

south shore fellowship

"it's all about relationships"

bridgman, michigan



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Aloha and Autumn greetings from Michigan,

November 2009

The little fireman came onto my porch slowly and carefully. His parents were standing back watching with pride and amusement; waiting to coach him along if they were needed. It was quite apparent that this was his first Halloween.

I was ready for him. I opened the door and smiled at him. He just stood there; staring at the lollypop in my hand. From the sidewalk his mom said, "What do you say?" Silence. He never took his eyes off the lollypop. She called to him again to remind him of what to say.

He seemed to wake up and held up his bag and said, "I want candy!". His mom laughed as she reminded him to say, "Trick or Treat". He said it and I gave him the treat.

As he turned to leave, she said softly, "What do you say?" He turned around and gave me a big smile and said, "Bye, bye!" His parents turned to say thank you for him as he proudly walked toward them with his prize.

From a very early age we need to be taught to be thankful. I find that interesting. Some parents do a great job of teaching their children manners. Teaching our children to be thankful, though, is a matter of the heart. Teaching myself to be thankful is a spiritual discipline I try to keep up in my life on a daily basis.

I Chronicles 16: 7-36 is one of my favorite passages on thanksgiving. Verse 34 says, "Give thanks to the LORD for He is good; His love endures forever." We sing that song often at South Shore Fellowship and it is one of my favorites. Last Sunday as we sang this song I asked our people to think of just one thing they were thankful for that day. Then I asked them to SHOUT it out, all together, on the count of three. It sounded amazing as all our voices rose up in one thankful moment! I wondered if it made God smile. 😊

Have you ever done something for someone that took quite a lot of effort on your part? Maybe it was something you created with your own hands or something you took great pains to research and find for them. Whatever it was, you just knew they would love it and appreciate it...but they didn't. In fact, they didn't even acknowledge it or if they did, they barely said a simple "thanks."

How did it make you feel? I can tell you that for me it makes me wonder if I would ever do any thing special for that person again. I mean, why bother?

I know God isn't me...thank goodness! And I dare not put Him into my little box of limited love and emotions, but I truly think that He also loves to be thanked and appreciated. If not, then why have all these verses in I Chronicles reminding us to be mindful and purposeful about thanking Him?



Pastor Appreciation Sunday-Jack's 1st surfer cake-thanks Bill Gerold

Years ago, Jack and I began the practice of writing down 5 things we are thankful for each day. Some days, as I begin this exercise I wonder if I can even come up with 5. But I always do. As soon as I set my mind upon being thankful my whole attitude just changes and I find that I have so very many things I can thank God for.

A few nights ago as I let the dogs out for the night I noticed that it was so bright outside. I looked up into the face of the most beautiful harvest moon I think I've ever seen. It seemed so large and close. I just stared at it unable to say or do anything for a moment. Finally, I whispered a prayer and all I said was "Thank You." I knew God heard me and understood. No more words were needed. He knew how full my heart was.

I immediately sent a text to our grand daughter Bethany in Arizona. They were 3 hours ahead so I told her to wait for the moon. She did. A few hours later she sent me a text that said...."Whoa!" It was so special to share that moon moment with her and with my LORD. I felt closer to them both.

So, what are you waiting for? Get your Bible and read the passage in I Chronicles to get inspired. Then, take a pen to paper and number 1 thru 5 and take a moment to say "Thank You" to the ONE who loves you with a love that endures forever!

October was 'pastor appreciation month' and our people surprised us with a delicious pot-luck, special gifts, a special offering, and even a "surfer cake" very artistically inspired by Bill Gerold. We felt so loved and appreciated....and we still do. We just want to say 'mahalo nui loa' one more time to everyone.

SSF Updates: Please check out our website for audio of our sermons and current bulletins. Jack's current sermon series:"Answers to Tough Questions" is now completed.

Sunday 11-22-09 10am-Eric & Janet Johnson-BGC missionaries to Mexico will be ministering.

12 noon-Thanksgiving Potluck following. Yes we will have plenty of turkey.

Thursday 12-24-09 6pm-Christmas Eve Service at WEKO Beach house.



South Shore Fellowship WEKO Beach 11-2009

Aloha Ke Akua,

Jack & Marcee,

Jack & Marcee