

December 1, 2007

## Seasons Greetings

Dear Family and Friends:

Johnnie and I had a wonderful year together. We did not have a vegetable garden this year because Johnnie and I had eye surgery. However, one of the major highlights was the opportunity to attend my 50<sup>th</sup> Epps High School class reunion in Greenville, NC. It was the first opportunity that I had to attend the reunion. All of my sisters were able to come and attend their reunions at the same time. It was a great time of catching up with so many of my friends, and classmates and we have been in touch since then.

In July, our four sons surprised us with a 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary party held at Grassy Hill Lodge in Derby, CT. We were completely surprised by the event. It was a wonderful gift from our sons who were able to invite family and friends from our work and church. We had over 90 people in attendance from around the country. We also had a second anniversary celebration on our actual anniversary, August 26, 2007 at Eli's on Whitney in Hamden, with many of our other church members and friends who were not able to attend the surprise party. It was such a great honor to have TWO celebrations of our life together.

As always, we like to share an update of our children and grandchildren.

Marvin and DeÉtta are doing very well. They are constantly busy at work with several jobs each. They are also still active in their church and community. I have spent some time with them at their lovely home and out to dinner.

Gregory continues to spend most of his time between work and performing. This year he expanded his repertoire by playing the roles of Tom Robinson in *To Kill A Mockingbird*, and Amelia (the Lady Abbess) in *The Comedy of Errors*. He also attended the premiere of two local independent films entitled *She's Got It* and *Exposure* for which he appeared. Like most actors, he's always looking for that next exciting project. He has always dreamed of producing, writing, directing and performing a one man show. Most recently Edward Alexander Bouchet has been in the fore front of his thoughts. The sixth American and the first African American to receive a Ph.D. in Physics. Perhaps, he'll use this opportunity to make this his next project. One final note we wish to share regarding the arrival of Greg's new baby! Actually, it's a 2008 Toyota Corolla fresh off the lot with only 14 miles. It was somewhat sad after 17 years to say a final farewell to his 1990 Toyota Camry which totaled 303,000+ original miles!

Jeffrey and Linda are busy working. Our oldest grandson, Marcus, graduated from Johnson and Wales University on May 19, 2007 with a degree in business. We are so proud of our first grandchild to graduate from college. He has relocated to Boston, MA, where he works. Jordan is 10 years old and in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and is doing very well. His parents are busy taking Jordan to all of his school activities. He has grown so tall over the summer.

Ken and Rose-Marie also had a very exciting year. In the Spring, Ken received the 2007 Man of the Year award from the State of Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission. He received the award for his work with the annual Greater Hartford Black Family Technology Awareness Week that he founded. This event provides free computer training and gives new computers to people in the Hartford, CT area. Their son Kenneth continues to excel in school as

an Honor Roll student and attended his first boy scout summer camp this year. Malachi is also doing well in school and participated in his first National Wheelchair Games competition in Spokane, WA, where he won five gold and two silver medals for swimming and table tennis. He also completed cub scouts. Our first granddaughter, Kenya received a perfect attendance award in preschool and is now enjoying Kindergarten in Granby. Ken and Rose blessed us with a second granddaughter, Nairobi Elizabeth Lee Mouning on September 26, 2007. She is a beautiful girl. Her two middle names are named after her maternal grandmother's and Johnnie's middle names.

As many of you may know by now, Johnnie, my husband of 50 years, passed away on September 18, 2007. He developed pneumonia and passed away in a few days time. It was a very sudden shock to me, my family, and friends, but I thank God for the love and support that so many of you have shared with me over the past few months. The Homegoing Service was held on September 24, 2007 at Trinity Temple Church of God in Christ in New Haven. It was very well attended with over 500 people from throughout the United States and Canada. There were many representatives from the Yale community, church, family, and friends. I know many of you were not able to attend the service. You can find a copy of the program and a video tribute to Johnnie on his website at [www.JohnnieMouning.com](http://www.JohnnieMouning.com).

Since Johnnie's homegoing service, I am able to spend more time with the grands. Greg has taken me to see him perform in Driving Miss Daisy, which was very good with a great attendance. The boys surprised me with a dinner on my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday at Colonial Tymes restaurant in Hamden. I miss Johnnie very much but everyone sees that I am not alone. My five year old granddaughter Kenya also helped by saying to her father: "tell grandma that he's in heaven now and someday she won't need to cry anymore because we all will see him one day and be in heaven together. Tell Grandma I love her."

We eventually butchered all of the chickens and gave them to family members. That was our Fall project along with lots of leaves to rake up which my family members helped.

We did celebrate Thanksgiving at my home. We are looking forward to celebrating Christmas with all the family at Ken & Rose's home in Granby, CT.

May God bless you with good health and prosperity in 2008.

Love,

Thelma L. Mouning