



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

June 28, 2015 www.vifmaui.com

Living in a Changing World

by Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

Have you noticed that the world that we are living in today is a world that is rapidly changing? Economic, social, political, and even geo-political changes are occurring so rapidly that it can leave you dizzy. On Oahu, the building of a Rapid Transit system is creating traffic jams, business

distress, and economic uncertainty. It has created a very different Honolulu not only for those who live there, but also for those who visit.

Change in our world is happening so quickly that it can leave you in distress. I remember just a few years ago, we were told that we needed to defend the cause of freedom in foreign lands so that we wouldn't have to fight the enemies of freedom here. The War on Terrorism was begun, even as we had to suffer the losses of 9/11 here on our shores. Predominately, America has been free of terrorism. However, we face a very different story today. A report was recently made that our intelligence agencies are keeping an eye on possible terrorist plots in all 50 states.

The biggest and most frightening changes have been the social changes that are occurring all around us. As a pastor, I tend to see everything around me through the lens of scripture. Therefore, I see the disturbing social changes around us as a compromise or disregard for the Word of God. Yes, there are many eloquent and very lofty explanations that sound so good to those whose filters are of this world. But when the filter that you have is the Word of God, it really comes down to compromise and disregard for the Bible.

Everything from Same-Sex Marriage, to Abortion, to living together without the commitment of marriage, and to the feelings and programs that cause people to feel entitled to certain privileges are all based on compromising and disregarding the Word of God. The Christian church in America has been greatly impacted by the approach to dull the church to the Word of God so that they begin to see the social changes upon us as being part of the Word of God. This dulling of the church's senses have even caused many Christians to come to the point where they believe that they are being too "radical"

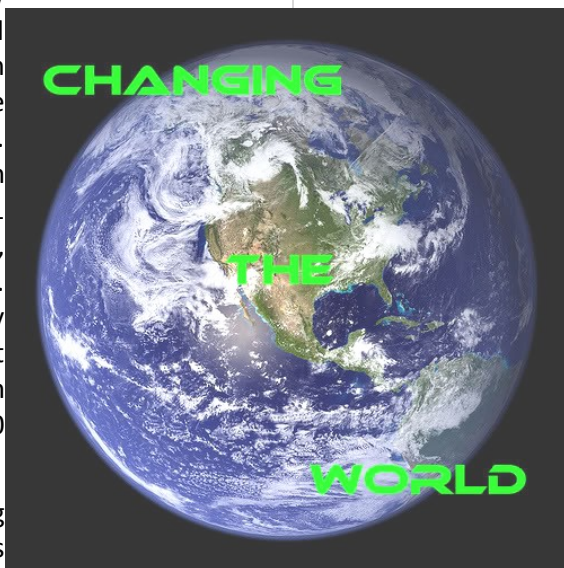
or too "fanatical" of the Bible by trying to interpret it so literally.

They have even believed that they don't have the right to impose or to legislate their beliefs on others. The problem with this kind of philosophy is that they are failing to let Jesus be first in their lives and they are letting others legislate their immorality upon the people of faith in Jesus Christ.

The state of the American church has reached such a low point that the church is losing all power to speak in the public square. If the church is to regain its proper place in the public square in America, it needs to be bold and unashamedly profess its love for Jesus Christ. A good example of this is what the church in Charleston, South Carolina has been doing over the past 2½ weeks. In the midst of their deep pain and

sorrow they refuse to let the evil desires of hate and revenge to rule over them. They are choosing to let the love of Jesus Christ reign in their lives and they are offering to the murderer of their loved ones the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. They are not denying justice to be served, but they are desiring him to be saved by the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

Such bold and Christ-like love and forgiveness needs to be the personal fortitude of every Christian. We may be mistreated and abused by the systems and people of this world, but we have to be like Jesus when He said, "Father, forgive them because they don't know what they are doing!" We need to love and forgive



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Living in a Changing World (continued)

Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

all manner of false and vile accusations against us, the people of love and faith in Jesus Christ. We need to lift Jesus Christ up in **all** of the situations that we face in life so that the world around us will see the beauty and majesty of our Lord so that they will come to love Him with all of their heart, mind, and soul. We need to be a strong and powerful signpost that will constantly and faithfully point to Jesus. The world needs to see Jesus and not us. Therefore, we need to be true in pointing to Jesus with all that is within us.

I am saying that the majority of the church in America (as well as Valley Isle Fellowship) is not the church that we need to be. We need to **change** and become all that Jesus desires us to be. . We need to come to the point of loving Jesus with **ALL** that we are. We need to come to the point where we will stop making excuses for falling short. We need to stop compromising for it is in our compromise that we show that we do not love Jesus with all that we are.

We are living in a world that is changing all around us. Are we up to being the church that is changing to become more like Jesus in word, thought, and deed? I am praying that as we each think and pray about these thoughts, that you will join me in saying, "Yes, Jesus! You can count on me. I will seek to love You more today than I did yesterday, and when I rise tomorrow morning I will seek to love You more tomorrow than I have today. Lord Jesus, use me as an instrument of Your Love and Grace!"

"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving"

Colossians 4:2 (ESV)

Here are opportunities to gather together in prayer

Sunday, 6am

(Pastor Jeremy's Office)

Monday, 10 am & 6:30 pm

(High St Sanctuary)

Gather together to pray for God to move within ourselves,
our church, community, nation and world. Please join us for these very powerful times with the Lord and our brothers and sisters.

Children's Summer Outreach Team Meeting



Today, Sunday, June 28
12 noon
Big Classroom



HIGH STREET CLEANING SCHEDULE

Week of July 2-4
Volunteers Needed

Week of July 9-11
Blando Ohana

Week of July 16-18
Aikala Ohana

Week of July 23-25
Reimann, Edwards
Kaneshiro

**HELP
WANTED**

Who Are You? Part 3

Pastor Jeremy Kaneshiro

¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12-13 (ESV)

We are in our third and last installment investigating the identities that the Lord has granted to us. Last week, we talked about the word “saints” and today we will conclude by talking about the name of “children of God” that God uses for His forever family.

The current racial, social and political divide is the fruit of a culture that does not understand identity. As believers we are called to first see ourselves as believers (2 Corinthians 5). We are called to see ourselves primarily as how God sees us, not by ethnicity, location, social status, power, job, earthly family, skill set or anything fleshly. We are called to see ourselves first and foremost as children of God born not of merit but of grace and mercy. We have been called to be this utterly unique, counter cultural, odd collections of believers of all races, ages, sex, status, personalities, hobbies, languages, jobs and locations who are under the banner of Jesus Christ, loving Jesus and loving each other in a practical way. Sadly, this is sorely missing in church today. Churches all across the country divide themselves up by ethnicities (ethnic churches), hobbies (cowboy churches, skateboard church, etc.) ages (young singles, old singles, young couples, etc.) small groups and many other ways. Instead of being a counter cultural collection of Jesus followers who by their very association defy cultural conventions and acceptable practices, we have modeled and divided ourselves up to appease our sinful desire to divide and see one another through fleshly eyes.

In today’s evangelical churches all across our nation, believers primarily identify themselves as something else. Then, somewhere along the line, they see themselves as

Christians. This is so damaging because Christ called us to see the world through His eyes and not through physical eyes (Matt. 8:18-22, 10:34-39). What would happen in the church if we saw that we were of the same family? What would happen if we saw that we belong to one another? What would happen if didn’t see ourselves first as Americans or local people? What would happen to our church if we saw ourselves as one family, called to love one another? Would the white person

and the black person refuse to fellowship together? Would the Korean and the Filipino strive to sit at the same table together? Would the local people and mainlanders sacrifice and deeply fellowship together? I think it is evident that the church in America is broken because we cannot get past our divisions that we have superficially bought into and fostered. I believe that until the church willfully breaks down these barriers, the lost and dying world cannot see the powerful picture of love through the body of Christ that Jesus talked about in John 13:34-35.

The Bible calls us to primarily see ourselves as the children of God who our Heavenly Father is bringing together from all over the world through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 that we must no longer see the world through our own fleshly eyes and designations but through spiritual eyes. If we are going to see the world through spiritual eyes, we must see ourselves as the children of God. So, is seeing ourselves important? Yes, it is! Until that happens we cannot be powerful witnesses to the glory of God that we have been called to be because of our common adoption in Christ because of our faith.

So, what is the good news of our new family?

When we speak of what it means to be a “child of God”, there are three main ideas that I want to you understand. The three ideas are “undeserved, adopted, and Promise”.

So, let’s look at the first idea: **undeserved**. Satan will try to



Who Are You? Part 3 (cont.)

Pastor Jeremy Kaneshiro

tempt us into believing that being called children of God is “undeserved”. Do you realize that you were rescued because God chose to love you? There was nothing special about you. Rather, the only thing you had to give to God was your rebellion and hate (you were His enemy: Romans 3:9-18). God did not look at your potential or skill level because He doesn’t care about those things (1 Samuel 16:7). In fact, a prerequisite of joining the family of God is the absolute belief that you are desperately unqualified to be a part of the family of God (Matt. 5:2-12, Romans 4:4-5).

Believing you are a child of God means believing in your own unworthiness and trusting in the worthiness of another. This rejection of one’s ability to save oneself is a bedrock truth of biblical faith (Gal. 2:16). Salvation is not by works but by faith in Jesus’ sacrifice (John 3:16). Since being a child of God is due to God’s love and mercy, not on our merit, God is not indebted to us or beholden to bless us...but **He does** (Ephesians 2:4-10).

Second, we are **adopted** in the heavenly family. He chose to adopt us according to His will not our worthiness. If He based His rescue on those that deserved it, He would never have rescued anyone (Ephesians 1:5). He did not wait till He saw what kind of people we would become or what skills we would master but scripture tells us that before the foundation of creation was created, He chose to adopt us, love us and grant us an inheritance that is waiting for us. Because our Heavenly Father adopted us, we are a **new creation** (2 Cor. 5:21),

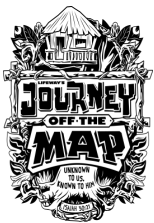
Us in eternity.

Because our Heavenly Father adopted us, we are a **new creation** (2 Cor. 5:21), have a **new name** (Romans 9:8) and a **new family** (Ephesians 5:1). As children of God we are called to believe our old self is dead, our new self is alive and we are a part of a heavenly family.

Thirdly, we are children of **promise** because we will share in the inheritance of Jesus. You see, because we are the children of God we are children of promise. Romans 8:17 says that if we are children of God, then we are heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him. Do you hear that? We will share in the inheritance of Jesus, the Son of God! We, who were once enemies of God, have not only been brought into the family but we will share in the inheritance of the Son of God of which He will freely lavish upon us because of His grace and mercy (Ephesians 1-10).

Dear brother and sister in the Lord, you and I are a part of the greatest family on earth. We are not defined by our physical shortcomings but by Christ’s perfections. We are not defined by our ethnicity or social status because in Christ there is no distinction (2 Cor. 5). We will one day be united with Christ, free from sin and death for eternity. The greatest reality about our current situation is that we are not defined by our current status physically but by our Heavenly Family. We are children of God who will never be separated from the love of our Father.

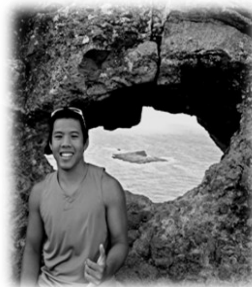
OPPORTUNITY FOR MINISTRY...



Kahului Baptist Church is in need of VBS teachers for their kindergarten and Grade 3-4 classes July 6-10. Interested in helping our sister church fill the gap? Contact Amy Shinsato at 276-6684 for more information.

Be IN The KNOW. JOIN OUR TEXT ALERTS.

 **remind**
text @mrvif to 81010



Please pray
for Destin
Olaso and
his team
serving in
Slovakia

with NavMissions through
July 14th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**



Fourth of July Picnic Saturday, July 4th 10AM-1PM

Come and join in the fun and fellowship! We will be gathering at the lower side of **Keopuolani Park** by the keiki playground. **Bring your own blankets/chairs.**

Pot luck with hot dogs, hamburgers, side dishes, and desserts. All the good kine church picnic stuffs! Drinks/papergoods will be provided.

Sign-up sheet will be in the back of the church.

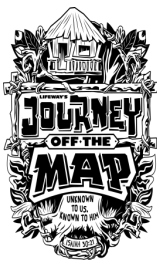
Games for all ages. Get ready to play!!

Here's an opportunity to share His blessings: bring **Healthy FOOD ITEMS** to restock the VIF food pantry.

If you have any questions or have a desire to help out, please contact Vince Bagoyo 357-3842.

SEE YOU THERE for the fellowship and building of relationships!!

A Psalm for giving thanks. Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.



Due to circumstances beyond our control, Vacation Bible School (VBS) is cancelled at VIF this summer.

However, Kahului Baptist will be having VBS from July 6-10, 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

If you are interested in enrolling children, you can contact the office at 877-0795 and talk with Lynn. If she is not in the office, please leave a message.

Kahului Baptist Church Vacation Bible School
July 6th-8th 8 am to 12 noon
Call 877-0795 to sign-up

Valley Isle Fellowship 2015 Calendar

June 2015

- 28 6 am - Prayer Time (Pastor Jeremy's Office)
 9 am - Pastor Stephen
 10:30 am - Sunday School at High St Property
 12 noon - Children's Summer Outreach Team
 6 pm - Pastor Darren
- 29 10 am - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary
 6:30 pm - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary

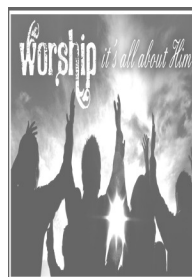
July 2015

- 1 6:30pm - Youth Group "Fuel" @ Sanctuary
- 3 Observe Independence Day - Office closed
- 4 Fourth of July Picnic-Keopuolani Park
- 5 6 am - Prayer Time (Pastor Jeremy's Office)
 9 am - Pastor Darren
 10:30 am - Sunday School at High St Property
 6 pm - Pastor Stephen
- 6 10 am - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary
 6:30 pm - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary
- 8 6:30pm - Youth Group "Fuel" @ Sanctuary

**PASTOR STEPHEN WILL BE ON
 VACATION FROM
 AUGUST 8th-19th**



on vacation



Today's Worship Songs

Awesome Is the Lord Most High

Jesus My Redeemer

I Am Not Alone

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

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 - 6:00 pm



www.facebook.com/valleyislefellowship



@VIFMaui

Missed Opportunities

Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

2 Corinthians 13:5-10 (NLT) ⁵Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith. ⁶As you test yourselves, I hope you will recognize that we have not failed the test of apostolic authority. ⁷We pray to God that you will not do what is wrong by refusing our correction. I hope we won't need to demonstrate our authority when we arrive. Do the right thing before we come—even if that makes it look like we have failed to demonstrate our authority. ⁸For we cannot oppose the truth, but must always stand for the truth. ⁹We are glad to seem weak if it helps show that you are actually strong. We pray that you will become mature. ¹⁰I am writing this to you before I come, hoping that I won't need to deal severely with you when I do come. For I want to use the authority the Lord has given me to strengthen you, not to tear you down.

I. _____ & _____ yourselves.

A. Don't be _____. (Don't settle for _____ or a _____)

B. _____ Testing – even though it may be _____.

C. Be _____ about the _____.

II. The _____ of Jesus Christ _____.

A. Being _____ of all your words, thoughts, & actions exposed in Jesus' _____.

B. Since He is _____ in you, His life comes out _____ you.

C. Your _____ & _____ brings Jesus _____ you go.

III. Don't Refuse _____.

A. Don't _____ against God's _____.

B. _____ accept _____.

C. _____ carry out _____.

IV. Become _____.

A. Strong in _____ Jesus with ALL of your heart, mind, and soul.

B. Strong in _____ to bring _____ & _____ to Jesus.

C. Strong in being _____ to the _____.

Missed Opportunities *(cont.)*

Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

V. Take Advantage of Every _____ that Jesus _____.

A. You _____ Him.

B. You _____ for Him.

C. You take every _____ to _____ & _____ Him.

D. He is _____ and you _____.

Notes: