



It seems every year we start our Christmas letter by saying how fast Christmas has crept up on us, and this year is no different. It seems like only yesterday that we were packing up all the decorations from Christmas, and now we are 'decking the halls' once more. This year has been a little different for us than past years, and so this letter will take on a slightly more pictorial flavour this year.

Since our last writing we've experienced our first Christmas in our new (June 2014) home. Of course the fun of new decorations, new traditions, new neighbours, and new friends made last Christmas a truly enjoyable time. With the lack of snow over the Christmas break, we were able to take many walks in the woods and just enjoy this wonderful place.

The house is great! The 2 acres of land makes for busy, but relaxing yard work! And the 150+ trees we've planted are growing strong. Some landscaping in the summer and a new roof and eavestroughs this fall mean that we'll be in good stead for quite some time—even though our bank account is decidedly leaner!!



As the Spring rolled around we were saddened to have to say goodbye to our beloved dog, Jazz. After many vet appointments and numerous tests, it was determined that the poor little guy was suffering from prostate cancer, and on April 17th, we tearfully said our goodbyes. Since then, we keep being reminded of all the joy he brought us over the last 9 years. Our 13-year-old Himalayan cats, Mocha and Misty, continue in good health and role model for us what a contented life should look like!

The summer saw us donning fine dresses and tuxedos not once, but twice(!) to welcome two new members to the Lahn clan.



On June 14th, we celebrated with Daniel in Brantford as he married Jessa Douwes in a lovely ceremony officiated by Jessa's Dad. The rain came down early that morning, but held off during the ceremony and pictures, and then hit again while everyone was safely inside enjoying a wonderful party at a reception hall by the lake in Hamilton. Daniel is now finishing up his final year at Ryerson in Film Studies while Jess is in her 2nd year of Dance at York. They are living in spacious

basement apartment in Thornhill. Without a car, and with heavy work schedules, we unfortunately don't get to see as much of them as we'd like, but we really treasure the times we DO share together! Our kids are actually better at connecting with one another, since Jess and Bethany see one another at school, and the boys play together via the miracle of online/remote video games all the time!

On August 8th, the celebrating continued as Tim married Rachel Quinlan in Scarborough. The weather that day was perfect and the partying went on until late into the night. The ceremony was held at our former church in Scarborough and flooded us back to memories of Jordan and Rachel's wedding there four years ago. Tim is finishing up his clinical rotation this year for his study of Chiropractic, and Rachel has been working for some time now as an Interior Designer.





They are living with us (in the apartment above our garage) until they know where Tim will end up practising, and so we see lots of them.



Bethany is in her 2nd year of study at York in the Social Work program, hoping to become a family or child counselor. Her busy life keeps our heads spinning. She's working 2 jobs - Trainer at McDonalds in Newmarket/Aurora and piano and voice instructor in Stouffville. With her boyfriend, Tyler, in Brantford and with her helping in the Youth ministry at the church, as well as participating in the Young Adults and Worship Arts ministries, there are some weeks where we

wonder if she's been home at all... until we realize that her pet hamster and pet gecko are thriving from the loving daily attention their mistress gives them!

As we mentioned, our oldest son, Jordan, was married 4 ½ years ago and now resides in Brantford, where he is supply teaching for the school board, as well as providing tutoring through the Sylvan Learning Centres. His Rachel is working as a scheduling coordinator for a mystery shopping company and is able to work from home.



Nancy and Murray continue to do more of the same, including singing and playing on the Worship teams at the church, helping out in "The Hub" (our cafe) on Sunday mornings, leading a Life Group, leading a Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study group, and working on the Breakfast Team for our church's Out Of The Cold program (a ministry to the homeless). Nancy is down to Scarborough at least twice a week to visit with her Mom (whose health is good, but whose memory is sadly failing), as well as continuing to help at the North York Pregnancy Care Centre where she serves as Prenatal Coordinator.

We're glad in these December days, when the days are getting shorter, that so many homes in our communities are colourfully lit with tiny lights that pierce the darkness. And what a desperately dark world we live in - not a day goes by that we are not reminded that our world is in the grip of the darkness of poverty, injustice, terrorism... what hope is there for our world? Down through the ages, people have asked this question, and centuries ago the prophet Isaiah proclaimed God's answer:

*"The people who walk in darkness will see a great light.
For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine."*

Jesus, the Light of the World, was born into the darkness of that first Christmas night, and He Himself assures us,

*"I have come as a light to shine in this dark world,
so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark."*

As we embark upon a new year, let us pray for the light of Christ to shine brightly through all those who know Him, that many others will come from darkness into His wonderful, redeeming light.

With much love at Christmas, The Lahus

