



Valley Isle Fellowship
Love God Love His Church Love His World

NEWSLETTER

August 3, 2014 www.vifmaui.com

Moving Away from Insanity by Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

Albert Einstein said, "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." If this is a valid definition of "Insanity" then maybe we are all insane. It seems that many of us keep on doing the same things over and over again but seeking different results. We do this in our relationships. We do this in working to achieve our financial goals. We even do this in trying to reach our spiritual goals.

It could be that the main reason we are doing the same things over and over again is because of our fear to change. Our fear of change can cause us to believe that if we try again and try harder, then we might succeed. This may or may not be true, but could it be that the real underlying fear is that if we were to change what we are doing with the desire of accomplishing a positive outcome, we would be walking on uncharted waters and that may be more fearful to us than failing again?

Let's look at how these dynamics can affect our spiritual lives. We know that

the Greatest Commandment is that we are to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, mind, and soul. We all attempt, in our own ways, to accomplish that. Some of us are able to get some meager results and we think, "a little is better than none, and besides, to love God with all of our heart, mind, and soul is a process that takes time." Therefore, we settle for meager gains.

Then, as time goes on, we begin to feel guilty for just the meager gains and so we strategize and embark on a plan to deepen our love for the Lord. Once again, our plans and efforts bring meager results and again, we talk ourselves into accepting these efforts and we again pacify ourselves.

The problem with all of this is that we really do not grow significantly in loving the Lord our God with all of our heart, mind, and soul. We also pacify ourselves into believing that we are doing a "good enough" job. But as the weeks turn into months and the months into years, we find ourselves 20 years later with our love for the Lord still stunted. We have not grown significantly in these past 20 years and again we pacify ourselves.



This kind of pacification can be very dangerous. It can cause us to compromise and rationalize our love for the Lord. We can compromise our love for the Lord to the point where He does not become the focus and priority in our lives. We rationalize by saying that it is bad to become too fanatical about our love for the Lord. Therefore, our compromise and rationalization even begins to affect how we interpret scripture. For Matthew 22:37 tells us to love the Lord our God with ALL of our heart, ALL of our mind, and ALL of our soul. Three ALLs tell me that this is a radical and a fanatical command. Therefore, our compromising and rationalizing is really causing us to go against and disobey the Word of God.

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Valley Isle Fellowship

473 S High St • PO Box 886
Wailuku, HI 96793

808.244.0865(ph) • 808.249-0235(fax)

Email: vifoffice@hawaii.rr.com

Website: www.vifmaui.com

Moving Away From Insanity

(continued)

It is also insane to try to do things in the same way that we have been doing over the last years in our attempt to love the Lord our God. We have to do it in a different way, because our past attempts have failed. We need to prioritize and focus on doing all that is necessary in order to be in that right relationship with our Lord.

Therefore, as I conclude this article let me address a few things that will help you to refocus and reprioritize moving effectively to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, mind, and soul.

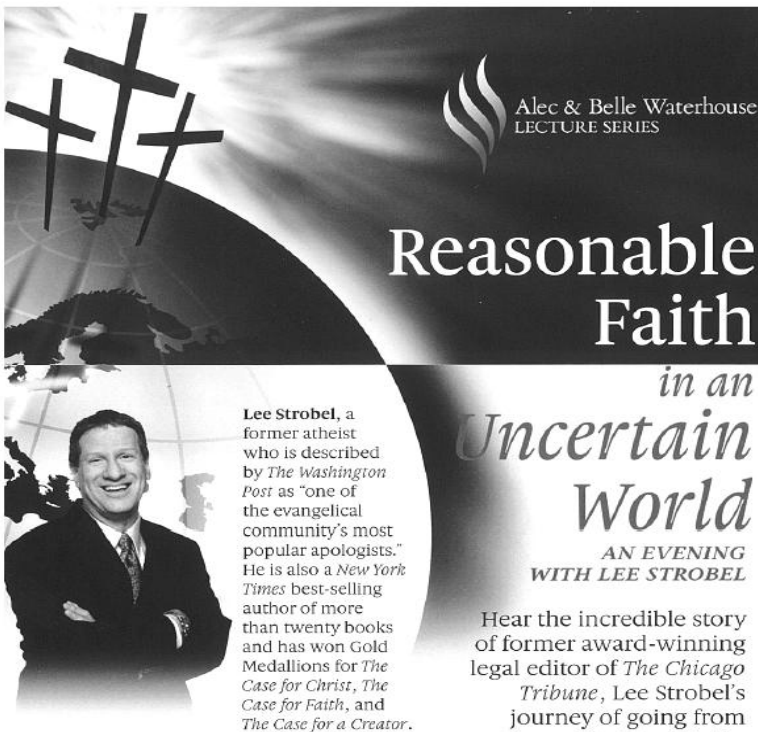
First, there needs to be recognition and confession of the wrongs in our life. We also need to recognize and confess that the responsibility for these wrongs rest solely on our shoulders. In other words, "I am the one who is responsible for these wrongs and not someone else." If we try to deflect and place the blame on something or someone else, then we are denying our wrong. If there is no wrong on our part, then there is nothing to correct. I am afraid that one who is in this position will never change.

Second, we need to ask God to forgive us and give us a

change of heart. Sin is anything that breaks the heart of God. Not loving Him with all of our heart, mind, and soul breaks the heart of God and is therefore sin. Therefore, we need to ask for His forgiveness. We also need to ask that He would empower us to have a change of heart so that we can love Him the way that He desires. We do not have the power to do this, but the Holy Spirit can and does give us all that we need to do this.

Finally, we need to realize that there is no turning back from this commitment. We need to be firmly planted and committed to loving Him no matter what it costs us. Luke 9:62 (NLT) says: "Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God." Loving Him with all of our heart, mind, and soul is so important that you cannot look back and try to find another way. He is the only way. John 14:6 (NLT) says: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

Love Jesus with all of your heart, mind, and soul and do all that you have to in order to accomplish that. Finally, don't give up. Never turn back from doing that in your life. God bless you all as you seek to do that.



Alec & Belle Waterhouse
LECTURE SERIES

Reasonable Faith

in an
Uncertain World

AN EVENING
WITH LEE STROBEL

Hear the incredible story of former award-winning legal editor of *The Chicago Tribune*, Lee Strobel's journey of going from atheism to faith.

Lee Strobel, a former atheist who is described by *The Washington Post* as "one of the evangelical community's most popular apologists." He is also a *New York Times* best-selling author of more than twenty books and has won Gold Medallions for *The Case for Christ*, *The Case for Faith*, and *The Case for a Creator*.

Sunday, September 14, 2014
5:00 p.m.*

King Kamehameha Golf Club

2500 Honoapi'ilani Highway

Wailuku, HI 96793

* Pupus & Registration at 4:00 p.m.

Admission is free.

Seating is limited.

Funded by the
Waterhouse Charitable Trust



Special thanks to the
Hawaii Pacific Baptist
Convention

Register by Sept 1, 2014
www.waterhouselecture.org

or

call 808-732-5561 Ext. 204

AM Service: God Loves You This Much

John 18:15-40 NLT

Pastor Darren Sarmiento

Peter expressed:

- Fear.
- Worry.
- Remorse.

In the end he showed a repented heart that led to a life pleasing and holy to God.
[Luke 22:31-32, Acts 1:3, 8, Acts 2:14-41]

Can you see yourselves like Peter? [2 Corinthians 5:16-21, 2 Corinthians 12:10, Colossians 1:6, 28, 2:2b, 6-7, 3:1-4, 15a, 16]

Notes:

What Is Gospel Fluency?

(Are You Fluent in the Gospel?)

By Pastor Darren Sarmiento

When applied to Christians, Gospel Fluency can be defined as a believer whose language and way of life is shaped by the Gospel. We need to be a people that are shaped and changed in everything we say and do by the Gospel.

When applied to Christians, Gospel Fluency can be defined as a believer whose language and way of life is shaped by the Gospel.

We think Gospel, we dream Gospel, we think through the Gospel. In our daily lives it is the Gospel that is influencing what we say and do. We filter everything through the Gospel. When we hear people speak we are looking to see if it is in line with the Gospel. We see everything in the world through the lense of the Gospel because it is our worldview.

The Gospel points to Jesus because He is the Gospel. We need to see and know the Gospel as the Good News (that Jesus saved my life from sin and the penalty of sin so I would be right with God) and that Jesus is our way of life. We have a new life in Christ and all that we are and have is because of Jesus. A person's whole life is centered on Jesus Christ, by their willingness to submit and commit their lives to live like Jesus, look like Jesus and love like Jesus. The only way that will happen is when you and I deny ourselves, pick up our cross that Jesus has set before us, and then follow Him. I believe you and I can do that if we have an intimate relationship with Jesus. When you know Jesus, all that He offers and all that He does is because He loves you. You will naturally and supernaturally love Him back and do the things that He commands. Think about this, God loves us! All that God does and says and blesses us with comes through His Son Jesus, who is the Gospel. A Christian who is fluent in the Gospel will be like Christ and therefore, be Christ-like. Our sole purpose is to bring God our Father glory by the way we live and through the service we give through living and preaching the Gospel.

In a bullet point form, let me share with you what being fluent in the Gospel includes:

- A person who believes in Jesus
- A person who knows Jesus
- A person that loves Jesus
- A person that follows Jesus
- A person that becomes like Jesus
- A person that knows Jesus is the answer to all of life's situations
- A person that yearns for Jesus
- A person that learns from Jesus
- A person that is passionate like Jesus
- A person that loves the Father like Jesus
- A person that knows he is loved by the Father because of Jesus
- A person that received the Holy Spirit through Jesus
- A person that is empowered and bold to tell people about Jesus because Jesus said he will be able to do it.
- A person whose faith in Jesus is seen by others

There are many more to add to this and if you know of others write them down. The question is, are you fluent in the Gospel? Begin at the top of the list and work down. Then start to recognize the ones you need to work on or work out. Be **a person who will truly seek after Jesus knowing that Jesus sought after you**. The gospel doesn't just save you but it also sustains you, matures you, and brings about a new life and a new way to live. I leave you with this scripture to ponder with the Lord. Let me remind us that we all need to be fluent in the Gospel so that we would live a life holy and pleasing to God.

¹⁴ *Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life.* ¹⁵ *He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.* 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 NLT

Expectations & Ambitions for Community

by Fabs Harford

Pastor Jeremy found this article to share at <http://www.vergenetwork.org/2014/07/27/expectations-ambitions-for-community/>



If you've worked in ministry at any level, you've most likely heard these phrases about community: "My community isn't meeting my needs!"; "I just don't connect with them."; "We don't have enough in common."

These phrases exist because our **expectation** and **ambition** for community tends to be distorted by our consumeristic culture.

× Community IS NOT Jesus.

We cannot expect community to satisfy our souls. The people around us are important and designed to be a gift, but they are not supposed to save you: not from loneliness, not from pain, not from fear, not from death, not from insecurity.

× Community IS NOT about bff's.

We all want to like the people around us. We want them to have personalities and a sense of humor that mesh with you. And there's nothing wrong with that, but community in the family of God has to transcend personality. Biblical community is family. And we don't pick family.

God picked His family. He adopted us and the people around us, making them your sisters and brothers. We don't get to send them back. We don't get to ignore them if they don't mesh well. They're our family.

Our expectations of community are off because our ambitions for community are off. We link arms with people who love Jesus no matter how different and no matter how annoying because our goal isn't a great coffee date, it's a community to move us and the kingdom of God forward.

× Community exists to persevere one another.

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. (Hebrews 3:12-14 ESV)

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Expectations & Ambitions for Community

by Fabs Harford

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There's a problem that the writer is warning the Hebrew church about: 'an evil unbelieving heart that leads them to fall away from the living God.' 'But' or 'instead' of letting that happen, they should do something: exhort one another every day as long as it is called today that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

In other words: if you belong to God, then He has ordained the means of your perseverance: community that 'exhorts' you or speaks truth in love to you – helping you not be led astray by your unbelief.

Community does exist 'for you' in one sense: to challenge you and push on you and teach you to see sin in your heart so that you aren't deceived.

× *Community exists to move the kingdom of God forward.*

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. (John 17:20-21 ESV)

Jesus' prayer: we would be one. We would be unified. Why? So that the world may believe in Jesus.

That's crazy. Jesus just said that He wants us to be unified with other believers and he wants that unity to be visible to unbelievers so that they come to know Jesus. He thinks that seeing you and I love each other will lead people to believe in Him. Crazy.

Processing Questions

Take some time to process through these questions with God and with the people around you.

- What are some expectations that you believe might be godly for you and your community?
- Do you often feel let down by people? Or do you try to expect nothing from people? What does it look like to have healthy expectations without putting your hope in people?
- How would you define 'successful community'? How do you think Jesus defines successful community?

About the Author - Fabs Harford - Women's Channel Director



Fabs is Director of Women's Training at The Austin Stone Community Church. Fabs is in charge of training and equipping the women of The Austin Stone to know God more deeply, love His Gospel more passionately and live out God's mission. Practically, that means that she oversees both the strategy and the execution of any training for women at The Austin Stone, including everything from the Women's Development Program to classes and events. Follow on Twitter @fabsharford or check out her blog <http://www.fabsharford.com/>

<http://www.vergenetwork.org/2014/07/27/expectations-ambitions-for-community/>

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Labor Day Picnic

Hosted by Lahaina Baptist Church



Labor Day Picnic Monday September 1, 2014 Wahukuli Beach Park - 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Maui Philippine Baptist praise team will be singing
and you won't want to miss them!

We will have a jumpy castle, beach volleyball, horseshoes
and a great swimmable beach with showers and restrooms.

Stay tuned for updates as to which church will be bringing different
dishes(appetizers, salads, main, dessert and sides).

This will be a great day of fellowship with other Baptist churches.

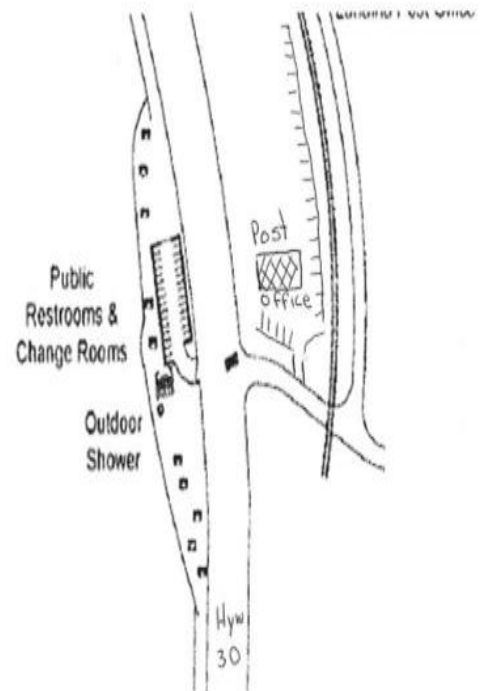
→ Please RSVP as soon as possible by phone (244-0865),
email (vifoffice@hawaii.rr.com), or by signing up at the
back table at our AM Sunday services. ←

*For where two or three
are gathered together in My name,
I am there in the midst of them.*

Matthew 18:20



Directions and Information



Follow Hwy.30 until Leialii Pkwy
(The post office will be on the corner).

Because of the holiday there will be plenty of parking
in the Post Office lot.

There is a street light on the corner for safe crossing.

The event will be held from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tonight's Votes Relating to Building & Financing - 6:00 PM - VIF Sanctuary

Tonight we are voting on some very important issues relating to the building of our proposed building and financing it. There will be no time allotted for discussion. We will simply be laying out what you are voting on and then we will give you an opportunity to vote by written ballots. There will probably be as many as 6 different votes that we are going to give you the opportunity to decide on.

Voting will be open only to members of VIF. You will be given ballots when you sign in to this meeting. Our By-Laws say that we will need 10% of our membership present in order to proceed with voting. This means that we will need a minimum of 15 members to vote. We are praying for many more than that to come and decide on this important issue. Our By-Laws call for a 2/3 majority in order for a vote to succeed, but we are calling for an 80% majority or better in order for a vote to pass.

We are asking that you vote according to what God has revealed to you as His will rather than voting on what you want or desire. We are seeking for the Lord's will to be carried out and for Him to receive the glory and honor. Let's be praying that all of our efforts and actions will bring glory and honor to Him. To Him be the glory and honor! God bless you all.

"REMIND" - Text Message Alert

In light of what happened during the weekend of the storm and cancelling of Sunday services, we have searched and found a way to mass communicate important alerts instantly to your phones via text. It is called Remind. Remind is a one-way text messaging system. All personal contact information remains completely confidential. We will never see your phone number, nor will you ever see ours or anyone else's on the list.

To receive VIF alert messages via text, follow these instructions: **Step 1:** Open a new text message. **Step 2:** In the "To" box type: 808-670-3442. **Step 3:** In the message box type: @mrivf **Step 4:** Press send. **Step 5:** You will receive a text message asking you to reply with your full name. **Step 6:** Reply to the message by typing your full name in the text box. **Step 7:** Press send. **Step 8:** Wait for the confirmation that you have been added.

Please know that this is for alerts only. Our main source of communication will remain as the newsletter, VIF website, and VIF email. If you'd like more information about Remind you can visit the website Remind.com or contact Vanessa at 244.0865 or vifoffice@hawaii.rr.com.

"G" Force - Saturday, August 9th

"G" Force will meet from **9am-12pm** in the VIF Church Annex on Saturday, August 9th. "G" Force is for children who have completed Grade 1 up to Grade 5 and includes a service project, Bible study, games, and lunch!



A Note from the Malama Pregnancy Center

Aloha Brothers and Sisters! Since we've been open we have seen a great need for car seats, formula, and diapers. Currently we are completely out of these items. Due to liability purposes we can only accept car seats new in the box. If you would rather make a monetary donation than go shopping, just include a note stating it is for Zeyah's Closet and we will do the shopping for you. If you or your group would like to host a baby shower, that would be fantastic. Give us a call (280-5810) and let us know if you're interested. It is amazing to see what God can do when His faithful work together. Through all the prayers, planning, and hard work we can continue to serve men, women and their families. Thank you for your donation of any kind/amount. We are a 501c3 non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible. Please drop by for a visit if you're in the area.

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

August 3, 2014

Team 3

Gretel Saraos

Rosie Quenga

Vicky Quenga

Daniel Quenga

Shalia Mendez

Danica Cooley

Dyllan Caoile

Next Week

August 10, 2014

Team 4

Karen Fontanilla

Janice Robello

Judy Giron

Jaydee Giron

Jules Giron

Kolbe Fontanilla

Alysha Fontanilla



High Street Cleaning Schedule

Week of August 7-9

Blando

Week of August 14-16

Waki, Hashimoto

Week of August 21-23

Powell



Today's Worship Songs

I Will Follow

This Is Amazing Grace

Shout to the Lord

Valley Isle Fellowship 2014 Calendar

August 2014

- 3 AM - *Pastor Darren* - John 18:15-40
PM - **Business Meeting (Member Voting)**
- 4-5 Vanessa Out of the Office
- 9 "G" Force
- 10 AM - *Pastor Jeremy* - John 19:1-16
PM - *Pastor Stephen*
- 15 Statehood Day (Office Closed)
- 17 AM - *Pastor Stephen* - John 19:17-27
AM - Sunday School Workers' Meeting
PM - *Pastor Jeremy*
- 24 AM - *Pastor Darren* - John 19:28-42
PM - *Pastor Stephen*

September 2014

- 1 Labor Day Picnic
- 7 AM - *Pastor Jeremy* - John 20:1-18
PM - *Pastor Darren*
- 7-14 Sue Nishikawa Week of Prayer
- 14 AM - *Pastor Stephen* - John 20:19-31
PM - *Pastor Jeremy*
Lee Strobel Event
- 21 AM - *Pastor Darren* - John 21:1-25
PM - *Pastor Stephen*
- 27 "G" Force



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

Darren Sarmiento
Cell: (808) 757-1651

Email: darrenvif@hawaii.rr.com

Senior Pastor

Stephen Kaneshiro
Cell: (808) 419-8100

Email: icastephen@gmail.com

Assistant Pastor

Jeremy Kaneshiro
Cell: (808) 280-2780

Email: vifjeremy@gmail.com