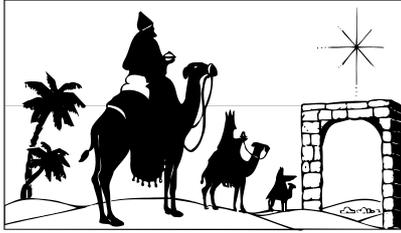


# ***Greetings from Ross and Kathy Callaghan***

Well, another year has flown by and it is time to send our special Christmas greetings to friends and family. We hope that 2002 has been a good year for you, that you have a wonderful Christmas and that you know God's richest blessing on all that you do in the year ahead.



It's good to keep in touch and share family news so here are some of the activities our family has been involved in during 2002. Overall, it has been an interesting year, with lots of special highlights.



Phil and Sarah, Debbie, Kathy, Fraser, Ross  
Sarah and Michael

**Ross and Kathy** have had two overseas trips this year!

In August we had a wonderful time in San Francisco. We hadn't been there before and were able to see all of the main sights of this colourful city in just over a week. We explored Alcatraz Prison, went on the cable car, saw Golden Gate Bridge, visited Muir Woods with its massive redwoods, had a lovely tour south to Monterey and Pebble Beach, went on a harbour cruise and looked around Union Square and Fisherman's Wharf. Fantastic!

In October Ross went to a conference in Melbourne and Kathy came over afterwards. We toured right around Tasmania and also the outskirts of Melbourne. Tasmania is a great place to visit! We especially enjoyed a trip into the world heritage wilderness area on the wild west coast, the convict history at Sarah Island and Port Arthur and 'penguin watching' at dusk on the east coast.

We have started doing up our house and this year it was a new kitchen. It took ages but now everything is finished and Kathy loves the look of the kitchen, and how easy it is to use. We have started doing up a guest room so you are very welcome to visit!

**Kathy** left her receptionist job at Soma Medical Centre (after 14 years) and was quickly invited to join another practice! She now works two days a week and that gives time for other activities, like singing in the Faultline Chorus, tutoring a Sri Lankan immigrant, singing in the worship team at Church, gardening, planning our new kitchen, and more recently, going to the gym.

Kathy's mum turned 80 during the year and her children put on a party which was a genuine surprise!

Kathy continues to enjoy her barbershop singing with the Faultline Chorus. This year the Chorus came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the national competition and everyone was very pleased with this result. Kathy is hoping to go to the United States next year to sing in the world competitions with the Greater Auckland Chorus.

**Ross** continues to work for the Open Polytechnic, and has run workshops in all parts of New Zealand, mainly for clients in the retail industry. He has designed some innovative assessment procedures that will be used next year in the retail and distribution industries so people can gain new qualifications.

Ross has continued with his running and even entered a 10km fun run. This was the first time he had run that far and he was very pleased to get to end in 1 hour 2 minutes. He won a gym membership for this so now all parts of the body are getting exercised!

Otherwise Ross keeps busy looking after the garden, fixing things, preaching regularly in churches and playing his keyboard.

Now to news of our children.

**Debbie and Fraser** have both done really well in their jobs this year. Debbie was sent over to Sydney at the start of the year to help plan firefighting for the big bush fires they were having. She even took responsibility for planning on one of the days, which was great experience. Fraser has moved on in BP and now is quite happy that he doesn't have to set the price of petrol! Highlight of the year for Debbie and Fraser was their trip to South America. They walked the Inca Trail (60 kilometres at very high altitude), saw some amazing sights and have some wonderful photos. They came back very fit and right now Debbie is training for a triathlon!

**Sarah and Michael** have very exciting news. They are engaged and will get married on April 12<sup>th</sup> next year. Michael proposed on a mystery weekend with lots of romance and special surprises. Since then they have made lots of progress in preparing for the wedding. Sarah's other big news is that she finally got a full time teaching job, at Paekakariki School. This has meant quite a bit of travelling (and one day her old Nissan Sentra finally blew up) but she has done really well and has enjoyed working with the 6,7 and 8 year olds. They all love her! Sarah still lives at home with us, and is saving hard for next year.

**Phil and Sarah** are happy because they are together, even though they come from other sides of the world. They met while they were counsellors at a camp in Pennsylvania last year. Phil then spent some time in Nova Scotia and Sarah came here for a few weeks last Christmas. It wasn't so nice when she went home, but then she got a visa and has been back in New Zealand most of the year. Phil got a new job as a host at Te Papa, our national museum and now works with the children in the Discovery Centre. It's great job! Phil went flatting during the year, and was lucky enough to score our old Honda Legend when we upgraded. Phil and Sarah are intending to go back to Nova Scotia next year.

Christmas is a time to reflect on the coming of the One who brings 'peace on earth and goodwill amongst men'. How needed that is in our current world!

We hope that you, too, have had a great year in 2002; that you have a wonderful celebration of Christmas, and that 2003 is all that you would want.

May the Lord richly bless you and your family.

Love from Ross and Kathy Callaghan.

