

MERRY CHRISTMAS 1993

Another year has come and gone already. It seems such a short time ago that we were packing away our Christmas decorations and tucking away in our minds all the memories of Christmas '92. At the same time we were looking forward with feelings of anticipation to what the New Year would bring. Now we're pulling the same decorations out of storage, dusting them off and preparing to "deck the halls" once more.

Already your Christmas greetings are beginning to arrive (how *do* some of you manage to be so organized!!). We always look forward so much to learning about the trials and triumphs that the past year has brought into your lives.

We decided to take a slightly different approach this year to the usual Christmas letter. We hope that you will find this newsletter informative (and above all, *fun*) reading. If not, you can always cancel your subscription!

Stork Unloads at 37 Garden Ave

On February 8th, 1993, the residents of 37 Garden Avenue welcomed a V.I.P. into their ranks. The newcomer brought few belongings, but was worth his weight (7lbs, 13oz) in gold.

After a very short labour, Daniel David Lahn was born at 11:04am and was immediately welcomed by our good friend, Byron Colp, who arrived at the hospital only twenty minutes after the birth. (Byron and Barb have since spent the year working in Australia, but are returning in January and are expecting their first wee one in February.) Gramma and Grampa Clarke made their requisite journey from London to give Nancy a hand for the first couple of weeks.



Jordan and Tim have been very excited and interested to watch Daniel develop over the past few months, and Daniel is now crawling with great might and starting to "cruise" a bit. His teeth are coming in well (as fast as Jordan's are falling out!) and he now has four shining (and sharp) choppers.

Daniel just loves his brothers and is certain to be the one who will be trying to keep up very shortly. He tries to mimic them and grins ear-to-ear whenever they come into the room and acknowledge him. When Dad comes in and says "Gimme Five!", this intelligent child knows just what to do!

Jordan Enters Grade 1

This year saw Jordan complete Kindergarten, and in September start Grade 1. He has thoroughly enjoyed being a full time student and is already involved in Art Club and a choir at both the school and at church.

Jordan's passion is Art! He is constantly cutting, pasting, colouring, drawing and designing crafts. Our fridge is indistinguishable with all the papers on it, and the folders that he has for storing his crafts are bursting at the seams. He seems to be just like his Mom was at that age.

Mom and Dad are very proud of his reading ability. Even before entering Grade 1 he was reading and spelling words that only palaeontologists use in everyday language (those are dinosaur hunters for those who don't have a six year old around to translate). He enjoys spending time with books in the car on the trips to and from London, and like to read not only to himself, but also to Tim and even Daniel (who would rather eat them than read them!).

Jordan is also very protective of his littlest brother, Daniel. He is constantly removing inedible objects from Daniel's mouth (most of which have been left in his reach by Jordan and Tim), and is good to entertain him when Mom is on the phone, or otherwise occupied.



"My Family at Christmas" by Jordan William Lahn

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Three-Year-Old Timothy's Imagination Runs Wild

Tim is changing every month. He's gone from being the little brother at the beginning of the year, to being Daniel's accomplished *big* brother. He loves his baby brother all to pieces and sometimes his bear hugs nearly have that effect!. Daniel takes the hugs in stride (most of the time) and seems to love Tim even more for them.

Tim attends playschool and a library program once a week and enjoys the interaction with the other kids. He is just dying to start school next year, and is already pretending to read, and solemnly scribbles many "letters".

While not as dinosaur crazed as Jordie (nobody is!) he likes to attempt to draw them and speaks fluent "dinosaurse".

His imagination knows no bounds, and his sense of humour is nearly as bad as his Dad's - maybe worse! He loves to act out imaginary situations with Jordan and they entertain one another by the hour. One time he enlisted Jordan's help in acting out a confrontation between the Philistines and the Klingons. Interesting theological implications, wouldn't you say?

Murray & Nancy At Work and Play

Work has continued to provide both challenges and rewards for both Nancy and Murray. Nancy has changed agencies once more and is currently teaching prenatal classes at the Scarborough Grace Hospital and is working for the hospital directly. This program was just launched in May and early growing pains have been frustrating at times for Nancy, but she really enjoys working with the couples and teaching the essentials of childbirth and baby care.

Imperial Oil is starting to feel like Murray's "home away from home" as this past year has been a very busy one for him. He is continuing to lead a very successful LAN (a computer network) project and has recently lost one employee from his already small team, to another company. This has put an additional measure of unneeded stress into the job and has meant some even longer nights. However, the job continues to be a challenge and of great interest to him, and the prospects continue to be good for 1994 and beyond.

Sports NewsFlash!



Lake Kashagawigamog, in Haliburton, has never seen a more enthusiastic fisherman than rookie Jordan Lahn. One evening's haul of 27 fish astounded even seasoned professional Grandpa Clarke, who was kept busy all night baiting hooks and helping Jordan to land the wriggling, four-inch-long monsters. Each conquest was admired and returned to its watery home where hopefully it will experience a growth spurt over the winter.



Good Shepherd

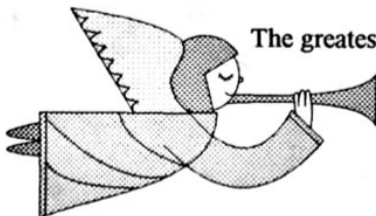
In June of this year Larry Marshall resigned from Good Shepherd Community Church to move on to other ministries, so the search is now in progress for a new minister. In the meantime the church has been ably handled by our Associate Minister, Paul Johansen and Pastoral Assistant, David Anderson. They have done a wonderful job of providing pastoral care to members of the congregation who have experienced tragic losses and are now preparing to lead us into a new phase of our ministry.

Earlier this year we entered into an arrangement with the Milliken Chinese Congregation who have built a beautiful addition onto our building. They will be sharing the church building

with us in the new year and the addition will allow them to conduct worship services in Chinese while we worship in our sanctuary in English. We're really excited about this unique opportunity to combine forces in reaching the community for Christ.

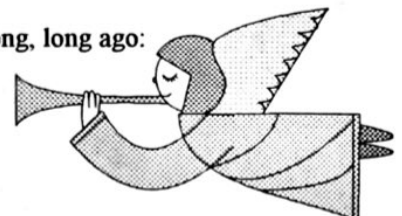
Murray and Nancy are enjoying their opportunities to take an active part in the church. They are continuing to host a Bible study, prayer and fellowship group in their home. As well, they are involved on a regular basis in leading the congregation in song during the Praise and Worship portion of the service. Murray's guitar continues to get a workout as they often lead the Children's Church in enthusiastic song as well. (Jordan and Tim have fun helping out here too!)

The Greatest News of All!



The greatest news we have for you this Christmas was first told long, long ago:

*One light much brighter than the rest,
One night by heaven gently blessed,
One tiny bed - a manger stall,
One gift - salvation for us all.*



Have a blessed Christmas!

Murray & Nancy Jordan & Tim & Daniel