degrees outside. I'm thinking I may not leave the house! Well, maybe we'll take a walk when it warms up a bit later, and at least bring in the newspaper and the mail! I've had my "breakfast", a sliver of the delicious carrot cake Heather made for my birthday celebration. See, carrot cake has vegetables, so it is nutritious, right?

As Dad said, this past weekend was Stake Conference. I do always enjoy those. I enjoy the spiritual boost we get, and I enjoy hearing about the Stake goals for the year, which helps to give focus, though I always feel like I don't do as much in those goals as I could/should. And then in my calling I have some details to take care of, like arranging for the flowers (and figuring out what to do with them later), putting on the dinner for Saturday evening for the Stake Presidency, and this time I went to the setting apart of my new counselor, who is Emily Maughan. She has been serving as the Relief Society President of the Heritage Park Ward, but is now my new counselor.

In Stake Conference yesterday one of the speakers was Augustus Bailey, from the Heritage Park Ward. I don't know if you know him, but he is a returned missionary, who served in Jackson, Mississippi. I took some notes from his talk that I thought you'd like to hear. He said a mission is a magical place, where you have a support system and there is no worry about worldliness. It is an incubator for your own faith, and a time you can cultivate attributes God wants for you. He also said you realize how much comfort the Spirit really is, and that there is strength in testimonies. I thought he had some interesting ways of putting things, and because he spoke about a mission, that you would like to hear it.

After Stake Conference, I was heading home, with still one large arrangement of flowers to take care of, which I had left on a cart at church. I had tried to contact Patty, but she wasn't looking at her phone (I had texted her about it), so I went to her house, and they were just finishing up preparing lunch, and she was trying to warm up in her nightgown. I think her arthritis was making her achy and pained, so she needed to warm up. Anyway, I asked her if she would like the flowers for her work (she has taken them before), and she said yes, so then I took Stephen back with me to help me

get them from the church. We chatted briefly. He is not in school currently, but is working and is preparing for his mission. He has an appointment to have his wisdom teeth removed, and he has just bought a couple of new suits. His Dad will wear one of them for the wedding cruise of James (which is in early February), then will give it to Stephen. Stephen seems very excited about his upcoming mission. I asked him where he would like to go, and he said he'll go wherever he is called.

I've had a quiet week, with not very many appointments. That has felt good. It has been good to have more time to ponder, and to feel like I have a chance of getting things done. I guess no matter what, if we listen to the Spirit, we will know what the Lord wants us to do. So even if my to-do list is far longer than I can manage, I just need to know which things on it to work on, and the most important things will get done. And it's the same with visiting/calling people. If there are more to contact than time to contact them (I'm thinking with you as a missionary, or with me contacting the RS Presidents in the wards, or different friends and such), if we just follow the Spirit, we will be doing what the Lord wants and it will work out.

Heather said Jennica/Bobbi had her baby on the 12th, and showed me a picture of her. She is a very cute baby, and I'm sure Jennica is glad to have her born.

Oh, Dad and I went to Lui Lui's for dinner on Friday to celebrate my birthday (I asked him to NOT let the restaurant know it was my birthday so they wouldn't sing and stomp for me!). We saw Geoff Nelson and Kelly out to dinner, too. That was nice. I'm glad they got an evening out. I still have leftovers from the restaurant. I ate some of them yesterday for lunch, and I'll eat the rest of them today for lunch.

One quick and silly question: what do they say in Brazil when people sneeze? Do they say Gesundheit? Just wondering!

Well, Phillip, I hope you're doing well. People ask about you (the Houghtons asked on Saturday night . . . oh, that reminds me, JJ Houghton got his mission call just the other day, to Las Vegas Nevada Northwest! He spoke briefly on Sunday, too.). I tell people you are doing great, and I think you are. I love to hear about what you're doing! Oh, and I loved that song you sent to me last week! Thank you!

Heavenly Father loves each of us, and knows each of us and what we need, and we are so blessed to live now when we have the fulness of the gospel! And what a blessing it is that you get to teach the people of Brazil about the gospel!

I love you, and take care of yourself, and enjoy every moment of your mission!

Love,  
Mom