**side 9**

….Family Life Ministries to their Christmas play. It was always very good. People came from all over the state to it because radio reaches so many people. Not all, but they heard it advertised and they came. Among them was Mark and Gayle, I was so surprised. I sat there waiting for the program to start and there stood Mark. I was so pleased to see him and Gayle was there and she came down to talked to me, too.

Christmas was coming. Gerald came and put up my porch lights. I put up my Christmas tree, and decorated and got things ready like I always do. For my birthday, Bruce and Erin took me to Ponderosa and we met Dick and Gerry there. And that was always nice to do. I was glad to see them. Enjoyed being together with them. Debbie had to work.

I went to Deb's that night. I helped Debbie get ready for the Christmas gathering. I had a nice time there. Christmas day we had a beautiful dinner like we always do. Debbie doesn't have to work on Christmas Day.

Pat and Bob got there for the Christmas like they always do. She and I got the things all ready for the Christmas day get together. That was on the 28th this year.

There was a nice crowd, we had 42 there to eat, and that was, usually its right around 40 usually. So it was a very nice day I always enjoy seeing all the family and all the new babies. And it's always been enjoyable time. I went home and go things packed and ready so when I went to Pat's, I'd be all ready.

I got my refrigerator emptied and so forth. And went back over to Debbie's. We started New Year's Day. The school, Pat's school started the third. She wanted one day between when she got home and the school starting.

On the second of January, we went shopping to look over the sales, to see if she could get some things for Christmas for next year. She always does that. That's a good way to get Christmas tree decorations and paper plates and that type of thing that you have when you have a Christmas get together.

Pat went to school and I got things around to get things ready for supper. We had scalloped potatoes. We had scalloped potatoes quite a lot. It was a favorite with them. Bruce and Erin were supposed to get here for supper, but they didn't make it. They called later and said that they got so tired that they were going to sleep in the van and come on the next day.

They got here the next morning at seven o'clock. They had already had breakfast when they got there so they didn't eat with us. Bob had to work in the fore noon, but in the afternoon he and Bruce went around and he took him through the new BMW plant that just moved into South Carolina and, and different places that they wanted to go.

We played games at night. There's a new game with dominoes with a number 12 domino that was altogether different called Mexican train dominoes. It’s a lot of fun, similar to the old fashioned one, but much more complicated. Bruce doesn't enjoy games, but Erin does and we all played and had fun. Lawrence Welk was on the television reruns and we all enjoyed them.

I started on Matt's quilt, and cut blocks for that and put them together. Each block takes quite a long time so I didn't do but one a day.

Kathy and Gerry had a trailer down here now and they were working at that. It was really dirty; had cockroaches all even in the freezer, there was cockroaches. It was a very dirty one. Kathy was working full time. So Gerry and I worked in the trailer cleaning that up. I only helped in the kitchen cause I couldn't do any lifting or anything like that, but I cleaned the refrigerator and the stove and the sinks and like said that. It helped some.

On the 18th of January, they had dinner for Scott and Penny. And Kathy was invited. They all came, but on the way to dinner, I fell, crashed down like a ton of bricks. And they took me to hospital. Scott was here so he officiated just like he does on his regular work. And the x-ray showed I had a broken shoulder.

I kept some busy because Bruce and Erin were here and Kathy and of course Pat and Bob. Getting me to the bathroom, it hurt me so terrible to walk because my back and legs pained a lot more than my shoulder did. The x-ray technician said probably I injured the sciatic nerve. It was nice having Bruce and Erin here. And Bruce was so good to help me and Pat was so patient. I was ashamed to have to be so much work for them.

Kathy came over quite often and went to church with Pat and Bob, and Bruce and Erin went to a Wesleyan church in Malden. They enjoyed that.

Bruce helped Gerry some around the trailer, put the skirt around the trailer and helped him get things into the trailer. And Bob went and helped get the washer machine in there, things that Gerry couldn't do alone.

About this time we had a letter from Caroline. She was rejoicing because Doug had accepted the Lord. He was always such a nice boy, but he just didn't want to take Christ into his life, but now he had and we were all rejoicing over that.

I later had a nerve block in my back and at first I couldn't see any difference then all at once the pain stopped or was much, much less. I was so grateful for that.

Gerald came down with a load of furniture for Kathy for her trailer. They came over here for supper. He said Virginia Francis had died. I felt so bad over that. She suffered so much and she was a nice person.

Bruce and Erin went back to Texas to be with Paul and Arlene again, and Dick and Gerry came up. It was always nice to having Geraldine here. Dick went back to Hepzibah where he was helping with the, getting the ground ready for the new children's home there. Geraldine stayed about two weeks and it was so nice having her here. And we had a good time together. She is like a nurse and she helped a lot. Of course, Pat wasn't there. She was working.

Geraldine went back to Macon with the lady from Raleigh that was going there. So Pat took her over to meet the lady and she went back and Bruce and Erin came back.

The doctor had given an order for me to have a walker. And so the guy that came to bring it was real young, I imagine just out of high school. And I thought he acted like maybe this was his very first delivery because he had a little speech all learned about how I had to be careful to always make sure it was locked before I used it and just how to walk with it. And just a little piece that he learned, he was very shy and acted scared to death.

Then Bruce said, "Well, of course this wouldn't have happened if she hadn't come down that hill so fast on her skateboard." And that poor guy's mouth drop down and he looked from one to another and I said, "Well, I had my knee pads and everything on." And then he said, "Well, I guess I've covered it all so now if you have any questions, there's a number there for you to call," and he left in a hurry. I think he thought he better get away from this bunch of kooks as fast as he could. We've always laughed over that poor guy, but last year he must have run into other people just as kooky as we are.

Geraldine caught a ride up again with some people from the First Wesleyan church here in Greenville. And so that was always nice having her here. She did the little things that Pat didn't have time for and Pat was real sick for a while, had a real bad cold. She had to stay home from school. And she stayed in bed quite a lot of the time. I was so glad Geraldine was here.

One of the teachers had a wheelchair that her mother had used and Pat borrowed that, so that helped a lot getting me around. And also I could use the walker good now.

Dick called that they'd be up the next day and I could go home with them. This is the last of March, so I got my stuff all packed and ready. We started about 7:15 in the morning and they had a good trip home. No problems. We stayed all night in Winchester Virginia at a Howard Johnson motel. And then went on and got back here home about 1:30. Dick and Gerry stayed there awhile until Deb got home from work.

I could help some at Deb’s with the work, filling the dishwasher, emptying it, and picking up and dusting and so forth.

I went to Buena Vista to church some of the time. And sometimes Bruce came that way and took me to the Haskinville church. They had, that was when Pastor Adam was there to candidate as a pastor. So I wanted to go that Sunday to hear him. Kevin and Cindy came and spent a day and a night at Debbie's. It was so nice to see them. They caught us up on all the work there in Germany. And about the new work in Czechoslovakia and visited a lot.

Poor little girl, she's had to go through these surgeries and while they were there, they got their first Ostrich egg. That was an exciting time. I stayed at Deb's and help her with folding clothes and doing the dishes and so forth. Once in a while, I went over to my house and stayed overnight and Kathy came up and stayed there overnight so I could. It was nice. I was glad to be in my own home once in a while.

The ostriches’ names were Wilma and Mary. Mary laid quite a few eggs. And she had laid 12 and they said, "Well, probably that's all she'll lay. That's usually what they lay for a season", but then she laid several more after that. We figured must be she can't count.

David and Beth were home for a little while and they came over and spent quite a while in the afternoon with us there at Debbie's. It was so nice to see them, hear about his work and what she's doing.

I went over home again. Debbie took me over and I cleaned the cupboards. The boys came and did the mopping and the vacuuming like that. So that helped. Caroline and Lloyd came and stayed all day.

Kim's daughter Maria was getting married in the church. So we went to that. That was nice. I got to see Kia again. I hadn't seen her in a long time. And then we went to Kim's for the reception. It was small, not very many people there, but it was real nice. And I was glad to see them all again. Kathy and her husband came over to Debbie's that night and brought their picnic supper with them. They wanted to see the ostriches and the kids wanted to watch them. So I visited with Kathy and her husband. I hadn't seen them. That was nice.

Sometimes I rode over with Deb to Arkport when she took the eggs over and it was always a nice ride and a chance to see Deb a little more. She's always so busy around home there. So she took an egg over. And when she got there, they told her she had a surprise and she got in there and they showed her her first baby ostrich. It was a weird looking little thing, but it was a nice healthy little bird.

Pat came up to Debbie's for a while in June. And then the afternoon, we all went to Dick's to see the twins and Steven, Kara, and their new baby. We had a nice time, nice visit with Caroline and Lloyd, they were there too.

Pat came over to my house and she stayed all night, did some sorting for me, cleaned up the stairway closet, got pile full of stuff. It was hard for me to get in there.

Juanita had been down getting her hair done and she stopped. So she stayed for lunch with us. And that was so, Pat was so pleased and she hadn't seen her in a long time. She said, she's always so glad when she gets up here and sees other members of the family besides just us that she came to visit.

We had a farewell dinner for Pastor Jay. It was nice. He talked so nice about all of us regular members and said things about us that he appreciated. We had a good dinner. Pat went up there with me. She usually goes over with Debbie if she's here on a Sunday.

Pat went to the baccalaureate with Debbie, but I didn't go. By then, I was tired.

We all went up to Kathy's for lunch and then Pat and Debbie and Elizabeth all went over to see the scythe tree and took some pictures of it. It's kind of ?? to think that my grandfather put that scythe up in that tree when he was cutting a field of grain up there with it. That would have been about 1908 or ‘07. My grandfather was pretty old then, but he still did hard work.

Pat helped make it ready to go to camp and she took me down there and stayed overnight and left after the Caroline and Lloyd got there. I always stay in camp with them in my cottage. Caroline does the cooking and we go to the services together, I about have to have somebody go with me to help me get in the car and so forth. The services were very good. We enjoyed them all.

I got hanging baskets for Mother's Day for my porch. And I kept noticing a bird flying out of one of them. I just thought it was sitting there and resting or something. I had somebody take it down and there were four eggs in there. And I thought, "Oh, boy, this is going to be something." And we kept watching the bird. She was faithful coming and sitting on the eggs. I looked in the bird book and according to the bird book, it was a purple Finch or a house Finch. Both of them had the same kind of eggs. They were small birds. And we watched them, finally all the birds flew away. We had a job watering them cause I always had to have somebody come lift it down so I could water them and not splash the eggs all with water. And it was interesting, anyway.

Bruce always picks me up for everything my go to, but I didn't get down to Bruce's house very often. Kathy went down there and I stayed there while she did some errands. It was so nice. Bruce had put new siding on his house and it just looked so nice and new looking like a different house and he built a new, bigger front porch. It just changed the appearance so much.

The last of July, we had the family picnic again. Dick and Gerry came, they stayed all night. So Geraldine was there to help me get ready for it. We all went to church and then there was a nice crowd at the picnic. There were 45 there this year. It was so nice. It was a nice day, warm, but not too hot. It was just right.

We had a little baby shower for Kris at the picnic because we couldn't figure any time they could all get together any other time. So they all brought their gifts there and she came and opened them.

Paul and Arlene were here so that made it nice. They were up from Texas. Then we heard that Kris had a baby boy. So I went out to the hospital to see him. Bruce took me over. That was nice. He was a beautiful little boy. Glad that Kris has got her boy.

Isaac came home for a little while from California and was so nice to see him, he's grown up a lot. He came in two or three times to see me and they went to Albany to see Grandma Curry.

Kris couldn't go back to work for six weeks. So she came up quite often and brought the baby. It was so nice. I enjoyed that. Cute little thing.

Isaac came in quite a few times while he was here. Of course, I always enjoyed seeing him. Everybody's so nice about picking me up as long as I don't drive anymore. Different people. Evelyn came and took me over to her house for supper. Then Charlotte Weaver went to and they picked me up for garden clubs. So I didn't miss them.

I have such good friends and so many people around the neighborhood offered me rides to church and so forth. This is nice neighborhood.

Bruce and Erin came up to say goodbye. They were going to Texas again for a visit to Paul. It's nice to have them come to see us up here because they stop in see me, take me places, too. Now I miss them.

November is here now. And Elizabeth's birthday. She's 16. Debbie had a nice party for her. They did a different year thing.

Like how the kitchen was in the fifties and where they first come in from the hayride. And then the next room was a sixties and seventies. And the pool table room was the eighties. And living room was in the nineties. They had three TVs going with little Nintendo games on and Elizabeth opened her gifts, too. There were 40 kids here. I had a good time too.

I stayed the next day and helped a little with the clean up and then I went back home. There was a snow storm. We got 12 inches in one night. Gerry put the plows on the tractor and plowed us all out.

It was getting toward Thanksgiving time. I had a chance to go to Hornell so I got the turkey and different things that I'd need for the day. Elizabeth came over the day before Thanksgiving and helped me set the table and do the things that I couldn't do alone. Gerry moved things around in the room and set up the big table.

Debbie and Robin came early and helped me dish up so we had a nice time. We didn't have very many there just Gerry's family and Deb's family, but it was real nice. We missed Bruce.

I got my suitcases all packed and ready to go back with Pat and Bob. And we went over Christmas morning for breakfast with Debbie and Phil. And we had a good time, nice breakfast. And we had a good dinner. Debbie got a very nice Christmas dinner. And we had a good time all day. We played 20 questions some of time. That was a lot of fun.

And I came back home and finished packing my suitcases and ready to go. We had our family get together the 27th. There weren't as many there as there are some years. Bruce and Erin, of course, were gone and Mark's family had a conflict and couldn't come. Lee and Sherry got married and came.

They got married that day, the Christmas day and came. And Steve and Ingrid came and that was different. Ingrid hadn't been there in awhile. I got wonderful gifts as I always do.

And then the 28th, we started back to South Carolina. Had a very good trip all the way. Got here about 8 PM. Ingrid and Steve went home another way because they had people to visit on the way.

Pat of course didn't have school yet. So she got some of her Christmas taken care of, and they did the things that they do between Christmas and New Years. They had a soup supper at church before prayer meeting. That was nice. I saw a lot of people I knew and they're always so friendly.

We went to a family's after the prayer meeting and played dominoes until midnight. And then she served eats. Rachel had a bunch of kids in here and we didn't get home till two o'clock. Happy New Year. [1998]

Things went on as usual in January. Pat had to go back to school and Rachel, too. Bob left for a trip to ski in Colorado. We were busy here evenings doing all we usually did.

About this time we heard that Pastor Connally, their pastor for since the beginning of this church, had died. He'd been sick for a long time. And Bob had gone visit him in the hospital many times. He was very close to him. So it was a sad time for everybody. I went with him to the memorial service, but the funeral, of course, was private. It was too, too many people that would want to be there.

Dick and Gerry called. They were on their way down and would be here to spend some time with Pat and Bob. Pat got ready for supper that night that Dick could eat, chicken stir fry. I made Jell-O for dessert and they came and we played dominoes and had a good visit.

Caroline called that Brianna had gotten through her surgery okay. Poor little thing. So much suffering for such a little tiny tot. So hard on Cindy, too.

Dick and Gerry left Sunday morning to go to Central to church, to see their friends there, and then on Macon. He was going to stay there and help with the work building a new children's home.

Most of my spare time I spent making a quilt I started for David and Beth. I worked on that a lot of the time when I was here alone.

There was a very good a series of Bibles studies at night. So Pat and I went together to those. They were very good. I enjoyed them so much. They had one session was a picnic, like people all brought food to them. So we ate at that.

On the 13th of July [March?], Dick and Gerry came back to go home. They stayed here for two or three days and we had a good time. Geraldine took me shopping to get two things I had wanted to buy, Pat's birthday present and things like that. Then they left to go home.

Rachel went to Charleston to make final arrangements for her schooling the next year. And she was gone two or three days there. She got back home okay.

I had a letter from Larry Seaman’s daughter saying she was going on a short mission trip and wanted me to pray for her or give her money, and give her money if I felt like I could. So I sent her a check and I wrote to Larry and told him how pleased I was his family were so active in Christian work. And then I counted it up and I had nine grandchildren who had gone on short mission trips.

Pat and Bob went away to a bed and breakfast over the weekend for their anniversary. And so Rachel and I stayed here and held down the fort while they were gone. That was nice. I was glad they could go. They made arrangements for other people to pick me up for church

There was a dinner at church, at that time and they had special speakers because the daughter of Mrs. Bell who founded the mission in Haiti was going to speak and tell about her trip down there. She goes down and stays 6 to 8 weeks at a time to keep work going since Mrs. Bell stayed home.

Pat and Bob got back about 6:30 from their trip on Sunday night. And they had had a real good time. They I told us about what they did. One place, they went, Ingrid and Steve surprised them by meeting them there and they didn't know that. That was a nice surprise for them.

Easter Sunday was the 12th and we had a nice dinner after a beautiful church service. She made a sweet potato casserole and we had ham and pineapple made in the Crockpot and potatoes and rolls that I had made when I made bread that week and ice cream with fresh strawberries for dessert.

Bruce and Erin got here the 18th. They had trouble with their fuel pump all the way up.

We went to church. And Bruce and Erin went to the Wesleyan church again. We had baked potatoes and ham and Penny and a friend came for dinner. I didn't go to church at night. I just stayed here and visited with Bruce and Erin. Bruce took Pat to work the next morning, so he could have a car to go get the parts he needed to fix the fuel pump.

Erin was having a bad time with pain in her neck and back. It made it very unpleasant for her to try to travel and hurt so bad.

We left on a Wednesday morning and had a good day driving. It rained a little. We stopped in the afternoon a little north of Richmond. And at night we stayed at a 76 truck stop. We ate there and went to bed. We ate in the trailer. We started again the next morning. We had a nice trip. And we ate lunch in the trailer again. Bruce is so good to everyone. Erin is hurting so bad and we stopped at a place there and ate supper. Had a nice supper, is only $3.95. Very cheap for such a good supper.

We got to Wallace about six. Bruce called Kathy. She went and turned the heat on at my house and then they took me up.

It was the same as always at home. Evelyn came down and spent some time with me and invited me up to her house for supper. That was always nice to do. She brought me back home again. Church and in Haskinville, I'm always glad to be back to the old friends. I've known, back to the church service. That was very good.

Gerry stopped in every once in awhile. It was so nice to see him. I was so pleased to have him stop in.

Noele was getting married again. And Bruce came and picked me up and took me up to the rehearsal at the church there outside of Rochester. Jumbo's the pastor there now. He's filling in until they could get a pastor there, had left there. So we had the rehearsal and then we went out for the rehearsal dinner. That was unusual. It was in an odd place where it looked like a barn, but it was very nice place and apparently a very busy place. There was lots of other people there besides just the rehearsal crowd. And then Bruce checked me over to Caroline's where I stayed overnight.

And then the next day he came and picked me up for the wedding. Wedding was very nice. Two little kids where the right bearer and flower girl. And they had pretty flowers around the church and it was all very nice. Jumbo had a nice ceremony, but of course he's not an ordained minister, so he actually couldn't marry them. So the pastor for the Penfield church came down and just pronounced them man and wife. So it made it legal, but it was a little different.

And then we went back, Caroline's. We went to church there at Caroline and Lloyd's church in Gates. And then we went to Andy's for dinner. That was nice. I enjoyed that so much.

I stayed there all day as their pastor had no evening service as it was Mother's Day and they thought they should spend the time with their mother at night.

We all went to Houghton the next day. Dick was waiting for us there. And he took me to the graduation. We had to look for three places; we saved room for Deb and Phil. The whole ceremony was very nice. Graduation address was interesting. After it Phil and Deb took me to Dick's and they had a lot of food all ready. Deb brought ostrich burgers.

We left at two, to be here when Dale got home. That's the boy that Caroline takes care of. I rested, I was tired, but I slept very well. Stayed here and I had devotions with Caroline and Lloyd.

Carolina took me to Old Country Buffet, very much like the one that's in South Carolina. We had a real nice time, did a little shopping and then a quiet evening. Lloyd had an important meeting so we didn't go to the prayer meeting.

Thursday we went to Lilac Park and we found a good place to park it so that I could go with my cane and see the different flowers and a little part of it. I couldn't walk around a lot. It was beautiful, but it was just at the peak of the lilacs and they had beds and beds of pansies, too.

Friday we started home. It's a beautiful drive going down from Rochester to Dansville. All along the new highway is all covered with different kind of flowers and trees.