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Dear «Greeting»,

As I reflect back over 2009 there are many things I am particularly thanking God for. I won't share them all with you, but I would like to mention a few.

At a time when the real estate market for selling was not good, my condo sold for enough to cover my purchase price and closing costs. Last month a friend asked me if I thought about my condo. I hadn't given it a thought until I had to scrape off my car after our first snow fall; I do miss having a garage. But honestly, I love my new home. It really is a great place and I look forward to hosting many people in the time God gives me here. Feel free to visit if you are in the Boston area. I have a much better commute to our regional headquarters, can connect more easily with people on my team, and get out more socially

My life is very rich because of my relationships. My relationship with **God** continues to be one that is deep, intimate, meaningful and filled with adventure. One of my favorite promises is still that God is with me – no matter what, no matter where. Last month I took a few vacation days and visited with **my parents**. During our few days together not only did we have a nice visit, but we had **quality time with all but one of my siblings**. Starting over in a new place, I am especially appreciative for **my long distant friends**. They have continued to be in my life and be real friends despite the miles between us.

It's exciting to see that what I have been doing has been making a real difference to the staff throughout New York and New England. The last night of our November staff conference, I was very encouraged when one of the staff came up to express her appreciation for the work Bob, my codirector, and I have done. Honestly one of the best things Bob and I have done is get great people working with us on the Leadership Development Team and then help us all get out to be with the staff on their locations. We've all enjoyed it and seen the benefit. I also am so encouraged because as a Regional Director Team (there are 7 of us) we have a clear sense of focus and of our priorities. We communicate well and work well together.

In celebrating Jesus' birth I celebrate not only the eternal life He has given me, but also the abundant life that comes from walking with Him through all the twists and turns and ups and downs of life this side of heaven.

Because God is here,

Liz