

# south shore fellowship

"it's all about relationships"

bridgman, michigan

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*Happy New Year Everyone,*

*January 2010*

I can barely believe that this is our third winter in Michigan. We have sure undergone quite a transformation over these past years. We arrived here the beginning of March in a snowstorm. We ran right out and bought a snow shovel! We hadn't seen snow in over 22 years. We were excited about being environmentally conscious and also about getting some exercise. I mean, how bad could it be, right?

Well, it was fun the first few times. Spring came and we put that shovel away and didn't think about it again until the next winter when the snow began to fall.

Lake Michigan is just a mile and a half from our home. No one told us about "Lake effect snow." I'm still not sure I really understand it. All I know is that when the storms come across the Lake we get A LOT of snow!! Well, the snow came back with a vengeance and we bought another shovel so that we could shovel together! We thought it would be so romantic...it wasn't.



*WEKO Beach-the beach goers have been replaced with snow fences*

We made it through that winter....barely. We both tweaked our backs and had to take a barrel of Ibuprofen.

The second winter came and we tackled that driveway with a vengeance. All the while, our

neighbors were using their snow blowers and looking at us like we were crazy. We were beginning to think the same thing! We kept shoveling and asked God to bless us with a snow blower! 😊 By the end of winter # 2 we were given 2 snow blowers! That was the good news. The bad news was they were both broken. We kept shoveling and then Jack got the idea to take both of the snow blowers in to be fixed and they used one blower to fix the other. It stopped snowing.

It is now our third winter. We have learned to dress in layers. We have all the right boots, down jackets, hats, and scarves to wear. We watch the weather channel with the rest of the "Michiganders". And best of all....we now have a snow blower that works!



*Jack and our wonderful snow blower*

Shoveling is such back breaking work. It can be so time consuming. What used to take us an hour and a half to shovel now takes all of 15 minutes! Now we can use our blower to help some of our neighbors who need it. What a blessing!

Our passion in life is to read God's word and let Him speak to us and then journal those thoughts down and let God's word change us from the inside out. Our passion in ministry is to get others to do the same. We can get so easily dumped on by life. It can

build up until we are virtually immobile. Oh, we can try to dig out from under on our own, but it takes so long and it is exhausting.

Listening to God through His Holy Spirit as we read His word is like using a snow blower to plow through all the obstacles. It just makes doing this life so much easier. And it frees us up to help others plow through their stuff.

Jack has been hard at work on a new journal for 2010. He's entitled it "STOKED - How to have daily S.U.R.F. sessions with God." Stoked is a surfer term meaning "extremely excited." It is going to have an amazing cover featuring our son Josh catching some air while surfing in Mexico a few years back.

Jack tweaked on the reading schedule to make it more manageable. You can chose to read through the Old Testament or the New Testament in a year and also have the choice to read a Psalm and a Proverb each day. You can chose to do one, two, three, or all. Jack's Dad used to say, "Proverbs help you get along with man and Psalms help you get along with God."



Billy & Danny-future SSF worship team members

There will also be a place to write down 5 things you are thankful for that day. We have found that starting or ending your day with being thankful is so important. The old journals we had used S.O.A.P. as their acronym. (S-scripture, O-observation, A-application, P-prayer). In keeping with the surfing theme we have chosen S.U.R.F. (S-scripture, U-understanding, R-relevance, F-follow-up).

We are extremely stoked about this new journal and we hope to have them available in February. We have included the new reading schedule for you in this newsletter so you can get started right away!

It's a new year. The gyms and spas are crowded with people wanting to make new start. I can't think of anything more important than getting "spiritually fit" in 2010. Jesus told us when he left this world that He

wasn't leaving us alone. He sent His Spirit to lead us, guide us, and teach us. The Holy Spirit is the most amazing tutor in the world and it only costs us a bit of our time and a humbling of our hearts to sit, read, listen, and learn from Him. Will you join us this new year? We promise you an amazing journey of faith. Let's all get "fit for the kingdom" in 2010! Grab hold of your "spiritual snow-blower" and join us!

#### SSF Update:

Jack has just begun a new sermon series on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts are still for today. They didn't die out with the apostles. Please come join us.

Dave Cowan filled in to give Jack a break Sunday Jan 3. He preached on, "Integrity in Core Values". We actually met Dave and Christina in Waikiki a number of years ago at Hope Chapel South Shore (Now Hope Chapel Waikiki)

Recently, Dick and Lena McNees came and ministered at SSF. They have a powerful healing ministry. The following Sunday we got to hear some great testimonies.

We still have plenty of small groups that meet throughout the week. For more info call us 269-465-6264



Dave & Christina Cowan-we met them in Hawaii years ago

*Mahalo Nui Loa (thank you very much) for all your prayers and support over this past year. If you are in Michigan, please join us Sunday 10am at WEKO Beach house.*

*Aloha Ke Akua,*

*Jack & Maree,*

*Jack & Maree*