

COTHARANMONTHLY

JUNE-SEPTEMBER 2009

Shawn and Sarah dressed up for a date night in Pittsburgh!



Coming to YOU for the first time ever!

Where do we even start? Here we are. Shawn and Sarah Cothran! Writing to you from Newcastle, Australia. We arrived back in town on Friday morning, September 4 and spent the weekend getting settled into our new house! Our house even has a pool! What a blessing it has been. We have the wonderful privilege of living right next to our good, [fairly] newlywed friends, the Russells. But before we get too ahead of ourselves, we'll recap the last few months.

Summer in the States

We arrived state side on June 7 and the fun commenced! We spent 4 days in California visiting with Shawn's family and friends and then headed off to Pittsburgh. The day we arrived, Sarah's little brother Phil graduated high school and the family dog of 14 years, had to be put to sleep. Talk about overwhelming! Shawn spent the

next 10 days in Pittsburgh and on the day before he left he proposed! In the days to come we spent lots of time in prayer and talking to our family and leaders in Australia about the possibility of extending our holidays to get married! The doors swung wide opened and thus started the frenzy of planning a wedding in 56 days. Stressful? Yes. Worth it? Definitely. And you know what else? It all came together beautifully! On **August 15**, we had a wonderful ceremony in Sarah's home church in Pittsburgh, followed by a lovely reception at the Haddad home with dinner, dancing, and hanging out with the 70 close friends and family that were able to make it. We just want to send a big **thank you** to everyone who was able to celebrate with us! It was such a blessing to have you all there!

After the wedding, we headed down to the coast of North Carolina where Sarah spent most

summers vacationing with my family. We were able to stay in Sarah's great aunt and uncle's house in the secluded town of Gloucester, North Carolina. It was SO relaxing to be able to be down there. We followed that up with our three final days in Pittsburgh and then headed out to California, where we spent a week at Shawn's grandma's house, catching up with more family and friends. It was such a lovely time all around.

It has been so nice to not be living out of a suitcase anymore and to be able to turn the house into a home. We are learning lots about each other and what it's like being married. We are on the **adventure** of a lifetime!



Left: One of the best wedding pictures so far, taken by Lillian Boeskool (Sarah's aunt)

Below: Shawn proposing to Sarah!



Right: Enjoying Cape Lookout, North Carolina in the Outer Banks

Far right: Sarah's great Uncle and Aunt's house in North Carolina that we got to stay in for our honeymoon!





Top photo: The warehouse under construction for our new youth center that will include a skate park, cafe, auditorium, dance and music studios, offices, and much more!

Above: The youth that we're creating the center for!

So we're married. Now what?

From Sarah!

I've jumped feet first right back into leading the **high school ministry** and, more immediately, being the key camp coordinator for our upcoming youth camp, **5 Day Escape**, that we run every year. Both of these ministries fall under my role in the Youth Street department. While I was away, things really cranked along. We've seen so much breakthrough in the high school close to our new warehouse/ youth center -in-progress and our relationships with the administration there are deepening. I really believe the possibilities are going to become endless with the freedom we will be given in that school. There's been a dramatic transformation in the lives of a handful of the boys that have been coming for over a year now. Two of them are coming to our camp and one has been coming to Youth Street on Saturdays! God is good and He is faithful. As we continue to be persistent, we continue to see more breakthrough.

As camp coordinator for 5DE I will oversee all the activities (amusement park, laser tag, shopping, night presentations, etc) for the week. The camp is October 5-9 and we are aiming to take **75 kids** with us! Pray that we see this goal met in the next couple weeks!

In terms of what is ahead for me, it's looking like at the end of the year (or possibly sooner) I am going to transition into a broader leadership role within the department. I feel like God is challenging and pushing me into a larger leadership role. This role would still include overseeing the high school ministry, along with all camps, events, marketing, promotions, and a few other things. I'm really excited about this opportunity! Pray for an increase in **vision and wisdom!**

...and from Shawn!

My heart, aside from belonging to Sarah now, is, and has for many years been, toward reaching youth through music. My role in the **Creative Department** here at YWAM Newy for the past year has been to **coordinate music and worship** for our base gatherings, Youth Street Live, and any other events like fundraisers or parents' nights. **Training youth**, staff and students to lead worship has been a challenge and delight.

In this new season on Base, God has given me the opportunity to realize my long time desire of **leading a touring rock band** to infiltrate youth culture with Christ and His message of hope. The goal is to engage with God in giving an opportunity for praising, thanking,

worshiping, petitioning and talking to God through the platform of original heavy rock music. Music built on a foundation of passion, momentum, and unity. Creating an environment of oneness of voice and message, putting the right words in people's mouths to shape, re-shape and/or reinforce biblical ideologies and world view. Bringing **God's undeniable presence** to the forefront of minds, thought, and culture; because we sing before we understand. Concerts are an invitation into an ongoing conversation with God that is intriguing, dynamic and attractive; something relevant and accessible to unchurched and unreached youth. The 1 on 1 accessibility of the band members in the show/concert context is a precise, determined evangelistic force as well as an inlet for questions and dialog to be answered and entered into through language and lifestyle.

I am still heavily involved in training and facilitating worship leaders, musicians and sound engineers, as well as helping staff Youth Street Music Team, but as the band takes off God only knows what my day to day will look like. Needless to say, **Marriage + Rockin' = AWESOME!** What a blessed adventure we are on.

We need YOUR help!

We have been called to serve God in full time ministry and would love for you to join the mission by partnering with us on a one time or monthly basis!

How can you help?

- Weekly Staff Fees (meals, rent)
 - \$140 per week (\$70 each)
- 5 Day Escape
 - \$700 total
- Base Retreat October 20-23
 - \$150 total

How to give

- shawnandsarah.com/support.html