



Valley Isle Fellowship
 Love God. Love His Church. Love His World
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NEWSLETTER

March 29, 2015 www.vifmaui.com

Jesus Is The Answer *Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro*

A new political season is upon us with various candidates and potential candidates beginning to position and posture themselves in the best light possible. They are, and will continue, to point out the weaknesses and failings of their opponents and to focus on what they have to offer in confronting the many challenges that faces our nation and communities.

In Psalms, the Lord is the hope for the nations and the peoples of the world. It is the Lord who we need to trust and hope in, not the kings and kingdoms of the world. It is the Lord and not the politicians and armies of this world. **Psalm 20:7-8 (NLT)** *Some nations boast of their chariots and horses, but we boast in the name of the LORD our God. Those nations will fall down and collapse, but we will rise up and stand firm.*

In this article, I want you to realize how important the work of the Lord and the church is. It is not an over statement or a misstatement to say, "The work of the Lord/church is the most important work that you could ever give yourself to!" This work is not frivolous or unimportant. Being in a right relationship with the Lord that leads you to lovingly and faithfully obeying all that the Lord desires of us is by far the most important thing that you could ever give yourself to.

During a political season, it is so easy to get caught up in the rhetoric and the promises of a particular candidate, but let me remind you that men will fail you but Jesus will never fail you. Now, Jesus might disappoint you but that disappointment cannot and should not be equated with failure. Whenever Jesus disappoints you, it is always for the reason that He is doing what is right and best for you. Jesus will always do what is right for you and not necessarily what is popular or desirous by you. Immediate gratification is not what He aims for. Eternal blessings is what He always gives Himself to.

The Psalmist again said things that we need to really listen to. **Psalm 1:1-3 (NLT)** *Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. But they delight in the law of the LORD, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.* Let me suggest that you follow the one whose delight is in the law of the Lord. In fact let me suggest something even better. Let me suggest that you be the person that delights in the law of the Lord and who meditates on it both day and night.

You don't have to be intimidated by the trials and challenges

of life. You don't even have to be intimidated by the elite and intellectuals of the world. You should follow the apostle Paul who said in **1 Corinthians 2:1-5 (NLT)** *When I first came to you, dear brothers and sisters, I didn't use lofty words and impressive wisdom to tell you God's secret plan. For I decided that while I was with you I would forget everything except Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified. I came to you in weakness—timid and trembling. And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.*

It is so very important that you realize that Satan is trying to intimidate the followers of Christ by trying to fool us into believing that our stand that Jesus is the answer to all that challenges and confronts us is not "politically correct." Satan has convinced the world that Christians who hold this exclusive and narrow view of Jesus being the only way are really bigots who hate people who are different and who hold different views. You and I know that this is just a lie because views like this are contrary to Jesus and we instead, love people. **John 3:16-17 (NLT)** *For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.* So if God loves the world and wants to save them, doesn't it make sense that we, as followers of Jesus, would also love the world and want to see them saved?

Dear people of Valley Isle Fellowship, Satan has been attacking the Christian Church for generations. He has been so patient in slowly but aggressively weaving his demonic plot around all of us. As one of

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Jesus Is The Answer

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the many watchmen on the wall, I need to cry out that Satan is trying to close his evil web by trying to kill the work of the Lord by silencing the followers of Jesus into compromise and acceptance of the ways of the world. Jesus Christ is distinctly different from all of the rest of the world's political and religious leaders that have ever lived. **John 14:6 (NLT)** *Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. We who are followers of Jesus need to also be distinctly different as well. Therefore, don't be intimidated by the powers of this world into silence and compromise. Pull out all of the stops and strive with all of your might to love Jesus with all of your heart, soul, and mind. God bless you as you strive to let Him be everything to you.*

PHILIPPINE SPRING MISSION 2015- A CALL TO PRAYER

Please continue to pray for the Spring Mission Trip

Schedule: March 27- April 11 2015

Mission Focus: EVANGELISM, MEDICAL MISSION, CONSTRUCTION

"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."

April 12th

CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

VIF Sanctuary

COUNSELORS NEEDED

Do you want to make an impact
on kids & teens lives?

We are looking for volunteer
camp counselors for our youth
(June 8-12) & children's (June 22
-26) camps.

Please contact the office if you
are interested.



What Empowers Your Daily Life?

By Pastor Jeremy Kaneshiro

Galatians 3:1-9

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. ² Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? ³ Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? ⁴ Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? ⁵ Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— ⁶ just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?

⁷ Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. ⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” ⁹ So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Is the gospel important for us daily? Many of us would say “yes” and “amen” to the gospel of Jesus Christ being our salvation but is it important to us daily? How does it connect to work? Home? Play? Food? Paul is concerned here in Galatians 3:1-9 about the daily application of the gospel in the believers’ lives. You see, the Galatian church believed in the gospel at one time. There was no denying that and that is not what Paul is challenging. What He is challenging is their post conversion, daily application of the gospel in their lives. Paul was concerned that we understood that faith is an ongoing reorientation of where we put our hope and trust not solely on a past hope and trust.

You see, they believed in the right thing. They hoped in the right person and sacrificed once but they did not understand how their faith in the cross of Jesus Christ affected their normal, everyday life.

What Paul was pointing out to them was that the same faith that they began the Christian walk with (Jesus’ work for them) had to be the same faith that they lived their daily life upon. What was that faith? It was the faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Look at verse 1 where he says “...it was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified.” Their daily faith had to focus on Jesus’ work, not their own.

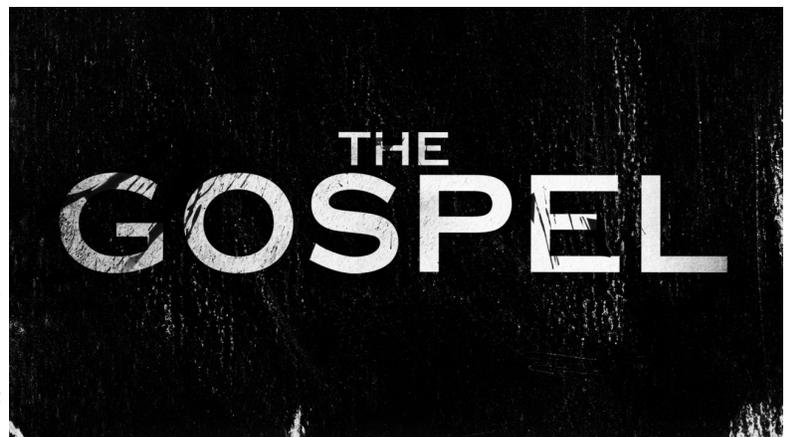
I could put it another way...Paul wanted the people to understand that their daily life’s focus was not on finding salvation in what **they could do** but **what Jesus has already done**. You see, many Christians have faith in what Jesus did for us FOR salvation but very few of us trust, hope and have faith in Jesus’ work FOR our growing in Christ and staying saved.

Our tendency as humans is to believe that it is “my responsibility” (i.e. my work) to make sure that I grow in Christ AND stay in Christ. Or in other words, whether I mature in the faith and stay in the faith is solely dependent upon my performance in what I can do. But if we would listen to Paul’s words here in Galatians 3, we would see that Paul is saying “don’t be so ignorant! Think! It wasn’t about how **well you performed** that got you saved but your **faith** in how well Jesus performed **for you!**” So, it is not dependent upon how well you perform that determines if you stay saved and continue to grow! (Hebrews 13:5, Philippians 2:12-13)

So, how are you doing? Are you living by faith or by works?

I think that we can diagnose whether we are living by faith or by the law with this diagnostic question: What would you say to the Lord if you were at the gates of heaven and He said “why should I let you in?”

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The Fourth Man In The Fire

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Would your heart immediately say “Well, I’m a good person” Or “I go to church”...Would your heart seek to validate *you* and *your performance*? Or, would your heart be warmed and would joy fill your heart as you recount “I am a sinner, with no merit of my own. I claim no goodness or good works but I know my Savior Jesus died on a cross and gave me His righteousness while He took my sin.” Would your heart fill with thankfulness and joy as you remember that your only hope is in Jesus’ righteousness? Would your heart leap for joy at the prospect of finding yourself hidden in Christ as the Father says “welcome child”?

If we do not do the hard work of daily remembering Jesus’ work for us, we will begin to live lives hoping in our righteousness and seeking the approval of others.

But if we would be a people that would daily remember that no matter how well we perform, or not perform, Jesus’ performance is all that the Father sees. If we believed that we grow in Christ and stay in Christ when we focus first on what Jesus did rather than what we can do, we will actually get better. We will actually live lives of great sacrifice and love. We will actually grow in our “*doing*” because the Holy Spirit is working in our lives. growing our love for Jesus and making our hearts thankful, joyful and hopeful in Jesus' victories. If the Holy Spirit is enabling our service, then God honoring service is always preceded by and empowered by faith, hope, love and joy. We will want to give radically because we are so cheerful over what Jesus has given to us (2 Cor. 9:7) . We will joyfully give above and beyond (Hebrews 10:34, 2 Cor. 8:1-7) because our daily focus (our faith) has been trained to focus on what Jesus has done for ME rather than what I can do for Jesus.

My heart yearns to have the daily applied faith that Paul speaks to us about in Galatians 3. I realize that my selfishness and fear is due to my tendency as a human to not have faith and focus on **what I can do** rather than having the biblical faith of trusting, focusing and hoping daily in **what Jesus has already done for me**. May we all be reminded that biblical faith is a daily focus on Jesus’ performance, not my own, and if we want to improve our service for Jesus our focus should not be on what we can do for Him but on what Jesus has done for us and let the Lord lead the way.

A life focused on Jesus’ work reorients our spiritual eyes to look up and outside of ourselves while focusing on our performance orients our spiritual eyes down and only focusing on ourselves and that is a deep dark hole of insecurity and selfishness. My prayer is that you would do the gospel work of looking up and out.

EASTER SUNDAY



Pot Luck

Sign-UP ON BACK TABLE



Easter is quickly approaching. The Special Events Team has decided to have a Sunrise Service at the Waikapu Property at 6am (weather permitting) and our Easter Service at Wailuku Elementary at 9am, with a potluck to follow. **Sign-up** for the potluck in the back of the cafeteria.

You will need to bring your own chairs to the Sunrise Service as we will be out in the open and there will be very minimal set-up & tear-down.

Schedule:

- 6 am—Sunrise Service
 - Weather permitting
 - Bring a chair
- 9 am—Easter Service
 - Potluck Lunch to follow.
 - Bring a dish to share.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY MORNINGS Schedule

- 7:00 AM.....Set-up
- 9:00 AM.....Worship Service (no childcare)
- 10:30 AM.....Sunday School & Adult Prayer Time

Childcare Discontinued

Childcare has been discontinued, 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.



Today at 10:30 am, we will be gathering in the cafeteria in groups, no larger than 8 persons following our service. 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 join us in this very powerful time with the Lord!



When:
Mondays
10 AM, 3 PM, 6:30 PM

Where:
VIF Sanctuary

Who:
EVERYONE!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



CRISIS CARE MINISTRY
Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro
419-8100

*Malama
Pregnancy
Center*
of Maui

280-5810
Jenn.mpcmaui@gmail.com

HOW CAN YOU HELP? CHECK OUT THESE OPPORTUNITIES!

**Look on page 9 for more information on
these ministries.**



Handyman Ministry
Andy Sniffen
264-0529



Church Office
244-0865



**YOU CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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.

Malama Pregnancy Center

This non-profit organization depends on the talents of many and the support of friends. They do not accept government funding and provide their services free of charge to our island ohana.

Services offered are:

Pregnancy Tests

Options Counseling w/Trained Peer Counselors

Post Abortion Care Group

Practical & Emotional Support

Referrals to additional Resources & Agencies

All services are strictly confidential & free of charge.

You can come alongside this amazing ministry by donating of your time & talents and/or your finances. Here are some ways you can volunteer (training is provided).

Volunteer positions:

Front Desk

Client Advocates

Fundraising Team Members

Contact the center for more information.

64 Central Ave, Wailuku, HI 96793 • 280-5810

www.mpcmaui.org



DISASTER RELIEF VOLUNTEERS

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

If you are interested, please fill out the survey form at the back table 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.

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.

Valley Isle Fellowship 2015 Calendar

March 2015

- 29 9 AM - Pastor Stephen—Intentional Living
-Lord's Supper
10:30 am - Sunday School @ High Street Property
& Adult Prayer Time @ Cafeteria
6 pm - Pastor Jeremy

April 2015

- 03 Good Friday—Office Closed
- 04 Easter Sunday Workday
- 05 6 am - Sunrise Service @ Waikapu Property
9 am - Pastor Stephen—Easter—The Irony of the
Cross
10:30 am - Potluck Luncheon
6 pm - Pastor Stephen
- 06 10 am - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary
3 pm - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary
6:30 pm - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary
- 08 6:30pm - Youth Group "Fuel" @ Sanctuary



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To receive messages via text, text @mrivf to 81010. You can opt-out of messages at anytime by replying, 'unsubscribe @mrivf'.

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

Standard text message rates apply.



Today's Worship Songs

Start A Fire

From The Inside Out

I Will Follow

Valley Isle Fellowship

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SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

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

Service - 9:00 am

Sunday School - 10:30 am

Children & Youth Sunday School at High Street property

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE

VIF Church Sanctuary
6:00 pm



www.facebook.com/valleyislefellowship



@VIFMaui

Associate Pastor

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Senior Pastor

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121 Ho`owaiwai Lp #801
Wailuku, HI 96793

Associate Pastor

Jeremy Kaneshiro
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Intentional Living

Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

2 Timothy 2:3-18

Matthew 22:37-40

1. Love the _____
2. Love _____
3. Obey the _____

2 Timothy 2:2

1. Learn & Accept _____
2. _____ it on
3. Pass it on to _____

I. Be Intentional in _____: (2 Timothy 2:3-7)

- A. Consider yourself as a _____ and/or an _____ of Jesus Christ.
- B. Don't get tied up in affairs that take you away from the calling of _____.
- C. Follow all of the _____ of your _____.

II. Be Intentional in _____: (2 Timothy 2:8-14)

- A. Intentional Christian Living leads to _____, just as Jesus _____.
- B. Intentional Christian Suffering leads to _____, just as Jesus was _____ from the _____.

2 Timothy 2:11-13

- C. Intentional Christian Living leads to the _____ of the _____.
- D. Be Intentional in Suffering in order to bring _____ and _____ in Christ Jesus to those He has _____.

Intentional Living

Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

E. Stop fighting over _____.

2 Timothy 2:14

III. Be Intentional in being able to _____ yourself to God: (2 Timothy 2:15-18)

A. Be a good _____

1. One who does not need to be _____.

2. One who _____ the word of truth.

B. Avoid _____ & _____ talk that leads to _____ behavior.

1. This kind of talk is like _____.

2. This kind of talk turns _____ from the _____.

IV. Pastor Stephen's Conclusion:

A. _____ Him.

B. _____ Him.

C. _____ to Him.

Matt Redman – “You Never Let Go”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76ifTTuL4XI>