

59 Totoket Road  
North Branford, CT 06471-1030  
December 1, 1997

Dear Family and Friends,

It's time again to utter those wonderful words "Joy to the world the Lord is Come Let earth receive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, And heaven and na - ture sing." that we often hear this season. This has been another exciting and enjoyable year of sharing in the lives of our family and friends.

This year began with Marvin, engaged to a very nice young lady, Miss. DeEtta' Wright for the past two years. It's now time for the wedding, you and DeEtta' had a fine rehearsal on Thursday April 24, 1997, at The Royale Restaurant, in Derby, CT. The lovely rehearsal dinner was held on Friday April 25, 97 at DeEtta' mother's (Mrs. Marion Wright) home. The wedding was on April 26, 1997, at the Royale with lots of families joy sharing with Marvin and DeEtta' Ruth Wright Mouning. We have officially welcomed our newest daughter DeEtta' into our expanded family. Now the two of you are married. We hope both of you will be very happy and we give you our prayers and blessing.

Gregory, our second son who has been at home with us all his life has decided to become a home owner this year. On November 21, 1997, he became the proud owner of a fine condominium in North Haven. It is an end unit with 2 bed rooms, 1 ½ baths, living and dining rooms, kitchen, deck and one car garage. On Saturday November 22, 1997, Greg and his brothers and friends rented a truck and moved him into his home. Now he and Thelma are enjoying themselves finding sales and buying things for his home. We are thankful that Gregory is contributing to our family, community, and society; we give you our prayers and blessing.

We are enjoying Jeffrey, Linda and their beautiful sons: Marcus is now twelve and a half years old. Our youngest grandson, Jordan Jeffrey Mouning is one year old. They both increase the joy and happiness in the Christian and Mouning families. We have enjoyed the kinship, friendship and fellowship all these years. We are excitingly looking forward to many more. Jeffrey and Linda have set an excellent example as parents. You certainly love, care and support your families; you share our prayers and blessing.

Ken and Rose, we are proud that our families merge through our lovely second and third grandsons. Kenneth Wayne Mouning, Jr. is now two and a half years old. His younger brother Malachi Nathaniel Mouning is one and a half years old. We are happy to know that you two have found your cul-de-sac. There with the help of God, you are establishing a home for your wonderful family. It's good to know that you are contributing to your church, community and society. We love, pray and support you always.

Our sons, their families and some of our friends spent the last 2 years praying for and planning our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The committee consisted of about seventy people. We met once at Yale in the Perry & Nancy Bass building and after that we met in

subcommittee in various homes. We planned for an informal occasion that would accommodate about 300 people of all ages. The location was North Branford High School. It had plenty of parking and space inside and out. We wrote a 191 page historical journal that chronicles our lives from 1937 - 1997. The Mouning Chronicles cover topics such as: ***Our Early Lives, Marriage, Night of Horror, Motivation, Fishing Expedition, Messages for Family, Symposium, Tributes and Photo Gallery***. The foreword was written by Fred and Sal Richards. This marvelous book was published by: KenRose Enterprises; Printed By: Gregory Allen Mouning; Edited By: Marvin, Gregory, Jeffrey, Kenneth Mouning and Patrick Nolan. Written and Compiled By; Johnnie L. and Thelma L. Mouning. Copies were dispensed to every family in attendance and many were mailed to different parts of the world. It has been described as a wonderful literary work, a family guide, a family bible and a source of inspiration. Once you start to read it, you can't put it down until you finish reading it. We have had many positive comments about the book. We trust it is and will continue to be a blessing to many.

The big day finally came August 23, 1997. Johnnie and Thelma their Sons and their wives and grandson were dressed in jeans and white tee shirts with the 'The Mouning Peripeteia of Life's Journey' family tree on the back of it. It was an informal celebration that included all ages from 2 months to 96 years old. The ***first and second hours*** started officially at 10:00 am with reception, recreation games, food and small talk.

The ***third and fourth hours*** began the ceremony with prayer, scripture reading, recognition, remembrance and sharing vignettes along life's journey. Members of the staff of the school overheard the prayer and scripture and assumed we were having a religious service; I assured them we were just celebrating our anniversary.

The ***first and second decade of recollections*** was expressions from the Lofton and Mouning families. ***The third decade of reflections*** were given by our oldest son and his wife Marvin and DeEtta' Mouning. Our church family represented by Bishop and Mrs. William Philpot, Sr. Deacon Henry Moore and Deaconess Aloyse Allen. ***The fourth decade of remembrance*** was given by our second son Gregory A. Mouning and Yale community represented by Mr. Patrick Nolan, Prof.'s J. E. Coleman, R. M. Macnab, D. Soll, A. Garen, P. Lengyel, H. Wyckoff, D. Gonda, Dr. Maureen Leahy, Dr. J. Putterman, Mrs. Janet Casalveri, Mrs. Sharron Barry, Mr. Gerald Johnson, Mr. Paul Pepin, Mr. Arthur Perlo and their spouses. A Communication from Prof. Fred and Sally Richards was shared. Mrs. Elizabeth Ford, from the Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Foundation shared with us. ***The fifth decade of recalling*** was presented by Jeffrey, Linda Mouning and sons including communications from our neighbors and inter state friends. ***The sixth decade of recapturing*** was presented by Kenneth and Rose-Marie Mouning and sons. It also included out-of-state and people from other countries. Prof. & Mrs. H. Morowitz from VA.. Prof. F. Quiocho and Prof. R. Fox from Texas. Prof. Drs. Steve & Lisa Wilson-Kaminsky and family from, New York, Prof. & Mrs. D. Wishart & Daughter from Edmonton Alberta, Canada. There was a telegram from Brazil, many tributes from around the world.

***The fifth and sixth hours*** began the barbecue. Jeffrey and Marvin was responsible for our menu. Our Christ Chapel family and Yale community served us well. We had twelve

committees sub committees about 78 people serving. The committee coordinators were Mrs. J. Hawkes, Mrs. M. Miller, Mr. R. Blount, Sr., Mr. & Mrs. W. Bailey, Mr. T. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Davis and Mr. Richard Davis. Executive coordinators Mrs. F. Hardy, Mrs. Janet Casaveri and Mrs Sharron Barry worked in harmony with our sons. The food was very good and by the time they had finished serving 6:00 pm, they had administered to over 450 people.

We are grateful for all the gifts and cards we received especially the portrait of our four grandsons and the gift certificate for a trip to anyplace in the world that Thelma and I want to go. It was said that the events of to day seem like a Wedding, an Anniversary or a Family Reunion all celebrated in one occasion. This day has been indelibly imprinted on our mines and hearts. Thanks to our sons and all of our family and friends for helping us to enjoy the wonderful day of Thanksgiving and to our heavenly Father for bringing us to this point in life. It goes without saying our live are full and enriched because of you.

Thelma and I spent our fortieth anniversary, August 26, 1997, visiting with Thelma's Mother Mrs. Lenora Lofton at St. Regis Convalescent home. We had lunch with Johnnie's mother Mrs. Naomia Mouning; and oldest brother and his wife Dr. and Mrs. John & Rovena Mouning, and his youngest brother, Bishop Curtis Mouning. We spent a number of hours reminiscing about our celebration and old times. On our annual trip we took Thelma's sister Scottie home to Washington, D. C. and continued to Greenville, North Carolina, back to where we were married 40 years ago. This was the first time we had been back to N. C. on Labor Day since we moved to CT thirty-eight years ago.

We still raise chicken for fresh eggs and a vegetable garden that we may share with other. Thanksgiving dinner was celebrated at Ken and Rose's home in Bloomfield, CT. They prepared a delicious meal and served about 27 people. It's so nice to be able to enjoy some of the fruits of our labor in our children and grandchildren while you can still enjoy them.

We are happily anticipating having Christmas dinner at my sister's Sarah Gibbs' home in Stratford, CT. We pause to say thank you to our heavenly Father that their were no death in our family this year. We thank Him for the lives of our friends Mrs. Aloyse Allen, Mrs. Mary McClinton and Mr. Joseph Manual, Mr. Samuel Howard who have gone on to their reward this year.

We say Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from our Home to your Home.

Love,

Johnnie & Thelma Mouning