

12.01.13

December I 2013

Thanksgiving Opens the Holiday Season

Thanksgiving has now passed, but I am praying that the season of Thankfulness unto God has only just begun. Thanksgiving has given us all an opportunity to pause and reflect on the wonderful blessing that God has showered down on us. It is a time to see God's hand of love, mercy and grace during times of great challenge and distress.

Proverbs 3:5-6 comes to mind, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take." Also, Psalms 23:4 is so comforting during times like this, "Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for You are close beside me. Your rod and Your staff protect and comfort me."

Being thankful is not to be limited for just Thanksgiving Day, but it needs to be the flavor that characterizes our lives in Jesus Christ. There is always a reason to thank the Lord for His love, mercy, grace, strength and provision in our lives. Therefore, this Holiday Season has opened with a time to

pause and reflect on God's watch care over us. This attitude of gratitude needs to stay with us all through the stresses, concerns, and yes, even the joys of the Holiday Season.

We are looking forward to the joys of Christmas and the excitement over the end of this year and the beginning of the new year. The flip side is that along with the joys and the excitements comes the stresses and the strains of gifting giving and the preparations for celebrations with family and friends.

All of this is much easier to deal with when you are deeply and immovably fastened to your primary focus, to love the Lord Jesus Christ with all of your heart, mind and soul. When you seek Him first and you seek to be pleasing to Him alone, all the other stresses and strains of life begin to work itself out. So rather than looking to fulfill your earthly obligations and desires, seek to be pleasing unto the Lord Jesus Christ. After all, He IS the Reason for the Season.

May the Lord bless you richly as you keep Him in the center of this Holiday Season. Through your love and commitment to Jesus, may He use you to bring family and friends to faith in Jesus Christ. God bless you all.

Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

IMPORTANT ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Tonight, December 1st, at 6:00 PM

For all of you who are official members of Valley Isle Fellowship, we want to ***strongly*** encourage you to attend tonight's meeting. As a member, you have the responsibility and obligation to help VIF with these important matters that are coming up tonight. We will be taking action on a few, but very important, business items.

The actions that we will be voting on tonight are:

1. Voting on a new slate of Trustees
2. Approving a tentative Calendar for 2014
3. Voting on the Budget for 2014
4. Voting on Constitution & By-Laws Revisions in light of the legalization of Same-Sex Marriage in Hawaii.

All of these are important and we are in need of all of your input as we seek the Lord to guide us through some very challenging days. Therefore, I want to strongly urge you to attend tonight's Business Meeting. God bless you.

Yours in Christ,
Stephen Kaneshiro

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The Forgotten Story of Redemption

Luke 24:26-27

²⁵ And He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ "Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

1. We have given up the _____
_____ for the "_____ to the story." (vs.26)
2. We have given up _____
_____ for the bumper sticker. (vs. 27)
3. The Old Testament looked forward to _____. (vs.27)
4. The Gospels looked at _____. (John 5:39)
5. Since the _____, we look back at _____. (Hebrews 12:1-2)
6. But, we also look forward to _____. (Revelation 21:1-8)

Notes:

A Christian's Goal and Purpose

Have you ever taken the time to consider what is, or should be, your goal and purpose in life? Notice I didn't say goals but a goal. The definition for goal in the Webster Dictionary is, "the object of a person's ambition or effort; an aim or desired result." Also, we need to understand that a Christian's goal is not a personal goal that we set out for ourselves, but a goal that Christ has already set up for us to follow! Our only goal is to have the ambition and desire to love and obey Jesus, to follow Him and the end result is to become like him¹.

"A Christian's goal is not a personal goal that we set out for ourselves, but a goal that Christ has already set up for us to follow!"

You've heard it said, "Where there's a will, there's a way." The same is true when there is a goal, there is a purpose. The reason to have a goal is that it leads to achieve a greater purpose. In *Mark 1:17 (ESV)* it says, "And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.'" In this short scripture Jesus came across two fishermen named Peter and Andrew and you can see the goal and purpose that he

They would see, hear and do all the things he accomplished with the purpose of them carrying on the work He started, which was to make more disciples of Christ.

already had set out for them. I wanted to share a little about this goal and purpose. The goal was for Jesus to be their Lord, teacher and mentor and for them to be his disciples. They would see, hear and do all the things he accomplished with the purpose of them carrying on the work he started, which was to make more disciples of Christ². Jesus' purpose for coming and his desire for the disciples lives is found in *Luke 19:10 (NLT)*, "For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost." Having said all this, can you again see the goal and purpose in Mark 1:17? I have a saying now that might sum it up, "Fulfill the Goal, to achieve the Purpose."

If you have no purpose in life to achieve, you will set no goals to fulfill.

To attempt to do this for Jesus can only be done by as much as you are committed to Him. Let me give you an example when shopping at Costco. In Costco, they have those product taste tables, you know, the ones that you see and want to taste but have no intention of buying. You get to the table and taste a certain product and the person is sharing with you what the product is, but all you're there for is to taste to see how good it is with no intention or commitment to buy it. You then go about your shopping and forget all about tasting the product. Now, why would you forget about tasting the product? I believe there are a couple of reasons. One, all you wanted to do was fill your stomach with some kind of food that was good enough to accept to eat. Two, it was a product that you've tasted before and you've bought it a few times but it's not good enough to keep buying, although, every now and then it is okay and good enough for you. Unfortunately, our commitment to Jesus is like tasting food at Costco. We've tasted the Lord a few times and it's okay but it doesn't excite us to want more of Him. Psalms 34:8-9 in the Message it says, "Open your mouth and taste, open your eyes and see— how good God is. Blessed are you who run to him. Worship God if you want the best; worship opens doors to all his goodness."

Unfortunately, our commitment to Jesus is like tasting food at Costco. We've tasted the Lord a few times and it's okay but it doesn't excite us to want more of Him.

I truly believe that when we have an encounter with Jesus we want to be around him, to feel the love, grace and mercy that he gives us, and to truly know that there is none like Him and that the Son of God gave his life as a ransom for mine. In Hebrews 6: 4-6 it explains of those who have been enlightened and have tasted of the Lord to think they no longer need Him or yearn for Him and just have the zeal for Him, die in

their lives. The author was saying it's impossible and unheard of for this to happen. Our commitment is only as strong as our deep seated love and adoration for God. My prayer for us is that we remember the love God has for us, which was shown through His son, Jesus, and the promise of eternal salvation we have in him, especially the goal and purpose He has given to us to be committed and passionate to live out as Christians.

¹Ephesians 4:11-13, ²Matthew 28:18-20

Pastor Darren Sarmiento

Seniors Christmas Luncheon

**Thursday, December 12, 2013
Kahili Restaurant (Waikapu)
1030am - 2pm**

Menu to be circulated: select dish prior to event

Note: No grab bag gift exchange. In place of grab bag gift, a \$5 cash donation is requested. Amount collected will be donated to a VIF family in need.

**Deadline to sign-up: Sunday,
December 08, 2013**

Contact:

Thelma Waki (242-7248)

Or

Cecile Hashimoto (878-3739)

Founded in 2012, Malama Pregnancy Center is a locally organized and funded outreach. They provide a variety of free services and programs to meet the needs of their clients and of the community.

They are currently in need of the following items listed below. If you feel the Lord calling you to donate any of the below items, it would be greatly appreciated.



Malama Pregnancy Center Needs

- | | |
|---|---|
| 18. 2 small a/c units | 1. Large a/c unit |
| 19. Curtains | 2. Wall art |
| 20. Window coverings | 3. Comfortable waiting chair rooms |
| 21. Bathroom light fixtures | 4. 2 comfortable office chairs |
| 22. Mirror | 5. 3 large comfortable chairs |
| 23. Faucet | 6. 2 small end tables |
| 24. Sink/cabinet | 7. Gift cards (Lowes, Ross, Pier One, Wal-mart, Costco, Home Depot) |
| 25. Bathroom rugs | 8. Outdoor sensor lights |
| 26. Small table | 9. Trim, accent paint (indoor and outdoor) |
| 27. Storage cabinet system (for a closet) | 10. Front porch light |
| 28. Large trunk | 11. Skid strips for front steps (restore?) |
| 29. 2 Medium rug | 12. Large ceiling fans w/lights |
| 30. Office desk/desk chair | 13. Microwave |
| 31. Small ceiling fan | 14. Coffee pot |
| 32. Small plants | 15. Water warmer |
| 33. Door mat | 16. Water service |
| 34. Plastic runner (for plants?) | 17. 2 tall file cabinets |

For more information, you can contact Malama Pregnancy Center at

64 Central Ave.
Wailuku, HI 96793
Tel: 808-280-5810

Email: malamapregnancycenter@gmail.com

Website: www.mpcmaui.org

Calling all Women



It's time to *Refresh, Reflect & Renew* yourself with
God this Christmas season.

Please join us for the VIF women's fellowship

December 7, 2013

8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Valley Isle Fellowship Worship Center

For more information call the office at 244-0865

Or Lani Sarmiento



Child Care Schedule

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, Wane
Sniffen

Dec 1st—Team 4

Dec 8th—Team 5

Church Secretary, Keri Kiesling, On Maternity Leave

As I write this note, it is Wednesday, November 27, 2013, at 8:30 AM, Keri is still working as our secretary. In fact she is the one who has put this newsletter together.

However, hopefully, by the time you read this newsletter, Keri and Kawika will have welcome a new member into their family. Happy and Joyous news. However, there is also some sad news. With the new addition, Keri will be taking a few weeks off as she cares for her new born. We are not sure how long this maternity leave will last.

Therefore, we in the office will be handicapped for these few weeks. We ask for your patience and understanding as we try to cope without Keri. You will begin to notice some changes and some short comings. We would greatly appreciate your prayers, patience, and forgiving spirit. In advance we say thank you and God bless you.

CALENDAR

December 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 AM - Pastor Jeremy PM - Annual Business Meeting: Sanctuary	2	3	4 Youth Group: 630pm- Sanctuary Prayer Meeting: 7pm-Annex	5	6	7 VIF Women's Fellowship: 8am-10am - Sanctuary
8 AM - Pastor Darren PM - Pastor Stephen	9	10	11 Youth Group: 630pm- Sanctuary Prayer Meeting: 7pm-Annex	12	13	14
15 AM - Pastor Stephen PM - Pastor Darren	16	17	18 G-Force Christmas Party: 6-830pm -456 S Alu Rd Youth Group: 630pm- Sanctuary Prayer Meeting: 7pm-Annex	19	20	21
22 AM - Pastor Jeremy PM - Pastor Stephen	23	24 Christmas Eve Service: 6pm- Wailuku Elementary	25	26	27	28
29 AM - Pastor Darren PM - Pastor Jeremy	30	31	 <p>Christmas Party</p> <p>Wednesday, December 18</p> <p>6-8:30pm at 456 S Alu Rd, Wailuku Heights</p>			

Building Fund Envelopes will no longer be inserted into the Newsletter. You can now find them on the table in the back of the cafeteria.

Joy To The World: The Peruvian Challenge - All women are invited to attend the MCBA's WMU International Missions Study on Saturday, December 7th from 10am - 1pm at Kahului Baptist Church. Lunch will be served.

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.

VIF Surf Ministry

Mark your calendars for the following dates.

December 23, 2013 - Mon - 8am-12pm
Kalama Bch Park

Why the Newsletter

This Newsletter is an attempt to communicate, explain, challenge, direct, and instruct all of the people of VIF on the issues and events that are of concern to us. We want to encourage a spirit of openness and cooperation that will build a church that glorify and honor the Lord. We want to encourage you to submit articles that would help to accomplish the above goals. We also want to give you a chance to respond to anything that you read in the Newsletter and/or hear in the church. We want this to be your newsletter. As your pastor, I will be the final authority as to what does or does not go into this newsletter. Love for Jesus Christ and bringing Him glory and honor will be the criterion for making those decisions.

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