

Merry Christmas from...

The Worcesters



Dear Family & Friends,

Seasons greetings! We hope that this holiday season finds you enjoying all the many blessings of our Lord. 2007 has been an absolutely **AMAZING** year, and we have some news to share. Here it goes...

Notice that this year's greeting is from 'us' instead of just Shaun. That's because the most wonderful happened this year! Late in 2006, I met a beautiful young lady at church named Gaby (short for Gabriela). I began to pursue her, but it took me a little while to actually get up the nerve to ask her out. We began dating in early February, quickly fell in love, set a wedding date on our 4-month anniversary and were married on September 8th! It has been such a wonderful journey together already, and we are so excited about what the future holds for us. Gaby and I have many things in common including our faith, interests in sports / exercising (we went white water rafting and mountain biking on our honeymoon!), ambitions in school, our sense of humor, hobbies and so much more. We're very much in love, and soaring - still on our honeymoon! We went through pre-marital counseling w/ two of the pastors at our church, and we continue to read and study more books to help ensure we are always growing closer together.

Our wedding day was so beautiful for each of us. We had a fair-sized wedding at our church, and were married by our head pastor Mike Tuttle. Mike's messages and personality drew each of us to that church, he baptized Gaby there in our church in December '06, and I traveled w/ Mike to the Philippines last year. It was **AWESOME** to be married by someone we both know and love. We wrote our own vows to one another, she read a poem to me and I sang a song to her, we each had our siblings in the wedding party and it was an **INCREDIBLE** day! We put together a web site to capture the memories and promises of that day: <http://www.shaunandgaby.com>.

This year, Gaby and I also got to travel on a mission trip! After my journey to the Philippines last year, I was eager to make a return trip to spend with the children at Christians' Haven (CH) so I volunteered to lead the trip for our church this year. Gaby signed up soon and it was wonderful that we could make this year's trip **TOGETHER**. We continue to be inspired and changed in our faith from that week w/ the kids in the Philippines and we are going to get more involved w/ the ministry. Gaby is going to do some grant writing for the organization and we're planning to visit some churches together in the months ahead to do some fundraising for CH. There are over 100 beautiful faces there between the two campuses in the Philippines but there are somewhere around 1 million street children in the Philippines so there is still a growing need for the Christians' Haven ministry. Gaby also took another mission trip this past summer, working w/ some of the Native Americans near Winslow, Arizona. Each trip stretched us in our faith and we're so happy to each have found someone who's willing to serve the Lord like we do. You can also find links to the photos from these mission trips on our web site.

As I mentioned, Gaby and I are both athletic. We competed in our first triathlon together back in September just two weeks after we returned from our honeymoon in West Virginia! That was a great event, and it was rewarding to challenge ourselves and compete in the race like that. We came in 6th overall in the male/female division. Next time, we'll be bringing home some **GOLD**! This event was 1 mile of canoeing, 25 miles of biking and then 3-miles of running at the end. I also ran another full marathon back in May. That was my first marathon since breaking my ankle in December '05. As of December '06 (a **YEAR** later) I was still having trouble w/ pain in my ankle so it was a great feeling to finally get past that when I began training in January for the marathon. My time wasn't quite what I was hoping for, but I proved that I could run again. Gaby will be running beside me in the 'Flying Pig Marathon' in 2008. She will be tackling the 13 mile half-marathon and I will take on the full 26 mile marathon for the 4th time.

2007 also brought two big milestones in our education. Gaby completed her Bachelor's degree, majoring in Psychology from Capital University and I wrapped up my MBA w/ a concentration in Management Information Systems (computer geek stuff) from the University of Dayton just a few weeks ago. Gaby is looking forward to starting grad school at the University of Dayton in the Fall, but I'm done w/ school. I was telling everyone in late November how excited I was about taking my **final** exam... EVER!!! It was a long journey to get my MBA and I'm glad I did it, but I can't imagine any set of circumstances where I would go back to school for more torture. I can read about whatever I'd like for FREE - I don't want any more scholastic tests in my life. Besides, Gaby and I are planning to take some art and fitness classes together. I think I'll enjoy that a whole lot more!

Business for me at Design Chemistry (www.designchemistry.com) continues to do quite well. We hired a part-time designer in 2007, currently have a couple other freelancers working on a couple projects and we are positioning the company for growth. It's been pretty exciting and I'm optimistic that our business will only continue to flourish! Gaby is now working for the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company doing fundraising, and her official title is Development Associate. I suggested she be known as the Fundraising Goddess but I guess they thought it wasn't professional enough or something. ☺

My parents, Jim and Kareen Worcester are doing well. Perhaps the biggest piece of news from them is that Dad retired as of November 30th! He's worked hard for a number of years, and he's been on a particularly demanding project for the past several months which required him to work more hours than any other time in his career. So the retirement offer from EDS was very welcome! Mom is doing well and continues to play the organ in a Rwandan church in the area, and they are both enjoying their new church home and friends there. My brother Jay continues to do well on his job at Reynolds & Reynolds, and for the second year in a row he got to take a trip to the Bahamas for exceeding his sales quota. He continues to serve in the church by leading Kid Zone worship, and now has his two sons at home full-time. Nick and Chris are each doing well in school and growing up so fast! They have a variety of interests and are both active in the Dayton Youth Commission.

We've recently had another addition to the family. Gaby's sister, Maria just had her 2nd child. She is sooo beautiful, even her name is beautiful: Isabella Hortensia Sabina Brown. Gaby's parents continue to serve in the Woodglen Nursing Home Community; Bill as Rehabilitation Therapist and San Juana as the Activities Coordinator. Gaby's siblings have also had a good year. After 6 deployments (3 tours in Iraq) and 16 years of service, Miguel has retired from the Marine Corps and is now driving the BIG rig trucks (18 wheelers) around southern California. Look out L.A.! David has ventured out of the nest to live on his own and is doing well at work. Ashley is engaged to be married and continues to do well at school. J.C. just celebrated his 17th birthday in December and continues to DOMINATE the indoor soccer field. Joe just celebrated his 9th birthday and loves soccer and baseball. Jr. (a.k.a. Stacy), who turned 14 in November has been very involved at church in Kid Zone worship; running sound, helping out in the library and performing on the Stix praise team.

This has been the best year of our lives!!! We hope that all of you are enjoying the Christmas season, cherishing the time with family and friends and remembering the greatest gift that we have in our Lord and Savior this holiday season.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a Happy New Year!!!