



Merry Christmas 2020 from The Lahns



For many of you, 2020 has been a year of remarkable craziness – from home schooling, staycations, working from home, social distancing, Zoom meetings, self-isolations, masks, sanitizers, gloves and who can forget... toilet paper. Craziness all the way!!! It's a year we'd like to forget for the most part, but certainly one that will go down in the history books. But despite Covid's best efforts, it's been a memorable year for the Lahn family.

We started 2020 off with a few lows, even before the Covid panic started to set in.

Murray started the year with a kidney stone episode and ended up ringing in 2020 in the ER of Markham-Stouffville Hospital (all's been good since however!).

Then in January, Jordan's father-in-law, Darrell Maguire, had to have a defibrillator put in for his heart, but ended up with a major infection (from the defibrillator!) and had to have it removed. After a lengthy stay in hospital and recovery at home, he is nearly back to his usual self again.

As well, our brother-in-law, David Duncan, was in and out of hospital a few times in December and January having a stent put in and other procedures done as a result of a mild heart attack he suffered on Boxing Day. Since then, his health has been good.

Also in January, we were very concerned that our sister-in-law, Dorothy Clarke, was suffering from profound fatigue and confusion. This began a very difficult four-month journey, with the diagnosis of a malignant brain tumour, two surgeries, lengthy hospital stays (under Covid visiting restrictions), chemo and radiation. On May 9th, the Lord called Dorothy home, leaving behind Steve, their three beautiful girls, and family & friends both here and in Uganda, all deeply grieving. Again restrictions meant that a full funeral was not allowed, but we did have a small, intimate service in their living room in May with the promise of a larger memorial service in April 2021.



And then, just days after the shock of Dorothy's passing, our daughter Bethany experienced "stroke-like" symptoms. Stroke was quickly ruled out, and the symptoms passed but returned mid-July when the doctors finally diagnosed her as having Multiple Sclerosis. She has started a monthly regimen of drug therapy that is designed to reduce the intensity and frequency of any future episodes.

This news shocked us deeply but we have discovered the Lord's faithfulness is deeper still and He has cared for Bethany and her husband, Ty, in ways we could not have imagined. We see the prayers of so many being

answered in Bethany's sense of peace, and in the resolution of most of her symptoms. She has continued to be active in music ministry at their church, and while she has resigned from her position as manager at Nurse Next Door, she will be looking for a less stressful job in the new year.

Nancy's job at Shepherd Village (working for Chapel Ridge Funeral Home) changed dramatically this year with the onset of Covid. Working from home from March to September, and back onsite since then, Nancy spent most of her working days on the phone, helping the Spiritual Care Department, calling the seniors in the facility to check in, see how they were doing, praying with them, and just being a friend—a job that is 100% in keeping with Nancy's gifting and personality.

Another more frustrating change brought about by Covid-19 was that from March to September Nancy was not allowed to visit her Mum at Shepherd Village, and Mum finds it difficult to connect by phone. All of this has taken a toll on Mum's cognitive health. This fall Nancy has been allowed to visit bi-weekly with a weekly Covid test.



Then in mid-August, Mum fell in her room, and unfortunately fractured her hip and had to have hip replacement surgery. The surgery was very successful, and Mum is back at Shepherd Terrace and doing as well as a 96-year-old can be expected to do physically. Her memory has deteriorated this year, but we are thankful that her caregivers are kind and she is generally contented.





However 2020 wasn't all bad news!

In February, Jordan and Rachel bought a lovely home in Simcoe Ontario and on April 23rd welcomed their second child, our fourth grandchild and second grandson, and first adorable red-head, Oscar William Lahn. Big sister, Melody (who is now 2), adores her little brother and loves making him laugh. We managed to get to meet Oscar, through their living room window, at the end of May, and finally got to hold him in July. Having Jordan off school during the closures meant he was able to be home for nearly 5 months which was a great time as a family for them.



family time, and with the intention of looking at a career change. He's been doing videos both for their church and as a side business, but may be looking at electrical apprenticeship in the new year.

For Nancy and Murray it's been an odd year, with both of us working from home and not doing the entertaining we would normally love to do, but it's allowed us to do a lot of walking and reaching out to family and friends electronically.



On September 6th Daniel and Jess blessed us with their second child, our 5th grandchild and 3rd grand-daughter, Isla Mae Lahn. She is such a beauty and a very happy baby!! While big brother Landon adores his little sister he is actually much more interested in cars and tractors than in little babies. Daniel is now on paternity leave and enjoying his

Not to be outdone, Tim and Rachel surprised us in the summer by letting us know that Arya will be a big sister in early 2021 (Mar 2nd?), and we're now sure it will be a boy! That will give us 6 grandkids (3 girls + 3 boys) all under 28 months!!! Arya is all excited about the prospect as well. She is a busy, talkative little girl and it's hard to believe that she is only two when she comes to visit.

One of the biggest changes for us this year has been our transition to a new church. We are now attending Cedarview Community Church in Newmarket, where we have been loving the teaching each week. And despite having to worship while socially distanced, and with masks, we've been able to join some virtual Bible Studies and make quite a few friends both online and in person. We are looking forward to becoming more involved in the future as the restrictions of Covid ease.



Yes, 2020 has brought many "unprecedented" things—and how weary we have grown of that word! Who can dispute that it has been a time when gloom, darkness, and fear have threatened to dominate our collective thinking? We may believe that this way of thinking is "unprecedented" - but these words were first published in 1710, and may actually date back many centuries earlier...

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer

Our spirits by Thine advent here;

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,

And death's dark shadows put to flight,

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

How desperately we need our Dayspring, the Lord Jesus Christ, to come in His light to disperse the darkness of our hearts.

That's why He came. That's the Good News, and it's always been the answer, in 2020 or any other year.

Praying for the peace and light of Christ to fill your hearts and guide you into the coming year.

