

In 1982 Claudia was expecting our 4th child, Heidi. Three months into the pregnancy, complications arose and Claudia was confined to bed rest for the remaining six months. With her being confined to bed and not being able to get out, all of the responsibility was placed on my shoulders. Here I was, a father of three children, working full time, and was studying to take the CPA exam and obtain my license. We weren't sure how all of the issues would be coordinated, and where the time and energy would come from to complete them. A few of the things that faced us was; maintaining the routine for three children, meal preparation, washing dishes and clothes, working full time, studying for the exam, and it was also Christmas time and all of the Christmas shopping needed to be done and the presents wrapped. With all of this facing us, we didn't know how we were going to get it done.

Blessings

*We love the Lord, and
give many thanks to
Him for his love and
the many blessing we
received during this
time.*

*Richard and
Claudia Jones*

Through fasting, prayer and the promptings from the Lord we were able to manage through the crises. Family, friends and ward neighbors came to our rescue and helped us get through it. Some friends who had a child the same age as one of ours offered to take him in for the time between my leaving for work and the starting of pre-school and take them to pre-school and made sure that he got home safely. A neighbor offered to do some ironing of white shirts seeing they were needed daily for work. Meals were wonderfully prepared and brought over. Offers to take the children after school, until Richard got home from work helped relieve a lot of stress and worry. Christmas happened to come in the middle of all of this. I went to all of the stores that printed a Christmas catalogue and brought them home, and during the day Claudia would go through them and pick out the presents that I needed to buy. I would be found shopping many times in the stores prior to their midnight closing time picking up the items Claudia had circled during the day in the catalogues.

With all of the mental stress and concern we had for Claudia and the baby's wellbeing, the external pressures from the outside world, and the commitments that were already made previous to this happening was hard. Recounting this reminds me of the well-known saying that, 'The Lord will not remove the mountains from before us but he will help us climb them'. Well, He did help us climb, and we made it.