

December 6, 1978

GREETINGS!

Again it's a pleasure to sit down and take this moment to summarize some of the events of this year for our friends and relatives. We hope this year has been a happy and healthy one for you and your family. For us it has been one with many changes and many new learning experiences.

The year began with the usual things. Kenneth and Jeffrey played hockey with the Yale Pee Wee team. Gregory continued at J.W. College in Providence, Rhode Island, and Marvin returned home from training in the Military Armed Services. Of course, Thelma and Johnnie are still working at Yale University, and Johnnie is taking courses at the Yale Divinity School.

Early this year, God led us from our old church in Bridgeport to a new one in New Haven. We are grateful to God for the move and thankful to the pastor and the parish for the loving way we were received into the family. Through this experience, we learned to consult God and trust Him to direct our path.

God blessed us and took us through one of the worst snow storms we had in years. Thelma was caught in that storm - she had to abandon the car, and walk to catch a ride home. It took her nearly five hours from work to home; the trip normally takes twenty minutes.

Well, Spring came and it helped to forget some of the bad times in the snow storm. During the early spring we began to have car problems and God provided us with the best car we ever had. Then it was time to plant the vegetable garden again and it produced abundances. But the apple trees and peach tree did not yield much fruit because of the hard winter and improper pruning; so this year we didn't make apple cider nor apple sauce. But we had lots of pears.

June marked the happy occasion of having Gregory back home from school and the whole family was together again. Also our four young men were baptized on June 25, 1978.

Then our summer projects began. Jeff, now 16, painted the house outside, and Kenneth, 11, helped cut the grass, weed the garden and general cleaning. Marvin, 20, was working and filled in where he could around the house. Gregory, 19, was very busy working three jobs, earning money for school. Johnnie and Thelma, now at the age of ?? are very thankful to God for their young men.

This year our annual summer camping trip took us, Kenneth, Jeff, Thelma and Johnnie, along with part of our church family, to the Pinebrook Conference Center in the Poconos at Stroudsburgh, Pa. from August 26 through August 30 on an enjoyable Gospel Retreat. Our niece, Onya Harris, went camping with us. This summer we had many delightful trips with the family of God. We went to Maine and New York several times, and New Jersey on weekends.

Then September came. Our three youngest and Johnnie went back to school. Johnnie

also served four weeks on Jury Duty. Then the Fall project - consisting of redecorating the house, taking down old wallpaper, painting, putting up paneling and new wallpaper.

Thanksgiving, Gregory came home from school and brought a friend (Vera Hill) and again the family plus one had our annual dinner at Johnnie's parents' new home in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Now our minds and hearts are turned toward our friends and relatives to wish you and your family the best Christmas and the happiest New Year of your life. We thank God for you and all of the experiences of this year. We pray that he will continue to bless you and us in the years to come.