

## Christmas and Carnage

As is customary, but especially because we really mean it, we of *SA Family Practice* wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas. It is a time in which many of us in practice take some rest and make contact with family and friends once more. Ons wens dié wat die ongevalle en verdriet van die tyd ook gaan hanteer sterkte toe en die vermoë om in al die onnodige slagting nog steeds mense met deernis te kan help.

This time of the year we normally experience a lot of avoidable misery. There is the carnage on the road, the suffering that comes from excesses of food and wine, of too much sun, of picking up a sexually transmitted disease, perhaps AIDS or an

unwanted pregnancy! On top of all this we have the taxi wars and politically driven killings that are still taking place as I write in the month of November.

The SA Churches took the initiative to get people together to agree on a strategy for promoting peace. Our wish is that this will especially become a greater reality in this month of peace. A very large proportion of the population sees us in our consulting rooms before and during this month. We can conduct our interactions in such a way that the carnage of Christmas is prevented in many instances. 'n Woord op die regte tyd kan lewens bewaar.

Sam Johnson