



Valley Isle Fellowship
Love God Love His Church Love His World

NEWSLETTER

June 15, 2014 www.vifmaui.com

Living in Community with People in Love with Jesus Christ

by Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

We have been talking about what it looks like to really love Jesus Christ with all of our heart, mind and soul. I know that as I have been writing, preaching, teaching, and talking about it, that I have a long way to go in loving Him with all of my heart, mind, and soul. Although I have a long way to

go, I am excited about seeing my future develop as one who fully moves in that direction. It may be moving slowly, but at least I am moving in the right direction. Although I fall so many times, I have become very determined to pick myself up, ask God for His forgiveness, and continue to move forward. I am so grateful that in God's gracious mercy, He is so patient and forgiving.

I am also excited that in VIF there seems to be a small group that is attempting to walk on this same path. I see a new vitality and excitement rising up and beginning to flavor all that we do. My desire is to see all people move on to loving Jesus in such an infectious way that we will soon see all of Valley Isle Fellowship fighting and struggling to truly love Jesus with all of our hearts, minds, and souls. I want you to think with me what VIF and our surrounding community might look like if and when we become Matthew 22:37 Christians?

When we become a community of faith that really loves Jesus with all of our hearts, minds, and souls, we will see individuals and the whole body being excited about Jesus! So excited about Jesus that He will fill our thoughts, our speech, and especially our actions. I know that when I fell in love with my wife, Clarice, I became so infatuated with her that she was the only one that I could think about. I was in college at the time and I confess that there were times that I had difficulty concentrating on my studies.

Clarice filled my thoughts so much that I was consumed with trying to think of ways to spend more time with her. I also knew that she would not be very happy with me if I failed or didn't do well in my studies. After all, how could Clarice love someone like me who was a dummy and failure if I concentrated only on one aspect of her?

Clarice and I spent time talking and dreaming of our future and I knew that successfully completing my studies would play a big part in our lives. Discipline and hard work had to be factored into my relationship with Clarice. Boy, I am really glad that the Lord helped me to concentrate and prioritize all of the aspects of our lives at that very vulnerable time.

Imagine when VIF moves from infatuation into a mature, disciplined love for Jesus Christ. He will consume our thoughts and we will develop a mature discipline that will help us to prioritize and work hard to bring glory, honor, and majesty to Jesus Christ. The things that are important to Christ will be the things that are important to us. The things that bring joy to Him will be the things that bring joy to us. His desires will become our driving passion. Not only will Jesus consume our thoughts but He will be continually on our lips. With growing frequency, you are hearing the term "gospel fluency" being talked about all over

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Living in Community with People in Love with Jesus Christ

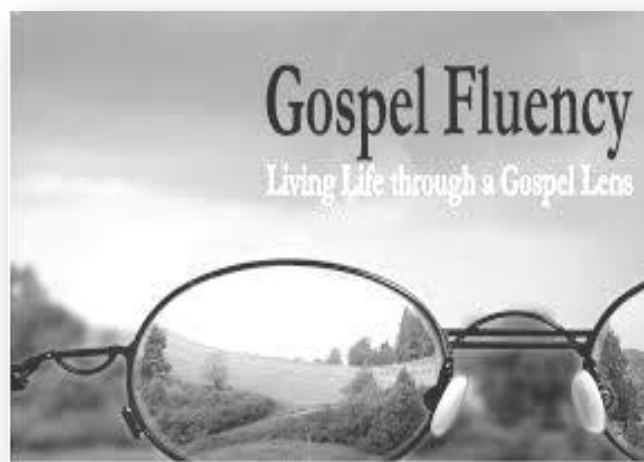
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VIF. This is a term that we want you to become very familiar with and a practice that we want you to become very adept at.

Dear people of Valley Isle Fellowship, the way for you to become involved is to get active in one of the Missional Groups that are now starting up.

Each of the pastors are starting a group of their own. Others are going to be striving to transition their existing small group into Missional Groups. Finally, there are some new groups (40 Days of Love groups) that are beginning that will attempt to be Missional Groups. Get involved with one of these groups and move on to be all that Jesus desires of you.

I pray that God will bless you richly as you strive to bring continuous glory and honor to Him.



The Christian & Politics

A Note From Pastor Stephen

As your pastor, I am not allowed to address fully what is going on politically. I am free to address issues but I am not at liberty to express my views about candidates and/or parties. However, as a private individual, I am free to express all of my opinions. If you would like my unhindered opinions on these topics, I am using a separate and different email address. If you would like my unhindered opinions and feelings on these subjects then I would ask that you send me an email and express your desire to receive my independent views. Please email at: snkaneshiro@gmail.com. God bless and keep you.

AM Service: Pastor Darren Sarmiento

The Confidence and Joy That You Belong to the Lord *John 15:1-17 NLT*

Remain: To abide in, to stay connected, make my home in.

How do you know if you are remaining in Him? **John 14:23 ESV**.

1. If you remain in Christ...

❖ You will **Be** fruitful, **inwardly** V.8

❖ You will **Bear** fruit, **outwardly**! V.16

How is that possible? **You have received the Holy Spirit.**

True Disciples

²¹ "Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. ²² On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' ²³ But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.' Matthew 7:21-23 NLT

Notes:

Gospel Fluency

First, begin to Love God.

By: Pastor Darren Sarmiento - Much of this article comes from J.D. Greear's book, "Gospel: Recovering the Power that Made Christianity Revolutionary." Permission is granted to use in this article.

We all want to be the kind of Christian that is on fire for the Lord.

We all want to be the kind of Christian that is on fire for the Lord. So, we try our best to do what it takes to be the Christian that we always hear about and want to be like. We begin to spend a large amount of energy and time chasing after spiritual gifts, mastering sound doctrine and theology, congering up audacious faith and radically striving to be obedient unto the Father. And yet, none of that equals to the only thing that actually *matters* to God—love for Him.

Paul says this in 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 ESV, "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing."

Without love even the most radical devotion to God is of no value to Him. Let me make sure this sinks in...You can gain all the spiritual gifts in the world. You can take the most radical steps of obedience. You can share every meal with the homeless. You can memorize scripture and pray for four hours like Martin Luther. But, if what you do does not flow out of a heart of love—a heart that does those things because it genuinely *desires* to do them—it is ultimately *worthless* to God. The point is, to produce real love in your heart for God takes something beyond all that, something entirely different, radically different.

This is where the Gospel comes in. Just as Jesus has the power to command the lame to get up and walk, so does the story of Jesus' death and resurrection has in itself the power to make dead hearts new. When you believe in the

Gospel our selfish and prideful hearts burst alive with righteousness and godly passions.

Think about all the commands of God and Jesus. How in the world are you and I going to obey them all? Religion, then, can tell you what to do, but the Gospel alone gives you the power to do it. It is through believing in the Gospel that produces a new kind of obedience—an obedience that is powered by *desire*. Having the desire in you through knowing the Gospel brings about joy in the Lord. That kind of joy in Jesus cannot be produced in us by just obeying. The joy in the Lord comes only from being saturated in the Gospel.

Religion, then, can tell you what to do, but the Gospel alone gives you the power to do it.

The Gospel is given to us by God our Father in the beginning of time, back in the book of Genesis where Adam and Eve sinned against God. God told the serpent that Eve's son will crush you; that's the Gospel being prophesied about Jesus' coming. The Gospel is God's love upon us, forgiving us and washing away of our sins by giving His only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. It is through the Gospel that we receive the Holy Spirit that will teach us all things and empower us to live and tell people everywhere about Jesus.

All throughout the Bible can you see the Gospel? Can you see how the Gospel applies to stories in the Bible and can you see how the

Gospel addresses issues in all of life? When you and I begin to see God the Father, the world, and all of life through the lenses of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we will then be fluent in the Gospel and that is Gospel Fluency! Today's article is about being fluent in the Gospel that empowers us to have the desire to Love God.



What Makes A Missional Community Different?

By Todd Engstrom

Vanessa found this article to share from <http://thegospelcoalition.org/article/what-makes-a-missional-community-different/>

As a practitioner of missional communities, I am often asked, "What is the difference between a missional community and _____ (small group, Bible study, etc.)?"

Before I dive into distinctions, let me provide the definition I use for a missional community:

A community of Christians, on mission with God, in obedience to the Holy Spirit, who demonstrate the gospel tangibly and declare the gospel creatively to a pocket of people.

Perhaps the most critical portion of the definition practically is the idea of "a pocket of people"—a missional community is intentionally focused on those who aren't believers. Missional community is intentionally focused on those outside the church.

Before I make some folks upset, it's also important for me to note that gospel-centered communities on mission come with many different names. While I think language is important, I've found there are many small groups, community groups, and Bible studies that look a lot like what I call missional communities. The distinctions I point out in this article are meant to challenge predominant methods of practicing community in many American evangelical churches.

Missional Communities

vs.

Community Groups

One of the greatest needs in many churches is "community." Pastors talk about the value of it, tell people they need it, and provide lots of ways for people to engage it. As I have connected people, I find they're mostly seeking friendships that will spur them towards Christ. That desire is good and godly . . . I want the same thing!

The danger in the church aiming for community, though, is that it typically becomes the destination. Once relationships have been established, and the need for friends has been met, that's the way a community group stays. Community groups love to spend time together and have rich friendships, and the concept of "doing life" together is easy and appealing.

But these kinds of groups often struggle because they lack the imperative of mission. They meet and live in community but do not engage in missionary activity. Once more appealing friendships or changes in life circumstances occur, a community group often dies out.

Community on this side of heaven isn't primarily about us though. Community is about God's glory being displayed to the world. Jesus clearly explains that the purpose of Christian unity and community is so that the world would know God the Father sent Jesus to this earth in [John 17:21-24](#).

Missional communities are different in that they primarily see the purpose of their friendship, love, and unity to be [an apologetic for the gospel to their neighbors](#). Community isn't the only purpose of the group, but community has the purpose of mission.

In my experience, a community group needs to be hard pressed with the truth of the gospel and the imperative of disciple making. Their need is not so much practical as it is sin rooted deep in their heart. This sin masquerades as many different things, but collectively a community group must see the greatness of the gospel and the joy

found in following Jesus to seek out those far from God.

Practically, I have found that training a group like this together is crucial. They often will not make a transition collectively if you only train them as individuals. This is the primary reason we train whole communities together at [The Austin Stone](#).

Missional Communities

vs.

Bible Studies

Many of us have been a part of a Bible study at some point in our Christian lives. Typically, these groups read the Bible for a set period of time on a specific day of the week. Bible studies are often great things, but they don't constitute a Christian community in its entirety.

So what's the difference? The short answer is that a missional community is not a Bible study, but a missional community studies the Bible.

A Bible study is often defined by gathering for the event of *learning*. The individuals who compose a missional community are individually engaging God's Word on a daily basis—our church uses a tool we call [Life Transformation Groups](#)—and seeking to *obey*.

The distinction is primarily in expectations: a missional community expects that an individual is participating in the community to *contribute* something ([1 Corinthians 14:26](#)), whereas someone comes to a Bible study to *consume* something.

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MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES

What Makes A Missional Community Different?

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Certainly people need to study the Bible, but to study the Bible without engaging in authentic community on mission is a fool's errand. The purpose of studying the Bible is indeed to learn about God and conform us to the image of Christ, but it's also to equip us for the work of ministry in the church (community) and outside the church (mission).

If we desire compelling communities that foster obedience to the Bible, our community should be *natural*, *neutral*, and *regular*, in the pattern and rhythm of everyday life, not a one-hour, drive-through Bible study.

Practically speaking, most Bible studies need to think critically about how the information that they are studying affects their daily life AND specifically how they can share the good news of Christ's life, death, and resurrection with their friends and neighbors. Transitioning this kind of community requires [gathering in different ways for different purposes](#).

Missional Communities vs. Small Groups

Small groups have been used in many great ways in the church over the last few decades. There are many different variations on small groups, but they are primarily groups of around 12 people who gather weekly together to connect, worship, study the Bible, and pray for one another. Often times they try to serve together in ministry within the church and in their city.

These groups often understand the centrality of the Bible, the need for community, and the purpose of the group beyond itself. I've had great experiences in this kind of group. But I've often found there is a significant struggle to invite others to join in, and

it's often difficult to mobilize an entire group to do something outside the regular meeting.

In trying to balance a number of different objectives, small groups often struggle to produce mature disciples of Jesus and multiply into new communities. Why?

I think it is because success is still defined as attendance at an event, rather than events helping relationships become natural in the rhythms of everyday life. Small groups often try to do community and mission outside the normal routines of life by adding an event into the week, rather than redeeming everyday life with gospel intentionality and involving community into normal life.

A missional community understands [the value of different kinds of gatherings](#). A missional community sees itself as a network of relationships with a common mission, rather than being defined by attending an event. Missional communities gather, but the gatherings have different purposes.

I have also found that often times a group will try different kind of gatherings outside of their regular meeting times (for example, [Third Place](#), [The Family Meal](#) and [LTG's](#)) a couple times, then abandon them because they "didn't work." I work hard to teach them that these practices are not a magic bullet, but healthy rhythms that will produce more faithful communities over time.

Small groups begin to shift as people start to put into practice rhythms that enable them to hang out with their friends far from God in natural ways. When a small group has actual names of people to pray for and ask God to save, and those people start to show up in places with the community, they

are headed in the right direction.

Conclusion

No community is perfect, but by the grace of God all communities can be more conformed to the image of Christ and be more faithfully used for God's purposes. Regardless of what category your community falls into, I hope you are challenged to think about how you can more intentionally be disciples together and make disciples of those who are far from God.

May God give us the grace to pursue the fullness of all he intended for our life together, and would we receive the joy of following Jesus and participating in the mission He has called us to!

About the Author



Todd Engstrom is the Executive Pastor of Campuses at The Austin Stone Community Church in Austin, Texas, Director of Church Planting for The Austin Stone Institute and a speaker, writer and consultant for the Verge Network.

Check out Todd's personal blog:
<http://tod dengstrom.com/resources>

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with permission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"G" Force

Saturday, June 21st - 9am-12pm in the VIF Church Annex
For children who have completed Grade 1 up to Grade 5.
Includes service project, Bible study, games, and lunch!



Church Photo Directory



VIF Photo Directory

Thank you to all who have been confirming contact information and submitting photos to help make this photo directory possible. Today is the last day to submit your photo. However, **Erin has volunteered to take pictures after both AM services next Sunday, June 22 for those of who do not have a photo to submit.** This will be the last chance to get a photo in for the directory. Please help us make this photo directory possible. It will help us learn each other's names and faces so that we can become a closer church family.

A Night for All Nations

Megan Motonaga will be hosting a Missions Night on **June 22nd** at the VIF Sanctuary before leaving for her mission trip to Bangladesh. The night will begin with dinner at 5:30pm with worship, testimony, a message on missions, and prayer to follow. We hope you can join us for this awesome *Night for All Nations*.



Basketball MAUI



Summer is here and that means it's time to register your son and/or daughter for the basketballMAUI basketball camp, **June 23-27**. We have two age groups this year, with three locations: Lahaina Civic Center and Kamehameha School in Pukalani for the 7-13 year olds and War Memorial Gym in Wailuku for the 14-19 year olds. Camp is very affordable at just \$99.00, but if that is a hardship, there are scholarships available. To register visit our website at: www.basketballmaui.com/camp. You will find more information and be able to print registration forms. There is bus transportation from two locations in Kihei and from the War Memorial Gym to Kamehameha. Sign up now to secure a spot at camp.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Since we will not be able to host VBS at Valley Isle Fellowship this year, below are other VBS opportunities. You can find registration forms on the back table during our Sunday Worship Services.

Your Invited to
Vacation Bible School 2014



July 7th-11th 8am-12noon

For children:
Entering Kindergarten-Completed 9th grade

Join us for: Worship, Bible Study,
Recreation, Missions, Music, Crafts and Snacks!



Kahului Baptist Church
309 S Puunene Ave
Kahului HI 96732
808-877-0795

Email: kbcsecretary@hawaii.rr.com
Website: Kahuluiibaptist.org

KIHEI BAPTIST CHAPEL
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2014



JUNE 23-26 8AM-12NOON

FOR CHILDREN:
KINDERGARTEN THRU 6TH GRADE

LOCATION:
KIHEI BAPTIST CHAPEL
1655 S. KIHEI RD. KIHEI, HI 96753
808-875-2112

REGISTER:
ONLINE @ WWW.KIHEIBAPIST.ORG

DEADLINE:
JUNE 19TH

Pukalani Baptist Church
Vacation Bible School 2014



June 23-27 5:00pm-7:30pm

Dinner Provided

For Children:
Completing Preschool - 8th Grade

Special Note:
Friday night is a family night that
starts at 6:30pm

Location:
Pukalani Baptist Church
4 Loha St. Pukalani, HI 96768

For More Information Contact:
Joanna Kaneshiro
Pbckidz@gmail.com



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 call or email the church office 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.

We are in great need of help for the 3rd and 4th weeks of September, October, November, and December.

child care Schedule

Today

June 15, 2014

Team 1

Jennifer Egami

Corey Egami

Donna Nozaki

Elijah Douglas

Next Week

June 22, 2014

Team 2

Joycelyn Kiaha

Marion Kimura

Elaine Yamasaki

Avery Yamada

Zachary Yamada

Kaiani Kiaha

Daniel Olaso



High Street Cleaning Schedule

Week of June 19-21

Powell

Week of June 26-28

Shum

Week of July 3-5

Blando



Today's Worship Songs

I'm Not Ashamed

You Are Holy

Forever Reign

Valley Isle Fellowship 2014 Calendar

June 2014

- 15 **AM - Pastor Darren - John 15:1-17**
PM - Pastor Stephen - BFM - Religious Liberty
- 16-20 MCBA Children's Camp
- 21 "G" Force
- 22 **AM - Pastor Jeremy - John 15:18-16:4**
PM - A Night For All Nations
- 23 Pastor Stephen - Out of the Office
- 29 **AM - Pastor Stephen - John 16:5-15**
PM - Pastor Jeremy - The Family



July 2014

- 4 Independence Day (Office Closed)
- 6 **AM - Pastor Darren - John 16:16-33**
PM - Pastor Stephen - The Importance of our Affiliations
- 12 "G" Force
- 13 **AM - Pastor Jeremy - John 17:1-26**
PM - Pastor Darren
- 20 **AM - Pastor Stephen - John 18:1-14**
PM - Pastor Jeremy
- 27 **AM - Pastor Darren - John 18:15-40**
PM - Pastor Stephen
- 28 Surf Ministry - Kalama Beach

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

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE

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

6:00 pm



"Valley Isle Fellowship Church"

Assistant Pastor

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Senior Pastor

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Assistant Pastor

Jeremy Kaneshiro
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