

Christmas greetings from Ross and Kathy Callaghan

Hi there

Hopefully 2005 has been a good year for you! It certainly has been eventful for us. Here are some of the highlights:

- Our consultancy business continues to do really well. We always have plenty of work in training, instructional design, assessing, moderating or making videos.
- We have continued to do up our house in anticipation of moving on (in the next few years). This year we put in a new bathroom and resealed our drive.
- At the beginning of the year the Lower Hutt Church of Christ invited Ross to be their preacher. After prayer and consideration we have moved churches (from Lower Hutt Baptist where we have been members for 18 years) not as a pastor, but as a gift to the Church. This has meant Ross preaches most weeks, and provides support to the leadership team and Kathy is fully involved in the various activities. Everyone is thrilled with the growth in the Church throughout the year.
- We have continued our involvement in Girls Brigade. At the start of the year we attended a wonderful Fomomarae at Ngaruawahia and made a video of each day's activities. What fun! Ross regularly runs training for various aspects of Girls' Brigade and recently Kathy was the guest speaker at the Queen's Award presentation ceremony. She did a great speech!
- Our children are all doing well and have all had big changes during the year.
 - Debbie and Fraser have just moved to Melbourne where Fraser has a job managing BP's marine fuel division. They have sold their houses in NZ and are slowly settling down in a new country. Debbie has continued to provide consultancy services in emergency management and has done a lot of work in Samoa. She is just completing her Masters degree. The big news, though, is that Debbie is pregnant! This will be our first (and long-awaited grandchild). Watch this space in next year's newsletter for photos!
 - Sarah continues to teach the littlies at Paekakariki School and Michael has his own business as an IT consultant. Sarah and Michael were very excited towards the end of the year when they bought their first home: a lovely big place overlooking the Hutt Valley.
 - Phil and Sarah have started up a business making badges and it is doing really well. Phil continues to work in the Discovery Centre at Te Papa, our national museum, and Sarah is progressing well in her training as a massage therapist.
- Kathy reached the ripe old age of 50 and we celebrated in style with a wonderful concert. Then there was a girls' weekend in Melbourne and visiting with Debbie.
- We enjoyed trips to Fiordland and Napier and Ross has continued to do lots of traveling with his work.



Ross and Kathy



Kathy and camel in Kansas City

The biggest event of the year, though, was our trip to America.

- Kathy was away for two months (with friends Joan and Celia) and sang with the Kansas City Chorus in the Sweet Adelines International Competitions. It was supposed to be held in New Orleans but had to be moved to Detroit. The three kiwis were loved to bits by the girls from Kansas City and had a great time. The highlight was winning a 3rd place medal in the competition. Everyone was very excited and very, very proud.
- Afterwards Ross and Kathy went on a bus tour around many of the US National Parks: Yosemite, Zion, Bryce, Yellowstone, Grand Tetons, My Rushmore, Monument Valley, Grand Canyon etc. It was absolutely amazing to see the diversity and grandeur of the Parks, the variety of wildlife, and to have it all intermixed with the history of the wild west ie. cowboys and Indians!

We thank God for His continuing goodness in 2005 and pray that He would be with you and bless you richly in the coming year.

Keep in touch! **Love from Ross and Kathy Callaghan**



Sarah, Debbie and Phil singing 'Mother' at Kathy's 50th birthday concert



Kathy with her 3rd place medal

Jesus is
the reason
for the
season



14 Whites Line West, Lower Hutt, New Zealand
callaghans@paradise.net.nz
 phone (64) 4 9723233