

December, 1986

Dear Friends and Relatives:

Since we returned from our mission in 1983, Tracy has been sending out the Christmas cards, and probably giving you all personal little notes. We hope that this master letter will not be offensive to you, as we would rather write personal notes, but at least it will be a little more personal than a signed card.

Ida-Rose in fall of 1985 had some stroke-like symptoms, which reappeared in the spring of this year. She has spent considerable time in hospitals and doctor's offices having tests taken to try to track down what was causing the symptoms. Nothing definite was found, but we know a lot about what it isn't. Mother nature will probably take care of it in her own way. We're not used to having Ida-Rose's health not be too good, so we expect this to be transitory.

Tracy's health at the moment is better than it has been since we returned from our mission. This may be due to the hard work in the Sunshine on the Payson farm which seems to be relaxing to him. He is considering putting the almost 30 acres in christmas trees, but until then he will continue to grow the best cucumbers, squash and cantaloupes which we have ever tasted.

His many interests keep him away as much as before he retired, but the pattern has changed. His schedule is more flexible and he feels free to travel when we want to. For instance, this spring he took Ida-Rose on a speaking tour he had committed to for the American Chemical Society to the Oklahoma-Texas region. We were impressed with the efforts made by the local societies to find work for unemployed members due to the oil crisis in the area. We did not feel quite so good about the lower gasoline prices after that trip.

In July we went on a long talked-of cruise up the coast of B.C. to Alaska. After the cruise finished at Anchorage, where we caught up with the comings and goings of Ida-Rose's sister, Iona, and her family who live in Anchorage, we spent another week or so flying and busing around Alaska.

It's an interesting world. In Zimbabwe, near the equator, the day length winter and summer only varies about an hour, at Kotzebue, Alaska, above the arctic circle in July the sun never sets. The children played around the clock-- I suppose sleeping when they got tired. Tracy didn't go to bed the night we were there, either.

Our families are well and flourishing, if the 32 grandchildren which we have is any indication. (We're not old enough to have a 16 yr old grandchild!) Tracy, David, and Nancy and their families live close by in Provo and Orem. Which is nice. Liz and her family are in Los Altos, CA., and Charlotte and family are in Snohomish, Washington. We hope to have them with us at Christmas. We spent Thanksgiving in the East with Sherlene and family and Virginia and family.

We send our love to all of you wherever you are at this Christmas season, and as we celebrate the birth of Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we hope that you will enjoy his choicest blessings, and that the New Year will be one of Peace and Happiness.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

*Tracy & Ida-Rose*