

## Ross and Kathy Callaghan's 2015 Christmas Newsletter



From left: Phil, Debbie, Dan, Ross, Heidi, Blake, Kathy, Michael, Sarah, JJ, Isla, Luke and Fraser

**Ross and Kathy Callaghan wish you a very Happy Christmas, and pray that you will have a safe and prosperous 2016.**

We trust that 2015 has been a good year for you; it certainly has been for us. We continue to be involved in lots of meaningful activities focused around our family, travels, and community. Kathy still sings with the Kapiti Women's Choir, does aquafit, and helps people with family history research. Ross plays golf, fixes computers and continues to add Bible studies to his website. Together we run singalongs and soirees for elderly people in our community and lead a "youth group" (of mostly over 70-90 year olds who are still young at heart). We are 'comfortably busy' in our retirement and are thrilled that we are still able to make a positive difference in so many people's lives.

Highlights of 2015 have included:

- **Visit of our Norwegian Family.** We had a truly wonderful time when five members of the Haraldsen family visited us from Norway: Magnar and Rosa, Roar and Wenche, and Vera. Together we explored places where Harald Andersen (Kathy's grandfather and Magnar and Roar's great-grandfather) lived after he arrived in New Zealand in 1904. It was great introducing the Norwegians to Harald's NZ family and also showing them some of New Zealand's stunning North Island scenery. You can check out the video we made of this amazing trip at calros3 on YouTube video or by clicking on this link: [Harald Andersen's life](#)
- **Kathy's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.** It seemed like Kathy's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday lasted all year because we celebrated it in so many different ways! First we went on a trip to Asia visiting Langkawi and Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia; then spending a week with Debbie's family in Panglao in the Philippines. Then it was off to Hong Kong where we boarded the Celebrity Millennium for a 17 night cruise. We visited Kaiosiung and Taipei in Taiwan; Nagasaki in Japan; Busan, Jeju and Seoul in Korea, and Tianjin and Shanghai in China. It was great to visit lots of interesting places but we caught a bug on the ship, which put a bit of a damper on our enjoyment of the cruise. Check out the YouTube movies we made of the trip here: [Langkawi](#) [Panglao](#) [Asia cruise on the Celebrity Millennium](#). Then in September the whole family got together at Debbie's place in Melbourne. (This is what Kathy wanted for her birthday present!). We had a great time together and the 6 grand-children had lots of fun. See [Kathy's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday](#). On the actual birthday (30<sup>th</sup> October) we had takeaways with Sarah's family, then next day had a party with our "youth group". We sang "Happy birthday" quite a few times this year!
- **Closure of our Church.** We have had a major input into Gateway Christian Fellowship over the last 8 years. The Church completed its ministry and closed in the middle of the year which was a little sad, but the closure was done in style, with lots of positive memories and celebrations. See the video we made for the occasion here: [Gateway Christian Fellowship](#). We have continued to care for many of the oldies who were part of the church, through "youth group".
- **Ross's website.** Ross completed a long-term project during the year by writing a guide to each of the books in the Bible and putting the studies on his website. It is gratifying to see people all over the world are now making use of Ross's Bible studies by downloading them from his website. See <http://rosscallaghan.yolasite.com>
- **Kathy's genealogy research.** Kathy has done lots of work on our family history, but this year has branched out by doing research for others. She has discovered lots of interesting characters, situations and even a few "skeletons in the closet". It has been so exciting to share the results of this research and see the joy that comes as people learn about their colourful ancestors.



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, fulfilling and fruitful year in 2016.

You can get lots more detail on our activities from our family website <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, +64210452925 [rosscallaghan@gmail.com](mailto:rosscallaghan@gmail.com)