

Ralph A. Belnap

Christmas 1981

Seasons Greetings:

We owe letters to many of you, but it is clear that we will not get them written before Christmas. Please accept this duplicated epistle for now. We will try to respond individually later.

Last Christmas, Helena wasn't feeling up to par, so her usual notes on our Christmas cards didn't get written. She fully intended to write letters later on, but somehow the time got away and it didn't get done in all cases. During 1980, she continued to serve as president of the DeKalb Ward Relief Society and managed to be involved in several other activities. The arm and hand that she broke in 1978 still give her a little trouble, and last October she hurt her shoulder. She still has some pain but seems to think she can live with it. Otherwise, she is feeling fine.

Ralph entered the hospital in DeKalb in May for a one-week stay (kidney problems). Then, after a busy summer and only two weeks on a new job, he went in again (in Bridgeton) -- this time for 18 days, two trips to surgery, etc. Recovery is nearly complete.

We had planned to visit the folks in Utah this year. We first thought we would make the trip in April. But, several postponements came, and the year is about gone. We probably will now have to wait until summer 1982.

After living in DeKalb for 23 years and experiencing a year of retirement, we accepted a position at Saint Louis University and moved from DeKalb to a St. Louis suburb in September. We are renting a home just northwest of the city -- twenty miles from the university and ten miles from church. We will not be completely moved in until after Christmas, but we're getting along fine anyway. Since the move came so fast, we have not sold or rented our home; we will be in DeKalb once a month to look after it. We will spend Thanksgiving there and also part of the Christmas holidays. Our telephone number in DeKalb is still connected; the number remains (815) 756-6616. In Missouri, our phone number is (314) 739-6146. All mail is now coming to Bridgeton, but if you use the DeKalb address it will be forwarded to us.

We hope you have a wonderful Christmas this year and that 1982 will be bringing additional blessings and happiness. We will try to write or call more often. The directions to our abode can be readily obtained; just let us know where you are writing or calling from.

Take good care of yourselves. May you continue to be blessed with all of the good things of life -- health, happiness, and peace -- throughout the holiday season and in the New Year.

Sincerely,

11238 Terry Street
Bridgeton, Missouri 63044

Helena and Ralph