

December 8, 2003

Season Greetings,

This edition of the Mouning Saga comes to you again to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and happy Holidays. It is hard to believe that another year has rolled around. The old fashion New England weather has returned last year with lots of snow, and a large snow storm on December 5 – 7, 03.

We ended 2002, with all fourteen of our family posing for a family Portrait. We celebrated Valentine day February 15, 03 with many other couples at 500 Blake Street restaurant. We later attended a spring marriage seminar that was arranged by Rose and Kenneth. It was held at Marriott in Mystic, CT. It was a refreshing and edifying weekend for all of the married couples.

It was a long winter and spring finally arrived. We visited North Carolina for a funeral, Johnnie's brother JW's Mother-in-law, Mother Victoria Hardy. We saw that the old saying, "you can't go home again" is true. Places, things and people have changed so much in North Carolina that we could not recognize much of the places, people or things in the area.

We were excited that all of the snow had melted, but the rain continued throughout the spring until early summer. Because of the rain, our garden was planted in early summer at the end of June. We had little drought and green grass all summer long.

On June 24, 03 Johnnie had Trabeculectomy surgery on his left eye. This reduced the pressure from 18 PSI to 12 PSI. The surgery was a great success and he does not need any medicine for it. Johnnie was out of work for four weeks while his eye recovered. Johnnie also had two laser treatments in November and everything went well. This has been a blessed year for our family.

Marvin and DeÉtta, our oldest son and his wife, continue working hard, both of them are partime at Yale, in addition to their fulltime jobs. They are both very active in their church with serving communion and loving and caring for others.

Gregory, our second son, is still employed at Yale University and is very busy with his acting. This year he performed in Mexico, New York City, North Carolina, and throughout New Haven county. Visitations are limited because he is so busy, but he finds time for all the family functions.

Jeffrey and Linda, our third son and his wife, are busy parents of a teenager and an active 7 year old. Marcus, our oldest grandson has grown up and in college at Johnson and Wales in Rhode Island. We miss his help around the house cleaning and helping to maintain our property. He worked a few weeks this summer with Grandpa Johnnie at Yale and did a great job. He was home for Thanksgiving but we saw little of him, because he was catching up with his friends. Jordan is now in second grade and enjoying his school and classmates. He occasionally spends time with his grandparents.

Kenneth and his wife Rose-Marie our fourth son have been very busy this year with planning and constructing their new home in Granby, CT. They are excited about moving in on or by January 15, 04. Kenneth Jr. is 8 years old and in the third grade. He is enjoying studying, summer camp, and school activities. Malachi is 7 years old and in the second grade and does extremely well with his wheelchair and crutches. He also took part in the handicapped ice hockey games and dances at his church functions. Grandpa Johnnie and Grandma Thelma enjoyed keeping them (Kenneth Jr. and Malachi) for a week and a half this summer. They took in a movie, museum and a journal with activities of each day for grandpa. Kenya, our only granddaughter is now 16 months old. She is walking and talking and trying to do everything her brothers do. She is now beginning to recognize her grandparents and spend a little time with them. She is a very happy baby and enjoys herself being Queen of her Castle.

Our church is growing very well. The E. P. W. M Inc. family outing was held on third Sunday in August 17, 2003 at College Wood Park in New Haven, CT with over 170 people in attendance. We had our Sunday Morning service there, and after we had lots of good food, fellowship and recreation for all. We are in the processing of purchasing our church Home at 77 Foxon Road in North Branford.

Our annual vacation started August 18 through September 7, 03. We celebrated our 46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Kenneth Jr. and Malachi at the Pequot museum. We concluded our vacation with a long weekend in Groton, CT. There we rested, ate food, rested and ate food and visited the submarine, Museum, on the Navy Base.

Thelma's long-time class mates Beulah Brown from North Carolina by the way of Baltimore, MD, came to Connecticut to visit her sisters who lived in Hamden. Johnnie and Thelma visited Beulah at her sisters'. We had a wonderful time together it was good to see her again.

Thanksgiving dinner was held at Jeff and Linda's home. All of our family members were in attendance including Ted and Valeria Simmon. After Thanksgiving prayer, we enjoyed the meal. Jeff baked a juicy golden brown turkey with all of the trimmings. Of course, Thanksgiving would not be the same without Mom (Thelma's) collard green, barbecue, macaroni and cheese, candied Yam and potatoes pies. The dinner was excellent.

December 5, 03 E. P. W. M. Inc. Family Christmas celebration was held at Holiday Inn in North Haven. Though we had a terrible snowstorm there was about 60 in attendance with fellowship, gifts and the food was excellent.

We are planing to have our family Christmas Eve celebration at our son Marvin and DeÉtta's home in Hamden, CT.

This year many of you have lost loved ones and friends in death, and we are praying for the families of: Ms. Victoria Hardy, William Langly, Robert Macnab, Harold Wyckoff, Shelia Wiggins, Mary Quattlebaum, Alie Bryant, Veronica Council, Donald Cook and others.

May the blessings and joy of this Christmas Season be with you throughout the coming year with health, happiness and prosperity.

Love

Johnnie L. and Thelma L. Mouning