



# Merry Christmas to you and yours!



We have had a very eventful 2009, full of changes and WONDERFUL surprises. We've sent out a shorter, abbreviated letter with our Christmas cards this year (mostly via e-card, to save some money) and if you're reading this it means you were curious enough to come here and see our full report. Good for you!! Now Shaun can blab even more about what's happened since our last long-winded year-in-review letter that went out around Christmas time '08. Buckle up, here it goes...



The biggest news here is that we're going to have a baby! We learned in September that Gaby is pregnant, and our little one is due on May 23rd. We have decided to wait till the delivery to find out the gender, but we have some names picked out either way and we are beginning to prepare for this blessed addition to our family. We have our next ultrasound on January 7th, and we're very excited to see how our baby is developing. From everything they've tested/checked so far, all's looking good!

We sold our condo over the summer (after a full year on the market) and moved into a small apartment just a few miles away. So we're still very close to church, 1/2 of the family and everything we were used to before. We received a very good offer on the condo, and along with some incentives from our generous government, we should be able to buy a pretty nice home. We've only visited a few thus far, and we have a couple of other showings coming up after the Holidays. We plan to find our dream home and move in April, when our 9-month lease here at the apartment is up. That will come just in time before we bring the baby home!

We returned to the missions field this year, going on a trip to Arizona to work with some of the Native Americans in July. More info about that trip on our site as well: <http://missions.shaunandgaby.com>. It was a wonderful experience and Shaun is leading a return trip to the Philippines for our church in 2010. There are a bunch of photos and other interesting memories from the journey coming (soon, very soon) on our site as well, all dedicated to our 2009 Arizona trip. If you don't see journal entries and such, please check back in a week or so.

We have both been involved with the student ministry (high schoolers) all year and it's been awesome to see how our youth is stretching themselves for the Lord. Gaby was drawn to it to spend more time with her teenage brothers, and after the NFL playoffs ended in January, Shaun joined her as well. There were several teenagers with us in Arizona, we both participated in Dayton 2009 (doing some local missions work in August), and Shaun's gone on a couple of other weekend adventures with them as well. Recently, Shaun has helped with some of the planning and administration of events and such within the student ministry as well.

Gaby changed jobs in September, and is now working at Boston Stoker serving the java that Starbucks wishes it was! :) She continues to work towards her certificate in digital media design, should complete the program in March, and is looking forward to starting her own business. She's debating company names, and we're saving up to get her a Mac. Ya know, all great designers use one. Shaun has a Mac at the office, and one of these days... we'll be PC-free at home. What a wonderful day that will be!

Shaun continues to enjoy success at Design Chemistry (over 4 years now - coming up on his longest tenure, ever), and they have launched several new sites and continue to separate the company from others in the area. He's really tapped into the social media channels in recent months, putting his marketing knowledge and skills to work again, and he's become quite the fan of Twitter. He's also become involved in a business referral/networking group over the summer, and is currently the "Educational Coordinator" for the group, sharing some networking or sales information.

Each side of our family is going great here in Ohio too. Mom & Dad (Worcester) are enjoying retirement and becoming more active in their church. Dad was elected to be a Deacon in their church, they host a small group in their home, and Dad is also mentoring several young men at the Miami Valley Women's Center. He did some tutoring earlier in the year, and may do that again in 2010 too. Jay is doing really well at work, hitting his yearly sales quota for the last few years running now. And... he's dating again! Nick and Chris are each doing well in school (so hard to believe they're in high school today!), Nick has been taking martial arts classes, and both of the boys are growing into fine young men.



Gaby's sister Ashley and her husband Mark welcomed home a son (Darien) in January and Ashley is expecting her second now, due in April 2010. David has gone back to school and is already a certified level 1 firefighter/paramedic. J.C. graduated over the summer and is working at Penn Station now, Stacy's in an accelerated program at school and looking forward to going to the Montgomery County Career Center next year, Joe is active in school and a variety of sports, and Miguel continues to reside in sunny California. Mom & Bill hold it all together at home, and they are each active in our church too. We saw Jason, Maria, Bubba and Bella a few times this year, including at Bubba's b-day party over the summer. They are doing well and it's hard to believe that Bella is 2 years old already!

Hopefully you made it to the end, and have enjoyed learning a little more about our 2009. Hope you each are enjoying this Holiday season... and **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!**

Love,

*Shaun & Gaby*