



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE LAHNS

Once again Christmas rolls around and once again we are late getting our Christmas letter created. This year has been a great year, but a crazy one. The Lahns have still not figured out how to say “no” and so our schedule continues to be hectic. All of the kids seem to have taken on Murray and Nancy’s ability to keep very busy as you will see as you read through their parts of the letter. Maybe Santa can bring us something to help us work on that!!

Highlights of the year for us as a family include Nancy and Bethany going to Florida on their own for Bethany’s 13th birthday trip over March Break, and a beautiful family wedding in June when our niece, Shawna married Adam Ricci. The summer was spent at the cottage in Haliburton and once again Kingdom Bound (the four-day Christian Music festival at Darien Lake Theme Park outside Buffalo).



At the church we continue to lead and participate on the worship teams, lead the Alpha Course, participate in the Elders, & the Outreach committee, and Prayer Group, as well as the Audio/Visual and computer systems.

Nancy has been leading a Bible study group on Sunday mornings which started as an offshoot of the Alpha program. In April we welcomed our new Lead Pastor, Sharon Tam, and her husband Henry, and have been busy learning and sharing in her ministry to help shape the vision of our church for the future.

In family news, Murray’s brother Randy has been battling a detached retina for a number of months and we are praying that his last round of surgery will finally put the healing to rest. The rest of the family is doing well. God has continued to be good this past year.

Work-wise, Murray continues to be very busy with various clients throughout Ontario. Like the economy, Nancy’s business has been slower this year (but appears to be picking up again) but this has given her more time to devote to pastoral visiting, which she loves. She has also begun volunteering her skills as a prenatal and parenting instructor at the local Pregnancy Care Centre, which is a real delight.

BETHANY

This year has been amazing year. During the summer it was my first year actually leading at our Summer Adventure Day Camp. It was an absolute blast! I was helping out with the grade 1&2. For our group we did crafts and played outside in the beautiful sunshine! The big games where we came together were also lots of fun. The teams worked, thought and had fun together! It was a great year for day camp.

This year I entered grade 8! It’s been a great year so far other than the whole “learning” part. I have played a lot of sports so far. First I made the soccer team. We were a great team and I was very happy. We lost our first game unfortunately, but we won all the rest so the team we lost to got first and we got second. I cheered my heart out!

I also have recently finished my volleyball season. It is my favourite sport that my school offers. This year I worked my tail off doing the best I could do because when I really like a sport I give it everything I’ve got. I was team captain when the tournament came and throughout the day we corrected our mistakes and made it all the way to the top. It was down to our last game. We lost the first game. Then we worked and worked the second set and we won by very few points after being down by a lot. Then once we had the confidence to win we won the last set easily and brought home the ribbons and the banner.

God has really been right there in my life this year. Helping me with my sports, school, and social life. He’s brought me great friends, improved my relationships with my old friends, helped me get through school work and assignments, helped me deal with the stress of school. Youth group has also been really great with Nigel leading it. He’s done a great job and I pray he will continue to help me as a person on both Sunday mornings and on Wednesday evenings for our Youth Group.





TIM

Hey everyone, I hope you're all doing well. I've had another busy year since last Christmas, and it doesn't show signs of stopping. School's been really tough this year, as I'm working on my second year of a Human Biology specialist program at University of Toronto Scarborough Campus. After I lost my job when Mitchells closed down last year, I ended up getting a job working at a new store called Faith Family Books and Gifts. It's been quite the experience closing Mitchells down, and then immediately going to work helping to start up a new business to fill gap! I spent most of my summer working at the store, as well as working at the church Day Camp. Since we usually make some sort of video for the kids, we decided this year that we'd make a musical about Noah, called "High Seas Musical". It was a lot of work writing songs, recording music, filming, and editing it all together but I think it turned out really well! That's about it for me; I should get back to studying. Merry Christmas!



*Every wedding needs Secret Service Agents
Tim, Daniel and Jordan*

DANIEL

This year has been pretty hectic at times for me. Between producing a rap for a grade 11 English project, managing a rock band, writing a comic, there's barely any time to sit around and do nothing. But I've never been one to give up the things I love, so I manage to find the time regardless.

In English class this year we had to perform a scene from William Shakespeare's "Macbeth". Being the creative types we were, my group decided to do something a little different from other groups. We wrote the lyrics using some lines that were straight from the play, as well our own rhymes, and created the "Biz Mac-Beth" video. (Shakespeare would be proud.... I hope!)

This year my friend Johnny Keidann and I are writing a comic, both for our own enjoyment, as well as including several shorter strips in the school newspaper. The comic is called "The Strange Adventures of Johnny and Landie". Johnny is a comical, bumbling fool who has a strange idolization of Landie, the more serious, sarcastic one.

Johnny (and Kate) also plays in my band, Hybrid Hymnal. We're busy writing and recording songs in order to hopefully put out and sell a CD in our school sometime in 2010.

JORDAN

Wow! Is 2009 really almost over? It seems to have gone by so fast! It started back in January, when my old job helping Mitchell Family Books close down and my new job at Chapters had me running back and forth all week. Oh, and school had to fit in there somewhere, as I finished up my Honors BA degree with a Specialist in English. I convocated this past November, and I'm filling my time right now with work shifts at Chapters and the new Christian book store in town, Faith Family Books & Gifts.

Over the Summer Tim and I filled in as temporary Youth Leaders with our friend John and Tim's girlfriend Julie, and took turns running the program every Wednesday night. We also took on even more responsibilities at our church Day Camp program, and accepted a position as Youth Interns, meeting regularly to plan ways to reach out to the community.

Fall brought the beginning of a harder season in my life, as it saw my girlfriend Rachel move up to Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, but thanks to webcams and MSN Messenger we've been able to chat almost every night. I was able to visit her once in October, and am looking forward to her Christmas break at home.

It's been a busy year, and with Teacher's College in store next year, I'm sure it'll be another crazy one to come, but I'm trusting that God's in control of it all!

"OTIDINGS OF COMFORT AND JOY, COMFORT AND JOY".

We sing these familiar words every year, but do we truly realize their meaning? The root meaning of "comfort" is "together with strength"; true joy, unlike happiness, is not dependent upon our circumstances, but it is rooted in our eternal relationship with God made possible by Christ. We all encounter very difficult times in life—many of you, dear friends, have faced these in 2009. Our prayer for us all in 2010 is that we will invite the Lord to come alongside us with His strength so we can live each day in His joy!



*Misty, Mocha &
Jazz*

