

## Hi from Ross and Kathy Callaghan

We wish you a very Happy Christmas, and pray that you will have a safe and prosperous 2013.

Here is our 2012 newsletter. We hope that you enjoy reading about our various activities. You'll see that we have had another busy year in our so-called "retirement". During the year we have both kept fit and healthy except for Ross's back which has deteriorated markedly, and he has had to give up his golf for the time being. Our worst moment for the year came when Joan Bishop, Kathy's dearest friend, died suddenly. We were privileged to lead Joan's funeral and provide a fitting tribute to a wonderful woman.

Around the house we have put in new insulation in the ceiling and are currently upgrading our kitchen bench. Outside, our house looks lovely at the moment with lots of spring flowers set against our beautiful lake. Mostly, though, our lives are focused around our family, travels and community activities:

- **Family**

We visited **Debbie and Fraser** in Melbourne three times during the year and they will be with us again for Christmas. The exciting news is that baby **Dan** was born in August, a gorgeous little brother for **JJ** (6), **Heidi** (4) and **Luke** (2). We love being grand-parents but on our second trip (before Dan was born) this was tested somewhat when we looked after the children for a week while Debbie and Fraser went to a wedding in England. We were totally exhausted and very glad when our delightful but energetic and noisy grand-children got their parents back!

**Sarah and Michael** and **Blake** (2) have exciting news! Sarah is expecting a baby daughter in April. This will mean that we will have 6 grand-children to dote upon. Blake is delightful and really advanced in the way he speaks so we have many interesting conversations with him! Sarah has been teaching part time and still sings barbershop with the Wellington City Chorus.

**Phil and Sarah** are moving to Melbourne next year. Phil has sold off part of his business in NZ and set up a new business in Australia. He will focus on making badges and T shirts for conventions and weekend youth events. Phil continues to enjoy his cricket and his golf, but still hasn't beaten his father at golf!

- **Travels**

In March we went on a lovely holiday to Rarotonga, really enjoying the relaxed island lifestyle and beautiful tropical sights. Then in September and October we travelled right around the world, starting in Hawaii with a week-long cruise on the *Pride of America*. We visited the four main Hawaiian islands and can recommend this cruise as a great way to see Hawaii. After a brief stop in New York we then flew to Norway to catch up with the family we discovered two years ago. What an amazing time we had! Norway is so beautiful and our family taught us much about the Norwegian way of life. We had lovely warm weather all the way except for snow when we were up in the mountains, which we loved! Our Norwegian family showered us with love for the three weeks we were there so we will always remember this as one of the best experiences we have had in our whole life. Next we took a Cosmos tour of Central Europe visiting Germany, Poland, Hungary, Austria, and the Czech Republic. We were thrilled to visit old cities like Berlin, Warsaw, Krakow, Budapest, Vienna and Prague, but disturbed to hear about the effects of World War 2 and communism on each of them. Most disturbing was a visit to Auschwitz in Poland. On the way home we had a brief stop in Abu Dhabi and Dubai and it was interesting to visit a rich Arab nation. We have finished making the videos for all of these trips and are now showing them to anyone who's interested! You can read about each trip on our website under "Recent travels". They include lots of photos!

- **Community activities**

We continue to be busy in our local community. Kathy enjoys singing with the Kapiti Women's Choir and continues on the Committee for the Kapiti Genealogical Society. She regularly tells community groups the story of how we discovered our family in Norway, and it always brings tears to people's eyes. We are leaders of our church, Gateway Christian Fellowship, and still volunteer in a rest home visiting people in the dementia unit; showing our travel videos and leading sing-alongs for the elderly residents.

So you can see that we have had a busy but fruitful year. We are grateful to God for the friends and family that we share our lives with and trust that you will know more of His blessings this Christmas. Our prayer is that you would know *the peace of God that passes all understanding* and that you too will have a busy and fruitful year in 2013.



Ross and Kathy in Norway. Kathy is wearing the bunard – the traditional Norwegian costume.



Heidi, Debbie, JJ, Luke and Fraser.



Kathy and Dan



Michael, Sarah and Blake



Sarah and Phil

We keep our family website up to date so you can get lots more detail on our activities (including photos of our trips) from <http://callaghans.yolasite.com>

**Merry Christmas and lots of love from Ross and Kathy Callaghan**

81 The Drive, Paraparaumu Beach, New Zealand.  
phone (64) 4 2970733 [callaghans@paradise.net.nz](mailto:callaghans@paradise.net.nz)