

Christmas 1995,

In August, no less! As only The Clifford's can do it!

Blessed friends, relatives, near and far:

If this seems early for Christmas letter, it is. For reasons that will be clear, we thought it wise to get a head start on the season as this Christmas is going to be hectic beyond imagination.

Several bits of minor news before the BIG story: The tax business, moved to a basement suite of a 6-story building near the Mall, grew 59% comparing the last 12 months (July-June) from year to year. We expect the year-end record to be even better! Kevin is now full-time, year-round. Joan Donnarummo has taken over Cheryl's roles and may be full-time next year. More of our work is from out-of-state clients, churches and non-profits. The business has been featured twice in 8 mo. in the Akron paper's religion section. Wow! We pray to be faithful to all God brings our way.

In July, Steve received notification he is now "Enrolled to practice before the IRS" after a 2-day test and FBI background check. Just 23% pass on their first try. (Studying comes so easy for him.) This gives him similar status with the IRS as an attorney or CPA.

Steve has left 1st Federated Church, near Youngstown after serving as interim pastor for almost 2 years. It went well but he had done as much as he could and needs to be closer to home in the months to come.

Cheryl's Christian Education work at First Church, UCC, Canton has gone very well. The people are wonderful. There is a real desire for educational ministry. It has been interrupted this summer for some months to come.

Now, the BIG news:

WE ARE EXPECTING OUR FIRST CHILDREN THIS FALL.

That's right, children, as in *several, more than one, many*. Would you believe

Quadruplets!

The due date is Dec. 6 but multiples are always early. The doctor is hoping Cheryl makes it to 30 weeks (Sept 26). We have had several ultrasounds. So far, they are healthy, normal sized and growing like weeds.

Cheryl was as big as full-term on July 21! Her blood tests are perfect. She is uncomfortable with severe leg cramps and heart-burn, sleeplessness, etc. She is on a leave of absence and is attempting to stay in bed 19 hours/day. 15-17 is more common. Bedrest helps delay labor. Please keep Cheryl and kids in prayer. Cheryl can have phone calls and enjoys the chance to talk, being housebound.

Cheryl's mom is selling her home, retiring and moving in with us this fall. She is the best mother-in-law I could imagine. We can't wait for her to arrive.

They think there are 2 boys and 2 girls. You know how those predictions go.

We already have 3 cribs lined up but are a long ways from being ready. Steve being an only child has no idea what we are in for! Just imagine all the diapers! He will learn or else.

There is a long complicated story behind all this. After many tests and consultations, we thought we had a chance for one. We never expected 4! We know these are a gift of God and we just pray they are all healthy.

We hope to get out birth announcements but we wanted everyone to know our expectations and to be part of our "prayer team" during these last critical weeks.

Last year we wrote: "Who knows what the new year will bring? We expect God's surprises and blessings in ways we cannot imagine." *Isn't God good? What will 1996 bring?????*

We look forward to your Christmas cards, letters, friendship, calls, visits and prayers. We need them every one. It is our prayer that you will have a blessed and joyous Christmas season celebrating our Savior's birth.

Merry Christmas, a little early...

Steve, Cheryl & ????