

Hi there and Christmas greetings from Ross and Kathy Callaghan.

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



It is good to keep in touch and share family news. 2003 has been a full year for us especially as we have had two weddings. Our children are all now married and left home.

Here are some of our 2003 highlights:

Sarah married Michael Stevens in April and we all enjoyed the wonderful celebration. Some of the little girls from her class at Paekakariki School came to the wedding and were very excited, especially when it came time for Michael to kiss the bride! Next year Sarah takes on the challenge of new entrants. Michael is a computer technician.



Phil married Sarah Verboom in September in a beautiful park in Nova Scotia, Canada. It was wonderful to be there, with Debbie and Fraser. (A Kiwi celebration is planned for early next year). Afterwards Phil and Sarah drove us around Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, then we had a short look around historic Boston in the USA.

Phil and Sarah arrived back in NZ a few weeks ago and Phil is working again at Te Papa. Sarah wants to do therapeutic massage once her residency papers come through.



Debbie and Fraser have had another great year and are doing well in their jobs (emergency management and planning BP's need to purchase oil). They keep fit by doing triathlons and riding their bikes to work. In September they bought a second house so have lots of projects on the go. Sarah and Michael live in their old house.

Kathy has had some highs and lows this year. She got to be the sensational mother-of-the-bride/groom with two expensive dresses in one year! Then in September she represented NZ in Phoenix, USA singing in an International barbershop competition. It was wonderful singing to an audience of 10,000. At the beginning of 2003 Kathy formed a barbershop quartet with her friends Prue, Joan and Bridget. All this came to an end when Prue died suddenly in May and Joan was diagnosed with cancer shortly afterwards. This has all been very difficult and Kathy has decided to have a break from Faultline Chorus (where Prue had been the Director). Next year she will sing in the national competitions with a group from Blenheim. She continues to work part time at a local medical centre.

Ross has had another busy year providing consultancies for clients all over the country. He has just resigned from The Open Polytechnic (after 14 years) and we have set up a business of our own (called 'Callaghans'). We will work from home and already have lots of work coming in. Ross still keeps fit, enjoys pottering in the garden, and continues to preach regularly in local churches.

All of our children have now left home so there's plenty of room in our house for visitors! We'd love to have you come and visit.

We have decided to stay in Lower Hutt and gradually do up the house. (At present we are creating an office for 'Callaghans').

As a family we are continually amazed by the goodness and faithfulness of God, even through all of our ups and downs. We continue to rejoice in His love, peace and joy and hope that this is also true for you.

May you have a lovely Christmas and may 2004 be a year you look back on positively.

Love from Ross and Kathy Callaghan
(also Debbie and Fraser, Sarah and Michael, Phil and Sarah)

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Joy
to the
World