

PO Box 925  
North Branford, CT 06471-0925

December 2008

Family and Friends,

This year, 2008, is a new beginning for me. The family gathered together at my sister Peggy and Jimmie Moore's home in Hamden, CT for a New Year's dinner. It started with lots of snow and was very cold, but it was enjoyable but a little lonely without Johnnie. It was the first year in 50 years without him.

In order to escape the cold weather and snow, I decided to go to Florida with Rose and the second new granddaughter, Nairobi. Rose's parents had not seen Nairobi. We took to the airways on January 4, 2008 to Northport, FL hoping that it would be hot, but found that it was cold there, about 40°, a little warmer than Connecticut. We arrived at Rev. & Mrs. Clinton & Sarah Scott, Rose's parents home, late in the evening. It was good to see them and one of Rose's brothers, Boyd. We also visited Rose's aunt Mary in her lovely home. We spent four days in Florida to come back to more snow at home.

We were blessed to witness Nairobi Elizabeth Lee Mouning's christening on March 16<sup>th</sup> at Liberty Christian Center in Hartford.

Greg treated me to a couple of plays at the Shubert in New Haven. Also he drove me to New York to see Steve and Lisa Wilson Kaminsky and their children. They treated us to Broadway and a lovely dinner and a sleep over. The children treated us to a home cooked breakfast...it was refreshing.

By this time, it is beginning to warm up and we are thinking about Spring. In 2007, Johnnie and I did not have a vegetable garden. He decided to let the land rest because it was the 7<sup>th</sup> year, the year of jubilee.

In May, Peggy, Jimmie and I decided to plant a vegetable garden and it turned out well. It yielded lots of fresh vegetables, enough to give to family and friends. While the garden was growing, it was time for another get away. This time, I was able to attend Peggy's 50<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion and my sister Catherine's 45<sup>th</sup> reunion in our home town, Greenville, NC. We also visited other relatives and our lodging was with my cousin Veronica, who treated us royally and served us well.

On August 29, 2008, I attended the wedding of my nephew Anwar Stokes to Elizabeth Howard in Southington, CT it was a lovely affair.

In September, just before the Autumn season, my son Marvin and I visited my sister Lillie and Arthur Day in West Palm Beach, FL. It was an enjoyable hot visit. They treated us like a king and queen.

During the month of September, it was another new beginning for our church, we had been praying and seeking for a new Pastor. It was fulfilled on September 28, 2008. Pastor Herbert Rylander of Hartford, CT was installed as the pastor of Effectual Prayer Word Ministries, Inc., North Branford, CT. He is a wonderful man, full of the Word of God that has the heart of a pastor for the people. It took place at Shiloh Christian Center, Middletown, CT

We are thankful for the new beginning in our country and nation for the election of a new president of the USA president-elect Barack Obama. History has been made on November 4, 2008.

We thank Marvin and DeEtta for a lovely Thanksgiving dinner in their home with lots of good food and fun. I was pleased to have my whole family, including all my grandchildren.

We have a lot to be thankful for now that we are adjusting to things around the house without the help of my lovely Johnnie. I am doing what he would want me to do to keep the faith.

I will be hosting Christmas this year at my home and looking forward to enjoying my family—children and grandchildren.

By the way, I am at the same place but I have a new mailing address. Please send mail to the following address:

Thelma L. Mouning

PO Box 925

North Branford, CT 06471-0925

To all who I have seen or have not seen, be blessed and prosper in the New Year of 2009.

Love,

Thelma