



NEWSLETTER

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02.02.14

February | 2014

Staying True to the Calling of the Lord

by Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

Sometimes, life in Christ

can be very discouraging. With our mouths we claim that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior, but through our actions there is very little evidence that shows that Jesus makes a difference in our lives. Christianity, at one time, was claimed by more than 60% of Americans, but as public life slipped farther and farther from the commands of Christ, we also began to see that many Christians' personal lives began to follow the path of public life. This slide towards

greater evil is so bewildering and troubling as we see Christian Churches all across America following the trends of public life rather than influencing it to be more pleasing to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

When Christians say that they have evolved in their understanding of Scripture to be more accepting of the ways of our world, this is really the equivalent of Judas betraying Jesus Christ. As Christians, "Followers of Christ," we do not have the freedom to reinterpret scripture in a way that denies what scripture says. Our human understanding can never be superior to the words of scripture. Your struggle with scripture should never be one where you struggle to make scripture fit your lifestyle. Your struggle should be to make your lifestyle to fit scripture. As you make the changes in your life to submit to scripture, this is when you will see your thoughts and actions become more and more Christ-like.

As your Pastor, the driving force behind all that God is leading me to do here in Valley Isle Fellowship is based on, "Building every member to be Christ-like, so that "United we will impact Maui County for Jesus Christ." The only way that this

can be accomplished lies in two concepts that are simple to understand, but extremely difficult apply:

1. We have to Love the Lord our God with all of our heart, mind, and soul.
2. We have to move from Convenience to Sacrifice.

This driving force has led us into a very challenging and very Biblical understanding of "Discipleship." Discipleship is the process of leading all to be Christ-like in all that we think, say, and do. Discipleship is a requirement for all Christians. Therefore, all Christians are commanded to do the following:

- a. To share Jesus Christ with everyone.
- b. To help every Christian to move towards a mature love for Jesus Christ.
- c. To serve Jesus Christ in everything that He commands.
- d. To minister (to help) to the saved and the lost with the love of Jesus Christ.
- e. To pray and worship Jesus Christ in a way that glorifies Him.
- f. To free each person to dependency on and to Jesus Christ.

This was and still remains a very difficult and challenging task to accomplish. I thought that it

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2 Staying True to the Calling of the Lord *(continued)*

would take somewhere between 3 to 5 years to see this all come about. I have now been at Valley Isle Fellowship for 2 years and 3 months. It has been and still remains very difficult and very challenging.

All of this has become even more important as I have been paying more attention to what is happening in the public affairs. I having been paying more careful attention to what is happening in politics and I am definitely seeing a political climate that is becoming more and more antagonistic towards Christians who are committed to the Bible. I have been paying more attention to the moral decline that is happening in communities all around us. For instance, here on Maui, 2 women have been arrested twice for stealing mail from people's mailboxes and they are still roaming our streets. Also, divorce, juvenile delinquency, drug abuse, abortion, immoral relationships, crime, and corruption are all still very big problems that surround us. It seems like we are the generation that is experiencing the loss of a Godly moral code that can lead to our destruction.

In this kind of climate, the Christian church will either disappear or will have to go underground. It will disappear because: (a). It will look exactly like the world that there will be no Christian distinctive, or (b). It will literally disappear. It will go underground because those who love the Lord Jesus Christ will not give up their love and loyalty to Christ. They will simply have to be wise and discreet in how they live it out. They will still have to be obedient to Jesus Christ in:

- a. To share Jesus Christ with everyone.
- b. To help every Christian to move towards a mature love for Jesus Christ.
- c. To serve Jesus Christ in everything that He commands.
- d. To minister (to help) to the saved and the lost with the love of Jesus Christ.
- e. To pray and worship Jesus Christ in a way that glorifies Him.
- f. To free each person to dependency on and to Jesus Christ.

Being wise and discreet will ultimately mean that some will be imprisoned, persecuted, and even martyred for their love and commitment to Jesus Christ. Does this sound like the 1st Century or some 3rd World Country? It really seems far-fetched and unlikely that the United States would fall this far. However, we really do not have any promises and assurances that it will not. If you read the accounts of the seven churches in Revelation (Revelation 2-3), you will see that consistently it will say to each church that anyone who remains faithful till the end will be saved. You have to ask yourself, "What happens to those who fail to remain faithful?"

As your pastor, I want to say to you that I want you to remain faithful until the end, but all that I can do is to encourage you to faithfulness. I cannot force you into faithfulness. I desire for all of you to hear from the Lord at the end of your life, "Well done my good and faithful servant!" Therefore, because of the antagonistic world that lies before us, I feel a greater sense of urgency to continue the path that we have already charted for Valley Isle Fellowship.

Today, a radical faith in Jesus Christ seems so fanatical. However, during the 1st Century and today in 3rd World Countries, this kind of radical faith is the norm. A soft and convenient faith cannot and does not survive in a hostile world. Dear people of Valley Isle Fellowship, if we do not have the kind of radical faith that I have talked about, we will not survive in the world that I believe is coming. Let's do all that we can to love the Lord Jesus Christ with all of our heart, mind, and soul. Let's also move our commitment to Him from one of convenience to one of sacrifice. This will make a tremendous difference in our lives and in the lives we touch. God bless you all as you seek to lift Jesus up high that all around you might be saved.



TODAY'S SERMON

The Freedom of Jesus and The Slavery of Sin

John 8:31-59

1. True freedom is found in _____ .
 - a. There is _____ in Jesus.
 - b. There is _____ in Jesus.
2. You can't understand Jesus without understanding your _____ .
 - a. Man denies _____ .
 - b. Sin _____ .
 - c. Sin _____ the light of God.
 - d. Sin leads us to try to _____ ourselves.
3. True faith has always been about _____ .
 - a. Every believer in the Old Testament looked _____ to the Messiah and the _____ .
 - b. Every believer since the cross looks _____ to the _____ and upward to _____ .

Notes:

THE SCRIPTURES

I. BFM Statement on Scripture:

1. _____ is the author.
2. _____ were God's earthly instruments to record His revelation.
3. The Scriptures are _____, without any mixture of _____.
4. It has _____ for its end and reveals the _____ by which God _____ us.
5. It is the supreme standard by which all human _____, _____, and _____ should be tried.
6. The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is _____.

II. VIF Statement of Biblical Authority:

1. The Statement was added on 12/1/2013 because of the passage of SB1 in November of 2013.
2. This statement is not _____.
3. This statement _____ the BFM statement.
4. The Bible is the final authority concerning _____, _____, and the _____ of mankind.
5. The _____ are the church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application on _____, _____, _____ and _____.

Politics & the Church:

Pastor Stephen will continue to study and keep aware of political issues that should be of concern to all people of faith in Jesus Christ. He has setup a new email address, snkaneshiro@gmail.com. Send him an email at this address and he will send you information that he receives.

Youth & Children Ministries Volunteer Workers – We are in the process of raising the bar on qualifications and training of all of these workers so that we can provide the safest ministry environment for all of our Youth and Children. About 38 of you attended our orientation on January 5th and heard all of the details of this program. We are in need of getting all of your applications returned so that we can begin to move to provide this safe environment. The consequences of having only a few qualified workers will result in the reduction and/or closure of some of our current ministries. If you have been meaning to complete the application, we need them in by the middle of February so that we can begin to make plans. If you want to know about the qualifications and training because you were not able to attend the orientation session, it is not too late for you to get involved. Send me an email at (icastephen@gmail.com). I will then send you an email so that you can view all of the videos that were shown at this orientation. There will also be all the forms that you will need to fill out. God bless all of you as we move to provide the best ministry possible for our Youth and Children.

Needed: Volunteers

We are in need of people to volunteer to clean our church facilities on High Street. Tasks include:

Sanctuary/3 bathrooms:

1. Vacuum floors
2. Empty rubbish containers
3. Straighten room/dust as needed

Annex Big Room and Bathroom/Hallway

1. Vacuum floor
2. Clean toilet, sink
3. Mop (wet swiffer) floor
4. Empty rubbish containers
5. Refill paper toweld dispenser and handsoap dispenser

If you can help, we ask that you sign up on the back table. We are asking that this work be done either on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday of the week that you are able to volunteer. If three 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 have fellowship, fun, and bring glory and honor to the Lord. Please pray about this need.



High Street Cleaning Schedule

Week of February 6-8:

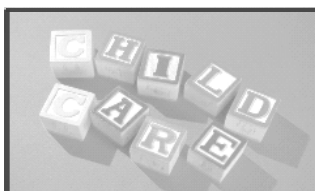
Yeiko, Grace, Jeff & Vanessa Mattos

Week of February 13-15

Waki, Hashimoto

Week of February 20-22

Suguitan, Kaimana



Child Care Schedule

Today - February 2, 2014

Team 3:

Gretel Saraos, Rosie Quenga, Vicky Quenga, Daniel Quenga,
Shalia Mendez, Danica Cooley, Dyllan Caolie

Next Week – February 9, 2014

Team 4:

Karen Fontanilla, Janice Robello, Judy Giron, Jaydee Giron,
Jules Giron, Kolbe Fontanilla, Alysha Fontanilla

PICNIC POTLUCK FOR COMMITTED CHRISTIAN COUPLES

Married, Engaged, or Contemplating Marriage



DO YOU DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN YOUR MARRIAGE?

COME JOIN US!

Gather together for a time of Worship, Study, and Fellowship
As we support and encourage each other in maintaining a Christ-Centered Marriage

Saturday, February 8, 2014

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Kalepolepo Park, Kihei

(Off of South Kihei Road, after Hawaiian Island Humpback Whale)

BYF (bring your friends) who may need to know the power of God in Marriage

BYOBC (beach chairs), BYOSB (sunblock), BYOH (heart)

PLEASE RSVP! CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

Drinks will be provided!

“HOW TO KEEP YOUR CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE STRONG AND HEALTHY”

OBJECTIVES: Testimonies
Biblical Teaching
Fellowship
Worship
Planning for Future Marriage Ministry

QUESTIONS, DETAILS, RSVP

Jennifer Bagoyo

[\(808\) 281-6551](tel:8082816551) or bagoyofam@hawaii.rr.com



Wondering how you might get involved
with Malama Pregnancy Center?

Come to one of our two training
orientation nights to find out!

Monday, February 10th from 7-8pm
Valley Isle Fellowship
473 S High St.
Wailuku, HI 96793

Thursday, February 20th from 7-8pm
Kihei Baptist Chapel
1655 S Kihei Road
Kihei, HI 96753

We will be outlining ways to get involved as well providing you with the training dates and times we have tentatively set.

This is a Gospel-centered outreach to our community. We will be reaching women and families with practical help and hope as well as looking for opportunities, as His Spirit leads, to share the Gospel in word and deed.

Please let us know which one you will attend. Light refreshments will be provided.

Many blessings!

Jenn Ackerman

Malama Pregnancy Center of Maui

64 Central Ave.

Wailuku, HI 96793

Tel: 808-280-5810

Email: malamapregnancycenter@gmail.com

Visit us at www.mpcmaui.org

Be sure to visit our Facebook page

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February:

- 2 AM Preaching – *Pastor Jeremy*
PM Preaching – *Pastor Stephen*
- 5 Mission Team returns from the Phillippines
- 8 Marriage Fellowship
- 9 AM Preaching – *Pastor Darren*
PM Preaching – *Pastor Jeremy*
- 11-17 Pastor Jeremy on Vacation
- 15 "G" Force
- 16 AM Preaching– *Pastor Stephen*
PM Preaching – *Pastor Darren*
- 17 Presidents' Day – *church office closed*
- 23 AM Preaching – *Pastor Jeremy*
PM Preaching – *Pastor Stephen*

12 VIF Preaching Calendar

NOTE: Starting in February, we will return to the Gospel of John during the Morning Worship Services. During the Evening Worship Services, we will begin a new series on “What Are Our Theological Beliefs?” We will be going through the Baptist Faith and Message that is written into Valley Isle Fellowship’s Constitution and By-Laws.

February 2014:

- 2 AM – Pastor Jeremy – John 8:31-59
PM – Pastor Stephen – BFM: The Scriptures
- 9 AM – Pastor Darren – John 9:1-34
PM – Pastor Jeremy – BFM: God (BFM)
- 16 AM – Pastor Stephen – John 9:35-41
PM – Pastor Darren – BFM: Salvation (BFM)
- 23 AM – Pastor Jeremy – John 10:1-21
PM – Pastor Stephen – BFM: God’s Purpose of Grace (BFM)

March, 2014:

- 2 AM - Pastor Darren – John 10:22-42
PM - Pastor Jeremy - BFM: The Church
- 9 AM - Pastor Stephen – John 11:1-44
PM - Pastor Darren - BFM: Baptism and the Lord's Supper
- 16 AM - Pastor Jeremy – John 11:45-57
PM - Pastor Stephen - BFM: The Kingdom

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