



# CHRISTMAS 2008 GREETINGS FROM THE LAHNS



Murray & Nancy & Jazz

The tree is up. The lights are lit. The carols are playing. The malls are busy, and the snow has come. Christmas will soon be upon us once again and we will be celebrating the birth of our Lord so many years ago.

Speaking of “so many years ago”, Murray and Nancy celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary this past June with two celebrations—one in Toronto when 75 friends from the church “dropped in”, and the other in London where we celebrated with our wedding party. It is hard to believe that it was 25 years ago when we walked down the aisle and said “I do” to each other. God has blessed us in countless ways since then, and we are so grateful that each of you have been brought into our lives along the journey.

The year started with us embarking upon some painting and wallpapering on our main floor, which quickly mushroomed into removing all the carpet, laying hardwood floors and transforming the house on the main and second floors. In March, we took a four-day trip to Boston with the family to see the sights and to get away from the busyness at home. We went to The Museum of Science, the New England Aquarium and the Harvard Museum of Natural History. We proud parents can now say all our kids went to Harvard!! For dinner on the Saturday night we even sat next to John F. Kennedy’s favourite booth at the Union Oyster House restaurant!

The summer was spent at the cottage in Haliburton and Kingdom Bound (the four-day Christian Music festival at Darien Lake Theme Park outside Buffalo) once again. More celebrations took place at the cottage this year as Nancy’s Mom and Dad celebrated their 60th Anniversary!! And in the fall, we celebrated with Nancy’s sister, Brenda, and David as they renewed their vows for their 25th Anniversary.

Work-wise, Murray continues to be very busy with various clients throughout Ontario. He is currently at a client where he is doing *everything* from soup to nuts computer-wise. It’s challenging and the hours are long. Like the economy, Nancy’s business has been slower this year but this has given her more time to devote to pastoral visiting, which she loves. Both Nancy and Murray continue to find joy and challenge in running the Alpha program at Good Shepherd and in serving on a Praise and Worship Team. Murray’s work on the Pastoral Relations Committee at the church has nearly come to an end as we very recently voted to call a new pastor to our congregation. It’s a been a two-year journey, but God has clearly been at work among us as we’ve sought His will in our search.



## TIM



This year has been as busy as ever! My spring consisted of me spending most of my time working on homework, but it all paid off when I graduated in the summer (and you said it could never be done!). When I wasn’t busy working, I was off practising with the high school softball team. We’d been trying unsuccessfully to win the city championships for the last three years, and since most of the team was graduating, this season was our last shot! Finally this year we managed to overcome the mental block that had plagued us every year, and we took home the trophy!

This year I was accepted into University of Toronto’s Scarborough Campus (UTSC) Human Biology program, and I’ve been working really hard to keep up! The course load is really demanding, but I’m really enjoying the course material and finding it (relatively) interesting.

Mitchell Family Books recently declared bankruptcy, so unfortunately as soon as the liquidation sale ends, I’m out of a job! I’m not really sure what will be next for me, but I’m hoping something will come along soon. In a month, Julie McConnell and I will be celebrating our three year (dating) anniversary, which we’re quite excited about! Oh, and my newts Chuck and Trogdor say that they had a good year too. I hope you all have a very merry Christmas!





## BETHANY

This year has been very exciting for me because I started at a new school (Yorkland). One of the greatest things about grade 7 is that I get to meet so many new teachers and interact with them. Every Monday I go to the girls-only Bible club that talks about how God loves us no matter how we look. I played on the volleyball and soccer teams this fall (we got 2nd place in volleyball!) and



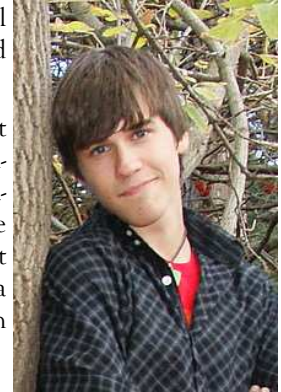
look forward to other activities in the Spring. Also, I started taking voice lessons.

Clearly God has blessed me and my family so much!

## DANIEL

As most people would know, I started high school last year and was greeted with the overwhelming load of... free time.

Last year my band, Hybrid Hymnal, played our first show in the school cafeteria. We were the entertainment for the entire school as they ate at the International Lunch. Unfortunately that day was also the start of the church's '30 Hour Famine' so I couldn't eat, but the show was still very successful. We had a blast, and the students really enjoyed our music. On Sundays I play bass with many of the worship teams.



I was in the school's drama club, which ended up doing nothing. The group had selected a play to perform, and had gotten half-way through practising the play, when about half of the cast dropped out. For my audition I played a patient at a mental institution, but because it was a very awkward role, I was quite nervous. When I actually performed, I was shaking so much that it actually fit into my character!!

Other than that life remains about the same for me. Merry Christmas!!

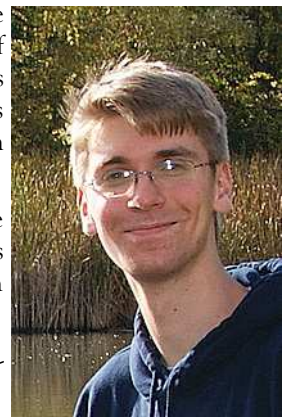
## JORDAN

Well, another year has gone by, and it certainly has been busy. I'm now in my last year of my undergrad degree in English. This puts me in the fun and uncomfortable position of once again having to make a decision about my future, and as of this writing I still haven't fully decided. Well, eventually that decision will have to be made, but for now I'm busy enough with school and work to keep me distracted.

Speaking of work, it has been an interesting year. After 2 years at Mitchell Family Books I was forced to search for new employment, after Mitchells declared bankruptcy in mid-September. This was hard for me personally, as Mitchells was definitely a fantastic place to work, and introduced me to many of the people who have become some of the greatest friends I'll ever have. Fortunately, I was quickly able to get a new position at Chapters, which requires the same sort of work as Mitchells did, and so it has been a relatively easy transition. The many great memories from the past two years at Mitchells will definitely stay with me for a long time.

Among those fantastic Mitchells friends is my girlfriend Rachel Maguire. Rachel and I have been dating since December last year, and it's been a fun and exciting adventure for both of us as we get to know each other better. Among those adventures was a week long vacation with our friends at a cottage resort on Manitoulin Island, which was lots of fun!

Anyways, it's certainly been a busy year, and although next year is still hiding around the corner, I'm sure it will be just as exciting!



The Christmas season brings for us all a mixture of emotions. As we read your cards and greetings we rejoice with you in your times of joy and celebration this past year. For many, though, your hearts are surely heavy in this Christmas due to losses suffered this year. Even our newspapers give a mixed message—they come stuffed with ads full of good cheer (and “bargains”!) and yet the headlines cry out a harsh reminder that the weary world is not as it should be. Is there true hope to be found?



Misty & Mocha

*“A thrill of hope! The weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn...  
O night divine! O night when Christ was born!”*

Christ broke into our sin-sick world 2000 years ago and has been transforming hearts ever since.  
May your home and your hearts be transformed by the power of Christ this Christmas.

