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Greetings from "mixed up" Michigan..(one day it's spring...next day it's back to winter!!)

It was early... barely daylight. We were tired from flying in late the night before. All of a sudden I felt like someone was watching me. My eyes flew open to see two adorable, sparkling brown eyes inches away from mine. It was Silas, our five year old grandson. "Hi Popo," he said. "Aren't you glad you're here so you can spend time with me?"

I don't think he knew just how glad and excited and deliriously happy I was! Jack and I were able to spend nearly two weeks on the west coast visiting with our children and grandchildren. We had a blast.

We flew into Phoenix and then drove with Jason and his family to Ventura, California to meet up with the rest of the Nordgren clan. The last time we had all been together was 13 months ago. There have been a few changes since then. We added a future daughter. Josiah and Alexis were engaged 2 months ago and Alexis was able to be there, too, making the fam complete.

When we left Chicago for Hawaii over 30 years ago, we were a neat little family of four. Now? Now, we number 12!! It took a bit of scrunching to get us all in the family picture! When Jack and I got married we didn't sit down and come up with a strategy to grow our family. It just happened. But, growth isn't just about numbers.

Each time we see our grandchildren I am amazed at how much they've grown. They get taller, smarter, lose teeth, gain teeth, even their feet get bigger! (Bethany can now wear my shoes!) I don't go home each time and worry about their growth. I know that when I see them again they will have grown physically, spiritually, emotionally, and mentally. I attribute their growth to their parents who feed them and love them every day.

Jack Vance is our newest member. Last year when we saw him he was only 3 months old. He cried, ate, slept, and...well, you know! This time the change was radical! He talks, feeds himself, loves books, runs, walks, plays, skate boards with his dad, and he has quite an arm....he's got a mean curve ball!

He loves balls....all sizes. He loves trains and has now discovered Thomas and he is captivated by him. His "Mamu" and "Dadu" (his words) don't teach him these things. They just provide a loving, healthy, nurturing atmosphere where these things can just happen!

Two years ago on March 3rd Jack and I came to Bridgman, Michigan. A lot of growth has taken place since we got here. Yes, we are older, but I am referring to the growth in our hearts.

We have grown to love this place God brought us to. We are growing in relationships with our South Shore Fellowship family and with our friends, and neighbors. We have grown spiritually

as we have gutted it out through the hard times...long winters, homesickness for the islands, missing our family and friends, and submitting our wills and wants to God's plan for our lives.

There has been growth at South Shore Fellowship, also. The numbers are not huge but it really isn't about the numbers, remember? We have been experiencing leaders emerging from places of fear and self doubt. We are seeing people falling in love with God's word and committing to read it and memorize it. We are watching friendships form and noticing people using their gifts and talents to teach, sing, play an instrument, and encourage and love each other!

When we left our people in February we did not worry about them. We knew they were strong enough and healthy enough to carry on without us...and they did! It was so good to be with our kids and it was so good to get home to our South Shore Fellowship Ohana.

Now, I don't care who you are...that's growth right there!

South Shore Fellowship Updates:

A big thank you goes out to all our volunteers for making sure everything went smoothly in our absence. Dave Cowan preached and Chris Dewey led worship not only on Sunday but also at Woodland Terrace (Jack's Mom's place).

If you would like to check out all our weekly activities, check out our bulletin at www.southshorefellowship.org or write us and we'll mail you one.

Two new Bible studies include Men's Bible study on Sunday 9am lead by Daniel Leoni called "Armor Bearers" and Women's Bible study Wednesday 11am at Woodland Terrace.

"Armed and Dangerous" is a new sermon series based on Ephesians 6:10-18 that will start Sunday March 22.

The Nordgren clan at Disneyland



Left to Right: Joey, Alexis, Rachel, Jason, Silas, Jack, Maree, Savannah, Bethany, Taylor, Josh and Jack