

Christmas greetings from Ross and Kathy Callaghan.

Christmas is all about celebrating the birth of Jesus and sharing in "*peace on earth and good will toward all men*". It's a good time to catch up with family news and renew lasting friendships.

We value your friendship and hope that 2004 has been a great year for you.

Here's what has happened in our family in 2004

The **sad news** is that Kathy's mother, Joyce Andersen, died and we have just returned from her funeral in Hamilton. Joyce was a great letter writer with penpals throughout the world. She had not seen a doctor for 32 years! Joyce lived for her family and the funeral was a lovely celebration of her life but very sad for us all.

We have now completed the first year in our **new business**. It has gone really well, with plenty of work and we are enjoying the freedom of being self-employed. Kathy gave up her work as a medical receptionist (after 16 years!) and neither of us regret not having a 'job'. We design assessments, provide training, make videos and provide consultancies. Our main client is the Retail ITO, and Ross is now their National Moderator.

In August we celebrated our **30th wedding anniversary** and our children organised for a family portrait. We don't look too bad, do we??

We have been busy **redecorating** our house. We needed to set up a new office for our business, and since then have been doing up one room at a time. It should all be finished in a couple of year's time!

We have had a couple of **trips to Australia**, one to Cairns which was just lovely and another when we drove from Sydney to Brisbane. What a beautiful part of the world! Next year we plan to visit Adelaide. Kathy had an extra trip, to Brisbane, to support a special friend as she met her daughter for the first time since adopting her out in 1966.

Kathy has rejoined the Faultline Chorus and is enjoying singing barbershop again. The exciting news is that has been accepted to sing with the Kansas City Chorus in the international competitions in New Orleans next year. Kansas City is one of the top choruses in the world and could even win the competition, so this is real honour (and very exciting!). Ross is planning to come over after the competitions and we'll explore another part of America together. In her spare time Kathy has been to a few painting classes, learning techniques for water colour and acrylics. There is no startling talent, but the learning process is enjoyable!

Ross had a bit of a shock when a young fellow who was driving too fast, lost control and smashed into his new car. Fortunately Ross was OK and so was the other driver. He has continued to keep fit with his jogging, gym and gardening, and has done lots of preaching, especially for a church that doesn't have a pastor.

Our **children** are all doing really well. **Debbie and Fraser** keep busy doing up their house and their Fiat Bambina, and they completed another triathlon. Debbie resigned from her job with the Regional Council and is now working as a consultant for a small emergency management firm. She presented papers at conferences in Canada and Australia and is working towards finishing her Masters degree. **Sarah and Michael** live in Debbie and Fraser's old house close by to here. Sarah has done very well in her teaching at Paekakariki School (She teaches the new entrants). Michael is also become a self-employed consultant (it's catching!). Sarah and Michael have been working on a weight loss and fitness programme and are very excited with the results. **Phil and Sarah** live in Wellington, but are currently in Nova Scotia to be with Sarah's family for Christmas. Phil is keen on his golf, and is still trying to beat his father (no way!). He recently got a promotion and is now responsible for the Naturespace Discovery Centre at Te Papa, our national Museum. Sarah has been studying massage and has two jobs, one of which is part-time at Te Papa.

Once again we give thanks to God at this time of the year for His faithfulness to us as individuals and as a family, even through all of life's ups and downs. May you have a lovely Christmas and a fruitful and positive 2005.

Love from Ross and Kathy Callaghan

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

