



Murray and Nancy Lahn
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Christmas 1991

Dear Friends,

Well, it's that special time of year again, and with each passing day we eagerly await the arrival of that jolly gentleman lugging his huge, over-stuffed sack... O valiant Postie! (who were you thinking of?!) One of the things we anticipate most about the Christmas season is receiving news from friends like you and sharing in the experiences -- the joys and the sorrows -- that have been yours over the past year. We trust that this greeting finds you well and experiencing God's peace and joy in the midst of this often hectic season.

Christmas time has a wonderful way of embracing our senses, and our homes are transformed to reflect this: glowing lights and tinkling bells, fragrance of cookies baking and of fresh pine needles, and "snowflakes that stay on your nose and eyelashes". For us here at 37 Garden Ave though, our senses have been treated a bit differently this year: unbelievable clutter, the screech of the circular saw, the "fragrance" of fresh paint and urethane, and "sawdust that stays on.... everything"! You guessed it -- we're renovating!! We are adding a 16' X 36' addition to the back of the house that is in the process of becoming an open-concept kitchen/family room. Those of you who have passed through a similar project (and have lived to tell the tale) will no doubt agree that renovation if not unlike child-rearing. There are moments of pure exasperation but ultimately there is the excitement and joy of seeing dreams come true!

Speaking of child-rearing... Jordan and Timothy are now 4 years and 20 months respectively. Jordan started Junior-Kindergarten this year and really enjoys it. He dearly loves music and is delighted by craft projects of all kinds. This past summer at the cottage in Haliburton, Jordan also discovered that all varieties of bugs are fascinating, particularly Monarch butterfly caterpillars. Under his watchful care several dozen of these made their chrysalis and emerged as beautiful butterflies. Timothy -- the baby of 1990 -- has developed into a happy little boy with a mischievous grin who is taking great delight in mastering the English (we think) language. Actually, he's already mastered all the phrases he really needs: "beat 'ya!", "I do, I do", and of course "No way!" Both boys have been immensely helpful to our contractor and his workmen as you can imagine. Our furry felines, Tumbleweed and Spooky, have also helped out by conducting regular inspections of the new building.

Murray's work with Esso as a computer systems analyst has required him to adjust to many new staffing and organizational changes. He was involved heavily in a project that looked at the various options for "outsourcing" the computer operations -- that is






buying the services from a third party instead of supplying it from it's own staff. Trips to San Diego, Calgary and Miami have helped him to expand his store of travel bonus points, with the possible added advantage of increasing his computer expertise!

Nancy regrets that she is no longer working for Prenatal and Parenthood Education Services of Metro Toronto, as this agency has succumbed to the pressures of the recession and Ministry of Health cutbacks, but expects to be hired by the Scarborough Health Department in the new year in order to continue teaching one or two evenings per week.

Our family's involvement in the fellowship of Good Shepherd Community Church has brought us countless blessing this year, and Murray and Nancy have continued to work together there in music ministry and in the leadership adult Bible-study.

There have several exciting happenings amongst our "in-laws and out-laws". This summer we had a wonderful time at Mum and Dad Clarke's cottage (the aforementioned caterpillar condo!) with Nancy's sister and brother-in-law, Brenda and David, and their 5-year-old, Shawna. We were also delighted that Grant, Nancy's brother, was able to come from Atlanta Georgia with his lovely new bride, Jane, and Grant's 11-year-old daughter, Kristen. Our family also welcomed another new arrival, namely Jennifer, a darling Sheltie to whom Nancy's brother Steve and his wife Julie now belong. Another piece of good news is that Randy and Kate, Murray's brother and sister-in-law, moved from Strathroy to a beautiful new home in north London.

In closing, as we draw closer to Christmas may our hearts draw near to the One who was given to us that first Christmas morning.

 *to the world, the Lord is come.
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing!*

May 1992 be for you a year of great blessing.

With Love,

Murray, Nancy, Jordan and Tim

