



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

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## A letter from Dad: 27 Feb 2012

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John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Sun, Feb 26, 2012 at 10:07 PM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

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

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

### FACEBOOK FRIEND REQUESTS:

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**Danyinha Araújo**

555 friends · 75 photos · 102 Wall posts · 9 groups



**Jordania Canuto**

Faculda Nova Unesc · Terezina, Piaui, Brazil

118 friends · 1 photo · 11 Wall posts · 1 group

Hello Dear Phillip,

Sunday afternoon once again. Joyce is napping. Julia is writing. I've been reading, and now I'm writing. Julia has BYC in 30 minutes followed by BYD, both being held at the Hanns' home. Joyce visited the Billerica Ward today so Julia and I were on our own. This past week seems a blur as I try to thing back on what has happened.

Has being the senior companion felt different to you? How has it affected the way you do the work? Did you decide to buy one of those electronic picture frames?

This week is winter vacation week for Julia. It will be a nice break for her and also for Joyce because there won't be any early morning seminary. That also means I can't practice my saxophones in the morning this week because they will still be asleep. Bradford's birthday is this coming Friday. He will be 27 years old! How can that be? Heather is 30. Julia will be 16! You will be 21. My, my... the years just keep passing.

Saturday morning Joyce, Heather, and I went to the temple for the 9 AM session. It's nice going after a restful night's sleep. We are more alert during the session.

Saturday evening we had the missionaries over for dinner. You can see that from the attached pictures. A few weeks back Elder Jones got transferred down to Connecticut. His replacement, Elder Godfrey, was in Lowell training there, so Elder Winegar was the lucky one to come over to dinner along with Elder Stephens. I love having the missionaries come over. It's always an enjoyable time. They always ask how you're doing in Brazil. Some how it came up in conversation about the weekly emails. Elder Stephens said that he rarely gets emails from his dad, about one every two months. His mom writes every week. That just seems odd to me, probably because it is different than the way I've done it. :: shrug :: It just seems like the right thing to do, write weekly to you. :)

After the missionaries left Joyce, Heather, Julia and I watched the first two episodes from season two of "Downton Abby". On Friday we had watched the last two episodes of season one, so we were anxious to dive into the new season. We are really enjoying watching that series. The current episodes take place two years into WW1 with the trench warfare. It must have been a hideous time. We reminded Julia that Joyce's Grandpa Heuser fought in the trenches. We watched another episode Sunday evening. There are five more episodes, so we have several more evenings ahead of us.

Wednesday was the annual "Empty Bowls" at NHSS. I drove there directly from work. I was looking forward to hearing the Honors Jazz Band play. By the time I worked my way through the lines and went in the cafeteria, the band was already playing. I missed some of their songs, but I think I heard most of them. I walked over and stood where they were playing before I even got in line for soup. Garrett Hawkins had sax solos in several songs and he did very well. He had been sick and missed school and seminary Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. I had been praying for him asking HF to help him get better so that he could play. He has been practicing diligently and I knew this gig meant a lot to him. He was able to play in the gig and he nailed the solos. He and several other YM and leaders are in Florida this week for the high adventure. It involves boats and scuba diving. They have been preparing for over a year to get ready for this trip. That's another thing I was praying for, so that Garrett would be able to go on that trip. HF has answered all those prayers in the ways we mere mortals have desired.

We tried to have a band practice Saturday at John Carl's home, but once again it didn't work out. I practiced at home instead. There was a Merrimack Band rehearsal last Tuesday and I enjoyed that. There won't be practice this week because of school vacation week. That works out well anyway because our youth temple trip is Tuesday evening. I'll go there straight from work and meet everyone at 6 PM.

So... here's a humorous story.... After the band finished playing at Empty Bowls I got in line and got soup and bread. Then I joined Joyce and Heather and we all ate

together. We sat there for awhile. When they started the silent auction we decided it was time to leave. When we stood up and started walking I had the strangest sensation that somehow my feet had shrunk in my shoes. They felt very very strange. I didn't mention anything at the time. We went home, did our evening things, and then went to bed. I went to the gym Thursday morning. When I put on my shoes I noticed the same feeling, that my feet didn't fit my shoes anymore. When I got to the gym I took off my socks and started testing my feet for numbness. Both feet had numbness in the same area on the outside of the foot below the ankle bone. It was symmetric. That seemed very odd. My balance and strength were okay. They were just numb. I started wondering what terrible illness had befallen me in such a short time. Was it some kind of tumour in my brain that was going to be inoperable? I tend to anticipate the worst given Stanford's experience. When I got home from the gym I told Joyce about it. She said I should get it checked out. I said I'd give it a day to see what happens. So, I drove to work and wondered what was going on. Later that morning at work it was time for a bio break so I grabbed my Nook and headed for the restroom. Since I got my Nook last October I have been reading a lot more and have been reading while on the throne. In fact... if I'm in a very interesting part in the book I have sat there until my legs start going numb from the awkward pressure of the toilet seat. Well... I was sitting on the throne Thursday morning at work and my legs started tingling some and it suddenly hit me what was going on. Over the weeks and months I have been repeatedly putting pressure on my sciatic nerves in both legs. It is a symmetrical pressure because I'm sitting. So, because I've been reading so much during the day while on the throne, and because every night I'd sit on the throne reading and brushing my teeth at the same time for ten or more minutes, I've caused nerve damage! I immediately changed my habit in that regard. I no longer sit on the throne for any longer than it takes. The numbness shrank rapidly over a couple day's time to an area about the size of a quarter below each ankle bone, and now the numbness is gone completely. It isn't a good idea to read for long periods of time while sitting on the throne! The chair at Empty Bowls was a very hard surface and the angle was such that it must have really put a lot of pressure on my sciatic nerves and pushed everything over the edge. That caused the odd shrunken feeling in my feet. So, I don't have a tumour and I'm not dying of something inoperable. :)

February is almost done. March is car inspection month. The Toyota and Saturn should pass inspection nicely. The van has so much rust now that it can't pass inspection. I've been looking a little online at auto dealers websites. I'm leaning toward a used Toyota Sienna. Those are mini vans similar to the Dodge Caravan, 7 seats, dual sliders, etc. Getting something from around 2006 model year seems to put the car in the right price range. There is no way I'd put out \$30k for a new one. I've been saving money every month for our next vehicle since we bought the Toyota in 2007. I have about \$13k saved up. Cars aren't cheap. That won't be quite enough so I'll have to dig into some of our other savings to make up the difference. I don't want to take out a loan.

Politics. Tuesday will be primaries in Michigan and Arizona. These are the first primaries in about 3 weeks. Michigan is Romney's home state. His father was governor of that state when Mitt was growing up. At first the polls all showed Santorum ahead of Romney, but that has turned recently and Romney is now ahead by several points. He is also polling ahead in Arizona now. A week from Tuesday, March 6th, is called "Super Tuesday" because there are ten or twelve states holding primaries the same day. That will be an interesting day. Romney and Santorum are considered the front runners now. If Romney wins both primaries on Tuesday, then he will solidify his front runner status again. Santorum has surged in the polls for the last three weeks, but it kind of looks like Romney is coming back, yet again.

Well dear sonny boy, it is getting to be bed time now. I hope you are getting to know your new area, companion, and the members. As you know by now, it always takes a few weeks to get comfortable in a new area. The Lord wants you to be successful. He will pour out blessings upon you for your willing and diligent service. I pray that HF will watch over you always.

Love,

Dad

Pictures:

Screen shot of a picture posted by Amandha Ferreira and the comments made. I don't understand it, but you probably will.

Missionaries to dinner

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**4 attachments**

**Facebook\_Picture.png**

846K

**IMG\_0894.JPG**

126K

**IMG\_0895.JPG**

94K

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