



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

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## Email from Mom, 14 May 2012

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Joyce Larsen <linenlady9@gmail.com>

Mon, May 14, 2012 at 10:20 AM

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

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

Hello, Dear Elder Phillip Edward Larsen,

How wonderful it was to talk to you on Saturday! I'm glad Dad took pictures of it, too. That was really fun. I loved seeing you, as well as hearing you, and I even loved the interruptions, because it gave me a chance to see you in action! Speaking Portuguese on the phone! How did the baptism go on Saturday evening? Who fills the font?

Dad told you about my wonderful Mother's Day. The dinner was delicious, and it was so nice, Dad and I took a long walk, to the bench at the pond in Westgate Village, where we sat for awhile, and when we returned, dinner was ready. I loved it! It was delicious, too, and I very much enjoyed it all, even the asparagus! Since I picked it out, and bought it, I knew I would enjoy it :).

Church was really nice for Mother's Day, too. Sadie Olsen gave a talk, then the Primary did a musical number. Then Barbara Hawkins gave a talk, then there was another musical number, by Kaddiz Silvestro, Melanie Nelson, Elizabeth Nelson, and Marcie Estes. Neither of the songs was familiar to me, but they were beautiful. Then John Cole was the concluding speaker. I actually made it to Sunday School this time, and then we had Relief Society with the Young Women, plus all of the sisters who work in Primary, and Jenn Blanchette gave the lesson. It was such a nice set of meetings.

In Sadie's talk, one of the things she said is that the youth of today are often told they were saved for the latter days because they were especially valiant (I remember being told that as a youth, too, so, really, I think it is several generations worth of people, not just the YM/YW of today who fall into that category). But, she said, we do not give enough credit to those who are rearing a valiant generation. And she said, "Mothers. God has made them incredible, and they can perform miracles."

Barbara Hawkins talked about the blessings of being a mother. She said that on [lds.org](http://lds.org), there are all kinds of talks about the blessings of having a mother, and how to be a better mother, but she could find none about the blessings of being a mother.

She referenced Philippians 4:11, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Then she talked about a talk by Emily Watts she has on a tape, called "How to Survive Your Greatest Blessings", and gave the ideas from that talk. And then she said that just two verses later from the first scripture, Paul says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Philippians 4:13)

John Cole talked about his own mother, and then quoted from a talk by Pres. Eyring, on four things to bring families home. He also referenced the parable of the laborers, and said the most important point is where you find yourself at the end of the day.

Jenn Blanchette's lesson in Relief Society was excellent, too, on motherhood. She said she was first going to give it on womanhood, which covers all kinds of situations, but when she prayed about it, the answer came back to talk on motherhood. She did an excellent job, and I think managed to include the YW as well, and single sisters and those without children. She said motherhood is not just whether you bear or raise children, but if you help people you have the heart of a mother.

It was fun to have Becca McFadden and Emily visiting in the area for a few days. I didn't see a lot of them, but did for a few minutes. I went on Friday to a picnic at Greeley Park where sisters from the ward had gathered to visit with Becca. Then there was the wedding reception on Saturday, which we missed because of how busy and full the day already was, then we saw them at church. It would be fun to visit them in their home in California sometime.

I happened to mention to Dad about how I currently have four electronic devices in my purse: my phone, the iPaq, the iPod Touch, and my camera. Now I have a Nook! I am excited about it, and I think I will take a class on getting to know it. That will be on a Tuesday evening. I'll have Heather and Dad help me, too. I have several books in mind to put on it, and I want to learn how to check out books from the library on it. Several times I've seen people with Nooks and thought how I would love to use one, to be able to look up words, and to have books with me that aren't huge, and it will be great for travel, too.

Lately I've listened several times to the CD for "From Cumorah's Hill", which is so inspiring, and I just love. But the music keeps going through my head, over and over, and I can't get it out, even days later, and when I think of other songs! So, maybe I'm supposed to share it with someone. So, I'll tell you of some of the words that are especially inspiring to me. There is one song called "What Can They Have to Say", with two voices, one a modern man, and the other a prophet. The modern man asks, "What can they have to say to me? We live so differently today. What can they have to offer me? They lived so far from me; So many years away. What can they have to say?" The other voice, a prophet, sings, "We are the prophets, years gone by. We spent our days, we gave our lives For a record which was written not for us, But for

you. And every word is true. Each word chosen prayerfully. Laid down carefully in its place. For here, from so far away, We have seen your day And we pray; Hear what we have to say!" The scripture reference for this song is Mormon 8:12, 34, 35.

I also like the chorus from a song called "The Power of God" (from Alma 30). "But the power of God is plain to see, There are wonders on every hand To those who will see through eyes of faith, Beyond the mind of man. For how could we hope To see His face, Who never could see His hand?" I like the phrase "through eyes of faith, Beyond the mind of man". That's how we have to live, so often, when we come across spiritual things we don't comprehend just yet. And I like how it says we need to notice the small things, see His hand in our lives, then we can one day see His face.

I've asked Dad to send this music for you to listen to, also. Then maybe you, too, can have it going over and over in your mind! If so, I hope you can feel the Spirit the way I do when I hear it.

Well, that's about all for today. And here I had thought I would have nothing to say, after we talked on Saturday! It's raining right now, which is good, because though I have gardening to do, I also have laundry, dishes, practicing, and a box to get ready, for real, to send out to a certain missionary in Brazil :).

I love you, Phillip. The Lord has a plan for each one of us, and knows us, and loves us, and knows what is going on in our lives. I think that is very comforting, that He knows and loves us all. He loves and cares about people we worry about, because of health issues, or because of lack of testimony, or other hard things going on in their lives. And He is taking care of us all. Keep loving your mission, and keep building your own testimony!

Love,  
Mom