

Merry Christmas 2023 from The Lahns



For Daniel and Jess, life continues to be busy looking after their 3 kids. Landon (coming up 5 in March) started school this year and loves the bus ride, imaginative play, crafts, and his Hot Wheels. Isla (3) can't wait for next year to be able to start school, as she's the social butterfly of the crowd, and loves to play with her dolls, creating art, and helping Jess cook. Lincoln (turning 2 in February) is the cute little trouble-maker of the bunch. He loves to follow his around older siblings, singing songs, and anything 'animals'.



Well, 2023 is fast drawing to a close and the lights are up and the snow is falling. It must be time for our annual Christmas letter and like normal, we're slow in getting it ready.

When 2023 started the "Grandchild Count" stood at 8 —4 boys and 4 girls— but in mid-April, Bethany and Ty added to the girl side when we welcomed Brinley Joy to our family; and what a joy she is!!

At 7 months, Brinley is starting the crawling stage (currently backwards) and especially likes to maneuver herself to the Christmas tree or over to their cat, Niko. Big sister, Josephine (now 2½), absolutely *loves* Brinley and wants to cuddle her and watches out for her constantly; entertaining her with dancing, singing and helping Mommy and Daddy with absolutely everything.

While Bethany is spending her days looking after the two very busy girls and singing on her church worship team, Ty started working this year as a sales rep for Xplore (an Internet Service Provider specializing in more rural locations) and quickly has been promoted to Supervisor over many of the other sales reps.



Daniel's job at "Kingdom Concrete Drilling & Sawing" has gone through some slow periods this past year, but has been quite busy for the most part, with a lot of work being done this past year on some of the Toronto Subway stations. Recently he has been promoted and will be training to be doing more drilling work. Jess is a stellar mother-of-three and also has a photography business doing many family photoshoots and weddings, where Daniel has also been helping out expanding the business into video as well.

For Jordan and Rachel, 2023 has been similar to 2022. Jordan continues his work as a teacher in a Grade 1-2 split class just minutes away from their home in Simcoe and Rachel is continuing to enjoy work in the dental office in Simcoe, with increased responsibilities. Five-year-old Melody is in Senior Kindergarten where she continues to excel in

her reading, and even reads books to her brother before bedtime. Oscar (coming up on 4 in April) is enrolled in DayCare at a French immersion school. His obsession is still *Spiderman* but also loves to examine things and figure out how things work. They both love to play board games with Dad as well!



For Tim and Rachel it's been an exciting year as well! Tim is doing a wonderful job of being his own boss at the chiropractic practice he purchased, and having "fun" hiring some new staff, renegotiating some current staff's contracts, and learning about running his own business. In the meantime, Rachel continues to work in Vaughan, where she excels as an Interior Designer, but is able to work from home 3 days a week. For Aaron (turning 3 in March) life revolves around his obsession with cars and trains. He's talking a lot more now and is starting to show his own crazy sense of humour, and loves to play 'pretend'. Arya (5) is doing very well in Senior Kindergarten (although she likes to call it 2nd Grade) and continues to be obsessed with puppies and unicorns and making tents out of

blankets and loves to come up with activities for Grandma to play when they come to visit us.



For us this year, there were many changes. Murray turned 65 in March and retired from 43 years of IT work on September 1st. Since then he's been very busy reorganizing his workshop (after a burst water pipe during last February's deep freeze which caused major disruptions and renovations), keeping the property maintained, and getting used to the retirement routines. He continues to be involved in the planning of the Men's Ministry events at church where he often leads worship and has recently joined the Worship Ministry during the morning and evening services at our church — Cedarview Community Church in Newmarket. He and Nancy are also involved with another couple in an outreach ministry once a month at a local group home.



Nancy continues to work at Shepherd Village in the Spiritual Life department where she is involved in preparing and leading various Bible studies, hymn sings and fellowship gatherings for the residents as well as one-to-one visits. This works out wonderfully, as she can visit her Mum on a regular basis after work and help with her dinner. Her responsibilities were expanded this year to 5 days/week, but she is able to work from home on Wednesdays so she can prepare her studies. We are proud that she also achieved her "Ministry Related" credentials with the PAOC (Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada) in the fall and so is now officially recognized as a Chaplain.



Speaking of Nancy's Mum, Trudie celebrated her 99th birthday in November, and we were able to have a small party for her in the Shepherd Village Café. Steve was able to come down for a lunch in the Café at Shepherd Village. We were also able to include Grant & Jane in Atlanta through a video call. While she is still doing reasonably well physically, her memory is continuing to decline, but she is still her sweet loving self.

And, like always, the pets are doing wonderfully. Chloe, our 8-year-old Border Collie is continuing to enjoy running and playing ball in the yard, and Gizmo and Trinket, our 4-year-old Balinese cats, continue to alternate between curling up together blissfully, and tearing around the house.

Christmas is a season of contrasts... Brightly coloured lights shine through the longest, coldest nights of the year... The radio stations play songs about peace and joy, followed by newscast of the latest shooting or terrorist attack... The Messiah is born in a stable. What kind of a God could send such a Gift to such a dark and broken world?

"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth."

May our hearts be open to receive God's extravagant gift of love this Christmas.