

south shore fellowship

"it's all about relationships"

bridgman, michigan

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Aloha friends & family,

March 2010

I have a secret. I must admit that it is not a secret I am really proud of. In fact, I've managed to hide this from most everyone except for a few really close friends and family members. I am tired of carrying the burden of this shame for so long and I've decided it is time to come clean.

So, here is my confession. I am directionally challenged. Basically, that translates to mean that I get lost....easily. Suffice it say that I can't find my way out of a paper bag!

I've poked fun at myself for years but it really is quite painful. I've missed out on quite a bit in my life because I was afraid to get in the car and 'go'. Maps don't make sense to me. Landmarks are a much better way for me to navigate. Don't try to send me 'north'....I just don't get it.

Once in awhile I managed to 'get there.' But then I have the anxiety of finding my way back home. For some reason I find it extremely challenging to flip those directions backward. Once I make a wrong turn and realize that I am no longer going the way I need to be I seem to experience something like a panic attack. My breathing becomes more rapid, I feel panic and anxiety arise in me and I lose all ability to think clearly. It sounds so absurd when I put this down on paper but it is what it is.

Imagine my disbelieving laughter when we landed in Los Angeles a few weeks ago and my sweet husband says, "Okay, babe, you're my navigator!" We had rented a car and planned to drive the hour and half to Ventura to stay with Josiah, Joshua, Taylor, and Jack (our adorable 2 year old grandson).

God had blessed us with a great price for our little economy car. We had a map and we were anxious to see our kids.

I'm not sure, but I think there about a zillion freeways in L.A. My mind was soup. How in the world would we ever find our destination? As we got in the car we saw it. It was the most beautiful thing I'd ever seen. Were we dreaming? Did this car really have a

GPS system? Jack was just as surprised as I was. He had NOT ordered it because it cost extra. We asked the agent standing by the car if they had made a mistake and told her we had not paid for it. She told us it probably wasn't hooked up and if it was then to just go ahead and use it. Jack turned the key and I pushed the 'on' button on our GPS device and it sprang to life! We were like two little kids laughing and clapping and saying, "Thank you Jesus!" 😊

We typed in Josh's address and "she" began talking to us. "Take a left at the next corner. Turn right at the next light. Before we knew it, we were on the freeway headed to Ventura. One thing directionally challenged people always seem to do is to second guess themselves. We pass up a sign and think, "Oh no! Did I just miss the exit? Am I in the wrong lane? Am I still on the right freeway?"



Hawaii reunion at Chili's

With our GPS lady there were no worries. If she wanted you to stay to the left she said it...over and over and over again. AND if for some reason you decided NOT to heed her advice and exited at a place you were not suppose to, she would tell you that she was 'recalibrating' and pretty soon she was directing you back to the way you should go!

Jack has always had a pretty good sense of direction. In fact, he and his father both took pride in the fact that they didn't "need no stinkin' maps!" As we drove into Ventura Jack announced he knew exactly where he was. Our GPS lady told us to turn right. Jack went straight. I looked at him while Little Miss GPS began to recalibrate. "Shouldn't you have turned back there?" I asked. He assured me she was wrong. He knew the way. Or did he?

We finally got there, thanks to our GPS friend. Jack was a little humbled and I've decided that I now know exactly what I want and need to ask for next Christmas! 😊



Jim Whitehead preaching at SSF

As human beings we are all prone to be directionally challenged from time to time...spiritually speaking of course! The good news is that God has promised all of us a GPS system. "And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven." Luke 24: 49

Instead of being globally positioned we have the opportunity to be Godly positioned! When we combine the power of the Spirit with the wisdom of God's Word we do not ever need to worry about losing our way. So, don't waste another moment. Turn on your spiritual GPS, grab your Bible, and get moving!

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR TRIP TO CALIFORNIA AND HAWAII

- great time with our kids... Jack Bear and Popo played cars....ALOT. He also liked playing cars with Bobi...we enjoyed picking tangerines, oranges, and avocados from their trees, too!

- Jack spoke at Josh's youth group and Josiah's church's morning services. What a treat to meet 'their kids' and so many of their church family....both of them are doing amazing jobs leading the youth in

their churches. We are so proud of them. We are so thankful for the loving and encouraging church bodies that they are a part of.

- had some great times of fellowship with Arlene & Don...Jack's sister and bro-in-law in Arcadia...and they were able to join us the Sunday Jack preached at Josiah's church...Westminster Presbyterian in Port Hueneme.



Grandson Jack offered nonstop entertainment

- We met some new forever friends in Carson, California. The last Sunday of our trip Jack was asked to speak at New Life Christian Center. They were instant family.

- Hawaii was amazing...the ocean, the surf, flowers, sunshine...and most of the all...the people...we have so many wonderful memories of reconnecting with so many precious friends...Hope Chapel Waikiki is healthy and growing strong under the capable leadership and loving direction of Pastor Dennis. We are so proud of all of them!

- a special mahalo to Ed and Janet Clark for their wonderful Hawaiian hospitality. Let's just say that staying with them rivals any five-star hotel anywhere!

SSF UPDATE:

Jim Whitehead, Brent Bean and Bill Ekelens preached at SSF while we were gone. We have heard many good reports.

We are continuing a sermon series on the "Gifts of the Spirit" on Sundays. If you are in the area please join us at Sunday 10am at WEKO Beach.

April 4th Easter Sunday Potluck after church 11:30am

Aloha Ke Akua,

Jack & Maree,

Jack & Maree