

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Hi there and Christmas greetings from the Callaghan family.



Ross, Debbie, Fraser, Phil, Kathy and Sarah

Our family has had a great first year of the new millenium. (In fact, it hasn't been too much different from last or any other year! Every year is another opportunity to experience the goodness of God and to serve Him as best we can).

We hope that you, too, have had a good year and that you have a blessed Christmas and holiday season. We value your friendship and hope that you know the "peace on earth and good will toward all men" that the season is about.

Joy to the World

Here are some of our family highlights:

Debbie and Fraser have been busy doing up their house and section. We see quite a bit of them as they live close by and need to borrow lots of things. They have two Burmese cats: Mr Booku and Liklik, who are pretty cheeky. Fraser is now an accountant for BP and Debbie is still enjoying her work in emergency management. Together Fraser and Debbie continue to lead a home group in our church and an outreach for lonely young people in the city centre. Fraser's brother, David, died earlier in the year not long after his wedding which was very sad after all the suffering he had been through.

Sarah had her 21st with lots of young people and a karaoke in our back garden. She was fortunate to get a long term relieving job teaching the littlies at her old school, Chilton St James and has done extremely well. At this stage she doesn't have a job for next year. She had her first experience of flatting but is now back home where it is cheaper. Sarah continues to be a youth leader in our church and spends a lot of her time with boyfriend, Mike Stevens. She is hoping to have an OE sometime next year.

Philip got a B Bursary from his last year's studies and then got a job selling CDs at Tower music. In June he took off for America as a camp counsellor. He was at Camp Allegheny, a Salvation Army camp outside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Some of the campers were from underprivileged backgrounds so the experience was quite challenging (removing weapons, stopping fights, restraining legally etc!) but overall it was a great for him spiritually and for all the extra travel experiences and friends made. Phil is now saving up for more travels and is always in demand for his sense of humour and musical skills.

Kathy continues to have a significant input at Soma Medical Centre and enjoys her singing in the Faultline Chorus. The Chorus was placed second overall in the national competitions and everyone is hoping they can win next year and get to compete internationally in Nashville in 2002. Kathy has had problems with her back and had a wee pregnancy scare! All is well now, although the back still isn't quite right. A new experience for Kathy was restoring a lovely old rimu tallboy which now looks great.

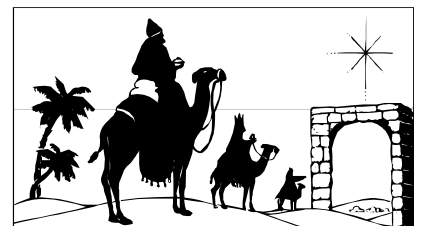
Ross has had a very good year in his work and has provided consultancies for lots of clients all over the country. He has kept up with his running and does a little in the gym as well. He completed his term as National Chaplain for Girls Brigade but still helps out from time to time. This year Ross has done less preaching but more teaching in home groups. He has been busy around the garden and in doing up a couple of the rooms in our house. He has been having a few more problems with his vocal cords which, hopefully, won't hinder his work and ministry next year.

Ross was due a sabbatical this year so that meant we had to go on another trip to America! First we went to Dallas, Texas and were able to visit the place where JFK was shot in 1963. We found this quite moving. While Ross attended the American Society for Training and Development conference Kathy flew to Kansas City to visit with friends from the Kansas City Chorus. From Dallas we flew to Orlando in Florida and did the theme park thing! (Disney's Epcot was the best theme park we've ever been to). Then it was on a Cosmos tour of the historical and musical South. We visited places like Savannah, Nashville (country music), Memphis (blues), Gracelands (Elvis and rocknroll) and New Orleans (jazz). It was great seeing a part of the world we have heard a lot about and experiencing the music, history and culture. Special highlights were going to the Grand Ole Opry, the home of country music and experiencing the many varied aspects of New Orleans.

We also had a lovely trip to explore part of the South Island and a few odd weekends away, so there has been plenty of travel. Getting away is very catching! We have already saved up for next year's trips to Brisbane and to the UK.

As a family we are truly blessed. This year we have seen again and again the goodness and faithfulness of God and continue to rejoice in His love, peace and joy. We hope that this is also true for you.

"Joy to the world the Lord has come, let earth receive her King!"



Love from Ross, Kathy, Debbie and Fraser, Sarah and Philip

14 Whites Line West, Lower Hutt, New Zealand
callaghans@paradise.net.nz

(If you have an email address please let us know!)