

December 6, 1989

Dear Families and Friends:

We are fast approaching the end of the year and another decade. In spite of the Trials, challenges, and disappointments we have had over the past years, we are blessed. Last year concluded with Johnnie's parents in a state of uncertainty but they both recovered and are doing very well.

Marvin, our eldest son, decided to muster out of the Army. He was discharged on January 31, 1989 and returned home. A few days later his clothing and furniture arrived. A few weeks later his car arrived, we took a trip to New York and New Jersey to receive his 1987 Toyota Celica. Marvin is now employed at the Whitney Manner Convalescent Home where he is a chef. He is also employed at the Mobil Service Station on I-95 in Branford, on the second shift. It took him a while to readjust to civilian life but he has done very well. Marvin is grateful for all of his blessing.

Gregory, our second eldest son, continues his employment at Yale and spends his spare time acting in and around Connecticut. Greg played one of the lead roles in "Hair" a 1967 musical which ran continuously from February through March. In May he played a school teacher in an original production entitled "Prom Nite 64". He shared his vacation with friends in Rhode Island and Vermont. This fall he began taking lessons on how to tap. Currently he is with the touring Company of Black Nativity which is quickly becoming a New Haven Christmas tradition. He is reasonably happy and thankful for every blessing.

Jeffrey, Linda, and Marcus, our third eldest son, our only Daughter and our only Grandchild concluded last year on a high note. Jeff is employed at UPS and he won the Employee of the Month Award, which gave him special privileges for a month. He also received special citations from customers on his route. He is also on the Safe Driving Honor Roll for the year. See article in photo. Linda is just as proud of her husband as his parents are. We could never ask for a daughter any sweeter, nicer, nor kinder than Linda. She spoils us with her huge kisses. She is still at Yale University.

They moved to a nice townhouse in North Branford. They are grateful to get out of the city, especially with Marcus. They spent ten lovely days vacationing in Florida and visiting Linda's sister Cathy and

Marcus, is the finest, smartest grandson we ever had; and we spoil him too. He changed Nurseries again this year. He made the adjustment very well and enjoys it there. We keep him on weekends from time to time. One day he helped his Grandfather with the chicken trays and his Grandpa Johnnie asked Marcus how much are you worth per hour? He responded, "\$5.00 per hour"! Grandpa Johnnie said, "Think Again". And Marcus responded "\$2.00 will be alright". So Grandpa paid the two. It was understood that Marcus was very happy and wanted to work more hours.

On August 19th we took Marcus to Uncasville, CT to attend the Connecticut River Pow Wow and Mohegan Indian Home Coming at Ft. Shantok State Park. We love the Indian, the ceremonial dances, and the costumes were exciting.

Kenneth, our fourth eldest son, continues his employment at CIGNA and is doing well. This year he attended a conference in Washington D.C. for the UCONN Student Federal Credit Union as a Board Member. He comes home about once a month and for the holidays. Ken spent his vacation on Block Island and in Rhode Island. He also had the opportunity to participate in the Connecticut Nutmeg State Games this summer, where his team won a Gold Medal in Volleyball. Ken is learning to cook nicely. He invited us to dinner twice this year. He had all of his immediate family over the Friday after Thanksgiving. The meal was delicious.

We shared in several conferences this year connected with our work and church. Our church enjoyed many celebration and commemoration this year under the leadership of our Bishop William M. Philpot sr. The congregation had a number of weddings, new born and funerals. Our young adults had an excellent Black Tie Affair that we enjoyed.

At the end of March we attended an all day ministers conference in New Jersey. From there we went to visit Thelma's father in Baltimore, returned to New Jersey to spend the night with Thelma's sister, Lillie, and her family. From there we drove to Montauk, New York and spent three lovely days just relaxing and enjoying each others company.

Montauk is located at the tip end of the Long Island where the land ends in the Atlantic Ocean. There are a number of Summer Resorts there. We were there off season which means we and just a few other people had the whole place to ourselves at a very reasonable rate. We highly recommend it as a place of comfort and rest off-season.

The lab has experienced lots of changes and events this year. February 17, mark the closing of as era for Dr. David LaMaster at Yale. We celebrated with a formal dinner held at the New Haven Lawn Club. This was followed by the weddings Dr. Bob Mozayeni; and Dr. Jay Ponder. Dr. Homme Hellinga and Dr. Lorena Beese had a formal British wedding at Yale Divinity School Chapel followed by a wonderful reception at New Haven Lawn Club.

Spring came and it was time for our garden. We have now learned not to plant so much since only Thelma and I will eat it. We grew a variety of things but not a lot of it and kept it very clean and neat. On May 12th we replaced our Honda Wagon with a Toyota Camry wagon. The Honda had over 100,000 miles and needed repairs.

On July 22, we were invited to our good friend's for the past 27 years, our boss, Prof. Frederic and Dr. Sally Richards, home. They hosted an old fashion New England Clam bake for the entire lab--about 25-30 people. It was the most delicious, extravagant meal we ever had. We enjoyed clams, lobsters, chicken, corn and all the extra trimmings.

On August 7th, our long time friends from Cambridge, England, Dr. Janet & Prof. Graham Knight with their daughter, Karen, and son, Matthew, came and spent the day with us. That evening we were joined by other old friends--Dr. Mike Hooven and Prof. Norma Allewell

and their son Thomas--for dinner at our place. It was a sheer delight to have them spend that time with us sharing and reminiscing over the last 18 years events in our lives.

This year our vacation and our thirty second anniversary took us into the Land of Discovery in Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. We drove to North Sydney, N.S. and took MV Princess of Acadia Ferry to Port aux Basques, Newfoundland; it was about a 6 1/2 hour ride across the Cabot Strait. We spent the night in Port aux Basques and the next day drove up through Corner Brook to Deer Lake where we spent the night and attended church. The next day we drove the Viking Trail, stopping at little villages (we visited Port-au Choix National Historic Park, where archaeologists have discovered ancient Maritime archaic people that lived 2000 BC) all along the way until we reached St. Barbe. There we took a small ferry across the Strait of Belle Isle to Blanc Sablon, Quebec. Here we saw our first real icebergs. We came within a 1/4 mile; it was exciting watching the small ferry come close to the mountain of ice and go around it. The Captain allowed Johnnie to go up into his headquarters and open the window so Johnnie could photograph the iceberg through the window.

We spent the night in L'anse-au-choir Labrador. The next morning, we drove up to Red Bay, the World Whaling capitol in AD 1550-1600. There we visited the Conservation Laboratory where an archeological site is being excavated. Red Bay is as far as one can go by car from there one would have to go by boat or stage. We took the ferry back to St. Barbe and drove to the Viking Village for a visit, from there to St. Anthony where we spent the night. The next several days were spent visiting places like Dorset Trail, where the Dorset Eskimo live, Gros Marne National park, and Captain James Cook Memorial.

We took the NM Caribue back across the Cabot Strait, the 6 1/2 hours were much better than going. On our way back we stopped in Mancton, New Brunswick, where we saw a natural phenomena at Magnetic Hill. We drove our car down a hill, stopped the car, turned off the engine, placed the car in neutral, released the brake, and the car coasted up Hill!! Yes, it did. Arriving back home after 10 days of vacation, it was now Labor Day. We had a small cook out and went back to work.

October 26th we went canoeing with our friends Mr. Gerald and Mrs. Barbara Johnson. They have been canoeing for years but Thelma and I had never been in a canoe before. We selected what we thought was a good day for it and rented a canoe and got on the Connecticut River, in Haddam, CT, and started paddling. We tried to go up river against a current of about 2 to 3 miles per hour. Thelma and I paddled for three hours to go up river two miles, we paddled enough t22o have gone 15 miles. When we started together we had to stay about 30 feet from each other because Thelma and Johnnie were out of control. But after four ours of paddling we were able to stay within 6 feet of each other without smashing. It was a great experience for us thanks to our friends.

On October 29th we were the guests at the wedding of Steve Kaminsky and Lisa Wilson. They both received their PhD's in our Department. They adopted us as their parents while in New Haven. Steve and Lisa are both very special to us. It was a wonderful wedding filled with lots of love and joy. A very unique wedding tailored just for Steve, Lisa and their families and friends.

On November 2nd the lab celebrated the leaving of Dr. Jose Delfino and family for a visit to Switzerland. There he will work Dr. Joseph Brunner another colleague of our lab.

Our family enjoyed Thanksgiving Dinner at our home. We had Johnnie's cousin Valeria Tockman and her son, Phillip, from New York spend the weekend with us. Thelma prepared a delicious meal and served us all. Now we are looking forward to Christmas and celebrating it with dinner at Johnnie's sister's and family in Bridgeport, CT.

Again, we pause to offer prayer for all those families and friends that lost loved ones and for those that are sick; for missionaries like our friends Dr. David and Mrs. Debbie Peterson and family that are in Gaza, Israel.

We pray you will have a blessed holiday time and a prosperous New Year.

Blessing and Peace

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