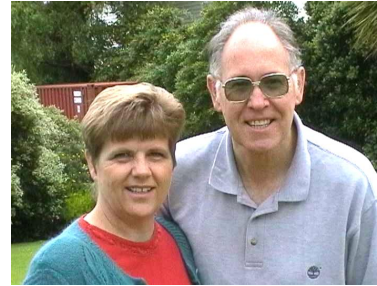


# Merry Christmas from the Callaghans

Hi there, and Christmas greetings from Ross and Kathy Callaghan and family.

We have had another full and eventful year, kept fit and healthy and continue to thank God for His goodness and grace towards us. We were in London on September 11<sup>th</sup> so were pretty close to the tragic events which have affected us all so significantly. Hopefully you, too, have had a great year, and have a sense of the 'peace on earth and goodwill towards men' that this world so desperately needs.



## Highlights for the year have included:

- A wonderful week in Queenstown for the Girls Brigade Fonomarae, involving over 500 girls from around the world. We made a video of the event and took a photographic record so we didn't get in too much sightseeing.
- Kathy organised a show called 'Music and Matrimony'. This involved lots of singing from the Faultline Chorus and a parade of bridal gowns dating from over 100 years ago right through to the present. TV 1 heard about it and interviewed Kathy for the national news that night!
- Over Easter we went to Australia and explored an area we hadn't been to before, inland from Brisbane. We went to Gympie, Fraser Island, Bundaberg, Toowoomba and lots of little places in between. We also went to Dreamworld on the Gold Coast, and had time for a brief look around Brisbane. Australia is such a big place, there's so much to see and do!
- Kathy's Chorus competitions were held in Christchurch in May. There was a big build-up this year as there was a possibility the Chorus could win the competition but they came in third.
- In May we farewelled Ross's mother, our much-loved "Grandma" who had suffered so much over such a long time. The funeral was a wonderful celebration of the life of a very special woman.
- Ministry has been much the same as in previous years. Kathy has sung in the Church choir and continued her work at Soma Medical Centre. Ross has been preaching in a number of Churches and led some home groups. He has also been involved in occasional Girls Brigade events.
- Kathy has always wanted to go to the UK to meet relatives and find more about her past, so in September we had our biggest overseas trip ever! We flew straight to London and had a few days there with Phil. We saw all the main sights including Buckingham Palace and the Tower of London, climbed to the top of St Paul's and had a cruise on the Thames. The city was on high alert as they thought it could also be a target for terrorists. Next we joined a Cosmos tour which took us all around England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland. We had perfect weather and really enjoyed each country and its special features.



All the way through the tour we found the historical side fascinating and in Ireland and Wales we tried to find more of our family history which made it even more relevant. A special highlight was at Braemar in the centre of Scotland when we went to look at the Church the Queen goes to when she is staying at Balmoral Castle. The Queen turned up! Not only that but we saw four generations of Royals in one place at one time! We saw the Queen Mother, the Queen and Philip, Charles and William (who followed us down to St Andrews later in the day. Needless to say there was a big crowd waiting to welcome us to St Andrews!). The whole tour was just great and has whetted our appetite to explore more in this part of the world!

On the way home we stopped off in Singapore before returning to New Zealand after a really wonderful holiday.

- Ross has had another very successful year in his consultancy work for the Open Polytechnic. This year he has worked with a number of companies throughout New Zealand mostly providing training, coaching and assessment services.
- Kathy has worked as receptionist for Soma Medical Centre for 14 years but the practice has just been sold and she has decided not to continue there. She will be starting to work at another Medical Centre in February. This has been quite traumatic as there has been a wonderful team at Soma and it is always hard when something special like that finishes.

Now for news from the rest of our family.

### **Debbie (25) and Fraser**

They have had a great year!

Fraser works for BP and is responsible for setting the price of petrol, while Debbie continues to work in emergency management for the Wellington Regional Council. Special highlights this year have been a trip to Queensland, lots of improvements around their home (you should see their lovely garden); buying two more Fiat Bambinas (only one goes –well sort of!) and Debbie being in the Chorus for the show “Aladdin”.



### **Sarah (22)**



Sarah tried hard but couldn't get a teaching job this year. For most of the year she worked in an admin role for the Wellington Regional Council and recently she has been temping. The gearbox on her Laser blew up so she now has a great little Nissan Sentra to take her to the various assignments. Sarah had a week in Melbourne trying to see if there were any teaching positions available, but came back realising that New Zealand is a great place! Sarah spends lots of time with Michael Stevens, who is a computer programmer.

### **Phil (20)**

Phil saved hard and sold his Honda Civic so he could go to another summer camp in America. He went back to Camp Allegheny, a Salvation Army camp just outside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. And there he met Sarah Verboom, from Nova Scotia, Canada!! After the camp Phil flew to London and met us when we arrived from New Zealand. After a few days in the UK he went to Nova Scotia for 6 weeks and helped out in the Salvation Army there. Back home Phil has been working at the Sounds record store and is saving up to go back to Canada. Meanwhile Sarah has just arrived here and will be in New Zealand for a month. Needless to say the email and the phone have been running hot!



So that's what has happened in our family in 2001.

**In uncertain times it is always good to know that God has everything under control and that His way is the best way. We have certainly found that to be true this year and trust that you have as well.**

**We hope you have a wonderful Christmas and that 2002 brings all that you would hope for.**

**Love from Ross and Kathy Callaghan**

14 Whites Line West  
Lower Hutt  
New Zealand



We have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.