

south shore fellowship

"it's all about relationships"
bridgman, michigan



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Aloha,

May 2010

We rolled into Vegas on a Sunday afternoon. We had been on the road for nearly 8 hours. The excitement had been building steadily along the way and now that we were finally at our destination it seemed as though we were all talking at once. "Wow! Look over there! Check that out! No, look this way!" There were so many things to see...so many lights... we couldn't take it all in!

Then the cell phones came out. Several of us were sending texts to the rest of the Nordgren Clan. "Where are you? We just got here! What room are you in? We'll meet you in the lobby..." The anticipation and excitement continued to build. It had been over a year since we had all been together. Our joy knew no bounds!



Rachel, Bethany, Maree, Jack, Silas, Savannah & Jason

We pulled up to the hotel and began pouring out of the van. We looked like one of those circus acts where the clowns pull up in a car and just keep pouring out! We were so jammed in the car that whoever was sitting in the front had to get out, open the side door and begin pulling out luggage before we could disentangle ourselves from each other to step out!

Jack and I had flown to Phoenix and then driven with our son Jason and his family....Rachel, Bethany, Savannah, and Silas, to Las Vegas for Josiah (our youngest son) and Alexis' wedding. If the kids keep growing...and we know that they will...I don't think we can make another long trip together....legs and arms and bodies....just not enough room! Add to

that....4 women in the car....we need stuff...a lot of stuff!! 😊

Josiah and Alexis decided on this destination wedding to make things easier for their families. It was much more affordable to drive to Vegas than to fly to Hawaii. We had a few hours to freshen up and then head downstairs for a dinner buffet and a chance for our families to mingle and mix. Did I say buffet? I think a better word would have to be feast. It was incredible. The tables seemed a mile long and they were packed with the most delicious food imaginable. Everyone kept saying they wished they could just keep eating and eating....

Alexis' father, George, was the most gracious of hosts. He welcomed us, honored us, and our son. Even though it was his daughter's wedding, he was very much concerned about each of us and wanting all of us to have a wonderful time. (WE DID!)



Savannah, Jack, Josh & Bethany

I loved hanging back and watching our 3 sons interact. I loved watching the cousins getting to know each other again. I watched as my daughter-in-law talked and laughed with Alexis...the soon to be next daughter....I just wanted to take it all in.

It was such a treat for all of us to see each other. I noticed that there was quite a reunion taking place amongst Alexis' family members, too. Those that came from Hawaii and had not seen others who were now living elsewhere for quite some time. It was such a special night of fun, fellowship, and food....did I mention the food? 😊

The wedding took place the next evening at 5 p.m. There was a beautiful wedding chapel in the hotel where we were all staying. We all gathered to celebrate with Josiah and Alexis; dressed up in our finest clothes. But, we all paled in comparison to the Bride and Groom. They looked amazing!

Afterwards, we boarded buses to take us to the reception at Caesar's Palace. Just as I cannot begin to describe Las Vegas to you in one word, so I cannot describe the wonderful celebration we had that night.



The Nordgren clan at the Shark Reef Aquarium

If you had told me that the meal we were about to be served would completely out shine the one we had had the night before I would not have believed you. Let me just say..."you had to be there."

The next morning I reached for my Bible, thinking about the wedding, the family reunion, and the sights and sounds of Vegas. There was so much to process. I turned to Psalm 89:6,7. "For who in all of heaven can compare with the LORD? What mightiest angel is anything like the LORD? The highest angelic powers stand in awe of God. He is far more awesome than those who surround his throne."



Jack Vance

Las Vegas is the brightest place on earth. It has to be. I know Jack and I could live the rest of our lives on what it takes to light up Vegas for one day! Everywhere you turn there is sound....people talking, laughing, the musical chimes of the machines...even out on the street there is music playing

everywhere....and did I mention the food? 🍽️ There are restaurants and food courts and buffet lines all over the place. Not many places can compare to Vegas....except for one...

As I read this Psalm, I was reminded that there is a wedding feast waiting for us in a city that we could never begin to describe. It, too, is bright. There is no electric bill there. The light in the City of Heaven will be shining from the Bridegroom that is waiting for us. Our host will be Father God and what a feast he has prepared for us. We will be dressed in brilliant white. It will be amazing.

What a reunion that will be! And it will be for eternity! We will not have to part ways again. We will all be together forever. Heaven will not be a quiet place, either. It will be filled with music...all of us will be singing and praising the One who loves with an everlasting love!

And did I mention the food? 🍽️ Oh yes, there will be feasting and I'm sure we won't ever have to worry about getting too full. Just like an earthly wedding it will be by invitation only. Everyone is invited to this wedding. All we have to do is accept. The Bridegroom is waiting. Will I see you there?

"Then the angel said to me, "Write: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" And he added, "These are the true words of God." Revelation 19:7

SSF Update:

Dave and Moose did a great job filling in for us. Sunday services are at 10am until Memorial Day weekend, then switches to 9am.

Thanks to Jim & Joanna Whitehead-Our Sunday school & Nursery are now open for business (infants to 12 years old)

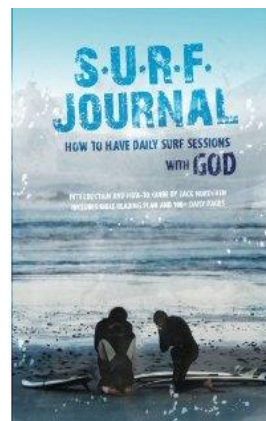
Pray for Melissa and Ally Erkelens as they head to the Dominican Republic May 18-25

Thanks to Ron & Collen Birmingham for raising over \$200 for missions selling Superbooks.

Aloha Ke Akua,

Jack & Maree,

Jack & Maree



S.U.R.F. journals are here. Send us your address via email or snail mail. Donation (\$10) can be mailed to 4630 Hidden Creek Lane, Bridgman MI 49106 or use your credit card at www.southshorefellowship.org also available at amazon.com