



CHRISTMAS 2004 GREETINGS FROM THE LAHNS



As the Christmas cards start to come in we look forward to hearing news of you and your families and to sharing a glimpse of how your lives have unfolded over the past year. For us it was a whirlwind of activity and a year of many challenges and changes. The biggest change was that in November, Murray quit his job at IBM in order to take a consultant position at a small consulting firm called "Clockwork". Things had been very slow at IBM and the outlook was not good for any change, and so when presented with the opportunity to move back to a small company, Murray jumped at it. So far it's been great, and we look forward to the many things that the Lord has planned there.

For Nancy, July saw her taking over the responsibilities of the Breastfeeding Support Group that she'd been volunteering at for the past couple of years. Now she has the opportunity to run the program – and get paid a little as well for something she loves doing. November saw the termination of her contract to teach Prenatal Classes at Scarborough Grace Hospital, as the hospital administration decided to cut the program. But Cozy Cuddles Baby Products continues to thrive and sales have been steady throughout the year.

The kids have been growing like weeds and Jordan and Tim are **both** now taller than Murray! All four continue to make us proud with all the things they all do and the way they are working at school and at the church. We'll let them each tell you a little bit about what they've been up to this past 12 months.

For Nancy and Murray, the church has been all-consuming over the past year. They led a new six week Parenting Course in January, a small home Bible study group through the first part of the year, guided a group through the "40 Days of Purpose" along with the rest of the church, headed up the Ministry Fair/BBQ at the end of the 40 Days, spearheaded a Community BBQ in September, and coordinated the Alpha Course at Good Shepherd. This in addition to their usual leadership in Worship and with Club House and Murray's work as an Elder and Audio/Visual Ministry Leader.

And now, let's hear from the *really* busy ones in the family!!

Jordan

Well, I'm in Grade 12 now. One more year, and then it's off to university. I'm probably going to go to the University of Toronto, Scarborough Campus, and by the time you read this the application form will be due. I think I'm probably going to start with a general Arts program and specialize from there. Everyone always asks me that, so I figured I'd get it out of the way now.



Things at school are going pretty well. Tim's at my school, Stephen Leacock, now, so that's been pretty weird. In fact, because his Music class is cross-grade, some of the people in my class now know me as "Tim's Brother," which is weird.

The Christian Fellowship at my school is continuing to grow. We got another Teacher-Advisor person in our group, this year. Up until now we had been running things using a sort of committee structure, but she recommended that we choose an actual leader to make all the final decisions, and for some reason they all thought it should be me, so that's been a bit of a change. It's been challenging trying to come up with interesting things to talk about each week, but fun at the same time.

At Day Camp this year I was one of four "Senior Leaders," and we had a great time before and during camp. Tim will tell you more about that, I'm sure.

The Pets

The beginning of the year started with some sadness, as Woodchip, our rabbit, passed away just shortly before New Years. So we are now down to just the two – Mocha and Misty, our two Himalayan cats.

They are best of friends and like to get into, and sleep, in the strangest places – recycle bins, cupboards, baskets, drawers and old cardboard boxes. They're weird, and fit right into **this** family!!





Bethany



This year we went to Marineland and I got to see lots of whales and some dolphins. Before lunch we went to see the killer whales and we figured out some of the hand signs. Finally we saw the keeper of the whales doing the hand signal to make a huge splash. I just missed being soaked by the splash because I was on the other side. At lunch everybody except me and Daniel were soaking wet and when we opened Tim's backpack the package of mini-donuts had spilled. Tim's backpack was really messy inside so he had to get a new backpack before school started.

I guess I'm getting taller, because this year at Kingdom Bound at Six Flags Darien Lake I was too tall to go on the kiddie rides. However, I went on the Viper (by myself!) because no one would go with me. They were all too scared!! I also went on The Ranger and lots of other adult rides. We also did the wave pool and Hook's Lagoon. My favourite artists this year were the Newsboys, Jeremy Camp, Nicole C. Mullen, Bob Smiley and Third Day. Well, that's all. See you next year.

Daniel



This year the things that have happened were very interesting. My life has changed a lot. I have made lots of new friends and I am now in Grade 6. This year I tried out for the basketball team. But I had some of the worst luck in the entire universe... I was horrible. I am really good at floor hockey though.

In my neighbourhood my friends and I were making a movie, called "**Martial Masters**". The 45 minute movie had no script and very little plot but it is kind of funny to watch.

Over the summer I went to lots of places, including Marineland. My favourite animal was the killer whale. They were *huge!* They kept swimming right past me and I got to touch the mother whale. She felt like really old and hard rubber, like the stuff in a tennis ball without the fuzz.

I'm writing a story called Orc Fang; it takes place in a mythological world.

Tim



At Day Camp this year I was one of the Jr. Leaders. One of the themes this year was "Fear Factor", and so we thought it would be a great idea to make our own little Fear Factor show. We picked some wacky stunts, wrote up some scripts, stuck a "y" on the end, and "Fear Factory" was ready to go! The show had seven contestants selected from the great volunteer staff we had, one of whom was me. Instead of actually doing dangerous/scary stunts, we made the challenges more humorous/silly. Unfortunately, I was the person who supposedly got seriously injured on every episode. Every day at camp had a topic, and so for the five days of Fear Factory we talked about different fears and a bible story that related to it. For example... Fear of Bugs = Eating gummy worms mixed in pudding = The Plague of Locusts. The final result was great. Well, okay, maybe not great, but the kids loved it and we had a blast making it.

Earlier this year I tried out for the volleyball team. My friend and I were the only two Grade 9's to try out, but luckily we both made the team, starting lineup! It was a great season, the whole team played the best we could, but we lost our chance at the playoffs in a tie-breaker match.

In my Technology class, we have all been working on little 2-minute movies on "What I do in between classes," and it's been a lot of fun!

On Christmas morning many of us will unwrap a brand new calendar for 2005. The blank space on each calendar day makes us wonder: how should we use these days wisely? This is not a new thought, as even Moses prayed in Psalm 90:12 "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." The media tells us that wisdom is to be found in political correctness, and we watch in dismay as the fabric of society unravels. We pray that for the wellbeing of our country, our homes, and our individual lives, this coming year we will seek *our* wisdom from God alone. It is only through the eyes of faith that we can comprehend the mind of God, who in his infinite wisdom sent a tiny baby to save the world. May we use these coming days to seek Him in our lives and write His wisdom on our hearts.

Murray Nancy Jordan Tim Daniel Bethany 🐾 🐾

