

December 6, 2005

Greetings family and friends,

The Christmas season has arrived again and its time for our 39th edition of the Mouning Saga. Last year ended with excitement of dinners and parties; looking forward t o 2005 and all of it's amenities of birthdays, anniversaries and celebrations. We. are learning that as we get older we have many more challenges that cause one to be thankful one day at a time.

In February, Thelma and Johnnie were headed home from work. Johnnie missed the bottom step at Gibbs Lab and fell on the cement and fractured his left knee cap and bruised the right one. That lead to 2½ months out of work and many visits to the doctor's office--lying down in the back seat of the car with Thelma transporting him back and forward.

Johnnie is still with Yale about 3½ days a week and sometimes with Fred and Sally Richards. They are doing fine like the rest of us with doctors appointments, and appointments. Last summer they went sailing for about 4 or 5 weeks. They are going as strong as ever.

Slowly spring came and Johnnie was on his feet again and back to work: It was time to till the vegetable garden; then prepare for 25 day olds baby chicks.

Our oldest grandson, Marcus, finished his second year at Johnson and Wales University and was ready for a summer job. He was very helpful in our department at Yale. He did a super job for us all. Marcus is now 20 years old and doing very well in school with his handsome self. He met a beautiful young lady named Kristin that helps keep him occupied and straight.

Marvin and DeEtta are both working hard, enjoying family, friends and their church.

Gregory, as usual, keeps busy with work and his acting career. In May, he celebrated 25 consecutive years of service at Yale with a formal dinner. His acting career continues to flourish appearing on stage and in film. He traveled as far as New Hampshire for a stage production and to Long Island to participate in the East Hampton Film Festival. His diverse roles have included the parts of famed African-American composer Harry T. Burleigh; a horse named Boxer from the play "Animal Farm"; deranged, uncivilized prison guard in "Jesus Hopped The A Train"; and a Koran-preaching airline passenger. Who knows what's next on his horizon...

Jeffrey, Linda, and Jordon are having the time of lives with activities, school stuff and day care when Jordan is out of school. This keeps them young. Jordan is in the fourth grade and just turned 9 years old

Kenneth and Rose and their family are super busy. Ken's job takes him to Europe and other parts of USA during the year. Rose is still in the school system and enjoying it. She can now spend the summers and holidays with the children. Ken Jr. is growing taller enjoying school and activities like soccer and basketball. He is in the 5th grade-how flies. Malachi is holding his own. He is in the 4th grade and growing like a weed. He is very independent, content, and adjusting to having Spina Bifida. Kenya, our only granddaughter, is three years old going twenty-one. Kenya is in day care where she learns to speak Spanish along with English very well. She is so special that we like spoiling her.

We have five biological grandchildren and many more assumed grandchildren around the world. Our newest arrival is Aidan Mouning Carlie, born to Dr. & Prof. Graeme and Cathy borden-

Carlile last spring. Aidan is the eight from the Yale community and many more from our church community. Our godchildren range in age from 33 years old to 5 months. We have been greatly blessed with many, many good relationships. We are thankful.

Our church is growing. We held our first outdoor wedding in July. It was awesome and well attended. Our annual outing was held on August 13 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on the church grounds. It was the hottest day of the year. We had lots of food, cold drinks, activities and fellowship from area churches. Our people served us well and shared lots of love.

The summer is not complete until we celebrate another anniversary that marked 48 years. We attended a retreat call "Linked in Love" held in Danbury, CT at the Ethan Allen Hotel. There were about fifty or sixty couples in attendance. It was a two day affair. We returned home a few days and on the road again--headed for Greenville, North Carolina our home. Johnnie's sister, Sarah Gibbs, accompanied us on the trip and ended up being our chauffeur from Virginia to Connecticut. Johnnie sat in the back and slept. We enjoyed four lovely days of traveling together. We saw a few family members and friends. Thelma saw a good friend she had not seen since high school. Esther Sneed Cole and her husband Melvin now reside in Maryland. After Thelma and Esther caught up on 48 years of gossip, we returned to Connecticut.

We arrived back home in time to attend Thelma's nephew Arthur Day III's wedding to Shanda Williams in New Jersey. It was a beautiful wedding and a lovely trip. Peggy and Jimmie Moore, Thelma's sister and brother-in-law drove us there. Thanks for a nice trip eating, sleeping and riding comfortably.

October is Clergy Appreciation Month. The church gave us an excellent appreciation celebration and dinner. It was nice to have family and friends in attendance. The gifts that were given allowed us to join the gym for a five year membership in Branford. It is a new multiplex facility, where we can go seven days a week and stay as long as we like. We plan to be faithful at least 3 or 4 times a week. It has made a big difference in our lives. We feel much better after the work out. Going to the gym take the place of Thelma's therapy, three times a week. Johnnie has been able to come off of Celebrax after three weeks of working out in the gym.

We hosted Thanksgiving dinner with our families. The house was alive with chatting and grandchildren. Our oldest son, Marvin, and his wife DeEtta will host the Christmas celebration at their home in Hamden.

Our prayers and sympathy go out to our family and friends who lost loved ones this year: Brian Givens, Lattie Mae Perkins, James Christian, Chrisbell Brooks, Harry Schultz and others. We are thankful for 2005, the year of overflow of more than enough....We are looking forward to 2006 being a year of Blessing and Prosperity for you and your family.

Have a Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year. May the Sun always be at your face and the wind always be at your back.

God Bless You

Johnnie & Thelma L. Mouning