



CHRISTMAS 2003 GREETINGS FROM THE LAHNS

December is here once again. It seems like only a couple weeks ago when we were enjoying last Christmas! We hope that this past year has been good to you and the Lord has blessed you and those you love. It has been a wonderful year for us, and a great time for family. The highlight of the year was no doubt our trip to the East Coast of Canada. Between that, and the annual trips to the cottage and "Kingdom Bound", we spent nearly 5 weeks together. It was great chance to just have some wonderful family time. I'm sure the kids will tell you more about the trip.



Work-wise, Murray's contract at CSA ended this past February—a 6 week contract that stretched to 4 years! Since then Murray spent 5 straight weeks in Ottawa in March, where he realized that family meant much more to him than a job. Since then IBM has created a position looking after about 20 or so internal systems, which means that he won't have to travel much at all. We are all very blessed by the way God worked that situation out.

Nancy continues to teach Prenatal Classes and volunteer at a community Breastfeeding Peer-Support Group. Her pillow business slowed down somewhat during the SARS outbreak (since many hospital gift shops and clinics were closed), however it is picking back up.



Family news includes Nancy's Mom's successful cataract surgery, Randy & Kim's move to a lovely new home, Murray's Mom's 75th surprise birthday celebration, and the arrival of Dorothy & Steve's new daughter, the adorable Esther.

The Church

At the church, it has been an extremely busy year. Murray and Nancy have been helping on an Alpha Course, have been leading Worship on Sunday mornings, active in a Prayer Ministry, and continuing to work with the Grade 3/4's at Club House on Wednesdays.

In addition, Murray has been extremely busy working on the installation of a new "state-of-the-art" Audio system and Computer Projection system. This has consumed a great deal of his "non-working" hours.

Our Small Community Bible Study has continued this year with a few new members, and Nancy has been leading a group of ladies through a Kevin Leman parenting course called "Making Children Mind Without Losing Yours" (it's too late for us!). Murray and Nancy are going to be leading this same study for the whole church starting in January.

Jordan

This year has shown many new changes in my life that are a little stressful, but exciting too. This year I am in Grade 11 at Stephen Leacock Collegiate, and the sudden realization that we are 2 years from University has got our whole grade racing to get ahead. My Math class especially has been quite challenging, with some less than average results on my first few tests, but with hard work I'm pulling my mark up quickly.



This year I also became actively involved in our school's Christian Fellowship, called "Zion" (A not-so-subtle reference to The Matrix as well as Christianity). We have already bonded closely and are having lots of fun getting together once or twice a week. Also, thanks to my Youth Pastor, Chris Tompkins, I was able to borrow a Youth video series called "Quest" to show each week, and it has been received with a lot of success.

As a family, we are all looking forward to the release of the third Lord of the Rings film, "The Return of the King." With our new Audio/Visual System installed at the church, the Youth Group had a Lord of the Rings Movie Marathon one night in preparation for "THE movie event of the year." We all have our own favourite characters: For example, Bethany LOVES Eowyn, while Mom has a not-so-secret crush on Legolas.

I hope you all have a great Christmas, and that the New Year will be as exciting for you as it no doubt will be for me.





Bethany



This year I went to the East Coast. Do you know what I did? I went to Avonlea village. It was very fun! At the door the lady told me that I looked like Anne of Green Gables. It took a long time to get there. The first hotel we went to had a pool. The pool was fun. We saw bears, moose and a fox. One bear came up to the window and sniffed it. It was very funny.

The first month of school I won a prize for being a good helper. I love my teacher very, very much and her name is Miss Nash. I am doing fine in school and at home. I took swimming lessons and I am taking piano lessons.



Daniel

This year a lot of things happened to me. I had lots of fun at the East Coast; my favorite part of the trip was when we went whale watching. I saw lots of pilot whales and I thought I saw a humpback.

I am doing quite well in school, last year I got 4 A+'s, and my lowest mark was a B+. My best subject this year is computers.



When we went to Kingdom Bound we went on a lot of rides and saw a lot of singers. My favorite singer was Toby Mac, who is also in the band DC Talk.

The Pets

Our two Himalayan cats, Mocha and Misty, continue to be a great source of fun and love for the whole family. They've enjoyed all their adventures this past year around the house, at the cottage and visiting with their relatives in Woodstock and London while the rest of the family vacationed out East.

Woodchip, our rabbit, continues to thrive and looks forward to the spring and summer when he can once again be outside in the backyard on his leash.

Timothy

This was a pretty good year for me. In the spring, Dad and I went to Washington DC, for my 13th birthday. It was a whole lot of fun! We went to the Air and Space Museum, the Museum of Natural History and a bunch of other cool places! We stayed for a total of 4 days and saw all the landmarks, like the Washington Monument, The White House, and the Capitol building!

During the summer I had a blast whale watching and enjoying the view on the East Coast. I'm pretty busy in school this year too. I was chosen to be the leader of the stage crew. We're in charge of the audio and visual at all assemblies and other things. Also I was voted the male representative for my class. I tried out for the Sr. Boys Volleyball team, and I made the starting line up, and I was the team captain! In the weeks to come I will be trying out for the Basketball team, and I'm hoping to make the centre position. The homework in grade 8 is getting increasingly harder and there is a lot more of it!

Well those were the main highlights of my year! Merry Christmas!



As the New Year approaches we all experience mixed emotions. Feelings of hope and optimism give way to fear and anxiety as we open our morning newspaper. Where can we turn for comfort and direction? For our answer we can confidently look to Bethlehem:

*"The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight"*

This Christmas may the Saviour who was born in Bethlehem fill your hearts with the hope and peace that only He can give.

Murray Nancy Jordar Tim Daniel Bethany 🐾🐾🐾

