

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Mike & Jacqui

2006: The Year of the Great Sharrow Exodus to Texas!



The Sharrows @ Life

2006 will follow all the years prior to it as being one of notable **change**. It would seem that **change** is one of the few constants one can expect in life, and by God's providence, we've learned to remain flexible and open. While all years have brought their fair share of changes, this year was certainly monumental – bringing changes in location (Texas!), jobs (a theme), churches, culture, and social communities. In late September we took the plunge and drove from Chicago to San Antonio, becoming official “Texans” as of October 1st!



Modern Day Wagon

We're excited about the new place, life and getting to be near some of Jacqui's family.



God has been continuously faithful in providing for and protecting us during all of these transitions. We hope you and yours experienced the rich blessings of this past year and that you will have time to reflect on all of the events as we prepare for the next!

The Sharrows @ Church

One of the hardest aspects of a change from Chicago to San Antonio was the change in churches. We had so many great relationships and experiences with our friends at Village Church of Gurnee (VCG) back in Chicago! Fortunately, we were able to capitalize on some great small group experiences both in and outside of VCG earlier in the year in addition to the youth and children's ministry work. We will certainly miss the rich relationships and look forward to hearing how God continues to use the church throughout the Chicagoland area.

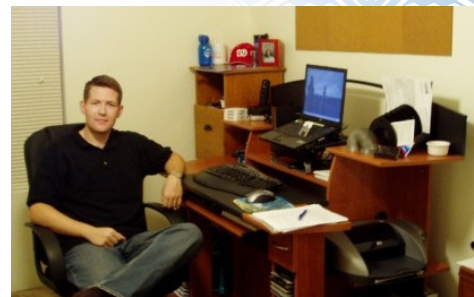


The Royal House of Sharrow?
Medieval Times - Schaumburg, IL

Shortly after migrating to Texas we settled into our new church home, Grace Point. Similar to VCG, Grace Point has proven to be a very healthy and dynamic place. We are already starting to connect with the people and are excited to see what ministries, opportunities and surprises await for us there in the coming months! We arrived at just the time the church was launching a massive small group program, so we're looking forward to participating in that as a great first step. It's also less than 1 miles from our apartment, so it is very accessible for being involved in mid-week events/activities.

The Sharrows @ Work

Jacqui continued working at Roling Memorial Library (Trinity) most of the year, in their Inter-Library Loan department. She loved the people and environment there and was sad to say goodbye—even though she was excited to turn the page and see what's next in life! In early November she started a job as an administrative assistant at our church, Grace Point. It was an unexpected course in terms of job type/location, but offered a great chance to work supporting a variety of ministries and to get to know the folks at our church even better.



Mike at work in his Home Office

Mike started out the year still immersed in the world of Medicare Part D, working with Walgreens as the manager of an operations group dedicated to serving a Part D program with over 4 million seniors. He had a great team and really enjoyed the many experiences the assignment brought along. It worked out that in October he was able to transition to a new role as senior account manager within the client services area of Walgreens. This new role will involve more direct ownership of customer relationships, health plan consulting and some travel—but conveniently focused on accounts within the Texas market. It's a new role with new dynamics and also his first stint working from home—lots of changes!



Visiting the summer home in D.C.

The Sharrows @ Play

In the spring, we escaped to some new destinations for both of us: Washington D.C. and New York! Neither of us had been to the great cities of the East, and we really enjoyed the experiences. D.C. was extremely rich in historical and cultural encounters—between the memorials, Smithsonian campus, Capitol buildings (even a personal tour thanks to the Alaskan Congressman!), and much more. A quick train ride later put us in the Big

Apple where we spent just a quick day walking around Manhattan, and catching *Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway!

We saved one of the biggest trips until the very end of the year—an authentic Alaskan Christmas visiting Mike's family! This will be Jacqui's first time experiencing an Alaskan Christmas and we're both excited to get to share the holiday with the Northern Sharrows

The Sharrows - Looking into 2007

Each year has born so many surprises, twists and discoveries, so it's difficult to say what will happen in '07. We're excited to continue connecting with people in San Antonio, working with Grace Point, growing in our jobs and settling into the new Texas life. With the Gulf of Mexico just a couple of hours away, there's a high chance a visit to the beach may just find a recurring role in the calendar, too!

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