



December 15, 2013

Christmas Joy, Christian Love

The joy of Christmas for many is a wondrous and marvelous thing. It was widely reported that during World War II, one Christmas Eve, the fighting actually stopped and the troops on the opposing side actually exchanged Christmas greetings and there was peace for a few hours. Then the fighting resumed after a few hours.

The magic that surrounds Christmas Joy is all centered in Jesus, whose birth we celebrate. Jesus Christ, the Messiah, entered into this world as a little babe. So vulnerable, so needy, and so lovingly given to all mankind.

He was vulnerable because all babies are at the mercy of those who care for them. Imagine, if Jesus was born in the 21st Century, before He was born His life would have probably been threatened with abortion. A young, unmarried, and pregnant teenager is faced with the wondrous and marvelous birth of the Messiah. But how does she explain this to her fiancée? How does she get to full term and actually deliver the Christ Child without the scorn of the community the surrounds her? Doesn't it all sound like a prescription for an abortion?

He was certainly vulnerable when He was conceived.

He was so needy because all babies are needy when they are born. Without the loving care of His parents, His life would end. He was dependent on them for His every need. Needs of food, shelter, clothing, protection, and provision were all provided by His parents, Mary and Joseph. Here was the King of kings and Lord of lords, the creator of the Universe in a state of total need. He was certainly born in need.

Then He was so lovingly given to all of mankind. Jesus actually left His throne in Heavenly glory and came do to earth to live a perfect life and to become the perfect sacrifice that we might have the opportunity to have our sins forgiven and to be given the promise of eternity in Heaven. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son. That whosoever believes in Him would not perish but would have eternal life. Jesus was certainly given to us in LOVE.

The Joy of Christmas is empowered by the Love of God. My prayer is that all of us here in Valley Isle Fellowship would come to realize God's LOVE for us and that we might respond to that LOVE by Loving God the way that HE deserves.

That we might be faithful and living examples of God's greatest commandment. That we would love the Lord God almighty with all of our hearts, minds, and souls. That we would love Him with all that is within us. This is Christian Love.

Imagine what a world filled with Christian Love would look like? Imagine what a Maui County filled with Christian Love would look like? Imagine what Valley Isle Fellowship would look like if we were filled with Christian Love?

Do you remember the story of the man who was walking along the beach after a storm? He saw many starfish that were washed ashore. He also noticed a little boy ahead of him picking up the starfish and tossing them one by one back into the ocean. The man asked the little boy, "What are you trying to accomplish?" The little boy replied, "Sir, I'm trying to save the starfish." The man then said, "Son, it is hopeless because there are too many of them to make a difference." The boy looked at the man, picked up another starfish, and tossed into the ocean. He then said, "I made a difference to that one." He picked up another, tossed it into the ocean, and said, "That one too." The little boy continued down the beach tossing one starfish after another into the ocean.

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How do we make a difference? By accepting the love of Jesus personally. Then personally loving Jesus with all of our heart, mind, and soul. This will then cause us to obediently and lovingly respond to each of God's commands for us, one at a time, which will probably mean loving one person at a time.

Are you beginning to pick up the magic of Christmas Joy? It is the power of Christian Love being expressed to one person at a time. Christ's love for us is what empowers us to Christian Love and Christian Love is the magic behind Christmas Joy. Spread this JOY around to all that God places before you.



Yours In Christ

Pastor Steve Kaneshiro



What is My Purpose as a Disciple of Christ?

I use to help coach an elementary boys basketball team a few years ago. On the basketball court there are five players represented from each of the two teams that are playing against each other. I explained to them the five positions and each of their responsibilities. Then, I had the kids choose the position they wanted to play. I then asked every kid in each position, what is your purpose in the position you chose? Every one of them basically said to be the best player I can be. Their answers was not a surprise to me because what they did was just repeat of what I told them and all I mentioned to them is how to play their position. What I told them next surprised them even more. Most of them were scratching their heads with an expression as though they were saying, "Huh?" I told them, their purpose of playing together, learning their positions and their responsibilities was to WIN as a team, every game! You are to be the best player so we can play as a team to WIN every game. It is like Firefighters on a fire truck. Every person has a responsibility to carry out on the truck and at the scene. However, if you ask them what their purpose is, they'll say or should say, "To Save Lives."

Our purpose as Disciples of Christ is, "To make disciples." When we make disciples we are Saving Lives. Although, let's be clear about making disciples. A disciple is one who makes disciples that can make disciples and it is clear cut and simple to know. If we make disciples who can't make disciples, we need to stop assuming that we are doing discipleship. In John 6:60-70 Jesus had many disciples than just the twelve. However, when he mentioned of himself being the bread of life many of his disciples left and no longer followed Him. The twelve

IF WE WANT TO BE A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST THAT IS INFLUENCED BY THE GOSPEL THEN WE NEED TO BE A PEOPLE THAT CAN'T LIVE APART FROM THE GOSPEL.

disciples were the only ones left and they followed Jesus and became disciple makers. A disciple of Christ will make a disciple of Christ. A disciple of Christ is one who believes that Christ died for the forgiveness of their sins and was resurrected. Also, it is one who follows Jesus to become like Him. If you want to grow people in Jesus you must proclaim Jesus. If you want to grow them in

something else, you must proclaim something else. If we want to be like Christ then we have to talk about Him all the time! If someone is being formed in Christ likeness as a disciple of Christ, then he should be effectively proclaiming Christ to those who don't know Jesus. That should be something we expect of a growing, maturing believer. In order to make disciples we must proclaim the gospel and I'm not talking about just sharing the gospel but living it, so others can see in order to share the gospel with them. We need to tell people how Jesus changed my life, what difference he makes, the challenges I am able to overcome because of Jesus. The answer for everything in life should point to Jesus, that is gospel living. If we want to be a disciple of Christ that is influenced by the gospel then we need to be a people that can't live apart from the gospel. Last Sunday we made 300 DVD copies of the testimonies of the Billy Graham's, "My Hope America" and people took it all. Praise God! What an awesome picture knowing the church is going out with the gospel that people may find the joy in the Lord now and forevermore.

IF YOU WANT TO GROW PEOPLE IN JESUS, YOU MUST PROCLAIM JESUS. IF YOU WANT TO GROW THEM IN SOMETHING ELSE, YOU MUST PROCLAIM SOMETHING ELSE.

Continuation from page 2 (What is my.....)

Share with people the true joy that you have in Jesus and the blessings you've received because of Him. The love and care you have received from others in the church and those that have walked with you through the thick and thin of life's issues. Share what it means being with people who enjoy life with the Lord and coming to an understanding of what we have been missing not being in a relationship with Him.

Let me end with saying this. Making disciples is not about becoming more religious but really encouraging people to build a relationship with Jesus. Give that special gift of Christ to someone this Christmas season and encourage them by helping them build a relationship with HIM.

Pastor Darren Sarmiento



CHILD CARE SCHEDULE

TEAM 1: Jennifer & Corey Egami, Donna Nozaki, Elijah Douglas, Christian Motonaga

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

Team 3: Gretel Saros, Rose Quenga, Daniel Quenga, Shalia Mendez, Danica Cooley, Dyllan

Dec 15: Team 1

Dec 22: Team 2

Dec 29: Team 3

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Every year, December is the time that we focus on World Missions. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is our way of lifting up the needs of those around the world that need to come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord, Master, and Savior. We want to encourage you to consider giving a sacrificial gift so that those around the world can be given the opportunity to hear about Jesus Christ. Every penny that you give in this special offering will go to the field. Not a penny will be kept here in the United States and used for overhead expenses. All of it will go to sharing the Gospel with those around the world. Give lovingly and obediently to the Lord.



**Jesus– A Sacrifice of Love from Birth to Resurrection
AM Service**

I. An Act of Sacrificial Love – His _____

- A. Matthew 21:33-39
- B. In the O.T. – God sends His _____.
- C. In the N.T. – God sends His one and only _____.

II. An Act of Sacrificial Love – His _____

- A. Matthew 20:25-28, Luke 19:10
- B. Jesus came to _____, not to be _____.
- C. Jesus came to _____ and _____ those who are lost.

III. An Act of Sacrificial Love – His _____

- A. John 15:13, John 10:15
- B. No one _____ His life – He freely _____ His life.
- C. He did not make a _____, because He _____ us.

IV. An Act of Victorious Love – His _____

- A. Romans 6:10, 2 Corinthians 5:15
- B. His Resurrection is proof of His _____.
- C. His Resurrection is proof of His _____ & _____ Love for us.

NOTES:

Prayer that Revives the Soul
Psalms 51:1-19
PM Service

1. Seek for _____.
2. Confess in _____.
3. Know that you're _____.
4. Draw _____ to Him.
5. Never stop being a _____.

Your life is all about _____.

NOTES:

ANNOUNCEMENT

VIF Surf Ministry

Come join us December 23, 2013

8 am—12 pm

Kalama Beach Park

Call Daryl Quenga for more information

Energy Conservation

We need to be good stewards of all that God has blessed us with. Therefore, we are asking everyone's help to conserve energy by shutting off all lights and a/c units as you leave the areas that you use. If you can do without the a/c units by opening windows, then please close the windows before leaving. As we become wise stewards of all that God has given to us, He will bless us richly.

A big Mahalo for your help in being good stewards of all that God blesses us with.

Calling ALL Men
of Valley Isle Fellowship
Dec. 29, 2013 @ 6 PM

I would like to invite all of you to a visioning and planning session to build up our men in Christ-like love and service.

This would involve times of inspiration, study, fellowship, and hands on ministry. This would include men of all ages, from young adults to senior citizens, men who are married and those who are single.

Women seem to gravitate to this kind of fellowship more readily than do men. But men, let's build a fellowship that is designed for the men of Valley Isle Fellowship! A fellowship where loving and enriching friendships can be built, that are grounded in our love for Jesus Christ. A fellowship that would work together for the glory of the Lord through ministries like maintaining the yards of those in our church who can no longer do so. A fellowship that plays together like going fishing together or spending an afternoon golfing with each or going with each other on a trip to Lanai to minister to the church there together. A fellowship that is built and directed by the men of VIF under the leadership of the Lord Jesus Christ.

What will this really look like? I don't really know. That is why I am inviting you to attend this visioning and planning meeting. This meeting will take place on Saturday, December 29th at 6 PM and should last only an hour. If things go well and the time starts to run away from us, we will still end at 7 PM and schedule another meeting. This could be the beginning of something great where we will increase our love for Jesus Christ and at the same be an encouragement to each other. If this happens, another impact will be that we will be building a great church that will glorify the Lord. Come and join with me on Dec. 29th.

Pastor Stephen

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 6:30 PM

Our annual Christmas Eve service will be held on Tuesday, December 24th at the Wailuku Elementary School Cafeteria from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Invite your families and friends for this night of inspiration and worship unto our Lord.

Let's pray that this service will bring glory & honor to our Lord Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate.

*Christmas
Eve*

Setup help is needed. We will start setting up at 5:30 pm.

SB1 – A Rallying Call

Dear People of VIF. I have been very disappointed in what has happened during and since the passage of SB1 (The Marriage Equality Bill). I have come to learn that we the people of Hawaii have been discounted and ignored by a large majority of the legislative leaders of our state. We have been lied to and have been given false hope. We were advised to revise the VIF Constitution and By-Laws because of the falsehoods that we were led to believe.

I have come to the realization that we, the Christian church, stand at a very difficult and uncomfortable period of time in Hawaii's history. If the whole Christian church in Hawaii was to rise up and vote Biblical standards on every issue and for each politician who stands for these same issues, we would see a radical change in Hawaii.

The fact is, the vast majority of our legislative leaders have been emboldened by the victory that SB1 has achieved. They have been emboldened so much that we will begin to see radical agendas of this type being pushed much more aggressively through out our state. We will begin to see this happen in the next legislative session. In our schools and in our courts.

A new organization is being formed that is going to diligently and aggressively work to put men and women who are committed to Biblical values and committee to seeing these values implemented and changing the present culture of depravity that prevails in our legislative bodies. This organization is currently being organized under the banner, "Let's Do This, Hawaii." They will be using the slogan, "Win November 4, 2014."

An organizational meeting is being held this coming Tuesday, December 17th at King's Cathedral at 5:30. Dinner will be served and we should be done by 7:30. This will be a working meeting. It will not be a meeting that goes over the past, but one where we will be working on winning on November 4, 2014. There is no cost for this evening except the cost of your time.

Let me share my heart with you on this matter. I am scared and I am intimidated by all of this but I know that if we don't do this, an evil tide will sweep over all of us and the consequences will have us weeping before the Lord. These consequences will impact us legislatively, in our schools, and in the courts.

However, my biggest fear is that we might get so swept up in fighting this battle that we loose sight of the priorities that should anchor and guide. That is the priorities of Loving Jesus Christ and seeking to glorify Him by winning the lost to Christ and seeing them disciplined into a mature and reproducing faith. If we look at this process as another means to carry out the priorities that the Lord has rooted in our lives, then my fears are without merit. If we look at this process as being something different and separate from these priorities, then we are in trouble.

For me, I look at all of this in 2 ways. First, I look at this as an attempt to preserve the voice and vitality of the church in our society. Second, I look at this as having the opportunity to witness of the loving and saving grace of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to both colleagues and opponents in this challenge. This coalition that is being formed will also include those in the Mormon and Catholic Churches. I will take the opportunities that come to share my faith with them. Those in the opposition also need to be won to faith in Jesus Christ so I will need to watch my words and actions as we seek the greater good of seeing them saved rather than seeing our issue win at the ballot box.

If we all took this attitude and looked at this as an extension of the mission that Christ has given to us of impacting our communities for Him, then I really have nothing to fear. Because I know how blinded I can be, I know that you also can be blinded. We need to keep each other accountable and focused on the main task that Christ has given to us all. Let's Do This, Valley Isle Fellowship and let's do this for the GLORY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!!!

Worker Recruitment & Training Orientation— Jan. 5, 2014

We have been made aware of a potentially harmful situation that we can prevent. Child sex abuse is occurring with alarming frequency. Children within church programs are not immune to this evil calamity. Therefore, we are instituting a Child Sex Abuse Prevention program within VIF that will train our workers to identify, report, and prevent child abuse. This will include an online video training with a program called Ministry Safe. After watching about an hour and a half of videos and successfully taking a test, one will be recognized as having completed this part of training. There will then be an orientation on the Policies and Procedures that we have adopted for our ministries. Finally, we will be paying for each person to go through a National Criminal Background Check. We will also train each person to carry out the spiritual ministry that they volunteer for. All of this will be introduced on January 5th and we will give you some time for a questions and answers.

We are requiring these measures for all who work with children, 18 years old and younger. We are in need of more workers in all of the ministries from Youth down to child care. The need is so great that we are considering closing some ministries because of a lack of qualified workers. Parents, we know that you want the best ministry and care for your children and so do we. We want to therefore urge all of you parents to get qualified in these ministries and to serve all of our children. Doing this will also have the added benefit of helping to create an atmosphere where ministry to your children could continue even in your homes. Please pray and consider being a part of actively ministering to your children and the other children of VIF.

DECEMBER 2013

- 15 a.m. Pastor Stephen-A Sacrifice of Love
p.m. Pastor Darren- Prayer that Revives
- 20 DOE last day of school for Christmas break
- 22 a.m. Pastor Jeremy
p.m. Pastor Stephen- Prayer that Exalts Jesus
- 24 p.m. Pastor Jeremy—Christmas Eve
- 29 a.m. Pastor Darren-Jesus, the Hope for the Future
p.m. Pastor Jeremy- Prayer that Protects the Church

JANUARY 2014

- 5 a.m. Pastor Stephen
Noon-2 pm—Worker Recruitment & Training Oreintation
p.m. Pastor Darren- Prayer for those who will be Saved
- 7 DOE students return to school
- 9 8 am-3 pm MCBA Pastors' Conference (Kihei Baptist Chapel)
- 12 a.m. Pastor Jeremy
p.m. Pastor Stephen— A Prayer for VIF
- 19 a.m. Pastor Darren-Sanctity of Human Life
p.m. Pastor Jeremy
- 20 Martin Luther King Day Holiday
Surf Ministry Outing
- 23 DOE students return to school
- 26 a.m. Pastor Stephen
p.m. Pastor Darren

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