



The Lahn Family

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Christmas 1995

Dear Friend,

Christmas is once again just around the corner, and despite our best intentions of getting this letter off early, we always seem to run short of time. Some of you have already beaten us to the door with Christmas cards and letters. Our shopping is just about done (thanks to some wonderful parents who volunteered to baby-sit for us last time we were in London) and the kids are anxiously awaiting the big day(s)!



We pray that this Christmas letter finds all of you healthy and doing well. We rejoice with those of you who have received early gifts of new jobs, new homes, new friends and new family (marriages and babies!). And we share sorrow with those of you who have experienced the pain of lost jobs, friends, family or health.

1995 has been a busy year for our family. In the Spring, Nancy and Murray participated in the Billy Graham "Mission Ontario" Crusade held at SkyDome. While the preparation events kept us busy and sometimes exhausted, the work was made all worthwhile as we watched thousands of people pour into the stadium and then onto the field to commit their hearts to the Lord Jesus. Nancy acted as a counselor and on the Saturday the response from the crowd was so overwhelming, she ended up counseling 13 young people at once! Even the kids were involved in the Saturday morning "Kids Gig" with Psalty the Singing Songbook and all the characters. It was truly an event we will not soon forget.



Jordan has turned 8 and is now in Grade 3. He is growing like a weed and virtually all his pants look like Mom put them in the dryer for way too long. This year he also participated in 5-pitch baseball while Tim started in on T-Ball. Jordan's love for reading and science is growing every day and this year he is starting piano lessons on our newly acquired reconditioned upright. Now the ivories are atinkling nightly with such gentle refrains as "My Pony", "The Airplane", and "Fishing" (all familiar tunes, I'm sure).

Speaking of fishing, this year at the cottage Tim took over as our avid and able fisherman. He enjoyed many an evening jaunt with Grampa, Dad and Jordan to the shallows of Lake Kashagawigamog to catch the elusive Small-Mouth and Large-Mouth Bass, and the exotic Sunfish. He is now the tallest in his Sr. Kindergarten class and is doing very well. The big event this year was the loss of his first teeth! In June he made us all very proud by going forward at the Billy Graham event to accept Jesus into his heart. It's so wonderful to see the pure faith of a child - "of such is the kingdom of heaven".





The cottage was a great attraction this year for Daniel as well. At 2 years old, he loved to while away the hours in "Papa's Blue Boat" with Dad. Papa's Blue Boat was the hit of the summer – a 16 foot speedboat with a 100hp motor. Daniel would wake up from his nap in the afternoon, and his first words would be "Can we go for a ride in Papa's Blue Boat?" Daniel also got to try his hand at fishing one night (Mom went too) and was successful at catching a few fishies.

The rest of the family is doing fine as well. Nancy's parents are enjoying their "retirement" (do ministers and their wives ever really retire?) and are as busy as ever providing leadership in many area of church life. Steve and Julie are off traveling the world from time to time with Steve's work at Compassion of Canada. Brenda and David have their hands full now with the arrival last year of little "Heather-Boo" (as Daniel likes to call her), and Shawna is growing up to be a fine young lady. Jordan and she are still intent on marrying each other – hmmm. Grant and Jane are doing well in Atlanta where they have been busy with "The Nutman" as well as purchasing a beautiful retreat property just outside Atlanta. We didn't get to see them this year as the purchase of the property drained their finances and time, but we are hoping that next year we will get a chance to see them and Kristen when they make the trek to the cottage.

For Murray's family this year has been one of many challenges and changes. Randy has undergone the stress of a job change and is now working as a manufacturer's rep for a number of ski and golf lines. Both Kate and Randy delight in son Jacob, their fair-haired 3 year old who shares his parents' passion for downhill skiing! Gramma Bessie is struggling with increasing frailty and weakness due to her cancer. Murray's Mom is doing all she can for her, but over the past few months the stress of illness has started to take its toll, both on Mom and Gramma, so that full time nursing care is likely in order for some future date. We continue to thank God that Gramma's condition does not give her physical pain, and that both ladies have been gifted with an indomitable spirit and sense of humour which is a real blessing to all the doctors and nurses involved and an inspiration to us as well.

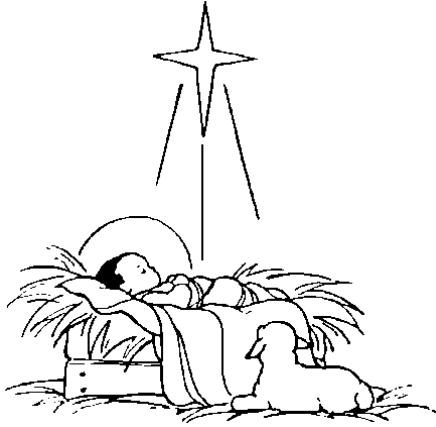
Our big announcement this year is that Nancy is pregnant once more!! If all goes according to plan, by the end of June (maybe even a gift for Nancy's birthday on the 27th) the world will see a new Lahn at 37 Garden Ave. Nancy has been feeling quite ill this time around and so it has been a little difficult to keep up with her business. Cozy Cuddles is thriving so I guess Nancy isn't the only one who's been pregnant! It looks like she is on track to sell 1000 pillows and even more covers during 1995. She now has one girl on contract sewing covers for her, and will take on another in the new year, and counting herself and her unpaid bookkeeper / programmer / graphic artist / shipper / salesman / husband, Cozy Cuddles Baby Products will grow to a staff of four.



Murray's work continues to be hectic and demanding. Working on leading edge technology with a generally inexperienced staff has added a great deal of stress. To make matters worse, on December 8th he lost a long-time friend and colleague (and his lead technical person) to another company (a very good move for him). This however, may end up being for the better as there is now talk of moving Murray back down to fill the technical role vacated by this departure which is what Murray wants to do anyway.

Good Shepherd Community Church continues to be a vital force in the community and in our lives. This year Murray and Nancy gave up leading their home Bible Study group (Agapé group) in order to be leaders in a new venture for kids. Good Shepherd started a "Club Night" program on Wednesday nights for kids in Kindergarten to Grade 8. Nancy and Murray (a.k.a. "Rocky and Bullwinkle") lead the "Pathfinder" group – 13 exuberant grade 3 and 4's – in a program designed by Pioneer Clubs which attempts to teach Biblical principles to young people while exploring God's world. The kids earn badges for units they work through and studies they undertake. Jordan is in the Pathfinder group with Murray and Nancy, and Tim is in the "Scooters" group for Kindergartners. Daniel even gets to participate though what he calls "Kiddie Club" or a nursery program.

Well, the page has nearly run out, and time is rushing forward to Christmas. We hope that in the rush of Christmas this year you will stop and take time to reflect on the reason for Christmas. With the secular emphasis on "Winter Festival" and the giving of gifts, we may tend to forget that we give gifts to one another as a token of the greatest gift that we could ever be given – the gift of Jesus Christ – who came as a baby to die for the sins of the world.



This week we received card from Ruth and Billy Graham, and we pray these words for you as well.

*May Jesus Christ Himself be your abiding Light during
the Christmas season
and your unfailing Guide throughout the coming year.*

With much love,

Murray + Nancy Jordan Timmy  **& ?**

Murray, Nancy, Jordan, Tim, Daniel and "?"