



Valley Isle Fellowship
Love God. Love His Church. Love His World
 473 S High St • PO Box 886
 Wailuku, HI 96793
 (808) 244-0865 (ph) (808)249-0235 (fax)
 vifoffice@hawaii.rr.com

NEWSLETTER

February 22, 2015 www.vifmaui.com

Children Are A Blessing From The Lord!

by Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

March 15, 2015 will bring some changes in how we care for our children. In order to successfully make this change to bring glory and honor to our Lord Jesus Christ and to love and care honorably for our children, we must make an underlying thought the permeating thought; "That children are a blessing from the Lord!" We need to sincerely believe this. We know that scripture says this and we basically embrace it. This is the main reason that for many years so many have faithfully and sacrificially given of themselves to loving and caring for children during our worship services. We want to thank all of those who have given such excellent service.

But on March 15th we will discontinue our Childcare ministry during our Worship services. One perspective is that we are moving backwards because we are removing a ministry and I can fully appreciate that sentiment. Another perspective can be, "What is God trying to reveal to us through this situation?"

Yes, there is no question that we have moved backwards because the honest truth is that we are discontinuing because we simply do not have enough workers to continue this childcare ministry in this manner. As I have shared with you before, many have left VIF and many of them are people who have given loving and excellent care for our children. The pain and grief over these losses is now being felt in the care of our children.

Romans 8:28 (KJV) *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

This passage of scripture tells us that ALL THINGS work for good for those that love the Lord. So even this situation can work out for good. Although this is not something that anyone has desired or worked towards, it is something that has come to pass. However, we have to believe that God is working something good out of this.

Families, along with the loving assistance of the whole church, can care for their children in our worship services, and it can be a real blessing. Even Jesus welcomed children into His presence when His disciples were trying to prevent them from coming into His presence.

Matthew 19:13-15 (NLT) *¹³One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could lay his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples scolded the parents*

for bothering him. ¹⁴But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children." ¹⁵And he placed his hands on their heads and blessed them before he left.

This is a significant passage of scripture because it shows how much value Jesus placed on children. It almost seems like He is saying that adults need to see and accept the example of children. What? Yes! When Jesus said, "For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children," He was probably saying that we need to examine and explore "child-like faith" because that is the kind of faith that we need to have in order to have the Kingdom of Heaven. Child-like faith depends on love and trust; because a child loves and trusts their parents, they are ready to follow wherever their parents will lead them. Our trust and faith in Jesus needs to also lead us to following Him wherever He would lead us.

1 Peter 1:13-16 (NLT) *¹³So think clearly and exercise self-control. Look forward to the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. ¹⁴So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. ¹⁵But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. ¹⁶For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy."*

By obeying 1 Peter 1, you also set a great example for our children. Children are more likely to catch something that they see their parents doing rather than learning something that their parents are trying to teach them through the spoken word. Showing children how to love the Lord is much more effective than simply telling them that they should love the Lord. Children need Godly examples and Godly heroes. What better place to find

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Children Are A Blessing From The Lord!

them than within the church.

This next passage is really pointed and telling. Jesus is saying in v. 36-37 that by welcoming children, we are welcoming Him. Welcoming means that we invite them to become a very important part of our lives. We need to help parents who bring their children to our worship service to see Godly examples of loving Jesus. This means that we actually are privileged to help parents to raise their children in an environment that demonstrates a deep love and commitment to Jesus Christ. Children in this kind of environment are disciplined and controlled in a Godly, Christ-like manner so that it causes parents and children to feel loved and welcomed in by the body of Christ.

Mark 9:33-37 (NLT) ³³After they arrived at Capernaum and settled in a house, Jesus asked his disciples, "What were you discussing out on the road?" ³⁴But they didn't answer, because they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve disciples over to him, and said, "Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else." ³⁶Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me."

Finally, parents, and not the church, are the primary spiritual care givers for their children. Therefore, the role of the church needs to be to support and train up the parents so that they can train up their children to love and obey the Lord. Having to discontinue childcare in its present form can actually become a blessing if we all realize that we are being given the opportunity to assist and help parents to accomplish more effectively this responsibility of bringing up their children in the Lord. Parents no longer have to feel alone in carrying out this responsibility. They can develop loving partnerships with all of you here in VIF that can assist them in helping their children to love and obey the Lord.

Ephesians 6:1-4 (NLT) ¹Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. ²"Honor your father and mother." This is the first commandment with a promise: ³If you honor your father and mother, "things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth." ⁴Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.

Colossians 3:20-21 (NLT) ²⁰Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord. ²¹Fathers, do not aggravate your children, or they will become discouraged.

Dear people of Valley Isle Fellowship, this opportunity of partnering with the parents of our church is a blessing. Yes, it will not be easy. Yes, it will take some sacrifice on all of our parts. However, look at what we might be able to accomplish if we all work together for the Glory and Honor of the Lord. Let's assist each other, especially in the important responsibility of helping parents to raise Godly children. We can rise to the challenge and soar on wings of eagles when we trust and depend on the Lord. God bless you all.

Handyman Ministry

Andy Sniffen (264-0526) is willing to direct a ministry that will reach out to members of VIF, and the community, who are in need of help with simple repairs. This ministry would give us the opportunity to share Jesus Christ with both members and non-members. This group would also be called upon to help with repairs around the church. Call Andy and get involved.

Today
February 22, 2015
Team 2

child
care

Next Week
March 01, 2015
Team 3

Joycelyn Kiaha
Marion Kimura
Elaine Yamasaki
Avery Yamada
Kaiani Kiaha
Daniel Olaso

Schedule

Rosie Quenga
Vicky Quenga
Danica Cooley
Dyllen Caolie

I Know God Loves Me, But Does He Like Me?

By Mark Altrogge



I'm not a touchy feely person. I have a friend, CB, who is one of the most godly, “manly” AND affectionate men I know. His “affection” may be partly his personality, but I believe it’s his passionate love for Jesus that makes him so warm hearted and affectionate toward others. When I tell him I’m walking through something tough his eyes well up with tears. If I say something funny he throws his arm around my shoulder and buries his face in my neck, shaking with his laughter. It’s just pure godly affection.

I’m not naturally affectionate. I think it must be the German blood in me. My dad and mom were wonderful loving parents but weren’t particularly affectionate to us kids. As a result I think, I’m not a “huggy” kind of guy. So occasionally as we’re watching TV, one of my kids

will try to torture me by holding one finger lightly on my back or shoulder until I can’t stand it and slap their hand away. It usually takes about 8 seconds.

When Jesus first saved me I believed God forgave my sins. Gradually I came to believe God loved me. But perhaps because of my upbringing or my own lack of affection for others I wasn’t sure God liked me. I believed he put up with me because he’d saved me, but didn’t have any sense that he delighted in me. I was wrong. God delights in his children. If you believe God loves you but aren’t certain he likes you let me try to persuade you with a few Scriptures:

The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. ZEPH 3.17

God said this of Israel. How much more does he rejoice and exult with loud singing over his blood-bought children, for he sees his delightful Son in us. He sees us clothed with the beautiful righteousness of Christ.

...as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. IS 62:5

Believers are the bride of Christ and he feels a wedding day delight in us.

For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. PHP 1:8

Paul longed for his brothers and sisters with affection. Not a mere natural affection, but “the affection of Christ Jesus.” The very tender love Christ feels for his redeemed. Jesus doesn’t love you in some cold and distant way, but with a deep, heartfelt warmth and passion.

“As for the saints who are in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.” PS 16.3.

David delighted in God’s people. He saw them as “the excellent ones.” David expressed the very heart of God for his people. David wouldn’t delight in them more than God himself. This verse tells us how God sees us: as “excellent ones” in whom is all his delight. Believe me now? God not only loves you but he “likes” you – his heart overflows with affection for you because of Christ in you. Let God’s delight in you spur you on to increasingly delight in him, spending time with him in his word and prayer, worship and fellowship with his people.

This article can be found at <http://theblazingcenter.com/2015/02/i-know-god-loves-me-but-does-he-like-me.html>

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Requested by Pastor Jeremy Kaneshiro

Mark Altrogge is the pastor at Saving Grace Church in Indiana, PA. He’s married to Kristi, has 5 kids, and a growing number of grandkids. He’s also written a lot of worship songs, and like’s to paint.

What Is The Gospel All About? Part 1: The Life of Jesus

Pastor Darren Sarmiento

For awhile, I have been saying that I can point every conversation to the gospel. The gospel is the answer to all things we deal with and encounter in life. Also, I have said that we should not only share the gospel with people but we need to grow people up in, and through, the gospel. Several questions have been asked because of what I've said concerning the gospel. However, as I take a look at the questions there seems to be one underlying question that I hope to provide an answer to.

The question is, "What is the gospel all about?" In general, the gospel is good news that God Almighty, out of His unconditional love, grace and mercy would send the Messiah, or the Christ, to restore all people to a right relationship with Himself. To give you my statement of the gospel, "It is the story about the life, death, burial and resurrection of the Messiah, the Christ, God's only Son, Jesus!" I am going to breakdown the statement I made into a three part article series with today being part one concerning, "The Life of Jesus".

Did you ever stop and think for a moment that when it came to Jesus, God had a plan and Jesus had a purpose in life here on earth (John 3:16-17; Philippians 2:5-11). Did you know that Jesus' purpose in life involved us? (Matthew 9:9, 13; Luke 19:10; Matthew 28:18-20). I wonder if people know that when it comes to the gospel, understanding the life of Jesus on earth plays a big role in the overall statement I made.

The gospel is Jesus, so you and I need, and should know about the life that He lived on earth. Sharing the gospel with people includes telling them how Jesus lived and all that He had said and done. I want to encourage you to begin thinking that every time you hear the words "the gospel," you immediately think about Jesus and the life that He lived. Jesus said in John 8:32 *"The thief's purpose is to steal, kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."* Right now you might be thinking about eternal life with God and Jesus in heaven, I want you to expound that to be not just in heaven but also on earth. The life Jesus lived on earth benefits us and was also an example for us to follow after.



Let me start sharing with you some of the benefits we gain from Jesus' way of life on earth. I hope you would continue to search for more during your time with the Lord. One, Jesus fulfilled all the laws of God (Matthew 5:17-19) because we could not do it on our own. God sees us as law abiding people; I am not abdicating that we are perfect but what I'm saying is for those whose faith, trust and love is in Jesus, God sees them as perfect because His Son fulfilled the law for us. Two, Jesus shows His relationship with God the Father (John 5:17; John 5:19-20; John 8:28-29; John 14:6-14). We all want to know and hear from God and know what He is like. Jesus is the representation of God, and although He is God's Son, He is also God Himself (John 1:1; John 18:4-8). Jesus revealed the relationship He has with the Father because for those who believe and love Jesus, they will also have the loving relationship with God the Father and His love will be given to them (John 15:23; John 16:27). Three, Jesus walked this earth and lived among us so He could experience what we go through in life, knowing the joys, but more importantly, the trials and temptations that we are faced with everyday. The reason for Jesus doing all this was to give us an example to follow after and to trust in Him.

The Lord knows we won't completely stop sinning. In fact, He knows we will continue sinning, much like the saying "I'm not sinless but I sin less." The way to endure and overcome sin is to place our trust, and our lives, in the hands of the one that is perfect. That Perfect One is Jesus (Hebrews 2:14-18). He has gone through what we are facing today, and because He overcame and endured the trials and testing, He is able to help us (Philippians 4:13).

Let me end by saying that God the Father wants us to follow after Jesus, to know all about Him and to be like Him. When our lives imitate that of Jesus in mind, heart and spirit this world will have nothing to offer that we will ever want or need because all of our treasures will be in Christ Jesus and in Him alone. Jesus lived His life on earth with the Holy Spirit leading, guiding and empowering Him. When Jesus left earth to be with the Father, He said that the Holy Spirit will be in us and accomplish in us what He (the Holy Spirit) did in Jesus. All that Jesus said and did is also promised to us. That's why we have nothing to fear if we know the life that Jesus lived is also the one we will follow with Jesus still being there to lead and guide us every step of the way by the Holy Spirit. Knowing the life of Jesus is growing up in the gospel because the gospel is the life of Jesus.

CHANGE'S ARE COMING!

EFFECTIVE MARCH 22, 2015



Starting on Sunday, March 22nd, during the Sunday School hour, the adults will be going to the Lord in prayer. We will be gathering in the cafeteria after the tables are returned to their rightful places. We will be gathering in groups, no larger than 8 persons, around the tables. Prayer facilitators will be leading you into praying in a manner that will touch the heart of God and move our church, community, nation, and world. Please make plans to join us in this very powerful time

Child Care Update

We will be discontinuing childcare, starting **March 22nd**, due to having continued difficulty with recruiting and sustaining an adequate volunteer workforce. When we are able to grow and sustain a good workforce, and therefore, provide an excellent child care ministry, we will restart this important ministry. Thank you for your love and understanding.

NEW SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE MARCH 22ND

7:00 AM.....Set-up
9:00 AM.....Worship Service (no child care)
10:30 AM.....Sunday School

Weekly Prayer Meetings Changed from Wednesdays to Mondays:

On **March 16, 2015** Weekly Prayer Meetings will be on Mondays (at 3 different times):

10:00 AM 3:00 PM 6:30 PM

The 3 times are to give as many people as possible the opportunity to participate in this very important ministry. We want to encourage everyone to come and get involved in prayer that prays down the will of heaven. **Matthew 6:10 b**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A TIME OF CELEBRATION AND FELLOWSHIP:

March 15th marks VIF moving to one morning service and a new emphasis that will empower us all to be more like Jesus in thought, word, and deed. On this Sunday, there will be no Sunday School. We will be having one service at 9 AM followed by a time of fellowship over a meal. The church will be providing the food and drinks. We are wanting you to be treated to a time of great fellowship as we celebrate what God is about to do in our lives. We ask that you come with a spirit of anticipation. God bless you all.

Kick-off Sunday Schedule March 15th, 2015

7:00 AM	Set-up
9:00 AM	Worship Service
10:30 AM	Luncheon/Fellowship
12 noon	Teardown

No Sunday School or childcare

Be in the know.



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Trouble using 81010? Try texting **@mrvif** to **(808) 670-3442** instead.



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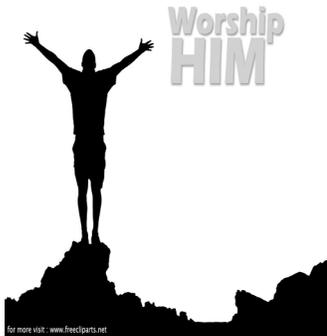
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's Worship Songs

Start A Fire

Everlasting God

Lord I Need You



CRISIS CARE MINISTRY

There is a need to minister to our community, and church, through Crisis Care Ministries. This ministry will literally help people during times of crisis. As you know, crisis seems to pop-up during the most inconvenient times. If you would like to find out more information, and/or you are ready to be trained and activated, please get in touch with Pastor Stephen at 419-8100.



PHILIPPINE SPRING MISSION 2015- A CALL TO PRAYER

Two Thirds World Network is once again putting together a mission in the Philippines this Spring. Please begin praying how God may use you to impact lives for Jesus Christ in the Philippines. God is amazing the way he uses us to love like Jesus in our backyards and across oceans. Often we go in thinking we will be an instrument in God's Hands to change other's lives when in reality we find that it is our life that is changed. Won't you seriously consider joining us this Spring to see how God can work in miraculous ways for His Glory? We would love to have YOU!!

Tentative Schedule: March 28- April 12, 2015

Mission Focus: EVANGELISM, MEDICAL MISSION, CONSTRUCTION

If interested or would like more information: please contact Vince Bagoyo 357-3842

"What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if is not accompanied by action, is dead."

DISASTER RELIEF VOLUNTEERS

David Blair, a member of Lahaina Baptist Church, is the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Conventions Disaster Relief Coordinator for Maui. He is encouraging each church to begin getting members prepared to help during times of need.

There is a Disaster Relief Volunteer Survey attached to this Newsletter. If you are interested, please fill out this form, located at the back of the newsletter and drop it in one of the Offering Bowls or get it to our office. You will be notified when training will be offered in the areas that you express interest in. This would give you another opportunity to share Jesus Christ with people that you might never have the opportunity to except through these relief efforts. God bless you as you consider this important opportunity.

Valley Isle Fellowship 2015 Calendar

February 2015

- 18 6:30pm—Youth Group @ Sanctuary
7pm—Prayer Meeting @ Annex
- 22 AM - Pastor Stephen
PM - Pastor Jeremy
- 25 6:30pm—Youth Group @ Sanctuary
7pm—Prayer Meeting @ Annex

March 2015

- 01 AM - TBD
PM - TBD
- 04 6:30pm—Youth Group @ Sanctuary
7pm—Prayer Meeting @ Annex
- 08 AM - TBD
PM - TBD
- 11 6:30pm—Youth Group @ Sanctuary
7pm—Prayer Meeting @ Annex

March 2015

- 15 9 am—Worship Service
10:30 am—Luncheon/Fellowship
PM - TBD
- 16 10 am—Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary
3 pm—Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary
6:30 pm—Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary
- 18 6:30pm—Youth Group @ Sanctuary
- 22 9 AM Worship Service
10:30 am— Sunday School @ High Street
Property & Adult Prayer Time @
Cafeteria
PM - TBD
- 23 10 am—Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary
3 pm—Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary
6:30 pm—Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary
- 25 6:30pm—Youth Group @ Sanctuary

Valley Isle Fellowship

ph: (808) 244-0865
www.vifmaui.com

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

Wailuku Elementary School Cafeteria
355 S High St. Wailuku, HI 96793

1st Service - 8:00 am

Child care available at High Street property

2nd Service - 9:45 am

Children & Youth Sunday School at High Street property

Associate Pastor

Darren Sarmiento
Cell: (808) 757-1651

Email: darrenvif@hawaii.rr.com

Senior Pastor

Stephen Kaneshiro
Cell: (808) 419-8100

Email: icastephen@gmail.com
121 Ho`owaiwai Lp #801
Wailuku, HI 96793

Associate Pastor

Jeremy Kaneshiro
Cell: (808) 280-2780

Email: vifjeremy@gmail.com

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE

VIF Church Sanctuary
473 S High St. Wailuku, HI 96793

6:00 pm



www.facebook.com/valleyislefellowship



@VIFMaui

Enduring Faith

Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

Matthew 24:9-14

I. The _____ will turn against you. (*Matthew 24:19-10*)

- A. Many _____ on your faith.
- B. You will be _____ and _____.
- C. You will be _____.

II. _____ will surround you. (*Matthew 24:11*)

- A. _____ prophets
- B. Major attack to _____ God's elect.

III. _____ will be rampant. (*Matthew 24:12*)

- A. _____ everywhere
- B. _____ of many will grow cold.

IV. _____ of the saints is very crucial. (*Matthew 24:13*)

- A. Crucial to their _____. (*James 1:12*)
- B. Endurance proves you have _____, but does not give you _____.

V. For those who endure, they will be _____. (*Matthew 24:14*)

- A. Empowers you to preach the _____. (*Acts 1:8*)
- B. Empowers you to move from the _____ to the _____.
- C. Empowers the nations to _____ and _____ to the Gospel.
- D. Once this is done, then the _____ will come.