

south shore fellowship

"it's all about relationships"

bridgman, michigan



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Aloha,

August 2008

It was a typical summer day in Michigan. Our grand daughters were visiting and they headed out with me for a day of shopping. Jack had some errands to run but the wind was blowing quite strong, so he brought along his board shorts and put his surf board on top of the car....just in case!

Just 14 miles down the road from us is another beautiful beach in New Buffalo. Not many of the beaches around here have life-guards but New Buffalo does. Since the Third Coast Surf Shop is located in this town Jack and the other surf instructors do most of their lessons at this location.

Jack pulled in and climbed up the sand dune to get a better look at the waves. They were not quite big enough for his taste but they were great for giving lessons. Jack climbed back down to leave when a girl came running up to the toll booth in the parking lot. (Yes! you have to pay to use the beach...unless it is before or after hours.) Anyway, as the girl reached the parking attendant she yelled, "Call 911." She said there were 3 people drowning and someone was asking for a surfboard. Here's the rest of the story in Jack's words:

"I reversed and parked. Grabbing my board, I ran down to the beach without changing. I could already hear the sirens of the rescue vehicles on their way. As I got down to the water I saw Jason Lukas from the surf shop towing someone in from along side the rocks. I saw there was a girl on an inner tube still outside and close to the rocks.



The rock jetty at New Buffalo

I walked out to waist high water and began to paddle. I passed another guy on a board who was struggling against the current. I yelled to him, "Go back, I got her!" When I got to her I told her to hang onto my ankle and I'd paddle her in.

I started paddling and realized I wasn't making much headway. I was paddling against the current. I just kept on paddling and telling her that we would be in shallow water soon and assuring her that we would make it. I got her into shallow water and she walked in.

I caught up with Jason on the beach and he told me what had happened. While giving surf lessons he noticed 4 people on floating devices caught in the rip

and they couldn't get in. They were dangerously close to the rocks. He tried to tow all of them in together but after struggling against the current for 20 minutes he decided to bring them in one at a time. It turned out that the four people were a grandmother and her grand kids. The grandmother did not speak English so Jason had to have one of her grandchildren translate for him!

As he was towing in the third person he saw me paddling out and he told me he had prayed for help. I guess I was the answer to his prayer."



Jason Lukas & Jack

The rescue crew took over from there and Jack and Jason left. Little did they know that they would be interviewed and featured in two newspapers and be seen on the 5:30, 6:00 and 11:00 news! Both Jack and Jason agree that they are not heroes but they were just in the right place at the right time.

The same day this rescue took place, that morning we read James 5:19, 20. *"My dear brothers and sisters, if someone among you wanders away from the truth and is brought back, you can be sure that whoever brings the sinner back will save that person from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins.* In fact, I wrote in my journal about that verse. Over the past 30 years of ministry we have seen many, many people caught in the rip current of sin. We have also seen many people rescued and we are so thankful that they were.



SSF Sunday morning worship service

But that day as I read those timely words in James, my thoughts were about several people we have known that were saved from crashing on the rocks but then allowed the subtle but destructive current of sin to take them back out into dangerous waters. I am sure you know what I am talking about and you probably know of several people in your life who are in the same situation.

I know you are probably asking, "Why didn't the life-guards do something?" Well, the life-guards weren't on duty that day! They had put up the red warning flag to warn swimmers to stay out of the water.

But due to the threats of lawsuits and other bureaucracy, they only put up the warning signs and then they leave! I wish I could report that due to the press this rescue got, there will now be lifeguards on duty at all times to enforce the rules and make things safe. Unfortunately that is not the case.

Later that same day Jack ran into a guy who needed a spiritual rescue. It was someone who used to go to our fellowship. As Jack was debating whether or not to stop and talk to him, he remembered the scripture from James. So he did stop and talk with him and even gave him one of his books. Please pray this young man heeds the warning he received.

As Christ followers, I believe we all should be ready to take action the way Jason and Jack did that day. The rescue of those caught in the rip should not just be up to the pastor or even those in leadership positions.

All of us know someone right now who is in need of a rescue. Don't wait another moment! There is so much you can do! Start with prayer for that person and then be open to speak into that person's life. Maybe they are scared and just need to be reassured that they are going to make it. Maybe they need to be told that the rocks are dangerous and the current is strong and they need to cry out for God's help.



Mike Brent & Dave – ITS ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

You don't have to be 'in' ministry to minister to others. So, don't stop to change....just grab your board and begin paddling out to where they are!!

UPDATES:

Summer time has brought many new faces! Since we meet at the beach we are being visited each Sunday by many who are camping nearby. Not only are we "back to the beach"....we are back in a tourist ministry!!

We are currently going through a sermon series entitled, "How to Overcome Temptation" based on Matthew 4:1-11. Jesus fasted and He used the Word but what else helped Him overcome temptation? You'll be surprised to find out.



Tina & Kim – IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

The next sermon series, "Healing for the Broken Heart" based on Isaiah 61:1-3 starts Sunday August 31st. Over 500 years before Jesus came to earth it was prophesied that He would heal the broken hearted. If you are hurting with a broken heart you need to hear this. Maybe someone you know needs to hear this from you. DON'T MISS IT! Sunday, August 24th at 7pm -WEKO concert followed by "South Shore the Surf Movie".

Friday August 29th, 7-9pm Sock Hop Fundraiser for the Bridgman Lion's Club featuring, "The Holy Coasters". There will be a raffle, games for the kids and adults with awesome prizes. Can you believe this band has come back to life? Jason Nordgren will be here playing lead guitar along with our grandson Silas.

Aloha Ke Akua,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Jack & Maree".

Jack & Maree



Our grand daughters; Savannah & Bethany with their new friend Madisen. IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS



Jack's Mom and Hailey –

IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIP