



CHRISTMAS 2005 GREETINGS FROM THE LAHNS



Well, the Christmas season is here again, and one of the great blessings of this time is exchanging greetings with dear ones. We know that for some there has been loss and for others new additions to your family. We look forward to hearing from you and of the things going on in your lives. In the meantime we hope that this letter will serve as a glimpse of what goes on in Scarborough in our lives.

This year has once again been a very busy year for us. Murray has been enjoying his new consulting job with Clockwork after leaving IBM last year. The only downside however, has been that with the needs of the client he's been at all year, he has not managed to get many holidays. Alas, no rest for the weary! Next year will be different (we hope) as we are planning a family vacation to the West Coast in July 2006. Nancy has been very busy with her business and the Breastfeeding Support Group as well as her dedication to visiting with a number of elderly and sick friends in the church (no rest for her either!).

At the church, we spearheaded our 2nd Annual Community BBQ where the church served over 1200 hot dogs and drinks and gave away over 300 prizes to the neighbours in our area! Murray and Nancy have the privilege of coordinating the Alpha course. The kids are all involved too in various ways! It's wonderful to see many new friends from the community coming to faith in Christ. In designing follow-up courses, "Christianity 101" and "Christmas 101", for Alpha graduates, we've learned a great deal ourselves. The Club House ministry to kids goes on as well (year 11 for us) on Wednesday nights. Murray, Nancy and Tim enjoy providing musical leadership in the Praise Teams on Sunday mornings and Murray and Jordan head up the Audio/Visual ministry. A new and exciting venture for Nancy and Murray has been organizing "Prayer and Praise" meetings each Sunday night, where we continue to pray for our world, our community and our church.



Misty & Mocha guard the new hamsters Random and Trillian

Jordan

Well, another year is past, and it sure was a big one. I started out in Grade 12, and now I'm nearly one-eighth done my University career!

The second half of Grade 12 went really fast, as I tried to figure out which University I would attend. I ultimately accepted the offer from the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus, studying Humanities, with a Major in English.

In the summer we had our Summer Adventure Day Camp at the Church. The themes this year were Star Wars and The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, reflecting two of this year's biggest movies. For the Star Wars week, we produced an awesome little video series (if I do say so myself) which we creatively christened "Shtar Warz". For each of the 5 days, we (Tim and I) wrote a script that would reflect the day's theme, while continuing the arc of the Shtar Warz "saga." After filming the movie with other Day Camp volunteers, I pieced the film together, while Tim added visual and sound effects, like Lightsabers and laser bolts. Finally, I added in the music. After transferring the videos to a tape, we debuted them at Day Camp to critical acclaim (the kids loved it). At the end of the week, we celebrated with a Cast Party, and everyone involved with the film got a Special 2-Disc SHTAR WARZ DVD Set including many special features and deleted scenes.



Anyways, after Day Camp the rest of the summer went by fast. The transition to University life wasn't as hard as I expected it to be, mostly because I was able to get a great schedule, with most of Thursday and all of Friday completely free. With that free time I was also able to get my first part-time job at Price Chopper, which hasn't been too bad. And having the extra pocket money has been nice, especially with all these Christmas presents to buy!

Overall, it's been a pretty good year, and I'm looking forward to whatever the next one has in store.





Bethany



This year I went into Grade 4. I built a model airplane in modeling club. I am very proud, because I built it all by myself.

Just the other day I went to go see The Chronicles of Narnia. It was so cool!! Susan was the best, and Lucy was very good too. They are all cool! The saddest part of the movie was when Susan and Lucy were crying over Aslan's dead body, and the happiest part was when he appeared alive again, glowing with light!!

I have a really nice teacher—Mr. MacRitchie. At Thanksgiving we cooked a turkey dinner. We had to prepare and cook it ourselves (with some help from parents and other staff). It was lots of fun and so good too! It is especially yummy after having done so much work.

I've also been playing on the floor hockey (who are in the playoffs!) and soccer teams and am continuing to improve on the piano.

Daniel

This year I started Grade 7. It was really different from Grade 6, but at least my friends are in my class. My class voted me on to the student council. When there is an event coming up, my job is to make posters to put in the hallways.

So far I've seen two movies on their Opening Day this year—"Star Wars III: Revenge of the Sith", and "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion The Witch and The Wardrobe." I thought that they were both really great!

It was my last year of being a camper at Day Camp this year, so next year I will get to be a helper. I'm really looking forward to that!! And I can't wait because after Day Camp is over we are going on a trip to the West Coast. I don't know much of the details of the trip yet, but I'm sure it will be just as fun as the East Coast a couple years ago. I really hope we go whale watching there too!

I've been working on a couple movies of my own with my friends and I hope we can finish them and tell you about them next year.



Tim

Hey everybody, it's been one crazy year! I've been working hard with the school volleyball team (as captain) this year. We had a lot of new players who needed a lot of work, so we all spent a lot of time practicing every week! The season went fairly well, 3 wins, 6 losses, which was better than we'd expected!

I've also gotten together with an old friend of mine and joined his band playing the drums. It's a good group of guys and I'm looking forward to what we're going to be doing in the future. I've also been playing a lot at the church during the morning worship services. I've also gotten quite good on the electric guitar and have even mixed my own versions of some songs on our computer.

The church just got a new youth pastor this year, so there have been a lot of exciting changes to the Youth Group's program! We planned a trip to a big Christian rock concert on Dec 10th, and it was a lot of fun, and we have even more stuff planned for the coming year.



Christmas is a season of contrasts... Brightly coloured lights shine through the longest, coldest nights of the year... The radio stations play songs about peace and joy, followed by newscast of the latest shooting or terrorist attack... The Messiah is born in a stable. What kind of a God could send such a Gift to such a dark and broken world?



*Oh, love beyond all telling
That led You to embrace
In love, all love excelling
Our lost and fallen race.*

May our hearts be open to receive God's extravagant gift of love this Christmas.

Murray Nancy Jordan Tim Daniel Bethany

