

south shore fellowship

"it's all about relationships"

bridgman, michigan

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269-465-6264 www.southshorefellowship.org



Aloha friends & family,

February 2010

As I sit down to my computer it is snowing like crazy outside. We have a big winter storm heading our way. The "world" outside my window is beautiful and white and I am thankful for my warm and cozy home. I am also thankful for God's love. He is our perfect Valentine. I have been reading in Exodus and in Matthew recently, and I've been just blown away by God's crazy love for us. There is no one who can love us more than He does. I pray that you will open your valentine (the Bible) from God today and read about His love for you.

Super Bowl Sunday has just come and gone. I heard on the radio that over 6 million people tuned in that Sunday....the biggest audience ever. If you were one of those watching then you saw him. He was covering the game for CBS. In the business they are called "anchors". This broadcast anchor has a story I'd like to share with you. Let's find out the 3 things that anchor him in his life.

His name is James Brown. His first anchor was commitment. Having a dream for himself to make his mark in the NBA, he worked hard on the basketball court and he worked hard in school. The time came for him to think about college and he was recruited by Harvard University. He visited the campus and called the coach when he returned home. He decided to commit to Harvard. Soon after, he got a letter from UCLA asking him to come and play for them. He was overjoyed. UCLA was a college basketball dynasty. He told his parents he had changed his mind; that UCLA would be his ticket to the NBA.

His parents reminded him that he had already given his word to Harvard that he was coming. "You'll stand by your word," is all his mother said. You see, commitment was a life-lesson anchor that had been taught to him over and over again. "If you want to be someone, you've got to honor your commitments."

The second anchor was hard work. James learned this at an early age and looked to his father's example. His father, John, had worked many jobs to support their family. "Nothing comes easy," John

used to say. James took that attitude to the basketball court and he worked hard.

At basketball camp, in his 8th grade year, he asked his coach what he needed to do to become an NBA player. His coach answered him something like this: "If you want to become an All-County player, here's what you need to work on. If you want to make All-State, then you must master these things, too. He kept on going up the scale listing more and more skills until he got to what it would take to make the NBA. "There are no shortcuts," he said.

That summer his parents and friends knew where to find James. He was on the basketball court, practicing his drills. By his sophomore year of high school he was a different player and was asked to join the varsity team. He kept practicing. His friends would ask him to put his ball down and come out with them but he just ignored their offers and kept practicing. "No one is going to outwork me," he thought. He knew what it would take to make it all the way.



Bill & Melissa Erkelens will be leading a small group at Brent & Jenny's

Three years later, he arrived at Harvard, and suddenly there were distractions; girls, new places to see and experience, new friends, etc. For the first time in his life he found himself saying "Okay" when they asked him to put the ball down and come with them. In his words, he was a good player in college

but not nearly the player he could have been. Even so, he was drafted by the Hawks and his dream began to unfold.

His dream was short-lived, however. He soon realized that he could never catch up to all the other players that had never lost their focus. He was cut from the team almost before he started. He was devastated.

That's where anchor number three came into play. He was taught that trials come into every life and when they do, there must be something bigger and deeper to sustain us. That anchor is called faith. After his brief stint in the NBA, James took a job in sales and was climbing to the top. He was making good money and acquiring all the "finer things" of life. But he felt empty. He realized that he was quickly becoming the guy who was only out for himself.



Saturday S.U.R.F. session at Roma's

One night, driving home from a seminar, he pulled over and just sat in his car, thinking about his life and how far he had drifted from the anchors his parents had taught him. He began to pray. He grabbed hold of the anchor of faith. It wasn't long after that, out of the blue, he got a call. It was an opportunity to work in broadcasting covering NBA games! God had brought the dream back to him...just wrapped up a little differently...but so much better than he could have imagined. Now, he is the host of The NFL Today show each Sunday on CBS.

We received so many letters of encouragement last month and we are delighted that so many of you have joined us in the Bible readings each day.....enjoying a daily S.U.R.F. session with God. As I read this story about James Brown I was inspired to keep up those three anchors in my own life.

You see, I'm aspiring to be a part of the "PSL"pro-spiritual league. 😊 To excel in my walk with Christ I must commit my life to Him; allowing Him to coach

me, instruct me, lead me and guide me. I must work hard at spending time with Him. There are so many distractions that want to pull me away. But, if I am determined to focus on Him through reading his Word and praying, attending church and even small groups; I will begin to grow stronger in my faith. Faith is the spiritual muscle I need to hang in there in the hard times as well as the good times.

We never know what life will throw our way but all of us at one time or another will be participating in the "Super Bowl of Faith." Are you ready for it? Can you say with confidence, "Put me in coach?" I want to be ready. That's why I'm in training and I'm training hard. Will you join me?

SSF Update:

Jack and Maree are heading west for a few weeks. If you are in California or Hawaii please join us:

Sunday February 21st Westminster Presbyterian Church, 755 Bard Rd, Port Hueneme, California (805-483-8610).

Sunday February 28th Hope Chapel Waikiki, 310 Paoakalani Av (808-926-5544)

Sunday March 7th New Life Christian Center, 16629 S. Avalon Blvd, Carson CA (310-538-5540)

South Shore Fellowship will continue to meet at WEKO on Sundays at 10am thanks to, Jim Whitehead, Brent Bean, Bill Erkelens, Dave Cowan, Moose and many other faithful brothers and sisters in Christ. If you are in Michigan, please attend.

We still have plenty of small groups that meet throughout the week. Check out our web site for more info: www.southshorefellowship.org

New small group:

Thursday February 18th 7pm- Truth Project at Brent & Jenny's house 12913 Pardee Rd in Sawyer call Bill or Melissa for more info (708-785-1051)

SSF Sunday School-Thanks to Jim, Joanna, Doug and Andrew for all their hard work downstairs in the WEKO Beach house. They have been moving things, cleaning, painting and preparing a first class nursery and Sunday school.

Aloha Ke Akua,

Jack & Maree,

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