

## **Jacob's Letter July A.D. 2003**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We send you our greetings from Goondiwindi, Queensland, Australia, and pray that this letter finds you with peace and strength in Christ.

Your prayers for Jacob three years ago and since then too have been such a blessing and a comfort to us. We have learned much about belonging to God's family ~ thankyou for teaching us.

June 12th is the third anniversary of Jacob's accident ~ yes, it really is that long ago. We have wonderful news to tell you. On the Easter weekend this year, Jacob began walking unaided. There are days when he walks really well, and days when he struggles and is in obvious pain. But the fact that he is walking is amazing! He declares that most of the time it doesn't hurt any more without the crutch than with it, so he just keeps going.

As you can imagine it has been a wonderful blessing. Jacob is really well now, and has organised for his pension to cease. He is now able to help John again on our property for a few hours per day, providing he's very careful. There are some things he simply can't and shouldn't attempt, but many others that he can handle. He's enjoying it, and John loves having Jacob back at his side in the paddock. They work well together and John appreciates Jacob's innovative ideas.

Jacob has continued to progress amazingly with his music, having picked up a guitar for the first time in May 2001. He and Pammie (family friend) have co-written two dozen songs under the name "Hannah's Child". Their demo CD recorded in November last year has fans aged from 8 to 80. They will begin recording the album in a few weeks. One of my (Janine) favourites from their last few new songs is "Everlasting Arms" ~ so beautiful!

So, as you can see, Jacob is now ready to begin the rest of his life. He moved into the cottage here on our property in October last year and is completely independent. He has continued his interest in youth ministry locally with our older son, Luke, and is a doting Uncle to sweet little Anna.

Thankyou for the huge part you have played in Jacob's life and in ours. Thankyou in Jesus' Name, John and Janine Rissmann.