

December 8, 2006

Dear Family & Friends,

This is our 40th edition of The Mouning's Annual Saga family life and affairs. My how fast this year has passed. After holidays festival we started with doctors appointments.

I had a small procedure on my right eye on February 28, 06. The procedure was supposed to take about 2-3 hours but it took about 7 hours--started at 11:00 am and finished about 6:00 pm. Over the years my right eye has protruded outward and caused problems with closing so it dries out. The small procedure was to put a small peace of nylon in the bottom lid to bring it up to the top lid so it would close. He tightened the muscles in one side and loosened the muscle in the other side of the eye ball there by straightening it. Well it still does not close. After a few days of recovering I was back to work. Thelma and I help each other through our ups and downs and in and out of the doctor's office.

Thelma has had problems with her heel spurs, back, stomach and two lasers procedures on her right eye--the last one was December 9, 06. Since we became senior citizens our calendar is full of doctor's appointments but through it all we are doing very well.

Before 2005 ended we had Christmas at our oldest son Marvin and his wife DeEtta at their lovely home in Hamden CT. It was lots of fun, joy and excitement with all the families and friends opening gifts.

Our second son, Greg's acting career continues to flourish and keeps him busy both on stage and in film. This year his talents on stage were rewarded by winning his first Subscribers Award for **Outstanding Featured Actor** in the play *Buffalo Gal* by A.R. Gurney. He followed this up with his debut outdoors performance as Banquo in *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare. This production was particularly challenging because he performed without a microphone, in-the-round (audiences on all sides), heavy period costumes and fight choreography using real swords. Thelma and I accompanied by June Singleton (church member), managed to attend one of the scorching hot Sunday afternoon performances!

Jeff & Linda are busy at work and enjoying their lovely home with their youngest son Jordan is now in the 5th grade and just turned ten Dec. 6, 2006. He is doing well in school and helps out around the house.

Marcus is Jeff and Linda oldest son, our oldest grandson. He is in his senior year in college looking forward to graduating. He is currently working while attending school at a local law firm where he is expanding his networks and starting the pursuit of his career goals. Marcus spent his summer at Yale with Grand Pa Johnnie in Department MB&B.

Kenneth our fourth son and his wife Rose and their family are doing very well in Granby, CT. Kenneth Jr. is in boy scouts and 6th grade. Malachi is 10 and in the 5th grade. He is in the club scout and they both are doing very well at school and helps out around the house. Kenya the youngest of all the grandchildren is growing in wisdom, knowledge and status. She is 4 years old but keeps up with every body. We kept them a few days this summer and enjoyed it very much. Ken and Rose are very busy transporting the children to activities along with there jobs. Rose surprised Kenneth, Sr. with his 40th birthday party with lots of family and friends from far and near. It was a great celebration second to none.

We installed a grave stone at mother Naomia Mouning site in Bridgeport, CT. On June 9, 2006 I had surgery again on my right eye. This was a correction from the February surgery and to help the lid to close when sleeping. It was supposed to take about 2-3 hours and it took about 5 hours, and guess what? It still does not close when I am sleeping.

On December 7, 2006 I had a third procedure done on my right eye, to help it close. A one hour procedure turned into a two hour surgery. Looks like it worked this time and I am able to close it now. Thelma was in the room and watched the whole procedure and praying me through, Thanks to God.

I was highly honored when asked by a good friend Barbara, Gary and Ronnie Johnson to officiate at her husband Gerald Johnson's memorial Service. Gerald (Jerry) and I had been friends for more than thirty years at Yale University. The grave side service was attended by the immediate family, while the Memorial service was attended by hundreds of family, friends and co-workers on March 11, 2006. Thelma and I got to minister to Barbara and Jerry a number of times before he passed. We remember the sweet communion and fellowship we had with them. A good friend gone home.

Jeff, our third son tilled the garden in June and we planted it but we had lots of rain, and most of our seeds rotted in the ground. Because of the weather our harvest was short.

Our church celebrated its 6th year of ministry and had Our Annual Outing on August 12, 2006 from 10:00am to 3:00pm. Many churches attended. The weather was prefect with blue skies. Children, teenagers and adults all over the place. The menu included everything from fresh fried fish, chicken, ribs and on and on. We honored the Brunson / Rudd families this year.

On September 30, 2006 our church chartered a bus and traveled to *Sight & Sound, Living Waters Theatre*, Strasburg, PA to see the Psalms of David, it was a joyful time with 48 people on the bus.

Our church is growing fast. We had an altar call last week and we could not get them all to the altar. This fall we put a new roof on and rebuilt a front porch to our church house. Our carpenter did an excellent job all by himself; there are no leaks or sagging from this job.

Our members had a Pastor and Mother appreciation dinner on October 29, 2006. The dinner was done very well. Everyone worked together, everyone brought a dish. We enjoyed good fellowship and delicious food.

Thelma and I spent our 49th wedding anniversary and annual vacation in Massachusetts and Groton, CT eating and resting. We also attended a couple's dinner at Kenneth and Rose's lovely home on August 26, 2006--our anniversary.

This year Thanksgiving dinner was held at our home with all the family in attendance. We are expecting to celebrate Christmas at Jeff and Linda's lovely home.

We pause to remember our family and friends who passed this year: Gerald Johnson, Mother Marie Gibbs, Joseph Thigpen, Michael Gray, Andrea Wyckoff, Thelma Grace Lofton and Pastor John Good.

May you all be healthy, blessed and prosper in the years to come.

Merry Christmas
with love

Johnnie and Thelma L. Mouning