



CHRISTMAS 2006 GREETINGS FROM THE LAHNS

Another year has come and gone. Can you believe it? Christmas is fast approaching once more. The cards and letters have already started to pour in and we're just getting started on our letter. Every year we vow to start earlier, but never seem to manage, and this year has been *especially* busy for us. It has seemed to us like the month of funerals. With parents of many of our friends passing away in the last few weeks we feel like all we've done is put on suits and go to four different funerals! We know that many of you will also be grieving the loss of loved ones over this past year. Our thoughts and prayers are certainly with you, especially in this Christmas season.



The year started off busy and got steadily busier! In February we lead another Alpha Course. In May, Nancy and Murray wound up 11 years of helping with our Club House ministry at the church and were treated to a wonderful tribute evening by all the kids (including a video presentation that Jordan put together). In June, Murray's Mom moved out of her house in London (she'd been in that house for over 50 years!) and settled into a lovely nearby apartment. In July the kids did another great job of leading DayCamp at the church, complete with another video production— The Battle Buddies—a five day super-hero action adventure!

The highlight of the year had to be our three week family vacation to the West Coast this past August (such gorgeous scenery!). [We'll be glad to show you the 2260 pictures and 6 hours of video!] Tim will tell you more about the trip.



And the fall has kept us hopping with our church's 3rd Annual Community BBQ (a windy, rainy day, but still served 900), another session of Alpha (about 60 people in total), funerals (two parents of close friends within a week and then two others within a day of each other), changes of jobs (Jordan), a new dog (supposedly Bethany's), the resignation of our Sr. Pastor and the preparation of a tribute video (and now Murray's on the Pastoral Relations Committee), the changing of schools (Bethany again), Jury Duty (Murray), the Breast-feeding Peer Support Group, a new job teaching Prenatal Classes, and running Cozy Cuddles Baby Products (Nancy), as well as the running of "Mom and Dad's Taxi Service".

JORDAN

Well, a year ago you were reading about my new job at Price Chopper and how great and wonderful that was. By the time you read this letter, I will have left Price Chopper and nearly completed my second month at my new job with Mitchell Family Books (a large Christian bookstore). While the experience of working at Price Chopper was valuable, I just wasn't enjoying it very much, and when an opportunity came up at Mitchells, I figured it couldn't hurt to submit an application. I started in early November, after giving Price Chopper my two-week notice. Ultimately, I stayed on at Price Chopper until the end of December due to some unfortunate staff shortages. In the new year, however, I will be available exclusively at the Willowdale location of Mitchell Family Books, probably Monday, Friday and Saturday afternoons (in case you want to drop by). Dad has been teasing me that I won't actually earn any money from this new job because I'll be spending it all on CDs and stuff, but so far I've been doing pretty well, although recent Christmas shopping splurges haven't helped! I'm just waiting for my employee discount to kick in in February and then I'll be set.



School is going well, although I could be doing better. Hopefully in the new term I will be able to focus on keeping up with the readings now that the confusion of these past few months is behind me.





BETHANY



Hi! I have a lot of things to tell this year. Most of all I want to tell you about my new school. It is really great! I even made the soccer team and we are doing a CHRISTMAS play. I am an angel. I really enjoy my new school because it is a Christian school (North Toronto Christian School) and I can talk about Jesus and not be ashamed about loving and praising God.

I also have a dog named Jazz. He is 3½ years old. He is a cross between a Shih Tzu and Pekingese. We got him on Nov 1st because his owner needed a home for him because she was moving to Jamaica. He is my dog forever. The cats (Mocha & Misty) are still alive but they don't like the dog. I hope they will learn to like each other and get along. Jazz loves to play and be crazy. Sometimes he licks me to wake me up.



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Jazz and all our family wish you a very Merry Christmas!

DANIEL

In the past year I've done a lot and been all over Canada. I went on a trip to Ottawa with the school, as well as a trip to Washington DC in May with my Dad for my 13th Birthday, and then the summertime West Coast family trip.

The four day tip to Washington DC was really fun because I got to see lots of cool stuff and spend time with my Dad. The first day was getting there, going to the Washington Zoo, and ending the day off with fettuccine alfredo at ESPN Zone. The second day was the Air and Space Museum with nachos at the Hard Rock Café. Day three was the Museum of Natural History, and then Shrimp Penne at Ruby Tuesday's. The Final day was American History Museum and then leaving to go home.

This year I also made my musical debut by playing the bass guitar for church. This made me kind of nervous but after the service everyone congratulated my friend Trevor (new on keyboard) and me. Now Tim also wants me to play bass for him in his school talent show.



TIM

Hey everyone. I've had another busy year again! My volleyball season just finished, and we had a great season! We had a great team with a bunch of great guys, and I played middle for the starting line up. We managed to make it as far as the semi finals for the city of Toronto, which is really exciting because none of use had ever made it to playoffs before.

I've been playing drums in a band with my buddy Chris from school lately, which has been a lot of fun. We're playing a gig for the talent show, and then a Christmas party a few days later, so we've been working hard in rehearsals.



Our trip to the west coast this summer was really exciting; we flew out on a Sunday morning to Vancouver BC and drove all through BC and Alberta, and even the northern United States. We did a whole lot of cool things like whale watching, sight seeing, going to dinosaur museums and relaxing in pools! But, as much as I love the summer, it's winter now! Time for snow shovels and hot chocolate! Merry Christmas everyone!

It's such a blessing for us to look in the mailbox and find you beautiful cards and letters waiting for us there. It's wonderful to catch up on the news of busy lives, to see how children have grown, to share in both the highlights and the heartaches of the past year. Each of you has been a gift to us, touching our lives in so many wonderful ways. We're truly thankful to God for you this Christmas, for He is the giver of every good and perfect gift, including the gift of His precious Son:

How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is given; So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven. No ear may hear Him coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

May Christ fill all of our hearts this Christmas!

Murray Kay Jordan Tim Daniel Bethany

