



Dear Family & Friends,

Merry Christmas! We hope that this finds each of you prospering and growing throughout the past year. We have had an interesting 2008, and here are some of the highlights...

In May, we participated in the Flying Pig Half Marathon. We trained together in the months leading up to the race and we managed to run every step of the 13.1 mile race that day. It was an exhilarating day - and Gaby's first Half Marathon. We didn't find any triathlons this year, and we missed the Hilly Hundred again due to lack of planning and training, but we continue to stay active together; running, biking, swimming and other things.

We have each enjoyed some success at work this year. Gaby has thrived in her first full year at the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company as their Development Associate, including some very prosperous months for the company in February and May. DCDC is also celebrating its 40th anniversary this season, so she is busy planning for the coming year. Plus, Gaby volunteered to be the artist for a charity auction that DCDC took part in, and she painted a few AMAZING portraits on wooden nesting tables. Her work was sold so we only have a few pictures left of them now, which you can see on our web site at www.shاونandgaby.com.

Shaun reached the 3-year mark and became a minority shareholder in Design Chemistry in October. He and his business partner are looking to make some more changes in 2009 to make the company more profitable and position themselves for greater success. They also grew the company this year, hiring two new employees. Things are humming along nicely with the company size now doubled since the end of 2007. The company car continues to draw some calls (also pictured on our web site) and Design Chemistry is forging new relationships with other companies in the area.

Perhaps our biggest adventure of the year was when we went skydiving in August! Oh my gosh - what a rush!! We have a more detailed commentary on the adventure on our web site - we would easily turn this letter into a 4-pager telling about that day. What a thrill!! We would love to do it again some day. We also attended a few great concerts throughout the year. First, an American Folk concert "Over the Rhine" during the summer. Then over the Fall, we saw "50 Years of Rock n' Roll" with the Dayton Philharmonic and a hard rock concert which included "Papa Roach, Seether and Staind" at Hara Arena within weeks of each other.

We put our condo on the market this year, hoping to move into a house with a back yard for our dogs (and some little ones of our own later on). We bought new carpet in June, packed up a lot of things that we don't regularly use and made a number of improvements around the house to get it ready, and then we worked with our realtor (a friend from our church) to get it on the market in July. So we're currently in our sixth month and no offers thus far, but we've had a fair amount of traffic and all positive feedback from prospective buyers. Now we just need to find the RIGHT buyer, and hoping that will happen in the new year, we plan to start looking for our next HOUSE together then.

We took a couple fun excursions this year including our first camping trip together and a trip up to Northern Ohio. We packed up the dogs and a few supplies in our car and headed down to Hillsboro, OH for a weekend at Rocky Fork State Park. It was our first camping trip together, our first trip with our new tent that we received as a wedding gift and our first with our dogs in tow. We enjoyed getting away from technology and all for a few days, and we got to see Shaun's dog Bryson swim for the first time. Then in August we took a couple days off work and went to Cedar Point and the Rock N' Roll Hall of Fame. We hadn't been to Cedar Point in years and both really enjoyed the roller coasters. We screamed our heads off on several roller coasters that day, but the one that topped it all off was *The*

Dragster, one of the *FASTEST* roller coasters in the U.S. The Hall of Fame was great, as always. That was Shaun's third trip and Gaby's first. We're both itching to go back again next year after they induct the next class (hopefully including METALLICA).

Gaby started back to school in September, going for a certificate in Multimedia Design where she'll learn how to use the latest software in desktop publishing and web sites design! We're going to upgrade our home hardware and software in the months ahead and look forward to Gaby starting her own business next year! We both went to a different school earlier in the year, and 'graduated' from Financial Peace University; a 13-week course at our church taught by Dave Ramsey. We have made a number of positive strides with our own finances since the class, and have big plans for the future and how we can control our money better to provide for our family.

We also became more involved in our church this year. Shaun managed to free himself of the condo board responsibilities by the summer and we started a Small Group with a few other couples from our church in the fall. We have enjoyed getting closer to all those people in a smaller, more intimate setting and a weekly study together. We are also part of the committee that oversees all the Small Groups and helps determine the curriculum and practices that we all try to follow within that ministry in our church. PLUS, Gaby took a step outside of her comfort zone and volunteered to join the Praise Team and sing on stage in our Church's Classic service on Sunday morning. We have taken a break from helping out in Kid Zone on Sunday mornings later in the year, but we helped out with Vacation Bible School over the summer and are planning to get involved with the youth again somehow or another early next year. And speaking of youth... our sponsored son Diony from the Philippines continues to flourish; recently completing his second year of college with very high grades. He's active in his church, school, and at home with all the other Christians' Haven kids. We enjoy staying in regular contact with him. He and all the other Christians' Haven kids continue to be such an inspiration to us.

We lost a member of the family on the Worcester side this year. Our Grandma Worcester passed away the day after Thanksgiving, after a 3+ -year battle w/ Alzheimer's. We're thankful that her suffering is now over and she's rejoicing in heaven. Grandpa Worcester moved into assisted living a while back and has lots of family and friends close by to help get him through this tough time. The rest of the Worcester clan is doing pretty well. Mom and Dad are enjoying their first full year of retirement and are each volunteering in a few different ways, and they are both active in helping a refugee (and Pastor) from Rwanda get acclimated here in the U.S. Our brother Jay is working in a different department at Reynolds & Reynolds and is enjoying his new position there. Hard to believe - he's been there for 6 years now! He continues to be active in his church, and both of his sons are now in high school. Nick is part of ROTC and is learning to focus his creative energies on writing. Chris continues to make new friends and is doing very well in school.

On Gaby's side of the family, Mom and Bill continue to make a positive impact in the lives of Alzheimer's patients at Wood Glen Nursing Home. This Fall, we all participated in the Annual Turkey Trot together this year. Most of you may not know that Bill is an avid runner and Mom is a *speedwalker*. After serving 16 years in the Marines and 3 tours in Iraq, Miguel (the oldest) is now retired and enjoying a more peaceful life in California with his wife Michelle and their two kids. Maria and Jason are enjoying the new addition to the family, Isabella and Bubba is making great strides in football and wrestling. David's steady and hard work at Pitney-Bowes is paying off now that he is getting closer to a debt free life. Ashley & Mark are now married and will be welcoming a new "little one" in early spring of next year. J.C. turned 18 years old! He is also helping out with the pre-schoolers in KidZone at our church. Stacy, Jr. has been blessed with the gift of music and has enjoyed playing bass with the student ministry worship team in addition to his involvement with the "Stix" praise team. Last, but not least, Joe the youngest enjoyed a successful season with the local community baseball team.

Although we've had many adventures this year, our biggest blessing was celebrating our one-year anniversary on September 8th. We have grown closer as a couple and we're very excited about all that lies ahead! We know it seems long but we actually had to peer this down (and play with margins) to get it to fit on just a couple pages! Thanks for taking a few moments to read and we hope that it was worth your while. We hope and pray that you are enjoying the holiday season and rejoicing in all the many gifts that come from Christ - in EVERY season. Thank you for being a part of our lives. Merry Christmas!