

Christmas greetings from the Callaghan's



Hi everyone. Here's our annual Christmas newsletter. We hope that you have had a great year in 1998 and that 1999 will be even better. It is good to know that, come what may, we can trust God through all the varied circumstances of life. For the Callaghan's 1998 has been a great year. We all have some very special things to remember and can thank God for His continuing goodness.

Philip (17) has been in the 6th form at Hutt International Boys School. He passed all of his school certificate subjects. He came top of the class in two subjects this year and at his school prize giving was awarded the Chaplain's Prize for "demonstrating the Christian virtues of kindness, concern for others and humility". He has also been appointed as Deputy Head Boy for 1999. Phil is highly respected in his school for his great sense of humour, his Christian example and for his lively leadership. We're proud of all that Phil has achieved. During the year he led an ISCF group in the school, got his driver's licence and had his braces removed.

Sarah (19) has completed her second year at training college and hopes to complete her B.Ed next year. She has a part time job with Civil Aviation and spent 6 weeks during the year "house-sitting": her first go at living away from home. She continues to be part of the leadership team in the Youth Group at Church and is involved in leading worship, home group and 'homework club'. A special highlight for Sarah (and Philip) was attending Easter Camp in Christchurch, where some pretty amazing things happened. Sarah bought Grandma's old car during the year which has helped give her more independence. She has a boyfriend, Greg who is a hot musician.

Debbie (22) will always remember 1998! It started when she went back to Idaho for a week, then to Cozumel in Mexico with friends from Idaho and then around England and the continent with Fraser. At this stage they were "just good friends". Soon after they got back they started "going out" and then, surprise, surprise, they got engaged. Debbie and Fraser will be getting married on February 13th. They are well and truly ready for it, having built an excellent foundation over the last 5 years. Debbie worked at The Open Polytechnic for a while before she got a wonderful job as Emergency Management Officer for the Wellington Regional Council. If there's a major disaster Debbie will be under the Beehive helping to sort things out. In her 'spare' time she has done lots of outdoor adventure activities, collected a few more giraffes, helped lead a home group and bought a Fiat Bambina.

Kathy continues to work part time at Soma Medical Centre, but had to take on significant extra responsibilities there this year. She still enjoys singing in the Faultline Chorus and is often a singer at Church. She did the P.R. for the national womens barbershop competitions and managed to get stories in seven different papers and coverage on the radio.

Ross continues to work as a Training Consultant for The Open Polytechnic. He provides training programmes for clients all around New Zealand and had 50 plane rides during the year! He still does quite a bit of preaching and is really enjoying his role as National Chaplain for Girls' Brigade.

Ross and Kathy love to travel! In 1998 we had weekends in Masterton, Palmerston North, and Queenstown (with Sarah and Philip, courtesy of Ansett New Zealand because Ross won another travel prize). We also had a lovely week in April over in Australia (Gold Coast, Brisbane and Sunshine Coast) and travelled around the lower South Island in October. When we were on the West Coast there was a massive storm which led to wonderful waterworks going through the Haast Pass and our just getting through Arthur's Pass. When we got home we found that the storm wasn't only in the South Island because our section was flooded. We had TV1, TV3, a boat and the Police up our drive and our section was under nearly a meter of water. It flooded the rumpus room, the garage and the glasshouse (orchids floating away...). We lost some precious mementoes from the past and quite a bit of other stuff but fortunately the water didn't get inside the house and friends were able to find the keys and get our cars out.

The last part of the year was dominated by tidying up after the flood, but we have managed to recarpet the rumpus room and are about to put in a paved patio. The section recovered quickly and our garden now looks really lovely again.

Phew! You can see that a lot happened in 1998 for the Callaghans. We are pleased to say that we all kept well during the year, we're all rejoicing in God's goodness and looking forward to next year, especially to Debbie's marriage and to our 25th wedding anniversary. (We're hoping to go to Canada to celebrate!).

At this time of the year it is good to catch up with friends and family. These newsletters are a great way of doing it aren't they? We hope that you have a wonderful celebration of the birth of Jesus and that you know His presence with you in all that you do next year.

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

For unto us a Child is born,
unto us a Son is given

