



March 9, 2014

## ***Fear of Witnessing (Sharing), A Great Tool of the Devil***

*by Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro*

**I have struggled for many years to be an effective witness and have succeeded at times and have failed at other times.** One of my biggest foes in being an effective witness has been my own fears. However, over the past few weeks, the Lord has been revealing to me a new perspective that is very liberating and very exciting. Let me see if I can adequately explain this.

I have worked hard at memorizing a “canned” formula of steps with memorized scriptures. This led me to be fearful of failing to memorize the steps and the scriptures word perfect. I tended to concentrate more on the “canned” formula rather than on the person that I was witnessing to. However, Praise the Lord that I still saw people come to faith in Christ. However, I now see that that was God’s grace working in spite of me rather than because of me.

I have also allowed fear to squeeze me unmercifully because I feared that I would not be able to answer their questions. Sometimes I was so fearful that I failed to witness. At other times, I did witness but I communicated fear rather than the joy of the Lord.

As your pastor, I have been struggling over how I can lead all of you to be a more powerful and effective witness for the Lord. I know that this is the Lord’s command to us, but helping all of us to move powerfully into this life of loving obedience has and is a very large challenge. I believe God is setting me free and I hope these thoughts and insights will help to move you to a new and exciting stage in your relationship with the Lord.

**2 Corinthians 9:7-8 (NLT)** <sup>7</sup>*You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.”* <sup>8</sup>*And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.*

This passage is mainly about sowing or giving of your resources. However, this is where the Lord has begun to give me a new perspective.

The Lord has been revealing to me that the starting point is to be “joyous.” Many times when I think about witnessing, I confess that my starting point is “fear.” 2 Corinthians 9:7 says that God loves a cheerful giver. There are so many reasons why my relationship with the Lord can be one of joy, in fact, overwhelming joy. The Lord has confronted me over making the joy that He brings to me the priority in my life. I need to stop letting fear be the priority in my life. I believe many of you also need to let the joy of the Lord be the priority in your lives.

When we begin to operate on the joy and the excitement that the Lord showers upon us, then witnessing becomes a privilege and joy to tell others about the joy and excitement that fills our lives. The sharing of our testimonies, what God has done and what He is doing in our lives, becomes the most important aspect of witnessing or sharing. Theological

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#### **Valley Isle Fellowship**

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## ***Fear of Witnessing (Sharing), A Great Tool of the Devil*** (continued)

debate and scripture memory is no longer the primary tool that the Lord uses in us. Our changed and empowered lives are what the Lord wants to showcase to a lost and dying world. Rather than teaching more classes on witnessing, we would be better off encouraging you to love the Lord so much that it becomes simply impossible for you to keep it a secret. When you come to the point of loving the Lord your God with all of your heart, mind, and soul, then the look on your face, the words of your mouth, your character in times of crisis, and the focuses of your life cannot hide and camouflage the Lord Jesus in your life. You can try to hide Jesus, but you will fail because your love for Jesus will just overflow out of you.

Encouraging you to love the Lord Jesus Christ with all of your heart, mind, and soul will not be accomplished by having more Bible studies or more conferences. The key to the way that the Lord is revealing to me is found in ***Proverbs 27:17 (NLT)*** <sup>17</sup>*As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.* This says to me that we need to build and encourage friendships that will sharpen each other. Sharpening each other means that we need to spur each other on to loving the Lord and doing His will. Is this possible? I don't believe that the Lord would be revealing these things if it were impossible. I believe that this is where He is desiring us to move in the life and ministry of Valley Isle Fellowship.

In the days and weeks to come, you will be hearing more and more of witnessing, discipling, ministry, worship, and fellowship that needs to be rooted and grounded in the "joy of the Lord." Valley Isle Fellowship needs to move all of us to fall more deeply in love with the Lord that the "joy of the Lord" will permeate and infiltrate every aspect of our life and ministry. Let us pray for each other that we will all love the Lord our God with all of our heart, mind, and soul.



## ***Special Called Business Meeting & Fellowship***

On Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, from 5pm-7pm, we will be having a Special Called Business Meeting with Fellowship in the VIF Church Sanctuary. There will be pizza and salad provided. We will be meeting about:

1. Financing the water line project that has now been approved by the County of Maui.
2. The Verge Conference that Pastor Darren and Pastor Jeremy are attending from March 25-30 in Austin Texas.
3. Looking forward - Where VIF is moving as a church.

**Members, please make your plans to attend this very important meeting and fellowship.**

# AM Service: Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

## Responding to the Son of God - John 10:22-42

*Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro*

I. Stop the \_\_\_\_\_ and tell me \_\_\_\_\_! – John 10:24

A. Because:

1. You don't \_\_\_\_\_
2. Proof is in His \_\_\_\_\_
3. You are not in His \_\_\_\_\_

B. If you are in His \_\_\_\_\_ - John 10:27-29

1. You \_\_\_\_\_ to His voice
2. You \_\_\_\_\_ Him
3. He gives you \_\_\_\_\_ life
4. \_\_\_\_\_ can take you out of His hands

II. God and Jesus are \_\_\_\_\_ - John 10:30

A. He has already proven this to be \_\_\_\_\_ - John 10:32

1. Which of the good works that He had done were they \_\_\_\_\_ Him for?
2. These works had been done at \_\_\_\_\_ direction.

B. \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ is now on those who don't believe

1. You are claiming \_\_\_\_\_ – claiming to be God
2. \_\_\_\_\_ that the works of Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the works of God
3. \_\_\_\_\_ that these works \_\_\_\_\_ prove that God is in Jesus and Jesus is in God.

III. \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus Got Away

A. They were \_\_\_\_\_ and wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ Him to death.

B. How could he get away from the crowd?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ can happen to you unless God \_\_\_\_\_ it
2. When you are under the guidance of the Lord, you are under His \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

C. The effectiveness of a Godly ministry is not defined by the \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ cannot kill the work of God
2. The Lord carries out His work through His \_\_\_\_\_.

– Rev. 2:9-10

# You Are What You Eat

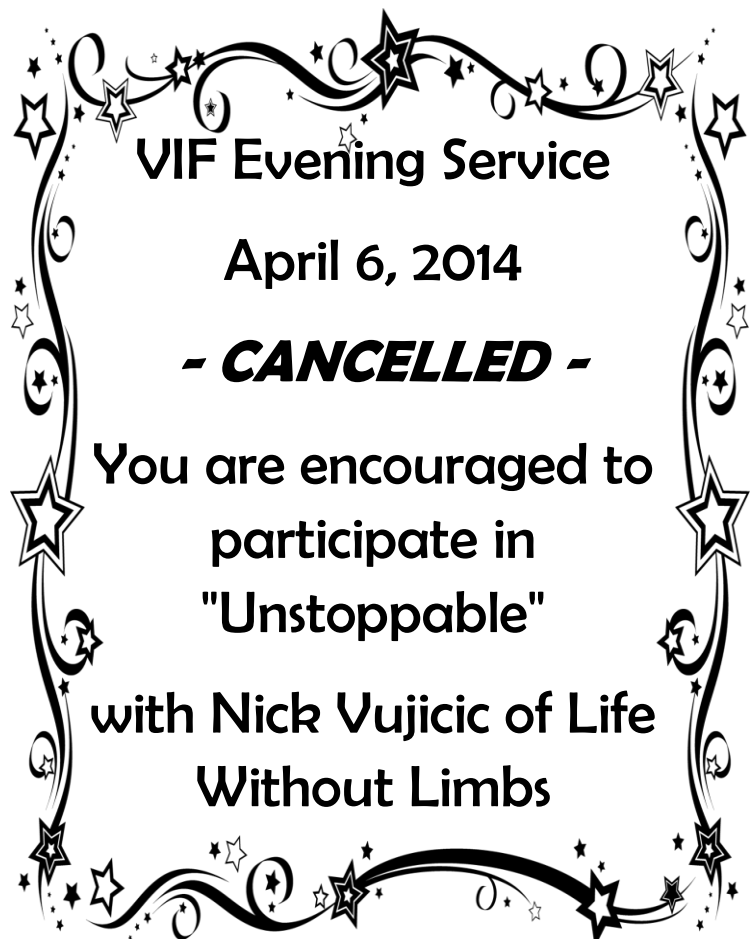
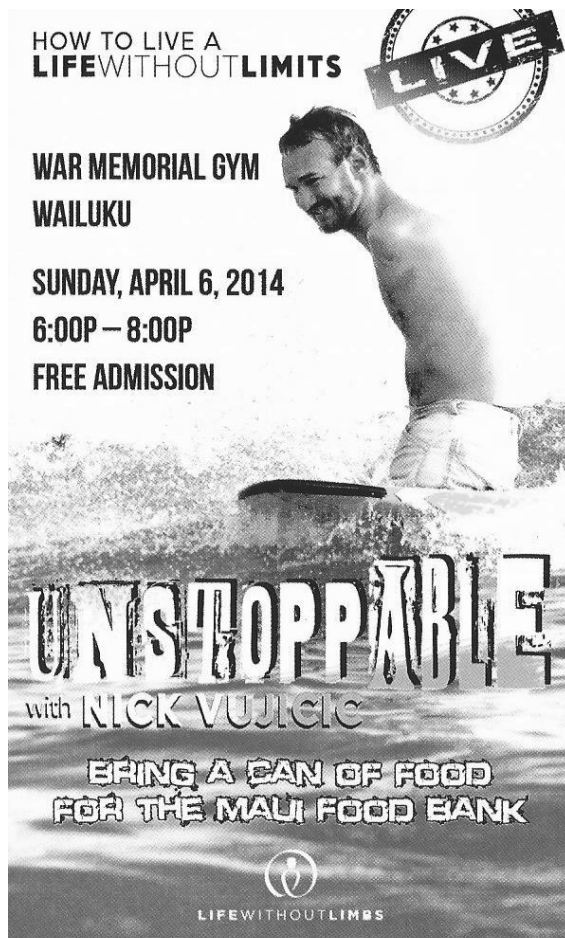
by Pastor Darren Sarmiento

You know the saying, "You are what you eat." If you eat junk food, your body will show it. If you eat healthy foods, your body will show it. In *Matthew 4:4 (NIV)* Jesus said, "*Man shall not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*" To become like Christ you want to know everything about Christ...to live as Jesus lived, to love as Jesus loved and to serve as Jesus served. You can get all that and be transformed by feeding yourself on the Word of God and being around people whose life demands a gospel living and explanation. Gospel living is when a person is consumed with Jesus for all the right reasons, that will lead to opportunities for others to hear the gospel, believe in the gospel and live out the gospel in their lives.

Ask yourself some questions in context of what has been said, that will help you to know if your life is all about Jesus. Do you have a *craving* for the Word of God? Does *feeding* on the commands of the Lord give you energy, a *boost* to handle each day and what it brings? Have you felt *sluggish* or *slow* knowing you haven't eaten the right kinds of food that should have the nutrients you need to live a healthy and abundant life?

If you've answered all the questions with a yes, then, you are on track to living a holy and pleasing life unto the Lord. If you've answered any one of these questions with a no, then, that's what you need to work on to change your life around for the glory of God our Father.

Pray to our Father that He will give you the prescription you need to live a healthy and vibrant life that will honor Him, In Jesus' name. Amen!



# Jesus! I Believe...Help My Unbelief!

Pastor Jeremy Kaneshiro

There's this amazing story in Mark 9 when a father cries out to Jesus among a crowd that he longs for Jesus to heal his son who had a spirit that convulsions. He mentioned this boy but they were asks that they bring the boy the spirit immediately threw began foaming at the mouth. has been going on and the childhood" it has cast the attempt to destroy the boy.

*Imagine being this father to deal with a son who was consistently tried killing his*

*in the water. Imagine being this father who probably could never leave his son alone ever because he was afraid of what the evil spirit would do. His son surely had scars, both emotionally and physically from the torment he endured.*



made him mute and caused that even the disciples tried to heal unable. Well, Jesus hears this and to him. When the boy saw Jesus, him down to the ground and he Jesus asks the father how long it father told him that "from boy into fire, into water in an

who since his son's childhood had possessed by a spirit that son by throwing him in the fire or

And he had come to Jesus, probably frustrated by the huge crowd around Jesus. He was unable to get through the crowd so he figured Jesus' disciples might be able to heal. But, they were powerless to heal the man's son. And so, this father in desperation calls out to Jesus. The father pleads with Jesus to heal the boy. Jesus says in verse 23 *"if you can! All things are possible for one who believes."* And then the father says something so profound that I want you to ponder this week. He cries out to Jesus *"I believe; help my unbelief!"* **Wow!** Have you ever thought about what this father was saying? Have you ever considered that often we are like this man? We believe intellectually but that intellectual belief in facts has not connected to our hearts and produced complete trust, surrender and hope in Jesus.

It's easy for us to not connect those two because we are so distracted by other things. We don't do the hard work of faith because it's easier to give up and turn on the TV or some other electronic device and comment on someone's Facebook status or picture. My plea for all of us is that we would strive to have the heart of this father because if we're honest, our hearts feel a lot like his a lot of times. We believe in facts but we have a hard time believing in the depths of our hearts that God is who he says he is and has done what he declares he has done...in my suffering, in my weariness, in my frustration, in my anger and in my depression. You see we know that God is good. We know that God is in control. We know that he has justified us forever. We know that He is gracious...but we don't really **"know"** it in the depths of our soul. That is what that man was crying out for, **"LORD! I want to believe!"** HE was crying out **"Take this shallow intellectual faith in you and create a deep soul belief and hope that you truly can heal my son!"**

May we be like that Father crying out to Jesus, **"Lord I believe! Help my unbelief!"** My plea for all of us is that our hearts would cry out to Jesus: **"LORD! I believe that you are good! Help my unbelief!"; "LORD! I believe that you are in control! Help my unbelief!"; "LORD! I believe that you are gracious! Help my unbelief!"; "LORD! I believe that you are merciful! Help my unbelief!"; "LORD! I believe that you began a good work in me and you will complete it! Help my unbelief!"; "LORD! I believe that you have given me the Holy Spirit! Help my unbelief!"; "LORD! I believe that all my sins have been washed away through Jesus' blood! Help my unbelief!"; "LORD! I believe that one day I shall see you face to face! Help my unbelief!"**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Special Called Business Meeting & Fellowship

On **Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, from 5pm-7pm**, we will be having a Special Called Business Meeting with Fellowship in the VIF Church Sanctuary. There will be pizza and salad provided. We will be meeting about: 1) Financing of the water line project that has now been approved by the County of Maui. 2) The Verge Conference that Pastor Darren and Pastor Jeremy are attending. 3) Looking forward - Where VIF is moving as a church. **Members, please make plans to attend this very important meeting and fellowship.**

## Verge Conference

Pastor Darren and Pastor Jeremy will be attending the Verge Conference in Austin, Texas from March 25-30. Come to the business meeting and fellowship (announcement above) to find out what the conference is all about. You can also find out more by visiting this website: <http://2014.vergenetwork.org/>

## Building Fund Giving

We are once again providing the blue "Building Fund" envelopes, although the Capital Campaign drive is now over. We have finally gotten all of the approvals for both our water line project and our building permit. We are planning to aggressively move ahead to construct both the water line and our building. Therefore, we are going to give you the opportunity to continue to give to the completion of these projects and to the renovations of the trailers that will also be a part of our campus. If we all give as the Lord directs us, we will have all of the resources to do what He desires of us. God bless you all.

## A Kind Request From Your VIF Secretary Vanessa Mattos

Want an article or announcement in the Sunday Newsletter? I'll be glad to help - just one kind request - please send the article or announcement information to me **by Monday morning of the week it needs to be published**. Receiving the information on Monday will give me the time needed to follow up as needed, format it, and input it into the newsletter. This will help enormously! Thank you for your help in making this newsletter a great communication tool for our Church! God Bless!

## WAIKAPU WORK DAYS

COME JOIN US in these awesome times of  
fellowship and service.

*March 15 9am-1pm*

Come join us on Saturday, March 15, at the Waikapu Property to help with the  
repositioning of the trailers. Please bring gloves!

*April 12 8am-3pm*

Come join us on Saturday, April 12, at the Waikapu Property to help with the huge task  
of Property Maintenance.

Please bring any tools you can: Lawn mowers, weedwackers, wheel barrels, rakes, gloves, etc.

"Many  
hands make  
light work!"



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **March Mingle** (aka Couples Weekend Out)

**With Tom & Jane Crick**  
*from Saddleback Church*



## **Couple's Date Night**

**Friday - March 28, 2014**  
**6:00pm-9:00pm**  
**VIF Church Sanctuary, Wailuku**

All married couples are invited for fun, food, interaction, and insights. It's a couples' time.

Potluck Dinner - Please bring your favorite dish to share.

## **Kalama Bandstand Time**

**Saturday - March 29, 2014**  
**8:30am-1:00pm**  
**Kalama Park Bandstand, Kihei**

All adults, single or married, are invited to come for fellowship and training.

Child care provided upon request



*Check upcoming newsletters for more information and details.*

**Want to sign up NOW?**  
**Check the back table for the sign-up sheet**  
**or**  
**Contact James Blando @ 808.871.7572**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Volunteers Needed!

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

1. Vacuum floor
2. Empty rubbish containers



**Please sign up on the back table if you'd like to help.** We ask that you choose one day of the following: Thursday, Friday, OR Saturday of the week that you are able to volunteer to do the work.

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 March 13-15***

Waki, Hashimoto

### ***Week of March 20-22***

Grace/Aunty

### ***Week of March 27-29***

Kaimana Apo, Mattos



child  
care

## Schedule

**Today**

**March 9, 2014**

### Team 3

Gretel Saraos  
Rosie Quenga  
Vicky Quenga  
Daniel Quenga  
Shalia Mendez  
Danica Cooley  
Dyllan Caoile

**Next Week**

**March 16, 2014**

### Team 4

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





# Valley Isle Fellowship 2014 Calendar

## MARCH 2014

- 2-9 **Annie Armstrong Offering Week of Prayer**
- 9 **AM - Pastor Stephen – John 10:22-42**  
**PM - Pastor Jeremy - BFM: The Church**
- 16 **AM - Pastor Jeremy – John 11:1-44**  
**Special Called Business Meeting & Fellowship**
- 17-21 DOE Schools Spring Break
- 23 **AM - Pastor Darren – John 11:45-57**  
**PM - Pastor Jeremy - BFM: Baptism and the Lord's Supper**
- 24 Surf Ministry
- 25-30 Verge Conference - Pastors Darren & Jeremy attending
- 26 Prince Kuhio Day - church office closed
- 28-29 March Mingle w/ Tom & Jane Crick
- 30 **AM - Pastor Stephen – John 12:1-11**  
**Lord's Supper**  
**Sunday School Worker's Meeting**  
**PM - Pastor Stephen - BFM: The Kingdom**

## APRIL 2014

- 5 Disaster Relief Training
- 6 **AM - Pastor Jeremy - John 12:12-19**  
**PM - Pastor Stephen - BFM: Last Things**
- 10-12 HPBC Wives in Ministry Retreat
- 12 Waikapu Work Day  
"G" Force
- 13 **AM - Pastor Darren - John 12:20-36**  
**PM - Pastor Darren - BFM: Evangelism & Missions**
- 18 Good Friday
- 19 Easter Revival Celebration
- 20 **AM - Sunrise Easter Devotional**  
**AM - Easter Sunday Service**

## Valley Isle Fellowship

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Website: [www.vifmaui.com](http://www.vifmaui.com)

## SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

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

8:00 am - 1st Service

\*Child care available at High Street property\*

9:45 am - 2nd Service

\*Children & Youth Sunday School at High Street property\*

## SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE

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

6:00 pm

### Senior Pastor

*Stephen Kaneshiro*  
Cell: (808) 419-8100  
Email: [icastephen@gmail.com](mailto:icastephen@gmail.com)

### Assistant Pastor

*Darren Sarmiento*  
Cell: (808) 757-1651  
Email: [pdarrenvif@gmail.com](mailto:pdarrenvif@gmail.com)

### Assistant Pastor

*Jeremy Kaneshiro*  
Cell: (808) 280-2780  
Email: [vifjeremy@gmail.com](mailto:vifjeremy@gmail.com)