

**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
**FROM THE GILLS IN GERMANY**  
**(BETTER LATE THAN NEVER)**

Greetings, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year from Germany! We hope you and your family are doing well and looking forward to 2006.

The year 2005 brought with it many adventures for us including a move across the Atlantic Ocean. In the beginning of the year we traveled out west to visit with Robert's sister Debbie and her family in Washington then onto Alaska to visit Davina's brother Michael and his family, and finally to Oregon to visit Davina's sister Katherine and her family. Much to our surprise the weather was great in all three locations – bright and sunny as were our hosts! It was great seeing all of our nieces out west.

In April, we visited Robert's family in Ohio on the occasion of our nephew Kyle's baptism. It was nice to visit with our relatives and friends from the Akron area. May was all about cleaning out, packing, and moving. We are grateful to Robert's parents for all of their patient help in preparing & packing (we did break away a few days to the water park & a dinner cruise).

In June, Robert left to start his new assignment in Germany while Davina stayed in Virginia in a new apartment near work (with the dogs (a.k.a. "the girls"), of course) to finish her project at work. Apartment living was not the greatest but Davina and the girls made due. The girls enjoyed walks around the lake and chasing frogs and turtles. Davina was also able to gather with her family in Rehoboth Beach, DE on the occasion of her sister Gloria's 40th birthday (way to go Gloria).

Robert's new assignment is the squadron commander of the 1st Communications Maintenance Squadron. Davina was able to fly over for the change of command ceremony. In August, Davina was visited in Virginia by Robert's sister Amie and her family. We all enjoyed swimming and going



spending time with Pele & Alexis (the dogs). In addition, Davina was able to travel to Dayton for a small reunion with her college roommates...what a blast from the past! Meanwhile, Robert was settling in, working, and traveling to Italy & France.

In September, Davina's parents also came down to visit and stayed in a cozy little cabin on Virginia Beach. Davina wrapped up her assignment at work and prepared to travel with the dogs to Germany. Before flying over Davina visited Robert's family and her family in Dayton, Akron, and Phoenixville. In Phoenixville, Davina left her first car she ever owned with her parents to be sold. Next, Davina's trip in October to Germany was happily uneventful although the dogs told her they are not looking forward to the return trip. (They had to travel in the cargo hold area of the plane.)

With our family back together in Germany we undertook the task of settling in and adjusting to life on the continent. Robert had the house mostly unpacked so Davina was able to slide right in and start living.

(This is definitely the way to go.)

Davina has taken a job playing the piano for the Sunday morning mass and is still doing part time work at home for her company in the States (thanks to the wonders of the internet). In November and December we prepared a large Thanksgiving meal that we shared with some of Robert's troops from work and also took a few trips to some local castles & some German Christmas markets. It is very beautiful here with rolling hills and quaint villages. Also, in December we ordered our new car which should arrive in March.

We certainly welcome and look forward to visitors. We are definitely here until June 2007 so don't wait too long. ☺

Have a very Merry Christmas and a peace-filled New Year!

Love,  
*Robert & Davina*

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