

Merry Christmas

Seasons Greetings from Mike & Jacqui Sharrow



In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps. - Proverbs 16:9

We pray that this greeting finds you well and that 2007 was a memorable and significant year. In previous years we have talked about “change” and how we were looking forward to when things “settle down” and return to “normal.” Well, after a few years of that tune, we’re slowly coming to appreciate that change is normal and that God’s intent for our journey in life is more about His “steps” and less about our “plans.” 2007 has been a poster year for this principle—and one we will cherish for its abundantly good and rich experiences!

Sharrows @ Home

Last year was the great “exodus to Texas,” and this year was one of homesteading as we purchased our first house. We were thrilled to find a home with everything we wanted—living space fit to host small groups and space to have a family (one day). A better part of the spring and early summer was spent removing wall-paper, painting, and getting it ready to settle into. We were blessed to have some friends who spent dozens of hours serving selflessly! God provided so well beyond our expectation through the particular house, location, price, and experiences of ownership.



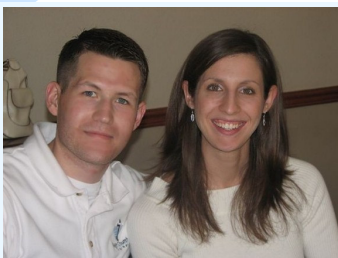
Our first house...Casa de Sharrow

One of the great joys of having a house has been the ability to host friends and family. The space has been perfect for having family over for frequent events and celebrations. We’ve also been so blessed by hosting a weekly “life group” through our church, called the *Gathering*. Nine other couples join us weekly for a time of sharing, encouragement, study, prayer and so much more as we seek to all grow together. Almost weekly it seems God answers our initial prayer to see our house used as an instrument for ministry!

Sharrows @ Church

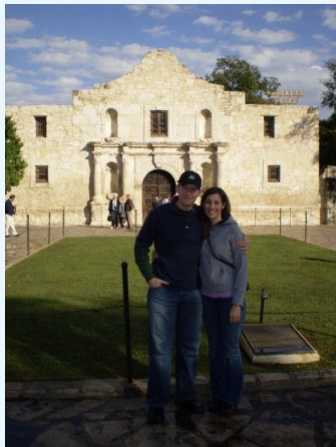
We were so fortunate to have found Grace Point Church shortly after moving to San Antonio. We have greatly valued the opportunities to partner with people in various ministry initiatives both within the church and across the local community. We both work with the Marriage & Family ministry team which provides retreats, seminars, and other resources to couples within the church. This fall we were able to coordinate a *Love & Respect Conference* event where over 170 people came from across the city for great marriage teaching and encouragement.

Mike found a perfect match for his passion to see local churches collaborate through his promotional strategist role for the *Leadership Summit*—a 3 day national conference for which our church is a simulcast site, and to which hundreds of people from over 70 churches attended. Beyond that event Mike is also getting to work on a new initiative to gather area pastors together for mutual support, encouragement and leadership development.



Helping with a Grace Point Marriage Event

The *Gathering* has been a wonderful way for us to both invest in what we know God so lovingly calls us to as Christians: intimate relationships of mutual love and encouragement where we can seek to grow in our discipleship to Jesus together! It’s also proven to be just a lot of fun getting to know wonderful couples and enjoy simply “sharing life together.”



Keeping watch over the Alamo

Sharrows @ Work

Job change is no foreign concept for us—in fact, it would seem strange to have a year without surprises. 2007 certainly did not fail to deliver!

Mike started the year as a senior account executive with Walgreens Health Initiatives. This new role he started last year proved to be a great fit, and he really enjoyed working with health plans across the country to manage their benefit programs, healthcare concerns and other strategic initiatives. The frequent travel was a part of the job that took some adjusting to for us. Just as things seemed to be getting into a groove, God revealed a plan He had been masterfully preparing that would involve an even more significant change than previous ones. As one of the pastors at Grace Point was moving on, Mike was asked to come on staff as the Community Pastor.

While initially a nearly dizzying proposal from being so unanticipated, this door God has opened proved to be an amazing “fit.” Recognizing the providential convergence of passions, experiences, and plans that God had architected, Mike accepted. Starting February 2008 Mike will end his 7 years with Walgreens and begin a new journey in full-time ministry at Grace Point. He will be responsible for marriage/family ministries, small groups/classes, financial stewardship programs and continuing to work with the *Leadership Summit* primarily.

Jacqui started the year working with the Children’s Ministry at Grace Point as the administrative assistant. The year was full of new experiences and learning opportunities supporting numerous events as well as day-to-day support of ministries for over 500 kids. However, with the prospect of Mike’s job change (and >50% pay cut), it looked like a job change was in store for her as well. God had that taken care of, too. Jacqui was recently hired to serve as the executive assistant to the senior and executive pastors at Grace Point! This new role is a wonderful match of both utilizing administrative and leadership giftings Jacqui has and also meeting the basic financial needs for next year. Needless to say, change remains constant and 2008 will continue to be an unfolding of God’s plans for this area of our lives!

Sharrows @ Play

With the house, church involvement and job changes, most of the “play” time this year was spent locally. We enjoyed the local beach, some visits by friends and family, and even escaped to the Grand Canyon with Jacqui’s sister, Laurie. We’re really glad we did, particularly since her sister is re-deploying to Iraq this winter. Overall, we’ve been having a lot of fun just experiencing life, discovering the plans God is revealing to us and seeking to make the most of the present.



Taking in the Grand Canyon

Our plans for 2008? Embrace the changes we already know about, dive further into local ministries, grow in our friendships and life rhythm, and prepare for whatever *else* God has in store!



Updated Contact Information
11346 Candle Park, San Antonio TX 78249
Mike - (210) 638-1519 or alaskan_mike@hotmail.com
Jacqui - (210) 683-1358 or jacqueline_dawn@hotmail.com

