



# CHRISTMAS 2007 GREETINGS FROM THE LAHNS



Can you believe that Christmas is just around the corner!!!! It seems like only yesterday that the flowers were just breaking through the ground and now here's the snow again. The year has been very busy and unfortunately rather stressful for us. The Winter and early Spring were relatively uneventful with the usual Alpha Course to run and other "normal" activities of our house. However, the time was complicated by Murray's increasingly heavy involvement with Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC). Over the course of the year they have reviewed over 100 resumes, listened to multitudes of sermons and interviewed 5 potential candidates. At this point the search continues.

The low point for us this year came last May when Murray's Mom, Audrey, became ill with diverticulitis and ended up being in and out of hospital a number of times. Murray travelled back and forth to London through June and even came back from the cottage to go to London to relieve his brother Randy, who was going through challenges with his marriage as well as a fast growing cataract in his one eye. While we were very concerned about Mom's health, it came as a great shock when on July 13th she suddenly passed away in hospital from an apparent heart attack. Even as we were deeply saddened by her passing, we were comforted by the gathering of so many friends and relatives a week later at her funeral. Mom had such a wonderful way of making Christmas special for all of us and as the season fast approaches, we are finding it so hard to imagine what this year will be like without her.

The rest of the summer was spent cleaning out her apartment and relocating things to Scarborough, or elsewhere in London. We did manage to find some time of refreshment back up at the cottage following the funeral as well as our annual getaway to Kingdom Bound Christian Music Festival again in August.

The fall saw Murray working closer to home, but with a client where the work environment was unfortunately very stressful involving many long nights and weekends. Nancy continued to run her home business and to teach Prenatal classes. At the church, in addition to Murray and Nancy running the 4th Annual Community BBQ and the Alpha Course, Murray was still involved in the Elders and PRC, which meant a lot of evening meetings. Also the whole family continued to be active within the Music Ministry. We also went through a large number of losses in our church this fall, ranging from funerals of several close friends, to people suffering from major illnesses, to good friends and co-workers moving away.

All in all, it's been a bit of a challenge to get into the Christmas spirit to this point. However with the purchase of a new Christmas tree (after 23 years), the snow and lights in the neighbourhood, and the arrival of all your cards and letters, we all think it's beginning to feel a lot more like Christmas!

We know that just like us, many of *you* are grieving your own losses, and we pray that the love of our Lord will sustain you through the difficult times just as we *know* that He has for us!

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## BETHANY

This year was great. I was on so many teams at my school, North Toronto Christian School, including soccer, softball and basketball. My softball team came first in our tournament last year. I had such great coaches and so much fun.

During the summer, at Day Camp at the church, the themes were Pirates of the Caribbean and Queen Esther. We had so many games and learned so much. And only one more year till I can become a junior leader!

There were also some sad times in the summer. On July 13th, right in the middle of Day Camp, my Grandma Lahn died. It was hard to concentrate on the second week of Day Camp knowing that at the end of the week we would be going to London for her funeral.

When school started in September, I was really excited because I am in grade 6. That means I am the head of the school. School has been great so far. I got a good report card mark.

Have a Merry Christmas!





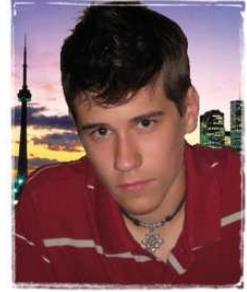
## TIM

It's been an intense year on my side of the world so far! I'm very busy working my way through my fourth and final year of high school, which has been keeping me occupied. Fairly soon we'll all have to start the process of applying for universities. This year my school's volleyball team managed to make it to the semi finals, which was pretty exciting. This summer I had a brief employment at the local Dominion grocery store, but recently I've followed in Jordan's footsteps and taken a job at Mitchell Family Books working as a sales associate in the store. It's always interesting having your older brother as your supervisor at work, that's for sure! I hope to see you all in the new year!

## DANIEL

The past year has been a lot of fun. Not only is it my first year in high school, but it also was my first year as an official helper for Summer Adventure Day Camp. Both of which were great fun.

This year I even got to raise money to fight AIDS, since Tim and I played at a charity concert with our friend, Ambrose, at his high school. This was fun despite the fact that Tim almost lost his voice right before the show, and the drummer and I both got blisters on our



fingers making it painful to play, but "the show must go on"! It all worked out in the end though.

I also got to show off my bass skills at Day Camp when we introduced a praise team to the main presentation. I think that the praise is going to be a great addition to Summer Adventure Day Camp in the years to come.

Hope you have a great year!



## JORDAN



This year has certainly been a busy and (I guess) productive one. School continues to progress at a pace both agonizingly slow and frighteningly fast. At this point my third year of university is already half over. The plan is still to head to Teacher's College after my degree, and while it seems far away, the time is fast approaching when decisions and applications have to begin.

My job at Mitchell Family Books, which was just beginning at the end of 2006, has quickly become the highlight of my year. The opportunity to work in an environment that so closely connects with my own interests and skills is one that I continue to be thankful for. After a little less than 12 months on the job, I've been promoted to the position of Supervisor, which means that I take turns with one or two other co-workers running the store during the evenings and supervising the end of day closing activities. I'm really enjoying my work, and the close friendships that I have developed with some of my co-workers have been a real source of inspiration and encouragement over the course of the year.

Varsity Christian Fellowship at school, which last year was such a great place to relax and grow spiritually, has been a bit more of a chore this year, mostly because I have once again been placed in a position where I am at least partially responsible for what goes on, and so there is a lot more pressure than last year. The one good thing is that, in my new role as worship leader, it has given me cause to practice my guitar much more than I had been previously! Happy New Year!

In these days leading up to Christmas, how short the daylight hours are — and how we welcome the twinkling lights of Christmas to dispel the darkness! We're reminded of the prophet Isaiah's words about the coming of Jesus:

*"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light, on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."*



May the light of Christ dispel the darkness in our world, and in each of our hearts, as we seek to follow Him in the coming year...



*Murray King Jordan Tim Daniel Bethany*

