

Christmas greetings from Ross and Kathy Callaghan

Hi there

It's great to catch up with friends and family at this time of year, isn't it? We hope 2006 has been a good year for you and that you are looking forward to a wonderful celebration of Christmas, and to 2007 and all that it holds.

We have had another eventful year. Here are some of our highlights:

- Our consultancy business has continued to do well with plenty of work in assessment and moderation. Things will slow down next year as Ross steps down from his role as National Moderator for the Retail ITO at the end of the year. We feel that we are at the end of a season and are ready to for the next phase in our lives which will involve less work! (Hopefully!).
- We have continued to do up our house and are getting close to selling it when we move on. This year we have done up three more rooms, re-barked a lot of the flower gardens and put in new garage doors. Our section is big enough to sub-divide and we have been considering that (although it would be a big hassle and would destroy the wonderful environment we have created here over the years).
- Then there is our Church work. We will be completing our ministry at the Lower Hutt Church of Christ at the end of the year when a new pastor comes in. We have been thrilled with the wonderful development in the Church over the last two years and it is now in very good heart. It has been great for Ross to preach most weeks, and for Kathy to get involved in caring for people (as she does!). Completing our work at the Church is another part of the 'end of a season' for us.
- We have continued our involvement in Girls Brigade with Ross helping out in reviews, training, Queen's Award etc, and we led a great 'retreat' for leaders recently.
- Kathy continues to sing with the Faultline Chorus and in a quartet 'Works 4 us'. Next year she will once again sing with the Kansas City Chorus in the International Competitions. This will mean she is in Kansas for a month or so preparing for the competitions, then going to Calgary where they will be held. Ross will be there too!
- Kathy has been researching our family history and has made contact with family not met before. She has discovered interesting international connections.
- Healthwise, Ross has had a few problems. He has been having occasional irregular heartbeats and they also found he had low vitamin B12. Tests are continuing. His back and neck are much better as he now does regular Pilates exercises as well as his gym work. Kathy has kept well throughout the year which is a blessing.
- We have set up a new family website. You can catch up on our family history, recent news, business details, and ministry news at <http://rosscallaghan.googlepages.com> Do have a look there!
- Ross has been updating many of his Bible Studies and has posted them to the website so they can be downloaded freely. He will continue to do this next year as he wants to create a resource that is useful for home groups, sermons, personal study etc.

- We have had some great trips again this year. Kathy has been to Melbourne 4 times!! (See below for the reason why!), and we spent two wonderful weeks in Thailand. We enjoyed Bangkok's pace, the River Kwai with its haunting memories from the Second World War, and Phuket which is recovering well from the tsunami. Imagine us riding an elephant?
- Next year we are planning our biggest trip ever. We will be in England for 2 weeks, visiting family, then on a Cosmos tour around Europe for a month, then spend 2 or 3 weeks in Israel, Jordan and Egypt. Can't wait!



The biggest event of the year, though, was in our family! We are now grandparents!

Debbie and Fraser's son JJ (Joel James) Cunningham was born in Melbourne in May. He was 10 days late and we just got to see him as we headed for the airport after waiting for 12 days! JJ is a gorgeous little boy (and we're not biased!). He has a lovely nature and smiles a lot. He has been to New Zealand twice in his short life and will be back for Christmas. We are able to talk to Debbie and Fraser and see JJ by SKYPE and he smiles away at us through the computer! Fraser's job is now settled so they will be in Melbourne for a few more years.

(If you have SKYPE our contact is rosscallaghan so do get in touch).

Sarah continues to teach at Paekakariki School and her husband **Michael** has his own business as an IT consultant. Sarah sings with the Faultline Chorus and is in the same quartet with Kathy. It's lovely that they can sing together! Sarah and Michael are continuing to do up their new home.

Phil and Sarah's business 'Verboom Badges' has been going really well. See www.buttonbadge.co.nz Phil has given up his job at Te Papa to work fulltime on the business. Sarah is progressing well in her training as a massage therapist and will finish her diploma next year. Phil and Sarah are hoping to return 'home' to Nova Scotia next year to visit Sarah's family.



We thank God for His continuing goodness in 2006 and pray that He would be with you and bless you richly in the coming year. Keep in touch!

Merry Christmas and lots of love from Ross and Kathy Callaghan

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace I saiah 9:6



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