



CHRISTMAS 2002 GREETINGS FROM THE LAHNS

Where has this year gone? The time has swept by so quickly this year and Christmas has come upon us once again. We know that this year has likely brought both joys and challenges to you, and we look forward to sharing these with you as we receive your Christmas cards and letters.

For us, this year started off with Murray being in San Francisco for two weeks training and Nancy holding down the fort in Scarborough. During the year, the company Murray worked for changed hands once again and so now he is doing the same job, but working for IBM.

Summer saw us again with the usual busy-ness with the cottage, church Day Camp activities, and Arts Adventure Camp. We packed in another trip to the States to go to "Kingdom Bound", a 4-day Christian Music Festival at Six Flags, Darien Lake, NY. Now that Bethany is in school full days, Nancy has been volunteering in the school and at a local Breastfeeding Peer Support Group as well as continuing her Prenatal teaching and pillow business. The fall has been so busy with Murray's work, the Renewal Weekend at the church, and bathroom renovations, that Nancy and Murray didn't get away on their "date weekend" – maybe a winter get away will be possible.

In extended family news Murray's Mom had successful cataract surgery on both eyes this summer & fall, and Nancy's Mom has the same scheduled for January. Despite the surgeries all the grandparents are in great health and continue to be very busy. All the cousins and aunts and uncles are doing well with no exceptional news.



The Church

Our church continues to be a great blessing to us. Nancy and Murray continue to lead worship through music both on Sunday mornings and at our annual Renewal Conference.

Once again we have a small Bible Study group meeting in our home on Friday nights. We've really enjoyed deepening our friendships through Bible Study, discussion and prayer.

In September we were delighted to have Nancy's Dad come to the church to lead a seminar on Spiritual Gifts.

We continue to be involved in the children's mid-week program (Club House) where this year we have been transporting multiple van loads of "high energy" neighbourhood kids who have not previously been exposed to church. While they're learning about Jesus, we're learning patience! ☺

Jordan



This was a really great year for me. In January, I passed my Grade 9 final exams for Semester 1 with flying colours and went into the Semester 2 with a fresh start. My classes were Math, French, Phys. Ed., and Drama. My Gym/Math teacher (Mr. McNeil) was really nice, as were all my other teachers. I graduated with a great average, and later this year, received the awards for Geography, Integrated Technology, and Physical Education (Don't ask me how I got that one! I was as shocked as everyone else!).

After graduating from Grade 9, I spent the relaxing part of my summer at the cottage and then volunteered at both our church "Adventure Day Camp", and at the local Parks and Rec "Arts Adventure" camp (which was certainly not relaxing, but was fun!).

When school began again in September, I went into Grade 10, taking Business, Canadian History, and Computer Science. I also took a Grade 11 course (Physical Geography), because they couldn't fit the courses I had selected into my schedule. I am doing really well in all of my classes.

The church youth group underwent a major upgrade this year. We now meet downstairs in the basement, and we have a Foosball table to add to our Nintendo 64 and our Ping Pong table. The group itself has changed dramatically, leaving me as the oldest kid in the group!

I also graduated from a Sunday school "Helper" to a Sunday school "Teacher", which means that Sam Johansen and I teach the Grade 1-2 class every 3 weeks.





Bethany

I am six and a half years old and I am in grade one. This year I played tennis in the summer, and took gymnastics in the fall on Saturdays. I have spent most of the year without my front teeth, but the good news is that I will have my front teeth for Christmas! (But that's not *all* I want!)

I have two kitties that are a very cute and I love to play with Mocha and Misty. Woodchip (our bunny) is growing very thick fur because he likes to go outside even when it is cold.

I have more than a 100(!) friends. One of my favourite things to do is skipping.

I hope you have a good Christmas! I will too!



Daniel



This year I had a really great summer at Six Flags Darien Lake Kingdom Bound. I heard some great singers like: Third

Day, Ten Shekel Shirt, Audio Adrenalin and Robin Mark. I had a great time on the rides. My favourite one was "THE SCRAMBLER". It's a really cool ride that the arms of the ride go one way and your seat spins the other way!!!!!! It's fun though.

My teacher is Miss George. She's funny, but if anyone is silly there could be trouble. She likes to read "The Lord of the Rings" (and it's also her favourite movie). I like grade 4. I'm starting to learn how to play the recorder.

Timothy

This year has been pretty good! This summer I joined a roller blade hockey team. It's not quite the same as an ice hockey team because in ice hockey you have 5 players and a goalie, but in roller blade hockey there are only 4 players and a goalie. I had fun, but my team came in dead last!!! I've been getting really interested in skateboarding. In the fall, I would go out almost ever day and skateboard for hours with my friends. I can do a bunch of tricks with names that Dad doesn't understand.



I joined the Jr. Boy's volleyball team this year too. Volleyball is probably my favorite sport! Our team was pretty good.

Just a couple of days ago I got a look at my report card. It was very good, but my highest mark was in Math class. I'm pretty proud of my grades.

I've started to learn how to play the guitar which is pretty frustrating. I finally started my drum lessons which are going pretty well. I'm getting pretty good at it(?) and I even get to play in church from time to time.



The Animals

Well, last year we were telling you about our two new kittens. Well it's a *very* long story, but suffice it to say that this year we have two *new*, replacement, Himalayan kittens – Cinnamon Mochaccino (Mocha—a Chocolate Point) and Misty-Morning-on-the-Lake (Misty—a Blue Point). Bethany just loves them to death!



We were saddened by the sudden loss of our hamster, Star, a few weeks ago, but Woodchip, our rabbit, continues on.

In the hustle and bustle of the season it's easy to lose our focus. We read this quote from a busy mother recently:

Turning toward the manger doesn't mean we have to drop all our other concerns. Rather it's a posture, a position, a purpose that orients our gaze and therefore our choices. Take a knee. Soften your heart. Turn your eyes toward the manger and watch the world come into focus around Jesus.

May the Lord come into focus in your lives this Christmas season, and guide you throughout the coming year.

Murray & Nancy Jordan Tim Daniel Bethany

