Christmas 2001:

Howdy from Texas! The past year was one of reflection and family history for the Austin Galbi household. Of course time stood still for all of America following the tragic events of September 11th. Dwight was stuck in Boston at this time, but was the “pioneer” in his company when he flew back home as others braved the long roads home. We pray for peace in the coming New Year.

We spent a week last Christmas with the Galbi’s in Oregon. The “theme” was a celebration of our heritage, with an emphasis on the Grandparents. At a special dinner we honored Dwight’s mother’s family with a formal Lebanese feast. Then, we broke out the pasta machine and prepared ravioli in Galbiati style. We loved hearing stories and viewing pictures about the grandparents.

In October we were fortunate enough to visit Italy and many of the Galbiati cousins. They live in Omegna, which is North of Milan in the Lake District. It is a fantastic area to visit with many charming lakeside towns. We also toured Venice and Rome, Italy and Nice, Chamonix and Paris, France. Please let us know if you need any travel advice for Italy or France or if you want to see our web-based pictures.

One highlight of the trip was the Pope blessing Dwight at the Vatican. Tamara was at the Sistine Chapel at the time, but hopes that the blessing also transfers to her!

We are still hacking away at our same jobs and feel fortunate that the poor economy has only affected our stock portfolio. Our five animals are all happy, although the vet now has funds to remodel.

Our families are also well. Dwight was kind enough to take 3 generations of women on a summer tour of Galveston Island, Texas. Tamara, her grandmother and mom were excellent travel companions, although 2 backseat drivers was a bit much for our tour guide.

We’re planning for another memorable Christmas with the Galbis in Oregon. We wish you and your families the happiest of holidays and a peaceful New Year.

Love, Tamara and Dwight

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