



January 5, 2014

I N T H I S
ISSUE

- 1 A New Year with Greater Challenges Than We May Have Ever Faced
- 2 Obey the Lord
- 3 (AM) Service notes
- 4 (PM) Service notes
- 5 Announcements
- 7 Calendar

NEWSLETTER

happy
new year 2014
START THIS YEAR WITH
JESUS

A New Year with Greater Challenges Than We May Have Ever Faced

2014 washes away the past and rings in the new year. 2014 can be a year like any other or it can be worse than any another. It can also be greater than any other. However, we as Christians, need to realize that it is not circumstance that determines whether the new year is like any other, worse than any other, or greater than any other. Our loving obedience to Jesus Christ is what makes this determination. We can face a year of the greatest natural disasters that we have ever seen, but it could nevertheless be the greatest year that we have ever lived in, if our love and obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ is raised to a level that we have never experienced before.

The world seems to be moved by circumstances. However, Christians need to be moved by their love and obedience to Jesus Christ. This is exactly what the 1st Century Christians did. Even though their persecution had risen to levels that they had never seen before, their love and obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ caused the Christian faith to prosper rather than to decline. The Gospel of Jesus Christ was even spread to the whole world with great purity and power.

You see, the persecution refined their love, obedience, and devotion to Jesus Christ. The more demonic and evil their persecution became, the stronger their love, obedience, and devotion to Jesus became. They would not relinquish and they would not be squashed.

2014 can be a year of tremendous evil. 2014 can be a year of unparalleled challenge and crisis. But it does not have to be a year of destruction and defeat. It can be a year of incomparable blessing and victory, IF we will allow our love, obedience, and devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ reach unparalleled levels. If we would commit to loving and serving Jesus like we have never done before, we could literally see God's mighty hand of love, mercy, grace, and strength fall mightily upon us. I believe this is what God desires to do, so the decision really lies in our hands and not God's. This is because God has already made the decision to shower us with His love, mercy, grace, and strength IF we were to love Him supremely and to serve Him dearly. The decision is ours and not God's.

What stands in our way are the excuses that we constantly throw up before God. Our excuses will get us nowhere. God sees through them all. He cannot and will not be deceived. When we come to the point of stopping the excuses and begin to lovingly submit to God's every desire, this is the point where God can shower us with all that He has been desiring for us.

What do you think. Will 2014 be business as usual? Will 2014 turn into the most miserable year of our lives? Or, will 2014 be the year that we finally love God like we have never done before, and therefore experience all that He has desired for us? You see, the choice is ours.

*Yours In Christ
Stephen Kaneshiro*

TODAY - Worker Recruitment & Training Orientation 12pm-2pm @ Worship Center

We have been made aware of a potentially harmful situation that we can prevent. Child sex abuse is occurring with alarming frequency. Children within church programs are not immune to this evil calamity. Therefore, we are instituting a Child Sex Abuse Prevention program within VIF that will train our workers to identify, report, and prevent child abuse. This will include an online video training with a program called Ministry Safe. After watching an hour and a half of the video training and successfully completing a test, a worker will be recognized as having completed this part of training. Finally, we require each volunteer to do a National Criminal Background Check. (VIF will be responsible for charges from background check) We will also train each worker to carry out their spiritual ministry that they volunteer for. All of this will be introduced today. At the conclusion of the training, we are going to have Q&A (question & answer) session for those who have some questions. We will also provide an orientation on the Policies and Procedures that have been adopted for our ministries.

We are requiring these measures for all who work or will be working with children, 18 years old and younger. We are in need of more workers in all of the ministries from Youth down to child care. The need is so great that we are considering closing some ministries because of a lack of qualified workers. Parents, we know that you want the best ministry and care for your children and so do we. We want to therefore urge all of you parents to get qualified in these ministries and to serve all of our children. Doing this will also have the added benefit of helping to create an atmosphere where ministry to your children could continue even in your homes. Please pray and consider being a part of actively ministering to your children and the other children of VIF.



Obey The Lord.....by Pastor Darren Sarmiento

“So why do you keep calling me ‘Lord, Lord!’ when you don’t do what I say? ⁴⁷ I will show you what it’s like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. ⁴⁸ It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. ⁴⁹ But anyone who hears and doesn’t obey is like a person who builds a house without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins.”

Luke 6:46-49 (NLT)

Jesus’ emphasis here is on obedience. It is not enough merely to hear His Word and call Him “Lord.” We must also obey what He commands us to do. All of us are builders and we must be careful to build wisely. To “build on the rock” simply means to obey what God commands in His Word. To “build on the sand (no foundation)” means to give Christ lip service, but not obey His will. It may look as if we are building a strong house, but if it has no foundation, it cannot last. The storm here is not the last judgment but the tests of life that come to every professing Christian. Not everybody who professes to know the Lord has had a real experience of salvation. They may have been active in church and other religious organizations, but if they are not saved by faith, they have no foundation to their lives. When difficulties come, instead of glorifying the Lord, they desert Him; and their house of testimony collapses.

Think about it, every time we don’t obey the Lord it is like a piece of the house is being ripped apart. Yet, what Jesus is saying is when we don’t obey, it is more like a flood that comes and takes the whole house down all at once. The reason is due to the foundation. A house is anchored in the foundation, so it has to be very strong and solid. Homes are usually taken away in a flood because the foundation gave way or it was broken down.

If your obedience is your foundation and it is strong, then your life’s testimony which is the home will stand up and endure all types of stormy weather.

Before you can obey Him, you must first know Him. In order to know Him, you must first believe in Him. This is why the church exists to preach and teach the gospel to people with the compassion and the love wanting them to believe in Jesus. ***The same goes in lovingly wanting to obey the Lord, it is because of your love and compassion for Him.***

Pastor Stephen

Evil Advances, But God Prevails

Matthew 24:36-44

- I. Evil Advance (Days of _____)
- A. Genesis 6:3a
 - B. Genesis 6:5-7a
 - C. How different are the Days of Noah from Today?
 1. The “_____” craze
 2. The rise of all kinds of _____
 3. The rise of all kinds of _____
 4. The loss of _____
 - D. The biggest loss today – _____
- II. God will not be _____.
- A. Galatians 6:7-8
 - B. _____ God can take many different forms
 1. Those who make _____ of and _____ the things of God.
 2. Those who _____ the commandments and pleas of God.
 3. Those who _____ the commands and pleas of God.
 - C. _____ God brings _____ life.
- III. _____ & _____
- A. Ezekiel 33:7 (NLT) “Now, son of man, I am making you a watchman for the people of Israel. Therefore, listen to what I say and warn them for me.”
 - B. As we watch:
 1. We see evil _____
 2. We see the godly _____
 3. We are _____ out the _____
 - C. Being Ready
 1. Means realizing the _____

NOTES:

Pastor Darren

Pray for Others to Believe

John 17:20-26 (NLT)

Pray that...

1. _____ goes out.
2. _____ becomes essential.
3. God and Jesus are revealed through the _____.

Jesus is _____ for you and me.

NOTES:

ANNOUNCEMENT

Volunteers Opportunities

Church Facilities on High Street - We need volunteers to help clean:

4 Bathrooms | Floors (vacuum, sweep & mop) | Empty trash

Your help and hands are needed in volunteering once a week either **Thursday, Friday, or Saturday** to keep our church facilities clean. If 3 people were to volunteer each week, it would take only about an hour or so to complete.



By joining together in this task, we can bring glory and honor to the Lord and have fellowship and fun at the same time.

Please pray about offering your extra time. Sign up will be at the back table.

Happy 2014!....

In 2009, Valley Isle Fellowship began to actively pursue the development of the land God has provided by establishing a LAND DEVELOPMENT TEAM and a CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TEAM. As we stand on the promises of God and respond to His guidance, let's take a minute and remember All God Has DONE to date. 25 Acres in Waikapu owned by God and managed by VIF has been paid for free and clear. Keep in mind, the original prayer was for 15 acres, but as is so often true, "God's vision is always larger and grander than we can imagine"

(Pastor Richard Smith 2009).

2010, **Rise UP and Build** began. Our scripture reference is Ephesians 2:21-22: ***In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.*** August 2010 found us with a kickoff event calling

our members to: **STOP and PRAY, YIELD to GOD, and GO and PLEDGE.** VIF members responded after praying and in obedience, by corporately pledging \$384,528 over a 3 year period.

Over the past 3 years, there has been sacrificial giving by many. God has shown us in so many ways that, as individuals and as a church, we are merely stewards of all His blessings. While we are not large in number, we seem to indicate by our actions, that we are large in our understanding of His Gifts and the importance of obedience. And as such God has opened up and poured out His Blessing. At the end of 2013, we find that a total of \$320,923.68 has been given towards pledges and with the funds previously in the building fund a combined total of \$501,520.81 has been realized. **WOW!** There is nothing to say but **THANK YOU LORD.** And Thank you Church, for your determination to Honor and Glorify with steadfast giving in what have been financially trying times.

This journey we are on is truly an Abraham experience. We still don't know all God has in store. But as we stand on His promises and remember His Faithfulness, we can be sure He is not done yet. Be encouraged to continue to STOP and PRAY, YIELD to GOD, and GO and GIVE. The property is still being developed. We still need to give. And all the while we need to remember our motivation: To build and strengthen our individual faith in God as our PROVIDER and recognize His desire to use us to expand His Kingdom.

With gratitude we want to acknowledge the sacrifice of time and talent by the Building and Capital Campaign Teams. Thank you for your witness and testimony of what it means to be a servant. We really are BETTER TOGETHER and it is a joy to be in the VIF family with you.



ANNOUNCEMENT

RECAP OF PROJECT STATUS (Con't Rise Up and Build):

With the efforts, prayers, and hard work of the members of VIF, much has been accomplished towards the development of the property.

- Site grading for the proposed worship facility, sewer line, and access roadway improvements to the building site have been completed
- Water meter service is installed
- Unanimous approval of our request for a variance from the Board of Variance and Appeals (BVA) with this approval we are exempt from costly waterline improvements along Waiale Rd.
- The Maui Fire Department has signed off on the building permit.
- We are now in the final stage of approval of the construction plans for the proposed project's fire protection and are currently awaiting approval by the Department of Water Supply (DWS). We expect DWS to approve the revised plans since all of their comments and concerns have been addressed and incorporated in the revised plans.
- KEEP PRAYING. There is a lot more work to be done. May we continue to follow God's Guidance and utilize the resources we have been given for His Glory. Each member of the VIF family is important in reaching Maui County for Christ. Every day, in all things, may we live out:

LOVE, GOD, LOVE HIS CHURCH, and LOVE HIS WORLD

In Christ, Vince Bagoyo

Politics & the Church by Stephen Kaneshiro

As I have revealed to you in the past, I am very leery of the church's involvement in the realm of politics. Even my staff, Pastor Darren & Pastor Jeremy, are both highly skeptical of getting VIF involved in this realm. I know that the church's highest and primary mission will always be the sharing of the Gospel to see men, women, and children saved and then disciplined into a mature and reproducing faith in Jesus Christ. That will always be front and center in all that Valley Isle Fellowship does. The fear and skepticism comes as we try to mix our highest calling with this new involvement. If we ever take the spotlight off of winning people to faith in Jesus Christ and disciplining them, we will loose our moorings as a Christ centered church.

Therefore, here is what I want you to consider and pray about. As a private citizen, not as your Pastor, I plan to keep informed and involved in political issues that affect the morality of our community and society. I have outlined some convictions that I need to keep aware of and to do my best to work for.

I will work diligently to support in every way people and organization who hold these same values and will work diligently to restore these values in all government sectors.

1. *To restore a Representative Government where elected officials represent the people.*
2. *To restore the highest level of integrity within all levels of government where elected officials' word can be once again "trusted."*
3. *To restore righteousness to our state:*
 - a. *Promoting and protecting religious liberties.*
 - b. *Promoting and protecting traditional marriage and family as the cornerstone of society.*
 - c. *Defending human life from its earliest moments to natural death.*

If you would like to join me in this journey to try and accomplish the above stated thoughts, then I would ask that you follow me on my personal email. On my personal email, I will attempt to witness of the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and to disciple people by saying that we have to make a difference in our society and community. This can be accomplished by knowing the moral and political issues and then trying to affect a Biblical World View by voting properly at the ballot boxes. I will be setting up this blog in the next few weeks and then I will let you know where to find me. I will start this blog by letting you hear what I am hearing about "Pono Choices," the sex-ed program that has been released upon our Intermediate School Students. With so many things happening in VIF, I am not so sure how active I can be on this blog, but I am planning to do my best to make a difference.

(Con't)

personal email that I have set up is <mailto:snkaneshiro@gmail.com>. If you will send me an email at this address, I will send to you the information that I have mentioned above. This action is being taken to make sure that we don't water down what we are trying to accomplish in Valley Isle Fellowship. God bless you all as you seek to be all that Christ is guiding you to be. May you bring glory and honor to Him in all that you think, do, and say.

January 2014

- 5 - am Preaching - Pastor Stephen
Noon-2pm Worker Recruitment & Orientation Training
pm Preaching - Pastor Darren
- 7 - DOE Students return to school
- 9 - MCBA Pastors' Conference (8am-3pm)
(Kihei Baptist Chapel)
- 12 - am Preaching - Pastor Jeremy
pm Preaching - Pastor Stephen
- 19 - am Preaching - Pastor Darren
pm Preaching - Pastor Jeremy
- 20 - Martin Luther King Day Holiday (Office Close)
Surf Ministry Outing
- 23 - MCBA Executive Board Mtg
- 26- am Preaching - Pastor Stephen
am svcs - The Lord's Supper
pm Preaching - Pastor Jeremy

Child Care Schedule



Jan

Today : Team 4
12: Team 5
19: Team 1
26: Team 2

Feb

2: Team 3
9: Team 4
16: Team 5
23: Team 1

Mar

2: Team 2
9: Team 3
16: Team 4
23: Team 5
30: Team 1

Teams

- Team 1 - Corey Egami, Donna Nozaki, Elijah Douglas, Christian Motonaga
- Team 2 - Joycelyn\Kaiani Kiaha, Marion Kimura, Elaine Yamasaki, Avery\Zachary Yamada, Daniel Olaso
- Team 3 - Gretel Saraos, Rosie\Vicky\Daniel Quenga, Shalia Mendez, Danica Cooley, Dyllan Caolie
- Team 4 - Karen\ Kolbe\ Alysha Fontanilla, Judy\Jaydee\Jules Giron, Janice Robello
- Team 5 - Shayna Manlapao, Chavelle Moniz, Dayna Asuncion, Seth Yamada, Wayne Sniffen

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