

60 Memories of Larry Richman on His 60th Birthday

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1. I remember when Larry was 19.
2. I remember meeting Larry in a parking lot at a bus station in Xela. He had come from Retaluleu and I from San Marcos.
3. I remember being dropped off with Larry at the east entrance of Patzicia and waiting there with him for the other missionaries to find a taxi to take us into town. The “taxi” ended up being a guy in a pickup. Patzicia didn’t have taxis.
4. I remember Larry and I sharing a room with Elders Warnock and Howard at a panadería in Patzicia. Larry’s bed was to the left of mine (if I was lying on my back); Elder Howard’s was to the right of mine and Elder Warnock’s to the right of his. We divided the words from Alma 38:12 into four parts and placed a phrase over each bed. Elder Warnock: Use boldness but not overbearing. Elder Howard: See that ye bridle all your passions. Mine: That ye may be filled with love (still working on that). Larry’s: See that ye refrain from idleness (That’s not been a problem for him).
5. In fact, I remember Larry named the first company he organized Richman Enterprises. So our roommates in college called Larry: Enterprising Larry.
6. I remember the members in Patzicia had a hard time distinguishing the pronunciation of our names—Richman and Frischknecht. Both came out something like “ish-mars”.
7. I remember it helped a little when we told them Larry’s name meant “beyond achin” and that mine could be written “Frix-nec.”
8. I remember working hard with Larry as companions in Patzicia, in proselyting and in learning Cakchiquel.
9. I remember that for communicating with others in our missionary district we sent telegrams. Sometimes we would incorporate some of the message into the line for our names. (Elder Salazar’s idea, I think.)
10. I remember teaching Ricardo Cua with Larry. He got baptized after we both left Patzicia.
11. I remember going with Larry to an evangelical church where it seemed to us that people could stand up randomly and talk about the gospel, kind of like fast and testimony meeting. Neither of us worked up the nerve to stand up.
12. I remember Larry worked in Patzicia about 11 months, before being transferred to Comalapa.

13. I remember Larry was my senior companion and later my district leader. He and our friend Greg Martin called me a pushy junior.
14. I don't remember any serious argument with Larry, ever. (Different opinions, maybe, but no falling-outs)
15. I remember Larry writing to President Arnold that we had "the worst excuse for a mission office." That was after some members from Patzicia were not served well at the office. It was a long letter.
16. I remember Larry singing into a cob of corn as if it were a microphone. (It was in the apartment.)
17. I remember Larry could sing parts. (I couldn't.)
18. I remember Larry was in Comalapa for the earthquake.
19. I remember discussing with Larry how people who weren't in the earthquake could not understand our feelings about it.
20. I remember that Larry, nonetheless, documented the earthquake experiences on line with photos and narrative.
21. I remember Larry helping Elder Argueta, especially after the earthquake.
22. I remember that the Misa family in Comalapa named one of their children after Larry.
23. I remember feeling jealous when Larry got to serve in Solala and begin figuring out that dialect of Cakchiquel.
24. I remember Larry's mission finished before mine and I missed him.
25. I remember Larry inviting me to room with him at University Villa when I got home from the mission. He had it all organized, of course,
26. I remember serving as Larry's counselor in the elders' quorum presidency that semester.
27. I remember using Larry's typewriter until I got my own.
28. I remember Larry's first computer.
29. I remember Larry getting into an accident in his cool car on a bad weather day on the way to the I-15 on ramp.
30. I remember doing a research class on translation and linguistics with Larry in preparation for our returning to translate the *Book of Mormon Selections* into Cakchiquel.
31. I remember working with the native translator while Larry worked with native reviewers. Larry also typed the manuscript of the translation on a table that was never the right height for typing no matter what he did to adjust.
32. I remember that since Larry was the typist, he always got the last say on how a passage would be rendered.
33. I remember Larry retyping the translated manuscript into the BYU mainframe computer.

34. I remember Larry and I completed the translation of *Selections* but also finished the first draft of several sections of the Doctrine and Covenants.
35. I remember that Larry took the photos that were used to localize the missionary flipchart for use with the Cakchiquels (and Quiches).
36. I remember Larry translated several hymns into Cakchiquel.
37. I remember Larry led the translation of the temple ordinances into Cakchiquel. I just can't remember how many times.
38. I remember racing Larry one day from the chapel in Patzicia to the highway. It was a foot race and we tied.
39. I remember a talk Larry gave in sacrament meeting in the BYU 100th Ward on the Savior and the Atonement.
40. I remember going to Boise and meeting Larry's family members. We had planned to go water skiing but I don't remember if that worked out.
41. I remember Larry and our friend Greg going on a three week vacation thanks to an Eastern Airline promotion in which you could fly, for one flat rate, to all the destinations possible in a three to four week time frame.
42. I remember Larry doubling with me to a football game with Nancy's (my wife-to-be) roommate. It was my first date with Nancy.
43. I remember Larry helping Nancy and me get lined up to go to a dance together after she decided she wanted to start dating me again.
44. I remember that Larry's birthday is the same day as Nancy's, just one year apart.
45. I remember that Larry went with our linguistics professors and others to Guatemala the summer of 1978 to create dictionaries in several Mayan languages. The dictionary that Larry worked on (Cakchiquel-Spanish-English) was the only one that was published. That was because he was the only one to see the project through to the end.
46. I remember that Larry has remembered my birthday every year for 41 years.
47. I remember when Larry met Teri.
48. I remember Larry and Teri's wedding in the Idaho Falls temple. We attended an endowment session before the wedding in order for all present to be in temple clothing.
49. I remember the birth of each of Larry and Teri's children and am still sad about Jamie's twin sister.
50. I remember when Larry and Teri visited our family in Guatemala.
51. I remember how well Larry has served in each calling—the quintessential executive secretary, high priests, high council, bishop...
52. I remember when Larry took up deer hunting. (That one surprised me.)
53. I remember when Larry started working full-time for the Church and when he transferred out of Translation.

54. I remember that when we weren't in the same department we still ate lunch together once a week.
55. I remember Larry seeing that all official correspondence from the First Presidency, Twelve, and other general Church leaders reached all local priesthood leaders in the entire world.
56. I remember when Larry was in charge of lds.org (and I believe his fingerprints will be on it no matter how many times the Church updates it).
57. I remember Larry designing and producing a full-room display of how the Church materials were organized into phases for translation and that several of the apostles toured the room and considered it the clearest way that concept had ever been presented.
58. I remember receiving from Larry a copy of his book on project management and a copy of another on sharing the gospel through social media.
59. I remember that when Larry and I haven't been in contact with each other for a while, we can start up a conversation as if we'd been in touch all along.
60. I remember that Larry has been loyal, forgiving, and considerate; and that he has been a constant example and close, close friend for a lifetime.

Dear Larry,

First off let me remind you who I am. I mean really at 60 years of age you can't possibly remember much of what happened some 40 years ago? I'll leave out the swear words and the really good stories just in case this is read aloud? There are some benefits of turning 60 like your closer to retirement, you get discounts at movies and some restaurants, you might see some Social Security benefits but then again I'm not so sure at the rate the country is spending money? Anyway, let me remind you of some my memories of when we were in college.

1. Your college years were in the early 1980's. Yes, that was in the last century.
2. We lived at 782 North 300 East in Provo Utah....We called it Sessions. Why? I'm not sure.
3. I was your coolest roommates and friend.
4. We did tons (that means a lot) of fun things. We went on diving trips to Cancun Mexico, trips to Lava Hot springs, Downeta Hot springs, deer hunting , rode ATV's , went to concerts, played racquetball, snuck into Helaman Hall to watch TV when we were poorer and didn't have a tv of our own to watch..

These are only a few of the things I remember doing. I'm sure you could add to the list.

On a serious note—I want you to know that over the years we have had many great times and I have enjoyed being your friend and college roommate. We did a lot of things together during our college years that I fondly remember and will treasure always. Thanks for always being a good example to me! You and Teri have been great friends to me over the years. I want to wish both of you a Happy Birthday!

Your Friend,

Jason Nielsen





