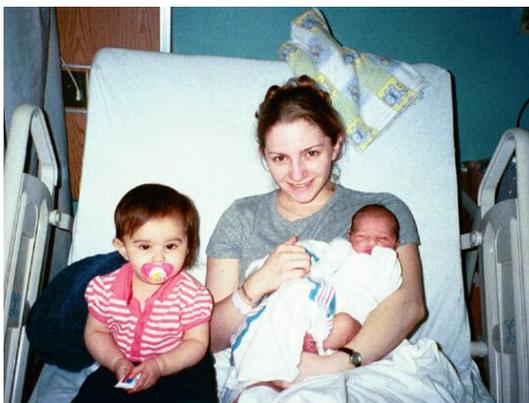


Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate in this season.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11)

For us, 2004 really brought home the reason we celebrate Christmas. We lost three close relatives: Nita's grandmother and two uncles. All three were believers in Jesus as their Savior, so we know that they have just taken off the "glove" of their earthly bodies, and their souls live on in eternity, so we will see them again. That is why we celebrate Christmas – so that there are no permanent "Good-bye's." We can **always** say, "See ya later!" amongst believers.

The memorial service for Nita's grandmother was a special blessing. It was an outdoor service in a rural Vermont cemetery. We were blessed with a beautiful day in the middle of a week of inclement weather. All of Gram's grandchildren were present. It was a true celebration of the long (105 years) life that had blessed so many and the eternal life she now lives.



We noted in this space last year that there hadn't been any babies at family gatherings for a long while, but Steve's niece Frieda gave birth to a baby girl: Well, in 2004 God again blessed the family with a new member through Frieda. Kameron Allen Ahmed was born May 6th. The picture at the left shows Frieda with both of the recent additions to the family tree. (Frieda and husband Afsar live in New York City.)

Another high point of the year was the celebration of Steve's fiftieth birthday. There was a party at which he was blessed by the presence of many friends and family members. Knowing Steve likes to help others learn, there was a conspiracy unknown to Steve to compile a book for the occasion entitled "50 things I learned from Steve Dossin." Actually, the total came to a lot more than 50 – in fact, one friend living in another state sent in his own list of 50 items. Steve was thrilled to have so many people point out specific ways in which he had made a positive difference in the lives of others. What a blessing!

Another thing that made the celebration of Steve's fifty years of life such a blessing was that the main decorations for the party were five posters (one for each decade) containing pictures and small mementos of Steve's life. As we looked through thousands of pictures, Steve realized that he has really had a great life. Of course, there were hard times, but there have been many more good times. 2004 was a year for thanksgiving, indeed.

Other family milestones that we enjoyed included the graduation – with honors -- of our nephew (Frieda's brother Daniel) from the University of North Texas, and a surprise birthday party for Steve's mom in Fort Worth (just 40 or so of her closest friends hiding in a Mexican restaurant where Steve's sister Susan is party manager).

We continue to be blessed by the church meeting in our home each Sunday evening, known as Trading Post Fellowship (associated with International Encouragement Ministries). 2004 was a time for "bearing one another's burdens" as, together, we weathered life's storms with the help of the Holy Spirit. Our group of brothers and sisters has become very dear to us. Whenever one of them is absent from the communion table, we miss them deeply – in a church this size, the "family feeling" is so evident.

The Lord sustains us all. In August Ron Beers, the pastor who married us and who coordinates the house church network we are now part of, developed heart problems and spent over two weeks in a Houston hospital. Doctors (and he had some of the best) never identified the cause of his sudden lowering of heart function. We praise God for his rapid recovery and continued improvement (he was breaking speed records on the treadmill barely a month after leaving the cardiac care unit!).



We pray with anticipation concerning our stewardship seminar, Living the Abundant Life© (Living-the-Abundant-Life.org) in 2005. A church in the Philippines requested a review copy of the seminar on audiocassettes, and is considering inviting us to present it in person at some future date. We also continue to receive requests for our other materials.



Probably the ministry highlight of 2004 was the launching of Pioneer Valley Academy, a campus of Dallas/Fort Worth Street Schools (DFWStreetSchools.org). Both of us have been serving on the Board of Directors for this new educational ministry to youth. On October 16th, after an amazing series of events orchestrated by the Lord, the program's Kickoff Party was held at Pioneer Baptist Church in Valley View, Texas. Currently the Academy offers after-school activities two days per

week. Enrollment is high and the children enjoy help with homework, physical education time and the character-building curriculum which introduces them to the Good News of Jesus Christ. Our involvement has included maintaining the website, producing printed materials and setting up the computer-based learning center, along with more serious tasks like supervising the tug-of-war and serving lemonade at the Kickoff Event!

Travel was a part of 2004. Following the "family reunion" which took place as we gathered to memorialize Nita's grandmother, the two of us revisited the Mystic Seaport Museum in Connecticut (it was a stop we had made many years ago, when Steve first proposed to Nita). We also toured the *USS Nautilus*, one of the first nuclear subs, docked at New London, CT. (Nita will never complain about closet space again!) Also this year we enjoyed the exhibit of S.H. Gifford landscapes at the Amon Carter (Ft. Worth), and homecoming at Steve's alma mater, Austin College (Sherman, TX). At homecoming, Steve was delighted to take part in the "reunion" of bridge players from his era who used to keep a game going (seemingly 24-7) at the old student union building. It was a blast for him to see former classmates and profs (and to beat them at bridge, AGAIN!)



We thank God that He continues to provide for us through our loyal clients and new customers. Our company, Dossin Business Solutions, Inc. (Dossin.com) continues to provide solutions that convert revenue to profit for our clients. Activities in 2004 seemed to be concentrated on production management and inventory control, with several

projects in those areas. There was still quite a bit of work in the information technology area (AS/400's, Excel, web sites, Visual Basic), including implementation of the improvements we suggested in production management and inventory control. We are also doing a bit of work in the area of promoting web sites. It does not matter how great a job we do creating a web site if the target audience does not see it, so we have been working on improving capabilities to increase readership for the web sites we create.

Not surprisingly in a year with national elections, we did a lot of political volunteer work. Steve served as chairman of a local political action committee. Nita did real grassroots stuff like building & delivering yard signs, making phone calls and walking neighborhoods. Fair elections continue to be one of our priorities, so we both served as polling place clerks on November 2nd.

We continue to promote our ComingTogether Plan (ComingTogether.info) as a compromise between liberal and conservative philosophies. We are now getting over 1000 new visitors a month on our website. The 2004 election cycle continued our disappointment with politicians. The campaigns seem to consist more of attacks than a real discussion of proposals for progress and the news media is becoming more blatant in their attempts to influence the elections rather than just report on them. Don't we have enough enemies in this world without attacking our fellow Americans? We are hoping to contribute to the discussion proposals that are actually positive, in that they include the best features from both sides of the political spectrum.



Thank you all so much for your cards and letters with news from your lives. These have become a much greater blessing to us. In 2004 we started keeping all the cards from the prior Christmas in a basket. Once a week, we take several out, reread them, and say a prayer for the sender. This so extends the joy of friends and family throughout the year.

May God bless you with His great and gracious Love in 2005.