



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

A letter from Dad: 13 Aug 2012

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>
Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us
To: Phillip Larsen <phillip.larsen@myldsmail.net>
Cc: Joyce Larsen <joyce@larsen-family.us>

Sun, Aug 12, 2012 at 10:20 PM

Hello Dear Phillip,

Ah... where to start? As usual it is Sunday evening as I take pen in hand... errr.... as my fingers lightly caress the keyboard with a rhythmic tapping sound. The words flow from my brain down through my fingers with little thought on how that is done. It is rather amazing that I can think a whole word in my head and the letters appear on the screen shortly after the word is said in my head. How does that work? I suppose it is similar to playing the piano or other instrument. For me, I look at the notes and somehow my fingers just go to the correct spot. I don't think through how the fingers should be placed, the gap that needs to occur, the position on the keyboard or horn.... it just happens. I suppose it is similar to walking. You don't consciously think how you need to lift your leg and swing it at the knee. It just happens. Pretty amazing.

So, this past week has been a busy one. The Wilsons left Wednesday morning after a very nice visit here. MaryAnn wrote a very nice note that she left for Joyce stating that we were the perfect hosts. They are like family to us. Actually, they are closer in many ways than my own extended family. There was some talk about how Andrew wants to come back to Nashua for a visit after you get back and before you leave for college. No definite plans were made, but Andrew wants to do that. We'll see what happens.

Joyce and Julia went up to YW camp at Camp Zion Wednesday morning shortly after the Wilsons left. I went up Wednesday evening arriving about 6:45 PM and stayed over night and the next day leaving about 9:00 PM on Thursday. It wasn't a vacation at all. Rather, it was a service opportunity. The weather was hot and somewhat humid. I sweat a lot and I'm sure I smelled delightful. There were three Priesthood brethren there. Our main reason for being there was to provide support for the YW. Their needs came first. We cleaned the dining hall and kitchen Wednesday night. That involved taking out all the trash and recycling, putting away all the round tables, sweeping the floors, mopping the floors, and putting the tables back. We then cleaned the kitchen by removing and rinsing all the rubber mats, sweeping the floor, mopping the floor, and replacing the mats. The priesthood accommodations were a cabin down at the water front. The cabin is quite new and has all its screens in place so the bugs didn't get in. That was nice, but the mattress was not. It seemed like I didn't sleep at all, but I know I did. I woke up very often switching from side to back to side. It was not a very good night's sleep at all. However, that was what I expected so I wasn't surprised.

On Thursday we worked on staining the Health Lodge. Other brethren from our stake had also been working on it earlier in the week. We did the final detailed work of taping the window and door frames and staining the wood around them. That took the morning and early afternoon. We also hauled ladders around for the YW to and from the amphitheater and helped hang up decorations. The power went out at the camp for 2 hours because a fuse blew in the main line coming into the camp. Lunch was in the dark with no fans running in the dining hall. It was HOT! Right at the end of lunch PSNH finished replacing the fuse and the power came back on to resounding cheers from all of us. The afternoon was spent splitting about a cord of logs (4 ft x 4 ft x 8 ft in volume is a cord) using a hydraulic log splitting machine. That was pretty cool, but loud and I had no ear protection :(The machine was amazing. It applied 27 tons of pressure. Some of the logs were huge requiring two of us to lift onto

the machine, but the wedge just passed through usually with great ease.

By dinner time on Thursday I was worn out and glad for the break. We ate dinner and then went to the amphitheater to watch the goings on there. It turns out that the YW General President, Elain Dalton, came to camp that evening and was the guest speaker. That's a pretty big deal to have the General President come. She told the YW that Camp Zion and in particular the amphitheater setting was the most beautiful that she had ever seen, and that she had been to lots and lots of camps. Her manner of speaking reminded me greatly of how Sister Fletcher in our ward speaks. I could have left for home at 7:00 PM, but I chose to stay so I could hear Sister Dalton. When that was done I helped clean up all the audio equipment and then I was finally able to leave.

There was a mix up in communication over this YW camp thing. Brother Petrie of the Merrimack Ward had contacted me via email about 2 weeks ago asking about sound equipment to use at YW camp.

He and his wife had an assignment to provide a musical program Wednesday evening at camp.

Unfortunately for him the Stake's portable sound equipment was all out at Keene for two weeks for two wedding receptions. We emailed back and forth many times and the last I knew he was still expecting me to gather up the backup equipment we had at the Stake and cobble something together.

So, late last Tuesday evening I had gone to church and gathered a bunch of stuff and put it in a box and brought it home. It was in our living room. The intention was to take it to camp Wednesday evening. I left work Wednesday about 3:15 PM and came home. I packed all the stuff I would need, loaded it in the car, and starting for camp. About when I hit Manchester I realized that I had left all the sound equipment at home! Crap! I called Joyce on the cell phone (she was already up there) and discussed it with her. The timing was such that it wouldn't be possible to return home, get the equipment, and get to camp in time for it to be used. I felt bad. I rarely make mistakes like that.

I saw Brother Petrie shortly after I arrived at camp. I told him what I had done and he said that it wasn't a problem at all. He had arranged with Bruce Houghton to borrow a complete sound system and was all set. The problem was that he had never told me he was doing that, so I spent all that time worrying about it and gathering equipment to use. However, the important thing was that he was all set. He felt bad that he hadn't told me about it. However, it turns out that my efforts weren't wasted after all. On Thursday Jeana Lopez-Carrasco told me that her daughter Janina had been asked to put together a slide show for the last day of YW Camp. She did a similar thing last year. They needed the LCD projector and also a way to amplify the sound. We contacted Bishop Gray about stopping by and getting the projector on his way up, and I contacted Joyce and had her bring the boxes that I forgot Wednesday evening. With all that I was able to set up everything that Janina needed to do the slide show. I trained her in how to set it all up because she was on her own Friday morning to make it work. Everything worked very well and the slide show was a big success. So, Heavenly Father made things work out. My efforts were needed, but not for what I thought.

Joyce and Julia are taking care of the Potters' cats again for about 12 days. Sunday evening they went out there. At about 7:00 PM Joyce called my cell phone and said the Honda Van wouldn't start.

It just "clicked" when she turned the key. I drove out to the Potters and was able to start the van using jumper cables connected to the Toyota. The battery is about 4 years old. That's about the expected life for an original battery. This is an annoying situation, but it is also an example of a "tender mercy" of the Lord. It happened at a very convenient time. Joyce was on the road a bunch this past week back and forth to YW camp. She also drove a van full of girls Friday from camp to Fitchburg State University for a regional YW conference. For all of that driving she didn't have a single problem and no one was inconvenienced at all. So, when it mattered the least, the battery finally died. That's pretty awesome. My plan is to pull the battery Monday morning and take it with me to work. On the way home from work I'll stop by Auto Zone and pick up a new battery and put it in the van.

Well, once again it is time for bed. I trust that things are going well for you. On August 8th we received an email from Elder Rais in the office with your return itinerary. So, we know your schedule.

We look forward to greeting you in Manchester on Sept 5th at 4:16 PM. However, you still have 3% of your mission left. Use it well!

Love you,

Dad

Pictures:

A week ago Monday evening, Aug 6th, we had a birthday cake and candle race to celebrate Stanford's 24th birthday. The Wilsons were there and Bradford too. Joyce won the candle race. Last Tuesday evening, Aug 7th, we ended up going to Friendly's for dinner with the Wilsons as a final celebration at the end of their trip. We first stopped by the Pine Street Eatery, but it closes early Tuesdays so we went to Friendly's instead. They don't have either of those out in New Mexico so it worked out fine.

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

<http://larsen-family.us>

5 attachments



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