

Happy Holidays from the 'burg!



Hi,

Season's Greeting! I hope this finds you well and enjoying this wonderful time of the year. As it's become a tradition of mine, I am sending out this 'year in review' letter here. I won't even attempt to say that I'll keep it to one page, but here goes to the two-fer.

The biggest piece of 'news' from 2006 was my missions work. I had the opportunity to go on **TWO** trips this year; to the Dominican Republic in July, and then to the Philippines in late November. I felt led to each trip, but have to admit that I was a little intimidated by all the fund-raising. But the Lord provided, and I was able to raise almost \$3000 from family and friends for the two trips, combined. Each trip was extraordinary in its own way, and the most recent trip to the Philippines *really* strengthened me spiritually. As I begin to write this letter, I'm still playing catch-up from the time difference, but those children's faces continue to be in my heart and mind. I have made a web site for each trip w/ photos, journal entries: <http://missions.shaunw.com/2006/dr/> and <http://missions.shaunw.com/2006/philippines/>. Take a moment to check those sites out for more details on each journey.

Sadly, I think our trip to the Dominican Republic will be my last trip w/ First Christian Church. As you may know, I have been attending two churches for the last couple years. Well now that I'm working more, I simply don't have the time to try and be active in two churches anymore, especially when the one is 30 minutes away. So after much prayerful consideration, I decided to leave FCC back in November, and concentrate all my ministry efforts @ Miamisburg Christian Church. The mission trip to the Philippines was w/ others from MCC, I'm involved in both Childrens' and Praise Team ministry there, and getting involved in a new small group as well. It was and IS very painful to leave the church that I grew up in, but ultimately sticking to one church is what's best for my faith.

Although I was still in the cast from my broken ankle in the beginning of the year, I got the cast off and some of the hardware out of my leg in February, and was able to start running again in April. It's been a year now since the accident, and it's still not 100%, but I think it's continuing to get stronger month by month. Hiking through the mountains in the Philippines was a good test for it, and I ran 9 miles right before we left; my longest run since the injury! I have only run a few races in 2006, but I plan to participate in more in 2007, and will run the Flying Pig marathon in Cincinnati again in May '07. A little bit of pain in my ankle won't stop me!

Business continues to be good, and I look forward to building Design Chemistry along w/ my business partner Jeremy. We are continually looking for new ways to improve our business processes, we've made some business alliances in 2006 that should continue to pay off financially, and we moved into another office space back in October. Ironically, one of our biggest clients today is Chisano Marketing Communications, where I used to work; they have been sub-contracting a lot of their web work to us this year. Our business continues to grow simply by word-of-mouth and repeat customers, and that's a great place to be in. Neither Jeremy nor I really like doing "sales", and fortunately we don't have to do a whole lot of that!

I just completed another class @ UD, and now I'm just three classes away from finishing and getting my MBA! I'm already registered for the next semester, and if everything goes according to plan I'll finish the program and get my degree in December 2007. Now that Jeremy and I have our own thing going w/ the business, I won't be out job-shopping to get that fat raise, but I'm excited by the achievement of that degree. I'm learning a few things along the way too. ☺

The other Worcesters here in the Dayton area are doing well. Mom and Dad left FCC earlier this year for their own reasons, but have found a church in Fairborn that they're very happy with. Mom had an accident and broke her leg this year, but fortunately her's wasn't as bad as mine and she didn't need surgery or anything. She's lucky; I still have a nice scar on my leg. Mom's father (my Grandpa Wodicka) went home to Jesus in July '06, the first of our four grandparents to pass away. We all miss him, but we know he's in a better place today, and Grandma is going to spend some time w/ each of her children across the country in the years ahead. Both of my folks are doing well w/ work even though Dad seems to be working too many hours here @ the tail end of his career. Jay continues to do well in his job at Reynolds & Reynolds, and even got to take a trip to Puerto Rico earlier back in November as a reward for hitting his sales quota for the year! Nick has had some trouble adjusting to life in school at his new junior high, but it sounds like things are beginning to turn around for the better. Both the boys are growing up so fast, and it makes me feel old!

Relationships... there's not a whole lot to report on the dating front at the moment. I've had a string of unsuccessful 'introductions' in 2006, but I'm confident that it's just a matter of time before I find one that works. We joked during our trip to the Philippines that us single guys were going to make another trip next year for a different kind of mission – the “find a wife” mission. It seems like we could pretty much take our pick over there, and we were asked at EVERY place we visited if we were single. Although not much is happening in my romantic life @ the moment and a few other relationships have grown apart, I have grown closer to some of my other friends this year, and am blessed to have a number of people in my life that I'm close to and can talk to. I believe in His timing, and trust that “the one” is out there... somewhere.

Well, I think that's about it for this year. I hope that this little bit o' Holiday cheer finds you smiling and enjoying this time of year. After spending 10 days in the Philippines, it was kind of a shock to come home to SNOW in Ohio, but I'm ramping up to Christmas now and looking forward to the time w/ family. I hope and pray you're doing the same.

Merry Christmas,