

Christmas greetings from the Callaghan family

We always enjoy the children's song that says "Christmas is a time for love". This Christmas we send you our love as together we focus upon and celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus. 1995 has been a year of growth and development for us all. We hope it has been like that for you as well. We continue to be a very busy with lots of positive things happening. We have all been in good health and Ross and Kathy are quite fit as they have kept up with their jogging. We're still making progress in landscaping our section, but there is plenty yet to be done. There have been some exciting things happening in our Church, although we haven't been able to be fully involved as we're away often, ministering in other churches.

Ross: At the beginning of the year Ross took a risky step in his work and demoted himself. He is now a training consultant for The Open Polytechnic, not the Training Manager. This has worked out extremely well as he can now concentrate on training others, without all the hassles and stress of being a manager! He travelled around the country quite a lot this year, running training programmes between Invercargill and Whangarei (and lots of places in between!). As well, Ross has been very busy preaching, teaching and training in various Baptist churches. He has developed a special 'train the trainers' programme which helps those in ministry to train others, and this is proving very popular. In his spare time Ross did up our bathroom and made some model aeroplanes.

Kathy: Turning 40 was the major milestone and it turned out to be quite painless. In fact, the celebrations of one sort or another went on for about a month! Two weeks in USA with Ross was wonderful, exploring LA, the Rockies and the Grand Canyon. Then there was a weekend in Sydney with girl friends and a couple of surprise parties! Singing in the Faultline Chorus is still Kathy's main challenge and joy. Next year's competitions in Auckland will require many hours of practice. Working a few days a week at Soma Medical Centre means she keeps pretty busy!

Debbie: (19) Debbie has worked very hard this year and has achieved outstanding results in her university studies (in psychology and physiology). She was awarded the Federation of New Zealand University Women's scholarship and will be studying at the University of Idaho for all of next year. We will miss her while she is away but winning the scholarship is a great honour and we are very proud of her. Debbie has also managed to find time to play both winter and summer hockey, lead an ISCF camp, work at ACC most nights, and spend numerous hours with Fraser and friends.

Sarah: (16) Sarah has met with many challenges this year, not the least of which has been the 6th Form. She has kept up her interest in both music and hockey. Leading the school ISCF and singing assembly; teaching Sunday School and leading a group at Girls Brigade have been opportunities for growth and development in her leadership skills. She was chosen as the Hutt Valley Rep. for a Girls Brigade Youth Forum at Cambridge in August. The highlight of Sarah's year was attending an Operation Jerusalem training week where she was further challenged and extended. Her holidays will be spent at two O.J outreaches and as a leader at El Rancho, Waikanae.

Philip: (14) Phil has started to grow rapidly and is always hungry! He has been very involved at school with sport and music. He plays the clarinet and had several parts in the school production. He is a very good tennis player and plays both cricket and tennis in school teams. His passion at the moment is collecting basketball cards and he takes this very seriously.

We will be having Christmas at home will then head north just before New Year. We have a wedding Jan 2nd and a birthday party Jan 6th (another 40th!). Debbie leaves for USA on Jan 8th from Auckland so we will see her off and then head home. We haven't finalised our accommodation as yet.

We are hoping to visit Debbie in the USA next year and have started a big saving plan! Ross is already heavily booked for the early part of the year with speaking and training engagements for ministry and for his work. 1995 has been busy for us all; 1996 looks like it will be as well!

Overall we have had a great year and we hope you have too. While it is good to reflect back on the things that have happened, it is relationships that we value most: with God, with friends like you, and with each other. We pray that you have experienced God's richest blessings throughout 1995 (as we have), that you have a precious Christmas celebration, that 1996 is all that you would hope, and that our relationship continues to enrich your lives.