

# Shawn and Donna Alexander

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Sending Church: Heritage Baptist Church  
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Dear Friends,

Joy! According to Webster's, joy is defined as "the emotion evoked by well-being, success, or good fortune or by the prospect of possessing what one desires". On November the 6th Donna and I were in the Civil Affairs office in Changsha, China to hold our daughter Anna Shae for the first time. This was joy! Since arriving home our family has sensed how well she has responded to our love and attention. We are grateful to the Lord for bringing this bundle of joy all the way from China to our home.

For the Christian, Webster's definition may not always be so accurate; for joy is not always achieved by "good fortune" or "possessing what one desires" but through a knowledge that God could use my life, whether by trial or blessing, to bring the message of Christmas to a lost soul. The martyred missionary, Nate Saint, shared his thoughts on December 18, 1955 only 21 days before he died.

*"If God would grant us the vision, the word "sacrifice" would disappear from our lips and thoughts; we would hate the things that seem now so dear to us; our lives would suddenly be too short, we would despise time-robbing distractions and charge the enemy with all our energies in the name of Christ. May God help us to judge ourselves by the eternities that separate the Aucas from a comprehension of Christmas, and Him, Who though He was rich, yet for our sakes became poor so that we might, through His poverty, be made rich."*

The joy we have is to serve the Brazilian people, burdened by their lost condition, yet knowing that the message of Christ is the only hope for their source of true joy!

Our oldest son Shawn Jr. has completed his first semester of college at Bob Jones University. He joined Faith Baptist Church and is involved in a ministry reaching out to inner-city children. He has made solid, godly friendships with other young men who desire to serve the Lord. Micah, our 11th grader, has been studying part time at the community college and the Christian day school. He and his brother Jordan have enjoyed soccer, choir and the band. Jordan is in his first year of high school and has worked hard at grades as well as his testimony among his peers. Our children bring us joy as they grow spiritually and serve others.

The choirs from three of our churches and a small orchestra performed a Cantata in three locations. Many visitors came to each service and the opportunity to reach out to the community was tremendous. Each of the churches has added people to their attendance in the last few months. Pray for our second church, New Life, as they will be searching for a new pastor under the leadership of my brother Ed. Two recent graduates of seminary from that very church will be assisting Ed in the preaching and administration until they both move on to the ministries to which God has called them.

Pray for our return as we await the documentation process to be completed by the US government and the Brazilian consulate for Anna Shae. We are anxious about getting back to the fourth church and the needs of the ministry.

Thank you for your continued giving and praying. Pray that we will be able to *charge the enemy with all our energies in the name of Christ* as we prepare to return to Sorocaba.

Serving with Joy,

*Shawn, Donna, Shawn Jr., Micah, Jordan, Andrew + Anna Shae*  
Shawn, Donna, Shawn Jr., Micah, Jordan, Andrew and Anna Shae

*"To open their eyes and to turn them from darkness to light..." Acts 26:18*

