

10.13.13

October | 2013

## Same-Sex Marriage by Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro More than just a Marriage Issue

How big of an issue is this? Is this something, that as a Christian, should move me? Why should Valley Isle Fellowship even take the time to address a “political issue?”

As you all know, on October 28<sup>th</sup> Governor Abercrombie has called for a Special Session of the Hawaii State Legislature to address the Legalization of Same-Sex Marriage in Hawaii. Whether we want to face this issue or not, it is now being forced upon us. We can take a stand that says, “I don’t care because I can live with whatever decision is made.” We can also take the stand that says, “Times have changed and it is now time for this

acceptable change.” We can also stand and say, “No, I will do everything and anything to stop this from happening.” I believe there is another stand that I believe God would be pleased with.

### Desensitized

To me, the biggest issue is the Bible, the Word of God. I do not take the commands of scripture lightly and I do not believe anyone in Valley Isle Fellowship should either. Therefore, I do not believe that we can be pleasing to God if we take the “I don’t care” stand or the “The times have changed” stand. However, I also do not think that it is pleasing to God to take the “No, I will do anything and everything to stop this” stand, especially if it leads to bitterness and violence.

I see this primarily as an attack against the Bible and our God. The reason I see it this way is because we are seeing an attack on the Word of God that is really a sneak attack. It is not a full frontal attack, but rather a backdoor attack, a campaign to “desensitize” you to the Word of God, which has been waged very effectively. Let me illustrate this for you.

The following passages are the major Biblical passages concerning homosexuality. I will not make any commentary on them, but ask you to

examine them to see if these passages promote homosexuality.

**Romans 1:24-27 (NLT)** <sup>24</sup>So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other’s bodies. <sup>25</sup>They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen. <sup>26</sup>That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. <sup>27</sup>And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved.

**Leviticus 18:22 (NLT)** <sup>22</sup>Do not practice homosexuality, having sex with another man as with a woman. It is a detestable sin.”

**1 Timothy 1:10-11 (NLT)** <sup>10</sup>The law is for people who are sexually immoral, or who practice homosexuality, or are slave traders, liars, promise breakers, or who do anything else that contradicts the wholesome teaching <sup>11</sup>that comes from the glorious Good News entrusted to me by our blessed God.

**Leviticus 20:13 (NLT)** <sup>13</sup>If a man practices homosexuality, having sex

*continued on page 3*

### IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 Same-Sex Marriage: More than just a Marriage Issue
- 2 **AM Service:** Dismiss & Discredit
- 3 cont. page 1
- 4 cont. page 3
- 5 cont. page 4
- 6 **PM Service:** Who, what, when, where, why, how?
- 7 Victimized
- 8 Operation Christmas Child
- 9 If My People...I Will
- 10 Not What I've Done, But Christ: cont.
- 11 Calendar
- 12 Announcements

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## Dismiss & Discredit

John 7:40-53

I. Many \_\_\_\_\_ on Jesus:

- A. Sometimes based on \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Sometimes based on \_\_\_\_\_ facts
- C. Today, we can base our opinions of Jesus on all of \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. These opinions can generate a lot of \_\_\_\_\_.

II. An Attempt to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Through \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ can make the deaf hear clearly
- C. Silencing can have the \_\_\_\_\_ effect on those the Holy Spirit is dealing with.

III. \_\_\_\_\_ is merely an attempt to \_\_\_\_\_ the Testimony about Jesus.

- A. Claim that you have been \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. The elite claim their \_\_\_\_\_ and their \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. The elite \_\_\_\_\_ the believers and the seekers as " \_\_\_\_\_ " and " \_\_\_\_\_."
- D. The elite \_\_\_\_\_ that they are " \_\_\_\_\_."
- E. They may even show their \_\_\_\_\_

IV. \_\_\_\_\_ can also remove all \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Nicodemus called for a \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. The Pharisees \_\_\_\_\_ Nicodemus
- C. A refusal to be fair, \_\_\_\_\_ you to \_\_\_\_\_ conclusions.
- D. \_\_\_\_\_ decision is still a decision.

continuation from page 1

with another man as with a woman, both men have committed a detestable act. They must be put to death, for they are guilty of a capital offense.

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NLT)** <sup>9</sup>Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, <sup>10</sup>or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup>Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

So many, including clergy, have tried to twist and pull on the Word of God to get people to think that scripture really does not mean what it says. They try to argue that we need to be fair and provide equal protection. People have been so desensitized to the Word of God, that they are easily persuaded to think that maybe the Bible is not saying what they think it was saying.

Some members of the clergy have said that the Bible does not speak against homosexuality, but rather it does speak about committed relationships, regardless of whether it is same-sex or opposite-sex relationships. They can only accomplish this kind of evaluation if they have been desensitized to the Word of God.

#### Invalidate

However, the worst of it is not "desensitization" but "invalidation." Once you are "desensitized" then the Word of God can easily be "invalidated." Remember that the United States was founded on God and His Word, but in recent years there has been a concerted attempt to remove God and His Word from the public square. The invalidation of the Word of God will lead to a lot of evil and darkness.

**Romans 1:28-32 (NLT)** says, <sup>28</sup>Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done. <sup>29</sup>Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. <sup>30</sup>They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents. <sup>31</sup>They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy. <sup>32</sup>They know God's justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too.

This passage is scary because it says that in this kind of state, God will abandon people to their foolishness. Then every kind of evil will begin to work itself in people's lives, but it does not stop there, they will encourage others to do them, too. When you run from the Word of God, you are actually running from God Himself. When you run from God, He will abandon you and you can do whatever your evil heart wants to do. However, you will have to pay the consequences for that. Also, remember that the sins of the fathers visit upon their children down to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generations (Exodus 34:7). It will affect you and your future generations.

#### Homosexuality is not Exclusive

It may seem like we may be picking out the Gay Community and persecuting them, however, this is not true. Some of the passages that I have quoted also included other kinds of evil. All of these evils will receive the same punishment. However, the emphasis here is on Homosexuality because the convening of this Special Legislature is to deal specifically with "Same-Sex Marriage." Therefore, it prompts me to specifically focus on this community.

Let me say that ANY act that God commands us not to do is a sin! There is no justification or rationalization that can ever get God's approval on what He has already disapproved of. Same-sex marriage is not

something that we as Christians can agree to. All sexual relationships outside of marriage are sinful and displeasing to God. I do not normally agree with a Mormon Apostle, but a Fox News article entitled "Mormon leader: Same-sex marriage laws cannot 'make moral what God has declared immoral.'" This is what Apostle Dallin H. Oaks said in an address at the Mormon church's biannual general conference in Salt Lake City, in addressing his stance against same-sex marriage. He went on to say, "...unlike other organizations that can change their policies and even their doctrines, our policies are determined by the truths God has declared to be unchangeable." I have to agree with Apostle Oaks on these 2 statements.

The bottom line is that God sets the law and not man. Since God sets the law, then who am I to think that I might be able to change it? Where will I be if I deny and disobey them? Dear people of Valley Isle Fellowship, we are facing some very difficult and challenging days. A time of testing is before us and it is very important that we do well in this time of testing. This testing will show us to be either a people of God or not. **Matthew 12:30 (NLT)** says, "Anyone who isn't with me opposes me, and anyone who isn't working with me is actually working against me."

#### Hope

**1 Corinthians 6:11 (NLT)**<sup>11</sup>Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

There is hope, for this verse is saying that some of you WERE once like that, BUT you were cleansed, you were made holy, you were made right by God. The message of the Bible is one of redemption. One of being made right with God. The Gospel Message of Jesus Christ is the only hope that anyone can have, especially one who is caught up in the evils of this world.

continued on page 4

continuation from page 3

In an article by Erin Roach in Baptist Press entitled, "Calif. Moral drift 'soon' will be nationwide," she quoted Jeff Iorg who is the president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary as saying, "Amid the downward spiral, the most hopeful signs are the rising tide of church planting and growing concern for pastors to revitalize existing churches through biblical preaching and teaching."

It is my firm conviction that the only hope for Hawaii, and in fact for the world, are churches that will faithfully stand on the Word of God, that will witness faithfully and lovingly to a lost and depraved world, that will disciple the saved into a life that glorifies the Lord, and that will be faithful to the Lord until the very end. This is the kind of church that we are trying to move Valley Isle Fellowship to be.

#### Concerns for Hawaii

An organized attempt is rising called "Let the People Decide" which would try to move this decision to the ballot via a vote on a Constitutional Amendment. My concern for this is that this is what happened in California with Proposition 8 where over 60% of the electorate voted to define marriage as between one man and one woman.

On June 26, 2013, the Supreme Court of the United States issued its decision on the appeal in the case *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, ruling that proponents of initiatives such as Proposition 8 did not possess legal standing in their own right to defend the resulting law in federal court, either to the Supreme Court or (previously) to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Therefore the Supreme Court both dismissed the appeal and directed the Ninth Circuit to vacate (withdraw) its decision, which had upheld the district court ruling. The decision left the district court's 2010 ruling intact.[8][9][10] On June 28, 2013, the Ninth Circuit lifted its stay of the district court's ruling, enabling Governor Jerry Brown to order same-sex marriages to resume.[11] *(This was taken from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California\\_Proposition 8](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_Proposition_8))*

Therefore, there can be no guarantee that the vote of the people will be adhered to. A combination of Liberal Legislative bodies, Liberal Courts, and a Liberal Populace make it extremely difficult for people of Biblical Faith to see this issue defeated.

It will not stop with Same-sex Marriages. In an article in the Hawaii Free Press (State Representative Bob McDermott calls for constitutional vote on same-sex marriage), Rep. McDermott is quoted as saying, "I decided to do this after a brief conversation with the Governor. When I asked the Gov., 'Based on your reasoning that Same-sex Marriage is a civil right, then how can you disenfranchise a bisexual from marrying the people he/she loves? I was shocked by his response: 'I fully expect a lawsuit to be filed in about a year.' I assume that since this is now considered a civil right by the left, all sorts of relationships will be legitimized as marriage including polygamy, polyamorous arrangements and others. After all, how can you deny any group their civil rights?"

Same-sex marriage is the opening of "Pandora's Box" where all kinds of evil can and probably will be legislated. But does that affect the church? In another article in the Hawaii Free Press: **DC Lawyers: Abercrombie's Marriage Bill "By far the Most Extreme in USA"**

SA: ...As a part of my practice in providing legal representation to religious organizations, I was directed to consult with the nonprofit American Religious Freedom Program, a nonpartisan Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington D.C. I asked ARFP's State Legislative Policy Director to review the proposed religious liberty protection provisions in the Attorney General's bill in order to contrast it with other States which recently adopted same-sex marriage legislation such as Minnesota. His assessment was sobering. He said that if Hawaii's religious freedoms protection language is not augmented it would be by far the most extreme infringement of institutional and personal religious liberties by any state in the nation passing similar legislation....

The proposed bill infringes upon the free exercise of religion in four (4) important ways:

(1) core church-affiliated institutions such as nonprofit charitable agencies such as Catholic Charities and religious schools such as BYU-Hawaii, Damien or St. Louis would be required to provide services, accommodations or benefits for same-sex marriage celebrations, or to recognize same-sex marriages;

(2) agents of religious affiliated institutions would not be protected even while acting in their religious capacities;

(3) public sector employees who object on religious grounds to perform a same sex marriage (including state judges and magistrates) would be required to perform such ceremonies; and

(4) very small businesses and religiously oriented business would be unable to exercise religious beliefs because the bill deems them public accommodations.

ACLU BS in today's Star-Advertiser: "Thirteen states and the District of Columbia already have the freedom to marry for same-sex couples, and a number of these states provide far fewer special protections for religious organizations than the law proposed for Hawaii."

So "Yes," we do have concerns here in Hawaii and the ramifications will affect the life of our church and our personal lives. More importantly it will impact the eternities of so many people here in our beloved Hawaii. Yes, we have to care.

#### What can we Do?

1. We need to pray. We need to pray earnestly and sincerely for God to be in control
2. We need to love. We need to love those who stand on the opposing side. We need to love them no matter how bitter or evil their actions might be. We need to have a loving heart like Jesus when He was being

continued on page 5

continuation from page 4

- crucified on the cross. He could still cry out to the Father, "Forgive them, because they don't know what they are doing!"
3. We need to stand firm on the Word of God. We need to seek to be pleasing to God and not to man.
  4. We need to study and know the issue, know the terminology, and know the alternatives. Pick up some of the articles that we have reproduced for your information and education in the back of the cafeteria.
  5. Contact your representatives and let them know of your concerns. Call them and write to them so your voice can make a difference.
  6. Be obedient to whatever the Holy Spirit would lead you to do. Get counsel from other mature believers before acting if you are not sure what to do.
  7. Be willing to take the consequences for being obedient to the Lord. Penalties, loss of reputation, financial loss, loss of friends and family can all be a price that we might need to pay. However, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and all these things will be added unto you." – Matthew 6:33

### Closing

In closing, I want to encourage all of you to remain in Christ's love and grace. Love Him with all of your heart, mind, and soul. Go ye therefore, into all of the earth. Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all that He has taught you. By doing all that He has commanded us to do, we participate in giving all those around us the only hope in and for this evil world. It is so easy to get discouraged in this kind of world, but if we keep our eyes on Jesus and not on the lions that can, and are surrounding us, He will cause us to be more than conquerors. This is not a time to be discouraged, but it is a time to step

up our game and to be radically in love with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and to be fully committed to all that He has commanded and desires of us.

Fight the good fight of faith and love. God bless and keep you all.

*Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro*



### Child Care Schedule

**Team 3:** Gretel Saraos, Rosie Quenga, Daniel Quenga, Shalia Mendez, Danica Cooley, Dyllan Caolie

**Team 4:** Karen Fontanilla, Janice Robello, Judy Giron, Jaydee Giron, Jules Giron, Kolbe Fontanilla, Alysha Fontanilla, Hannah Aiwohi

**Team 5:** Shayna Manlapao, Chevelle Moniz, Dayna Asuncion, Seth Yamada, Wayne Sniffen

**Team 1:** Jennifer Egami, Corey Egami, Donna Nozaki, Elijah Douglas, Christian Motonaga

**Team 2:** Joycelyn Kiaha, Marion Kimura, Avery Yamada, Zachary Yamada, Kaiani Kiaha, Daniel Olaso

Oct 13 <sup>th</sup> —Team 3	Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup> —Team 1
Oct 20 <sup>th</sup> —Team 4	Nov 10 <sup>th</sup> —Team 2
Oct 27 <sup>th</sup> —Team 5	Nov 17 <sup>th</sup> —Team 3
	Nov 24 <sup>th</sup> —None

Dec 1 <sup>st</sup> —Team 4
Dec 8 <sup>th</sup> —Team 5
Dec 15 <sup>th</sup> —Team 1
Dec 22 <sup>nd</sup> —Team 2
Dec 29 <sup>th</sup> —Team 3



**MCBA Annual Meeting**

Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>

Lahaina Baptist Church

Potluck lunch to follow

**Two Thirds World Ministry**

Fun Run

Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>

Check-in time: 5am

Start time: 530am



Mission Trip

November 2<sup>nd</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>

We are ON MISSION FOR CHRIST by building leaders and shaping the future.

**G-Force**

Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>

9am--12pm

Children in grades 1-5

church service, Bible study, games & lunch



## Who, what, when, where, why, how?

The church glorifies the Lord when she is fulfilling the mission she was given

1. What is the mission of the church?

a. To \_\_\_\_\_ God through

\_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_.

i. Ephesians 3:6,10, 1 Cor. 12

ii. Matthew 28:19-20

2. Who gave the church the mission?

a. \_\_\_\_\_ gave us the mission.

i. John 17, Matthew 28:19-20

3. When did the mission begin? When does it end?

a. Matthew 16:11, Matthew 28:19-20

4. Where does our mission send us?

a. Matthew 28:19-20, Revelation 5:9, 7:9

5. Why should we live on mission?

a. Because Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_. Psalm 16:11

b. Because Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ it. Matthew 28:19-20

c. Because we \_\_\_\_\_ God. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

d. Because we have \_\_\_\_\_

to \_\_\_\_\_.

Hebrews 12:18-24, 13:7-14

6. How do we accomplish our mission?

a. To be a \_\_\_\_\_ is to

be a disciple \_\_\_\_\_.

Matthew 28:19-20

b. \_\_\_\_\_ in the church. John 17: 20-23

c. \_\_\_\_\_ for one \_\_\_\_\_.

John 13:34, Romans 12:10, 1 peter 4:8

d. \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ earth.

Matthew 24:14

7. How do we endure on mission?

a. For the \_\_\_\_\_ of knowing

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ come

i. John 7:38, Philippians 4:4

ii. Hebrews 12, Hebrews 13:10-15

# Victimized by Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

Through my years of ministry, counseling has played a significant role. I have taken keen notice of a bothering fact, those who view themselves as “victims” and who, for whatever reason, are not able to rise above that perspective, are the ones who never rise to the point of being “victorious warriors of Jesus Christ.” This “victimization” seems to trap them in an unfulfilled state.

The purpose of this article is to say to all of us that this is not where God wants any of us to be. This is the state that only Satan desires us to be trapped in. Romans 8:37 says, “...we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.” I believe the Word of God means what it says therefore, I do believe we are more than conquerors and not victims.

Look at the life of Stephen, the martyr who my parents named me after. In Acts chapter 6 the story of Stephen begins and then it ends in chapter 7, a brief account, but very powerful. In chapter 6 he is selected as one of the first deacons. He must have been a very special person because in Acts 6:3, they were instructed to pick 7 very special men. “And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom...” In verse 8 it says, “Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed amazing miracles and signs among the people.” In verse 11 it says, “None of them could stand against the wisdom and the Spirit with which Stephen spoke.” Therefore, like Jesus, false accusers were brought to make false accusations against Stephen and he was arrested.

In Acts chapter 7, we see Stephen boldly preaching the gospel rather than trying to defend himself. At the end of his address in verse 51 he says, “You stubborn people! You are heathen at heart and deaf to the truth. Must you forever resist the Holy Spirit?” Then in verse 53 he says, “You deliberately disobeyed God's law, even

though you received it from the hands of angels.”

These Jewish leaders did not respond very well to Stephen's preaching and they were moved to a greater degree of anger when Stephen spoke of the vision that God was gifting him with. In verse 56 he says, “And he told them, ‘Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing in the place of honor at God's right hand!’”

They then took him out of the city where they executed him by stoning him to death. Verses 59-60 records the final words of this “conqueror” (not “victim”). “As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ He fell to his knees shouting, ‘Lord, don't charge them with this sin!’ And with that he died.”

Stephen was not a “victim.” He was “more than a conqueror!!!” Romans 8:26-39 is a key passage in being the conquerors that God intends us to be. These are brief thoughts on this passage which I pray will see you all become, “more than conquerors through Him that loved us!”

**Romans 8:37 (KJV)** <sup>37</sup> Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

People who can rise above the dilemma of thinking of themselves as “Victims” are those who can become Romans 8 Christians. Let's look at a few of the verses in Romans 8:

## **Romans 8:26-39 (NLT)**

Verses 26-28 <sup>26</sup> And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. <sup>27</sup> And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. <sup>28</sup> And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called

according to his purpose for them.

This passage tells me that we are all weak, but it also tells me that the Holy Spirit will help me in my weakness. He will not take away my weakness, but he will provide everything thing that I need.

Verses 31-34 <sup>31</sup> What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? <sup>32</sup> Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup> Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one – for God himself has given us right standing with himself. <sup>34</sup> Who then will condemn us? No one – for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

The one who will rise to be a conqueror, is the one who will seek to be on God's side. It does not matter who is on the other side, but it does matter that God is on your side. For when God is on your side, He will not spare anything in fulfilling His will to be carried out in your life, for God did not even spare His own Son for you.

Verses 35-37 <sup>35</sup> Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? <sup>36</sup> (As the Scriptures say, “For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.”) <sup>37</sup> No, despite these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

No matter what happens to you, remember that nothing can separate you from the Love of God. No trial or challenge here on earth has that power. Even persecution and death cannot

*continued on page 7*

continuation from page 6

separate us from the Love of God. Verse 37 says that despite all of these things, we are victorious conquerors through Jesus Christ, because He loves us.

Verses 38-39 <sup>38</sup> And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow – not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love <sup>39</sup> No power in the sky above or in the earth below – indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Since nothing can separate us from God's love, this means that not even Satan can separate us from God's love. Yet, so many of us feel so defeated, why? It is mainly for two reasons. The first is that we have been deceived by Satan into believing that we have been defeated. The second is that we refuse to believe God that we are conquerors. We have to stop working against God and accept His full love and grace and all of His strength and power.

*On to VICTORY!!! Nothing can stop us now, except for ourselves.*



Women's Missionary Union (WMU) of the Maui County Baptist Association (MCBA) will be sponsoring the Annual Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer on:

**Monday, Nov. 4, 2013 at Valley Isle Fellowship from 430pm--630pm.**

You have the opportunity to pray with sisters from the other Baptist church for sisters in other places in the world.

**Please save the date!**



## Operation Christmas Child

Christmas is right around the corner and this year we are partnering again with Samaritan's Purse and thousands of churches across the globe, to send shoe boxes filled with toys, stuffed animals, school supplies and clothes to children around the world! You may never know the impact your shoebox will have on a child's life thousands of miles away from you but you can have confidence that the Lord has been using this ministry to reach children with the good news of Jesus Christ for 20 years and 100 million shoe boxes. Each box will be packed with a wonderful gospel tract that will share the good news of Jesus Christ and hand delivered by the local churches and missionaries around the world in some of the most closed societies to the gospel. So, please join us in this opportunity to share the love of Christ with a child this Christmas.

### When is it due?

1. November 18-25

### How can I get more information?

<http://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

<http://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/frequently-asked-questions/>

## Not What I've Done, But Christ

Hebrews 10:19-25

*Therefore, brother, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is through his flesh, <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*

Where is your confidence that God will actually hear your prayers and walk with you? Is it your sincerity? Is it your dedication? What is it that gives you the assurance that in your time with the Lord, He is actually there with you? This scripture tells us clearly that our confidence and assurance that we can enter into the holy places (that is spending time with the Lord) is not based on my sincerity BUT on my confidence that Jesus' blood was shed for my sins and I can enter and commune with God because the righteousness required for fellowship with God is not my own, it's Jesus', who gave His to me because of my faith.

In the Old Testament, only the priest could enter the holy place one day a year which was called the "day of atonement." The priests had to be very careful how they entered because some entered the holy place behind the veil without the right heart and timing and were killed (Leviticus 16). Yet here in Hebrews 10:19-25 the author is letting us know that we don't have to fear repercussions. We don't need to enter at the right time, be a priest, or be the best that we can be because Jesus did all that for us.

continued on page 10

# If My People...I Will by Pastor Darren Sarmiento

## *The LORD's Response to Solomon*

<sup>11</sup>So Solomon finished the Temple of the LORD, as well as the royal palace. He completed everything he had planned to do in the construction of the Temple and the palace. <sup>12</sup>Then one night the LORD appeared to Solomon and said, "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this Temple as the place for making sacrifices. <sup>13</sup>At times I might shut up the heavens so that no rain falls, or command grasshoppers to devour your crops, or send plagues among you. <sup>14</sup>Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land. <sup>15</sup>My eyes will be open and my ears attentive to every prayer made in this place. <sup>16</sup>For I have chosen this Temple and set it apart to be holy—a place where my name will be honored forever. I will always watch over it, for it is dear to my heart.

King Solomon finished building a Temple for God to dwell in and for the people to come and worship and make sacrifices to Him. Solomon offered up prayers to God, and the Almighty God responded and said that he had heard his prayers and that He also had something for King Solomon to be aware of. The reason verses 13-16 were written, was in response to a warning that God had given to King Solomon. The warning was that if His people turned from Him and started to worship other gods or idols He would punish them. He would continue until they returned to Him. Just as Kings were a norm for nations and countries, so was having temples for idol worshipping in those times.

Last Sunday night we began a series of new sermons based around God's people. I did the first sermon on, "Building a People of Godly Character." I mentioned that in order to have Godly character we must first know God. I used Deuteronomy 5:9 where it says, "You shall not bow

down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God..." This comes from the Ten Commandments that Moses read to the people.

I asked if we understood what a "jealous God" really meant. You may already be thinking that it is a negative word, but in the Old Testament it is actually positive when describing God. God being "jealous" means that He has a desire to have an exclusive relationship. God created us for Himself, He wants to be glorified among his people. and to have a personal relationship with Him through Jesus Christ. God chose the nation of Israel for Himself and because of His jealousy He provided for Israel. Also in Deuteronomy 5:10 God talks about an "unfailing love" for those that keep His commandments.

When you combine God's jealousy and unfailing love what you get is an **intense kind of love** from God.

That can be seen in what He did for Israel, when He freed them from slavery, led them by a cloud by day and fire by night, gave them food from heaven and water from a rock, clothing that never wore out while they roamed the dessert for 40 years, defeated kings to and conquered and overtook the promised land.

But the greatest and the most **intense kind of love** God gave us was shown through his son Jesus, who died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. John 3:16 (NIV) says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." You and I can have a relationship with God. Through His **intense love**, God has proven that He wants us for Himself, exclusively!

King Solomon built a Temple for God to dwell in, but that is long gone. Today, through Christ, we are the Temple for the Spirit of God to dwell in. However, we need to ask ourselves some questions. Is He

more than enough for you? Do you believe that He is indeed "Jehovah Jireh, The Lord My Provider?"

If you cannot answer these questions with a "yes," then what God told King Solomon can still apply to you today. God said, "<sup>14</sup>Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land."

My prayer for all of us is to be right, and if need be to get right, with God. Let's turn the "**if my people...**" from God to "**I will...**" towards God to humble ourselves and pray and seek his face and turn from our wicked ways. The results will be seen in the land we live today. America is progressively becoming more corrupt and immoral as it defies God. I believe with all my heart the way to truly turn the world upside down, to its right side up, is by living a life holy and pleasing to God. That will be a testimony and influence others in the world that God is good and His love endures forever!

Let's live under the umbrella of the Greatest Commandment, the Great Commission and the Gospel. Let us love God with our all, so that it will lead us to love others as God loves them, to the point of sharing the Gospel with them, so that they can have a relationship with the Father through Christ. Let us also gather together and encourage one another to build our relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ until the day when He returns to gather us for Himself.

PARTNERING WITH PEOPLE TO REACH THEIR GOD POTENTIAL  
**CHANGED LIVES**  
 CHANGED WORLD

*continuation from page 8*

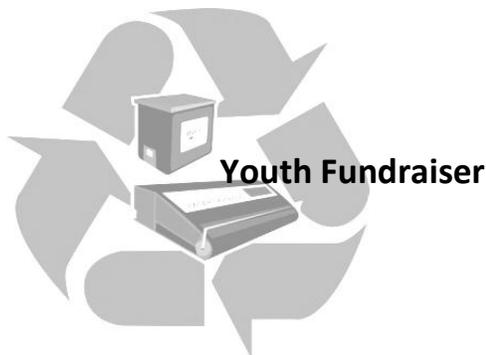
The author of Hebrews is telling us that because of the blood of Jesus Christ, we can have confidence to enter into communion with the Holy God. Please remember that it is not because you are “more serious than before” or “prayed up” but the fact that God allows communion with you and hears your prayers is because of the blood of Jesus. The author is telling us, that WE MUST draw near with a true heart of assurance of faith! He is telling us that our confidence in prayer and drawing near to the Lord must be solely that the blood of Jesus has made me righteous before God forever. This reminds me of the line from a famous hymn “*my hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness...*” So, where is your hope and confidence when you pray?

Most of us pray thinking that God will not hear us if we haven’t confessed up every sin, even the sins we didn’t even know we did. Yet, this scripture tells us another story! It tells us we have been cleansed forever! Should confession and submission happen before your time with the Lord? YES! In fact the scripture (vs. 22) tells us so. But let our reasoning never be that unless we pray ourselves up and confess up, God will not convene BUT since Jesus has declared me forever righteous by his blood, I can come to him confess my sins and draw near to him without the fear that he will strike me dead or ignore me. Read this passage(Hebrews 10:19-25) again and again please! We confess and submit because we have already been cleansed , declared righteous forever AND He still accepts me.

The central issue in this text is *identity*. The author wants you to have the right idea about who you are (your identity). You see your identity will determine motivation. You tell someone long enough they’re good for nothing and just a screw up then that’s what they become. Paul writes about identity throughout his letters and the author of Hebrews also desires us to understand that our identity is a saint. This is the truth, that we are now righteous before the Lord forever; because we have been justified and declared innocent before the Lord forever because our sins were paid for, we stand before the Lord with confidence and we live righteous lives for him BECAUSE we are being what we truly are.

The issue must never be whether God will hear our prayers, or won't, based on me confessing my sins. Confession of sins is for us to align ourselves back to the Lord and it is proof to us whether we are truly walking with the Lord. Confession is a sign of our submission to the lordship of Jesus Christ. If there is no confession there is no submission. Confession doesn’t pay for our sins, only Jesus’ blood does that... God promises, He will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). It is not whether God will convene with us but will we convene with the Lord. If there is no confession, there is not a heart that wants to convene with the Holy God, thus we block our relationship with God. Please remember, your faith is not based mainly on what you’ve done or will do BUT on what Jesus has done and will complete. Grace and peace.

*Pastor Jeremy Kaneshiro*



Collecting used ink and toner cartridges to raise money for various youth activities.

Ink & cartridges can be dropped off in the sanctuary in the lime green container.

Mahalo nui loa for your support!

Sermon Notes:

# CALENDAR

## October

<b>13</b> Sun ♦ 8am Service : Pastor Stephen - John 7:40-53 ♦ 945am Service : Pastor Stephen - John 7:40-53 ♥ 6pm Service : Pastor Jeremy - Building a Church That Glorifies The Lord	<b>23</b> Wed ♥ 630pm: Youth Group - Sanctuary ♥ 7pm: Prayer Meeting in Annex
<b>14</b> Mon	<b>24</b> Thurs
<b>15</b> Tues	<b>25</b> Fri
<b>16</b> Wed ♥ 630pm: Youth Group - Sanctuary ♥ 7pm: Prayer Meeting in Annex	<b>26</b> Sat ♣ 10am: MCBA Annual Meeting at Lahaina Baptist Church
<b>17</b> Thurs	<b>27</b> Sun ♦ 8am Service : Pastor Jeremy - John 8:12-30 ♦ 945am Service : Pastor Jeremy - John 8:12-30 ♥ 6pm Service : Pastor Darren - Building a Church of Prayer
<b>18</b> Fri	<b>28</b> Mon
<b>19</b> Sat ♣ 2/3 World Fun Run: Check-in at 5am ♥ 9am-12pm: G-Force at the Annex	<b>29</b> Tues
<b>20</b> Sun ♦ 8am Service : Pastor Darren - John 8:1-11 ♦ 945am Service : Pastor Darren - John 8:1-11 ♥ 1130am: Sunday School Teachers Meeting ♥ 6pm Service : Pastor Darren - Building a Church for the Generations & for the Cultures	<b>30</b> Wed ♥ 630pm: Youth Group - Sanctuary ♥ 7pm: Prayer Meeting in Annex
<b>21</b> Mon	<b>31</b> Thurs
<b>22</b> Tues	

## November

<b>1</b> Fri	<b>9</b> Sat
<b>2</b> Sat	
<b>3</b> Sun ♦ 8am Service : Pastor Stephen - John 8:31-59 ♦ 945am Service : Pastor Stephen - John 8:31-59 ♥ 6pm Service : Pastor Jeremy – Prayer that Changes the World (2 Chronicles 7:11-22)	
<b>4</b> Mon ♥ 430-630pm: BWA Women's Prayer - Sanctuary	
<b>5</b> Tues	
<b>6</b> Wed ♥ 630pm: Youth Group - Sanctuary ♥ 7pm: Prayer Meeting in Annex	
<b>7</b> Thurs ♣ HPBC Annual Meeting (Oahu)	
<b>8</b> Fri ♣ HPBC Annual Meeting (Oahu)	

### Legend

- ♦ Wailuku Elementary
- ♥ High Street Property
- ♣ Other Location
- Δ Waikapu Property

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

12

**Two Thirds World Network** will be holding a Fun Run on Saturday, October 19. Runners/walkers will check in starting at 5am at Valley Isle (Fun Run starts at 530am) and make their way to Kihei's Kalepolepo Park - a total of 10 miles. If you would like to participate, sponsor a participant, or if you would simply like more information, please visit the website: <http://twothirdsworld.org> or contact: Grace Motonaga (email: [jesuslives2day@mac.com](mailto:jesuslives2day@mac.com) or cell: (808) 357-4553. We are ON MISSION FOR CHRIST by building leaders and shaping the future. Also, please be in prayer if God is calling you to be on mission for Him.

**MCBA Annual Meeting** will be taking place on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at Lahaina Baptist Church (LBC), starting at 10am. Pastor Chris of LBC will be giving the message and Veryl & Cheryl Henderson will be honored as Veryl retires as the Executive Director of the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Association after 40 years of serving within the state. There will be a potluck lunch to follow the meeting.

**Two Thirds World Mission Trip to the Philippines** will be November 2nd - 13th. The focus will be on assisting the flood victims. They will be sharing the Gospel through Medical Missions & Children's Outreach

- Needs: Water filtration systems, multi-vitamins (all ages), cold/fever remedies, general hygiene items
- We are ON MISSION FOR CHRIST by building leaders and shaping the future.
- For more information, please visit our website: <http://twothirdsworld.org> or contact Grace Motonaga (cell: 357-4553 or email: [jesuslives2day@mac.com](mailto:jesuslives2day@mac.com))

**Calling all women to the Annual Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer** sponsored by the Women's Missionary Union (WMU) and the Maui County Baptist Association (MCBA), will be taking place on Monday, November 4th at the sanctuary at our High Street Property from 430pm until 630pm. You will have the opportunity to pray with sisters from other Baptist churches for sisters in other places around the world. Please save the date!

**Youth Fundraiser** – Interested in supporting the Youth Ministry and helping the environment? The Youth are collecting empty ink cartridges or toners from your computer printer for recycling to support their various activities. You may drop off your empty cartridges in the lime green plastic bin by the door in the sanctuary.

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