



## *A Time to Act* by Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

For weeks we have been encouraging you to love the Lord your God with all of your heart, mind, and soul. I want to repeat that this is all-important. Nothing else matters if we don't love the Lord in this way. However, once we love the Lord in this manner, we need to move forward to be a people who love the Lord with all of our hearts, minds, and souls. To be a people of inaction is to be a people that disappoints our Lord.

Truly loving the Lord our God with all of our hearts, minds, and souls will move us into an active love for Jesus Christ. To be inactive in our love for Jesus means one of two things. One, it means that we are physically or intellectually incapable. This would mean that we do not have the physical or mental capacity to actively demonstrate our love and commitment to Him. Two, it means that we do not love Him with ALL of our hearts, minds, and souls. There is something that is hindering us from having an all-encompassing relationship with Him. There is something or someone else that has claimed our heart, mind, and soul.

My wife, Clarice, can easily tell when I am loving her the way that I am supposed to and when I am not. When I am not loving her, my actions speak louder than my words. When I am not pleased with Clarice, I usually will give her the silent treatment and try to avoid contact with her. I might even do good things for her with a very bad attitude that usually shows on my face. Clarice easily picks up when something is wrong.

Likewise, she can also easily pick up when I am falling all over myself over her. She knows when she is the most important person to me here on earth. She knows that when I get into a playful mood and I begin to say silly things to her, she knows that she has captured my heart and thoughts.

Just as Clarice can tell what my relationship with her is like by my actions, our actions reveal our relationship with Jesus Christ. Are we giving Him the silent treatment and avoiding Him? Are we giving Him the leftovers of our time or are we giving Him the best and premium times in our lives? Are we seeking to know Him and please Him or are we satisfied with just knowing about Him? Do we seek His will in both the good times and the bad times, or do we only seek His help

when things are pretty tough?

Jesus knows what our relationship with Him is like without the actions. However, many times we need those actions to help us evaluate ourselves to see if we are really loving the Lord with all of our heart, mind, and soul. Our actions can be our thermometer that helps us to measure and evaluate our love for Jesus. Take a look at your calendar (appointment book) and your checkbook. Examine your thought life and see what you think about during your idle times. Think about the significant events in your life during the past year. As you explore all of these areas in your life, examine to see how much time, money, thoughts, and activities brought glory and honor to your Lord. Do they show that you have a consuming love relationship with Jesus Christ?

*Loving the Lord our God  
with all of our heart,  
mind, and soul means  
action. Let's be active for  
our Lord.*

*God bless you all.*

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# When We Send a Person to His Death

by John Piper

Pastor Jeremy found this article to share at <http://www.desiringgod.org/blog/posts/when-we-send-a-person-to-his-death>

Ronnie Smith was shot and killed in Benghazi, Libya, on Thursday. He was 33. He was a husband and father. The leaders of his home church have given me permission to respond to his death publicly and carefully. You can read the fuller story at *World* or in the [mainstream media](#).

One of the reasons I want to respond is because Ronnie wrote to us at Desiring God last year and told us that one of my messages was significant in leading him and his family to Libya.

Now Anita is a widow, and his son Hosea has lost his father.

## **Weep with Those Who Weep**

How do I feel about sharing in the cause of his going to his death?

I came to tears this morning praying for Anita and Hosea. Weep with those who weep was not a command in that moment; it was a sorrow rolling over me. I remember being 33. That's how old I was when God called me to the pastorate. I was starting my ministry at the age Ronnie's ministry ended. And Jesus's.

After sorrow and sympathy, my response was (and is) prayer. "Lord, give Anita great faith. Help her to weep — but not as those who have not hope. Make that little fellow proud of his daddy. May he grow up thrilled to be in the bloodline of such a man. May they live on the glories of Romans 8 — the groanings of this fallen world of waiting ([Romans 8:23](#)), and the rock-solid assurance that, though we are being killed all day long, nevertheless, in all these things we are more than conquerors ([Romans 8:36–37](#))."

## **Something Worse Than Death**

Then I am sobered. Ronnie is not the first person who has died doing what I have encouraged them to do. He won't be the last. If I thought death were the worst thing that can happen to a person, I would be overwhelmed with regret.

But the whole point of Ronnie's life is that there is something worse than death. So he was willing to risk his own life to rescue others from something far worse. And he could risk his own life because he knew his own risking and dying would work for him "an eternal weight of glory" ([2 Corinthians 4:17](#)). And he knew God was able to meet every need of his wife and son ([Philippians 4:19](#)).

We are not playing games. When I preach that *risk is right*, I know what I am doing. When I say, "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him — *especially in suffering*," I know what suffering may mean. When I say, "Fear not, you can only be killed" ([Matthew 10:28](#)), I take seriously the words of Jesus: "Some of you they will put to death. . . . But not a hair of your head will perish" ([Luke 21:16, 18](#)).

## **Flood the World with Replacements**

Finally, I call thousands of you to take Ronnie's place. They will not kill us fast enough. Let the replacements flood the world. We do not seek death. We seek the everlasting joy of the world — including our enemies. If they kill us while we love them, we are in good company. Jesus did not call us to ease or safety. He called us to love for the sake of his name. Everywhere. Among all peoples.

Anita and Hosea, I love you. I am sorry, so sorry, for your loss. I admire you and Ronnie profoundly. Hold fast to this: "God has not destined you (or Ronnie) for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him" ([1 Thessalonians 5:9–10](#)).



John Piper ([@JohnPiper](#)) is founder and teacher of [desiringGod.org](#) and chancellor of Bethlehem College & Seminary. For 33 years, he served as pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is author of more than 50 books.

<http://www.desiringgod.org/blog/posts/when-we-send-a-person-to-his-death>

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# AM Service: Sorrow Turned Into Joy

*John 16:16-33 NLT*

*Pastor Darren Sarmiento*

How does God turn Sorrow into Joy? **Transformation**.

- 1) Joy happens not by **substitution** but by **transformation**.
- 2) The same baby that caused the **pain** also caused the **joy**.
- 3) Our joy doesn't come with words but it comes with **knowing** that Jesus is **Alive**.

The reason for all this is that **persecution** is coming for the believer!

Here are two things that don't bring about a transformational life of joy.

- 1) **Positive thinking**.
- 2) The **strength** in you to do it.

The one thing that does bring about a transformational life of joy: **Believe**

**NOTES:**

# Gospel Fluency

## *"In the beginning, the Gospel was given to us"*

In the June 15<sup>th</sup> newsletter I shared that the only way we can love God is if we have the desire to love God and it can only be done through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We can only love God if we believe that He loves us to the point that He gave His Son to die on the cross for the washing and forgiving of our sin. Also understanding that Jesus' resurrection from the dead assures us eternal life. The question is: When did God the Father give us His Son?

The question is **when** did God the Father give us His Son?

I'm not asking when Jesus was born because we know that already. What I'm asking is when did God make the *decision* to give His Son up for the world? Was it some 2000 plus years ago? Did He just decide last minute that He was going to give up His Son? I don't think so. Let me first share with you when he made the decision and then I'll tell you the reason why I'm sharing this with you.

I believe that God made the decision to give us His Son in the beginning. The first known recording of the Gospel of Jesus is pictured and prophesied in the beginning in the book of Genesis, chapter three, verse fifteen where it says, "and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed: he shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." After Eve and Adam sinned (*read Chapter 3 to know what sin they committed*) and God knew that Satan had tempted them and caused them to sin against Him, God then reveals to us that the spiritual battle has begun between Jesus and Satan. When Adam and Eve sinned they found out that they were naked and they felt shame at their nakedness so they sewed fig leaves to cover themselves (Genesis 3:7). After God dealt with Satan, He then turned to Adam and Eve and gave them their due consequences for their actions. Yet, even after telling them the hardships they will have to endure and leaving the Garden of Eden never again to partake of the tree that bears the fruit of life, God still loved them even to the point that He had to sacrifice an animal to use the skins to cover their shame and guilt.

God, the creator of heaven and earth, created man for His good pleasure. God made man in His own image so that He could have fellowship and a relationship with mankind forever. Unfortunately, Adam and Eve had sinned against God by disobeying, for which the consequences was death, guilt, shame, and banishment from the Garden of Eden. Genesis chapter three is all about the fall of man due to sin and also the beginning of knowing how God was going to plan to redeem people back to Himself. When you read this chapter you may think that everything is about physical consequences of a dilemma going on. I want to share with you that while everything was happening, God was looking at it from an eternal perspective. When Adam and Eve sinned against God they both kept on living for a long time. Why didn't they die as the LORD said they would after they disobeyed Him? Here is where the gospel comes into play. Adam and Eve sinned against God. Their penalty is death, but not just a physical death after having spent many years on earth but one of eternal death. Also, it is not just a death of suffering eternal pain and punishment, but the anguish of being separated from God for all eternity. There is nothing man can do to rid him of the imputed sin in his life and

# Gospel Fluency

*(continued)*

restore the relationship with God again. Though, in this chapter, God by His grace, mercy, and love has revealed the plan of giving His Son to win us back. What is revealed in Genesis 3:15 and verse 21 is the battle that Jesus will overcome the devil and set us free and forgive us of sin and death by Him going to cross. He would be the animal sacrifice that would die and His blood will be spilled and forgive us of our guilt, shame, and sin. I say this because of what we already know today, what Jesus did for you and I (*Romans 1:16-17*). Genesis chapter three reveals the reality of the battle we are going to be in from a spiritual standpoint (*Ephesians 6:12*). Though we must realize we are not fighting the battle alone because the battle belongs to the Lord (1 Samuel 17:47).

Why do we need to know when God the Father made the decision to give us His Son? The reason why I am sharing this is because, now that we understand why we need the Gospel, it gives us the reason, the passion, and motivation to share the Gospel with others. We always say that God knows all things but we should also start to say that God loves us from the beginning of time and he never stopped loving us even after our sinful state. We can be sure of this because He has given us His Son, that all who believe in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16-17).

Now that we understand why we need the Gospel, it gives us the reason, the passion, and motivation to share the Gospel with others.

God the creator of heaven and earth created man for His good pleasure. God made man in His own image so that He could have fellowship and a relationship with all of mankind. The LORD wanted to create a people that would glorify Him, adore Him, and praise His Holy Name. Our God cares for us and truly wants to bless us only that we would never forget Him but remember who He is and will always be, Jehovah-Jireh, "The Lord My Provider." Being fluent in the Gospel helps us to see how God knew we would sin but also knowing for sure of His love for us because he had planned from the beginning to redeem us, restore us, and regenerate us to be a people belonging to HIM.

*By Pastor Darren Sarmiento*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Development Discussions Start Tonight

**Tonight** we start a very important time of discussion and prayer. This will take place at our **church sanctuary at 473 S. High Street at 6 PM**. We will try to end this meeting between 7 and 7:30 PM but no later than 7:30 PM. We will be outlining all of the options that I have been able to think of, the current actions that have taken place, and I will also be sharing my vision with all of you. We will then have a time of prayer followed by a time of discussion. At our adjournment, we will be asking that you leave with a commitment to pray. We will then meet again **on July 20<sup>th</sup>** for more discussion and prayer. We are also calling for a Business Meeting on **August 3<sup>rd</sup>** to vote on a course of action.

Please make every effort to attend all of these important meetings as we come to decisions about what God is saying to us. Please be seeking God's will, not our own will. Please be seeking for the unity of our church. Please be seeking to be pleasing to our Lord.

Thank you and God bless you all. Yours in Christ, Pastor Stephen.

## PRAYER

Seeking God with all your heart

## July 19th High Street Property Workday

We are having a rat infestation in our sanctuary building. Therefore, we will need 4 to 6 people to work with Andy Sniffen to seal off the outside so the rats won't be able to enter into the building. We are in the process of hiring a professional to trap the rats that are inside the building. We will also be trimming trees and shrubbery and we will need about 6 people to work with Eugene Fontanilla on this project. We will be renting a large roll off dumpster to take care of all the trimmings. Finally, we need someone who is familiar with electrical work who can help us get some lighting fixtures to work. We will probably need another 4 people to help with this work.

We will **start at 8 AM**, break for lunch at 11:30, and hope to complete everything by 3 PM. It would be great if someone could organize a potluck luncheon for the workers. So much needs to be done to be good stewards of the blessings that God has given to us. Let's work together in bringing glory and honor to the Lord.



## "G" Force

**Saturday, July 12th - 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!

## Vacation Bible School

Although we will not be hosting VBS at VIF this year, there is one last opportunity to register! Kahului Baptist VBS will be from **July 7<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>**. Find registration forms on the back table after service or download a form from our VIF website.



## Note from Staff

Vanessa, VIF Secretary, will be on vacation from July 11<sup>th</sup> - July 16<sup>th</sup> and August 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Jeremy will be vacation from July 21<sup>st</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>.

# 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



**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**

**July 6, 2014**

### Team 4

Karen Fontanilla  
Kolbe Fontanilla  
Alysha Fontanilla

### **Next Week**

**July 13, 2014**

### Team 5

Shayna Manlapao  
Chavelle Moniz  
Dayna Asuncion  
Seth Yamada  
Wayne Sniffen  
Sheldon Moniz



## Today's Worship Songs

I Will Boast  
Everlasting God  
God of This City



## High Street Cleaning Schedule

### **Week of July 10-12**

Waki, Hashimoto

### **Week of July 17-19**

Powell

### **Week of July 24-26**

Edwards, Kaneshiro



# Valley Isle Fellowship 2014 Calendar

## July 2014

- 6 **AM - Pastor Darren - John 16:16-33**  
**PM - VIF Property & Construction Development Meeting 1**
- 11-16 Vanessa Out of the Office
- 12 "G" Force
- 13 AM - Pastor Jeremy - John 17:1-26  
 PM - Pastor Darren - The Importance of Our Affiliations
- 19 High Street Property Workday
- 20 AM - Pastor Stephen - John 18:1-14  
 PM - VIF Property & Construction Development Meeting 2
- 21-25 Pastor Jeremy Out of the Office
- 27 AM - Pastor Darren - John 18:15-40  
 PM - Pastor Stephen
- 28 Surf Ministry - Kalama Beach Park

## August 2014

- 3 AM - Pastor Jeremy - John 19:1-16  
 PM - VIF Property & Construction Development Meeting 3 (Voting)
- 4-5 Vanessa Out of the Office
- 10 AM - Pastor Stephen - John 19:17-27  
 PM - Pastor Jeremy
- 15 Statehood Day (Office Closed)
- 16 "G" Force
- 17 AM - Pastor Darren - John 19:28-42  
 AM - Sunday School Workers' Meeting  
 PM - Pastor Stephen
- 24 AM - Pastor Jeremy - John 20:1-18  
 PM - Pastor Darren



## Valley Isle Fellowship

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### 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\*

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### SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE

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

6:00 pm



"Valley Isle Fellowship Church"