

November 27, 2000

Greetings to all:

Change, change, change—it must come. We started this new Millennium out with much caution about the Millennium bug. We began the year by declaring the Millennium bug would pass without many problems and it did, we moved on to the next problem. Well 2000 has come as it is almost gone and we are still waiting to hear who's our next president as they are counting and recounting votes. This year we wrote our memoirs from the 20th century into the 21st century, including details of our travels around the world. Our second draft copy is now being edited for publication soon.

We are happy to report that our family is and moving on in life.

Marvin and DeEtta, our oldest son and his wife, are experiencing new dimensions in this millennium. Marvin had two minor set backs this winter when he had two hernias removed back to back. He was out for six weeks each time. They strengthen each other and came through it much stronger. We enjoyed a wonderful baptism with DeEtta this year at their church.

Gregory is still enjoying his acting and his church family along with his family and friends.

Jeffrey, Linda, Marcus and Jordon, our third son and his family live just down the road from us and we enjoy their company quite often. They are enjoying their church family very much. Marcus our oldest grandson is now a sophomore in high school. He is becoming more and more independent each day. He is doing very well in school and plays center on the hockey team. Marcus also referees the younger boys in hockey. We went to see the father and son game last Saturday. North Branford Alumni returned to play with the high school hockey team and Jeff and Marcus both scored. Jordan is the youngest grandson but he is his own man. He is three and in day care, he speaks English and Spanish very well. He has his own little lawn mower that he follows grandpa in the yard while he cuts the grass.

Kenneth, Rose, Kenneth Jr., and Malachi, our fourth son and his family are doing well. They are enjoying their church family very much also. Kenneth Jr. is now in Kindergarten, and he is growing fast and is excited about his school. Malachi is very happy to be in preschool near his older brother. Malachi has his own wheelchair and crutches that help him to get around by himself. He raced grandpa to the car on his crutches and won. Kenneth Jr. and Malachi walked 10 miles with their father to help sponsor the March of Dimes. They raised more than \$2,000 this year.

Our project this year consisted of extending our house out the back 10'6" x 32 with a full basement and attic. We signed the contract the Saturday after Good Friday with an estimation of completion on August 3, 2000. However, it was completed the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Praise ye the Lord! Nevertheless to say that seven months

was filled with meetings with contractors, buy this or that. We put our garden in late because of all the building projects and lots of rain. The garden did not yield as much as we would like to harvest but we are thankful. Thelma harvested enough to put in the freezer for the upcoming holidays.

We purchased 25 day old chicks in the spring and in October they began to lay eggs as we butchered off 19 chickens and 5 Gennis along with The Pepins.

On June 8, 2000, Johnnie's mother, Mrs. Naomia Mouning, passed away. She was the matriarch of the family. It was a large homegoing service. Family and friends came far and near to show their respects and love for us. The torch has been passed down to Johnnie's older brother to carry the tradition, legacy of love and respect to the next generation.

Thelma retired in March 2000 from Yale after 35½ years of service. She is still working casually a few days a week, which gets her out of the house a bit. Johnnie retired on August 31, 2000 after 41 years 18 days of continuous active service at Yale; with about 39 years with Prof. F. M. Richards. Johnnie is continuing his work with the department (M B & B) on a consulting basis.

We enjoyed a wonderful day in New York with Dr. Steve and Dr. Lisa Wilson Kaminsky and their children with Jerry and Barbara Johnson. Followed by a lovely day at "Pine Valley" a miniature train line steam engine where you can ride. Barbara and Jerry are members of this club, invited us as guests for that day.

Our vacation this year was mainly spent working on the house, but we did get away a few days together. Thelma and I spent our 43rd anniversary on the Essex Train and a cruise down the Connecticut River. We enjoyed driving through the beautiful scenery and enjoyed a magnificent brunch at Water's Edge Inn. We returned home in mid-September in time to harvest vegetables from the garden.

On September 21, 2000, Thelma lost her mother, Mrs. Lenora Lofton. To our surprise people came from all over to share their love and respect for another matriarch of her family. The service was well conducted by Bishop W.M. Philpot, Sr., and the Christ Chapel family. Many thanks for their ministry of love and care to the family.

After 22½ years of ministering at our local church the Lord has called us away to a direct ministry of prayer and study of the Word. We have learned that ministry is about loving, caring and sharing with one another. We are now entering into the latter half of our lives. We believe it will be the best half.

Thanksgiving dinner was held at Johnnie's sister, Sarah's home in Stratford, CT, where we ate and celebrated with grateful hearts. We are looking forward to our next celebration of Christmas dinner at our son Kenneth and Rose's home in Bloomfield, CT.

We pause to remember and pray for families and friends who have lost loved ones this year: the late Mrs. Ruth Moore, Mrs. Naomia Mouning, Mrs. Lenora Lofton, Mr. James Ebron, Jr., Mr. Paul Rosano, Mrs. Pauline Knight, Mrs. Elizabeth Jean Wickoff, Prof. Paul B. Sigler.

We wish you all happy holidays and a healthy fulfilled New Year.