

Newsletter from the Callaghan's

Hi there. This newsletter comes with best wishes from our family to yours. We hope you have had a great year and that you know God's richest blessings in 1997.

For us 1996 has been a year of great highs interspersed with a few lows. God has been good, though, and we rejoice in what we have been able to achieve and experience by His grace.

Our year has been dominated by Debbie, and we hardly ever saw her! Debbie won a scholarship to study for the year at the University of Idaho in the United States. She left on the 8th of January and returns two days before Christmas. She has had a great time and made the most of every opportunity that came her way. We saved up and went to visit her in August: meeting in Los Angeles and doing all the usual tourist activities. We went to Disneyland, Knotts Berry Farm, Universal Studios, Tijuana, San Diego, Sea World, the Crystal Cathedral, most of the malls in LA and nearly collapsed with the heat. It was a wonderful family holiday, though, and we now have some tremendous memories. The best part was all being together as a family again.

Here are our individual highlights for the year:

Ross has been very busy this year in his work and in his ministry. He has run training programmes all over New Zealand which has meant he has been away from home quite often (plus 34 aeroplane rides!). Special achievements were presenting a paper at a conference in Perth and having another paper accepted for a conference in Pennsylvania; officiating at the wedding of his brother Brian to Julie; preaching in many different churches; having 16 of his messages included in the Inspirational Tape Library; and being elected as the next National Chaplain for Girls Brigade in New Zealand. In his spare time Ross has continued the landscaping of our section, painted lots of doors and supervised the selling of our Magna wagon to buy a Honda Legend import.

Ross

Kathy has continued to work 2 or 3 days at Soma Medical Centre. She is now on the Board of the Faultline Chorus and had a major job of organising a "Musical Garden Trail" to raise funds for the Chorus. We had 200+ people in our garden enjoying the beautiful music! The Chorus came third in the national competitions and this was a great achievement. Kathy made her first TV appearance on our local telethon! Highlights of the year were travelling to Perth after Ross's conference and, of course, the trip to Los Angeles. (We've really got the travel bug. Next year we are off to Sydney/Melbourne to celebrate Ross's 50th birthday). Unfortunately Kathy hurt her back early in the year and then seriously hurt it again later on, after two weeks in bed recovering from an antibiotic reaction. She is OK now but had a pretty miserable and painful couple of months.

Kathy

Debbie has had a ball! She got A's in all of her courses at the University of Idaho studying psychology and physiology, communication, geography and astronomy, plus some ceramics, swing dancing and voice training. In her weekends and breaks she went all over the country: to Canada, to all the nearby states, to Los Angeles, Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon (with Fraser) and to Mexico twice. She played rugby, softball, racketball and lots of different snow sports. In her 3 month summer break she got a job as a counsellor at the Black Forest Christian Camp in Colorado Springs and that was a special highlight. Debbie and Fraser broke up towards the end of the year. Watch out if you get to speak to Debbie: she now has a strong American accent. Next year she will complete her degree in physiology and psychology at Victoria University and then would like to become a paramedic.

Debbie
(20)

Sarah had a most successful 7th form year at Chilton St James School. She was chosen to become the Head of her house which led to many responsibilities (like organising the house musical). Her barbershop quartet 'The Cutting Edge' won the national secondary school championships and they have been putting on performances ever since. Not wanting to be overshadowed by her mother, Sarah appeared on TV three times, including live on the Good Morning show! She was involved in hockey, life saving, kayaking and in leadership roles at school, in camps and at Church. She was also baptised in June. Sarah now has a boyfriend, Jono. She got glandular fever towards the end of the year which affected her energy levels. She will go to Wellington College of Education next year and study for primary teaching.

Sarah
(17)

Philip has had a good fourth form year at Hutt International Boys School. He is now much taller than his Mum and has braces to straighten his teeth. Phil continues to be interested in sports, playing rugby, cricket, basketball and tennis. He has a great collection of basketball cards and is very skillful at trading with them. He has played the clarinet and got 97% for a music theory exam! Phil reckons the best part of the year was at Universal Studios, going on the Jurassic Park ride.

Philip
(15)

Well, that's all our news. We hope that you have a wonderful Christmas season and that next year is all that you would wish.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will.

Love from Ross, Kathy, Debbie, Sarah and Philip Callaghan.