



2010

Dear Family and Friends,

Here I sit at my computer wondering where to begin this years Christmas greetings and update. I'm tempted to move out onto the veranda where the sun is shining and the temperature is in the lower 70's F but I know my eyes will stray and I'll not get this finished.

Our family has expanded by three this year. We welcomed Stephania in May when she and Colin were married in Maryland. Bob and I were fortunate to be able to fly home for their wedding. Colin's godfather, Wiley Beveridge and godmother, Sylvia Wilkes joined us along with long time good friends, Diane and Warren Poehler. My niece Dana and her boyfriend Chris also came to the wedding from their home in Virginia.

On 10/10/2010, John Valenzano married Meagan in Houston and we flew home again. On our way to Meagan and John's wedding we stopped in England and attended a reunion of Celebration and Post Green Communities in Upton, Dorset. We stayed with Ian and Els Jolly. It was so good to see so many of our friends from years past, especially Jodi Page-Clark and her husband Howard. (and of course their dog.) Sylvie Wilkes joined up with us there and we had a short holiday together before flying on to the States for the wedding.

I stayed on in Houston after the wedding to welcome our third grandson, Jacob Thomas Valenzano on October 22nd. We are so thankful for these additions to our family and especially thankful for the safe birth of Jacob after Meagan's very difficult pregnancy.

As I write this, Meagan has been back at work for several weeks and all seems to be going well for them. Brian adores his little brother and appears to be thriving.

Brian and Christopher enjoyed being with each other 2 times this year. They were all over each other, hugging and wrestling playing nintendo. This "Mimi" really enjoyed being with them and catching up on all the cuddles I'm missing being so far away.

This year Christopher began spending every other weekend with his Dad, and Stephania. He also spent most of the summer with them. I think this was an eye-opener for Colin in many ways. From everything Colin said, they had a great time together.

Bob and I are enjoying our life here in Dubai. We've made some awesome friends and continue to meet and spend time time with new folks. I hope that some of you will be able to come and visit us here. From November until May we have lovely weather but then we begin our slow "boil" until the following October/November. Thank the Lord for whoever created air conditioning. It makes living here possible as it does in Houston.

As we face 2010 I pray that God blesses us all with His grace to be positive and hopefilled in a world that is becoming more and more fearful; that God gives us the eyes to see those in need who we can help and the courage to do it; and finally that God holds us in the palm of His hand until we meet again.

Love,
Diane

P.S. Bob has sent his own letter via facebook. It is much more detailed than mine.



Colin &
Stephania



Jacob



The Jolly's and
friends in Dorset.