



Valley Isle Fellowship

Love God. Love His Church. Love His World

473 S High St • PO Box 886

Wailuku, HI 96793

# NEWSLETTER

December 20, 2015 [www.vifmaui.com](http://www.vifmaui.com)

## We Can

*Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro*



Christmas is a wonderful time of the year as we focus on the birth of the Messiah. In this message I want to address a large problem that exists within the Evangelical Christian Church and that the birth of the Messiah

addresses. Too many Christians in America today are saying "I cannot do that." I cannot do what Jesus wants me to do because of ... As a pastor, I hear this kind of rhetoric all the time. Many different reasons, but many saying "I cannot."

Let's take a look at the birth and maturation of Jesus Christ. He grew to be the most influential person that the world has ever seen. Yet, He was buried in a borrowed grave after He was unjustly condemned and crucified. He was so influential and He did not have the media capabilities that exist today. He did not even have the support of the influential people of the day to help to spread the news about His teaching and miracles. All He had was the power of the Holy Spirit and the testimony of the common people. Accepting the influence that we already have and using it for the glory of God is what many Christians are doing but what Jesus refused to back away from.

Jesus also became the most powerful agent of change. Before His birth, at His birth, during His life, and even because of and after His death, change has been a very powerful aspect of His legacy. This man of influence has radically and wonderfully changed many who have been adamant in their opposition to Him and His message. Criminals, politicians, business leaders, and people from every segment of society have been, are being, and will be changed by Jesus Christ. I can also add my testimony to that crowd of people that have been changed by Jesus for I, too, am evidence of one who has been changed by Jesus Christ.

This power to change has come without a media blitz or an army to force that change. It has come through truth with boldness and sacrifice rather than convenience.

Jesus lived out this strategy in total and today this strategy is still very viable. Jesus was not intimidated by the political correctness of His day. He stood up to the false and immoral rhetoric that surrounded Him by boldly speaking the truth and being willing to face the sacrifices that that truth might and did bring. This is the same power to change that we have today. However, it has to be exercised with the same boldness and sacrifice that Jesus lived out.

When we reflect on the birth of Jesus and the joy and love that this season brings to all of us, we must also reflect on how influential this Christ Child was, is, and will be. We need to reflect on the power to change that the birth of Jesus makes possible to all of us. Influence and the power to change were examples that Jesus brought to all of us. We have to remember that Jesus lived out His life as an example of how we should live. Therefore, we need to be striving to follow the example of Jesus and to be the people of influence with the power



to change that Jesus was. We should not use the excuse that says, "Well, He was God and I am not." We must remember that not only was He fully God, but He was also fully human and He came to show us how to live.

Christmas is a time of peace, love, and joy, but it is also so much more. It is also a time to challenge us to be all that we can and should be.

Thank you, Lord, for sending your only begotten Son to this earth for us. Thank you for showing us how to live in this world through the life of Jesus Christ. Lord, during this Christmas, we humbly ask that you would empower us all to live as Jesus did.

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# Four Truths About God's Provision

Article by [Matt Brown](#)

Published December 14, 2015 Article found at: <http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/four-truths-about-god-s-provision>

When you put your faith in Christ, God commissions himself to protect, provide, and care for you ([Philippians 4:19](#)). God always provides for his children, though often it is not in the way we expect or hope.

The challenge is for us to see his provision and care, even when it is different than we expect. Because God is God, his ways are higher than our ways ([Isaiah 55:9](#)). But he graciously gives us insight into what he is doing in the Scriptures.

John Piper says, "God is always doing 10,000 things in your life, but you may be aware of three of them." Over and over again, Jesus's disciples missed what he was doing right in front of them. They missed the point of the miracles. They missed the lessons. Which should give us hope for our own lack of clarity today. Here are four important encouragements about how God provides and cares for you.

## 1. God May Provide Differently Than We Expect

The Israelites escaped captivity in Egypt only to face the challenges of the desert. One of the biggest challenges for such a large group of nomads was enough food to eat. Over and over again God provided supernaturally for his people. If God could provide for many thousands of Israelites in the middle of a desert, he can surely provide for you and your family's needs. One of the precious testimonies of Scripture is, "I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread" ([Psalm 37:25](#)).

But even with God's supernatural provision, the Israelites still complained and grumbled in the desert. They longed for the food they left behind in Egypt. God was literally providing bread from heaven — enough for each day — but they wanted his provision a different way. They wanted it their own way.

This lesson has spoken to me over the years. Ask God to provide for you in whatever way he deems fit. Don't grumble against God's supernatural, unexpected ways.

Maybe you are at a job and doing work different than what you had expected or hoped for. Don't always wish for something different. Don't constantly dream about being somewhere else, doing something else. Be present. Give your all to your current job, and always be thankful ([1 Thessalonians 5:18](#)). This doesn't mean you can't move towards the job of your dreams, but it might inspire the faith to stop complaining about the way God has provided for you in the current moment, and instead invest yourself fully wherever you are.

## 2. God Provides More of Himself

Our greatest need is for more of God, and this is something he gladly gives us.

"Which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" ([Matthew 7:9-11](#))

Scripture tells us to make the pursuit of God the primary function of our lives. [Matthew 6:33](#) says, "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." [Psalm 37:4](#) says, "Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart."

John Piper has asked, "What is the deepest root of your joy? What God gives to you? Or what God is to you?" God graciously guides us into a greater realization that our ultimate need is for more of his word, more of his ways — more of him.

(continued on page 3)

# Four Truths About God's Provision (page 2 of 2)

Article by [Matt Brown](#)

### 3. God's Ultimate Provision Has Already Been Given in the Gospel

We ask God for many things, but the greatest thing we could ever receive from him has already been given. What God has given us in the gospel is light-years ahead of every other provision and care we could ever seek from him. When we trust in Christ, we have decisively secured for us every ultimately good thing from him. It's just a matter of time.

[James 1:17](#) reminds us, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." Every truly good thing in our lives comes straight from the Father. The ultimate good he provided us, through whom much of the other good things come to us, is Jesus. Jesus is the ultimate treasure.

### 4. God Provides Finally in Eternity

Hebrews 11 gives us two different perspectives on God's provision and care for us. Some, by faith, came through this life victorious, while others lost their lives. Both are commended for their mighty faith.

God does not always provide and care for us in ways we might expect in this life. The Bible does not promise this. Peter, James, John, and Paul gave their very lives for the gospel. They viewed the gospel as a treasure not to be lost at any cost. They suffered gladly because they had something in the gospel that had far more worth.

This life is fleeting. This life is fragile. This life is but a vapor's breath. The next life, the age to come, is where all God's provision and care for us will ultimately make sense and come together as a whole.

We may not receive healing in this life, but we will receive perfect healing in eternity. We may not see answers to our greatest prayers in this life, but we will receive fully in eternity. Some days God's provision and care may seem distant, but it will be ever-present in eternity. We long for our world to stop raging and be at peace, but ultimate peace will only come in eternity.

Our hearts ache under the pressures of this life, but it is only because we were made for another world. We are sojourners and aliens on this earth. "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" ([1 Peter 2:9](#)).



*Matt Brown is an evangelist, author of [Awakening \(2015\)](#), and founder of [Think Eternity](#).*

### High Street Cleaning Schedule

	<b>Week of Dec 24-26</b> Blando Ohana	<b>Week of Jan 14-16</b> <b>Volunteers Needed</b>
	<b>Week of Dec 31-Jan 2</b> Blando Ohana	
	<b>Week of Jan 7-9</b> Men's Fellowship	

# Lottie Moon Christmas Offering:

## Sharing God's love is 'water on dry ground' for Central Asians

By Laura Fielding



CENTRAL ASIA (BP) — Several years ago, Christian aid worker Gary Warrior\* was sitting on the floor in a Central Asian village with a congregation of about 20 people, getting ready to share about “the cost of discipleship.”

Someone made the suggestion to go around the room and share their testimonies. One woman simply said, “Oh, I’m just very blessed, and I’m so thankful to be here.”

Her friend elbowed her: “Explain to him your testimony, tell him what’s happening in your life with God.” But the woman again said she was “blessed” and just thankful to sing songs and read the Bible together.

Her friend retorted, “You tell him the truth. You tell him that every night after you go to these meetings, your husband beats you, and last week he beat you with a hammer!”

Tears jumped to Warrior’s eyes as he thought, *How can I tell these people to go out there and suffer for Christ’s sake?*

“God just grabbed me by the collar and He said, ‘You’re not asking them, I am.’”

### PEOPLE OF GRIEF

Gary and his family — wife, Ann,\* and four children, two of whom are now adults — first arrived in this Central Asian country in 1997. The former Soviet republic was suffering, broken and poor after the end of a five-year civil war.

Though the Soviets tried to stamp out religion, the country did not lose its strong Muslim identity. But many of these Central Asians feel hopeless and overlooked by the world.

“There’s a poem that says, ‘Oh people of grief, tears in their eyes like orphans, anger on their lips like captives. In a forgotten land they wept alone,’” Warrior says, fighting back tears. “So for us to be able to show up here now, in this point in history, and begin to tell them that God loves them — this is water on dry ground.”

Despite people’s thirst for truth and love, Christians are persecuted. Not necessarily from the communist government — Warrior estimates about 30 government-registered churches and 1,000 believers in the country — but from society. Leaving Islam brings great shame on a person’s family.

“Persecution comes every time the gospel is proclaimed here, but if we’re able to do it in the context of families and in communities, we can minimize the effects of that persecution so that people can stand together for the cause of Christ and not be chased out,” Warrior says.

### PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL NEEDS

Before moving to Central Asia, Warrior was pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Grandview, West Virginia. The Warriors were the first family to be commissioned and sent out by the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists and the Mountain State Association. They are now part of Park Hill Baptist Church of North Little Rock, Arkansas.

As a pastor with a music degree and a master of divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Warrior wasn’t planning on focusing on human needs work. But after seeing that even numerous aid agencies couldn’t respond to the great number of disasters and people suffering in Central Asia, Warrior started a disaster response team of Christian workers and national believers in 1998.

*(continued on page 5)*

# Lottie Moon Christmas Offering:

## Sharing God's love is 'water on dry ground' for Central Asians

During their first disaster response, he discovered being there for people on the day of disaster “gave us real access to share the gospel.” The next year in that village, Warrior’s team planted their first church and baptized 13 people.

To help share the gospel in a widespread way, Warrior’s team dubs gospel movies into local languages and gives them to people they encounter. Through Lottie Moon Christmas Offering funds, Warrior’s team has dubbed 12 films — including “The Gospel of John,” “Esther” and “Courageous” — and created worship songs in the local language.

“This is the gospel presented in the local language in a way that I can’t speak it,” Warrior says. “It’s visually powerful.”

### WELL-DIGGING

After Warrior’s team responded to disasters for 10 years, the country’s government also became better able to respond, which left him wondering, “What next?”

During one of their last disaster responses, the national team visited a Christian friend, Murod.\* He craved Christian fellowship since he had not seen another believer for two-and-a-half years. The team wanted to help him somehow, and they discovered the village desperately needed clean water.

People were constantly sick with diseases like typhoid, hepatitis A and giardia because of drinking dirty water from polluted irrigation canals and streams — the only sources of water to which many have access.

One villager told Warrior that his wife was discouraged — she had given birth to three babies in the past three years, and each one had died. “If we can get them clean drinking water, we can change everything for them,” Warrior says.

With the help and training of a relief organization, Warrior’s disaster relief team transitioned to digging wells in 2009. It has been satisfying to “have the opportunity to make the connection between clean drinking water and the Water of Life,” he says.

Putting a well in Murod’s village was difficult — they had to dig 30 holes to find water — but today, there are nine wells. All that time spent digging provided many witnessing opportunities in the village.

Now, a small church meets at Murod’s house. Warrior’s team is encouraged by the continual strength and joy of Murod and his wife, Muhabbat,\* despite the persecution and ridicule they receive from their village.

### GIVING AND SUPPORT

Warrior is thankful for the U.S. churches — like Park Hill Baptist Church; First Baptist Church of West Monroe, Louisiana; Grand Avenue Baptist Church of Fort Smith, Arkansas and Morrison Heights Baptist Church in Clinton, Mississippi — that partner with him and his team to provide support and send volunteer teams.

“There are people who are followers of Jesus today who wouldn’t have been without those volunteers coming,” he says.

Warrior is also grateful the faithful givers to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Cooperative Program have “stuck with him” during his 17 years overseas. Although Warrior’s team has made about 2,000 gospel presentations every year for the past three years, it takes a long time for someone to become a Christian.

*(continued on page 6)*

# Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

## Sharing God's love is 'water on dry ground' for Central Asians

But these are exciting times, he says: "I'm seeing people who are coming to faith in Christ. Not every day, but it's happening."

Warrior and his team have planted five house churches that still meet today. In the past two years, they distributed more than 6,000 gospel DVDs. Last year, with the assistance of the Lottie Moon offering and Cooperative Program funding, the well-digging team installed 19 wells and provided clean drinking water for about 10,000 people.

"God has done that because we've been faithful, and the peoples in the pews back in America have been faithful to keep giving and to keep sending ... and the result is there's a church here, and there wasn't when I came," Warrior says.

Pray for:

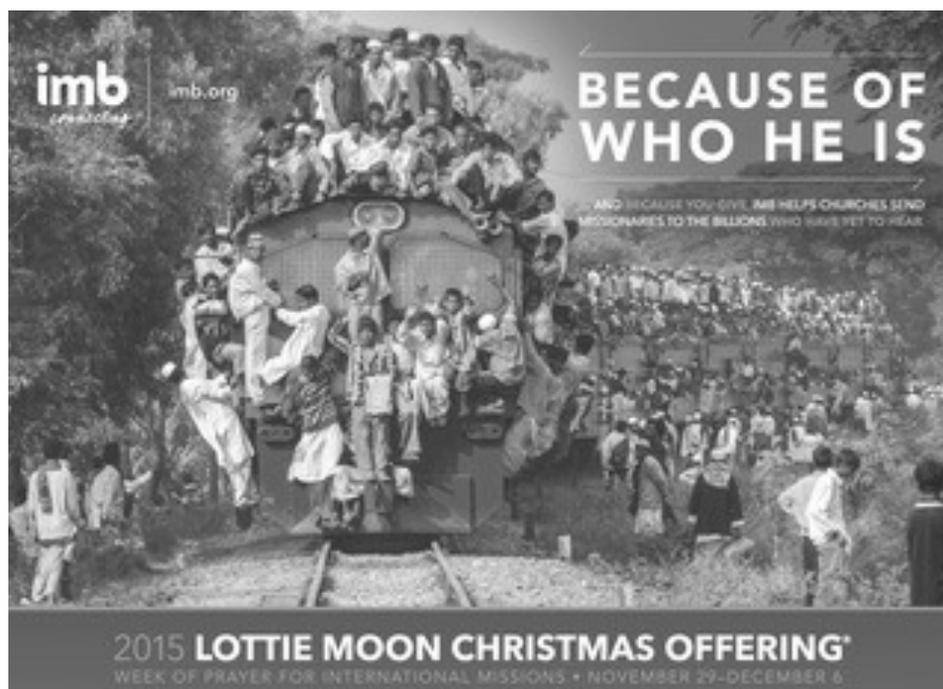
- More opportunities to share the gospel, and for the country's key leaders to come to accept the truth of the gospel of Christ.
- Protection on their team, and that they would keep loving, respecting and supporting each other.
- The Warrior family as they are separated by distance — their four children live in four different countries. Only their youngest is at home with them.

### DECLARE HIS GLORY AMONG THE NATIONS

Find resources for churches at [imb.org/offering](http://imb.org/offering) to learn more about and promote the Lottie Moon offering. While Southern Baptists are encouraged to give to the offering through their churches, a Donate Now option is available for individual online gifts.

*\*Names changed*

Article may be found at [http://www.imb.org/main/lottie-moon/details.asp?StoryID=13827#.Vm9oTb\\_CZYb](http://www.imb.org/main/lottie-moon/details.asp?StoryID=13827#.Vm9oTb_CZYb)



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Your pastoral staff and their families would like to wish  
you  
Mele Kalikimaka  
and  
Hauoli Makahiki Hou!  
God bless you as you celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ  
and as you look forward to a new year of  
loving service to and for Him.*



**When:** January 9th, 2016 at  
7:30 a.m.

**Who:** All men of VIF  
are invited!

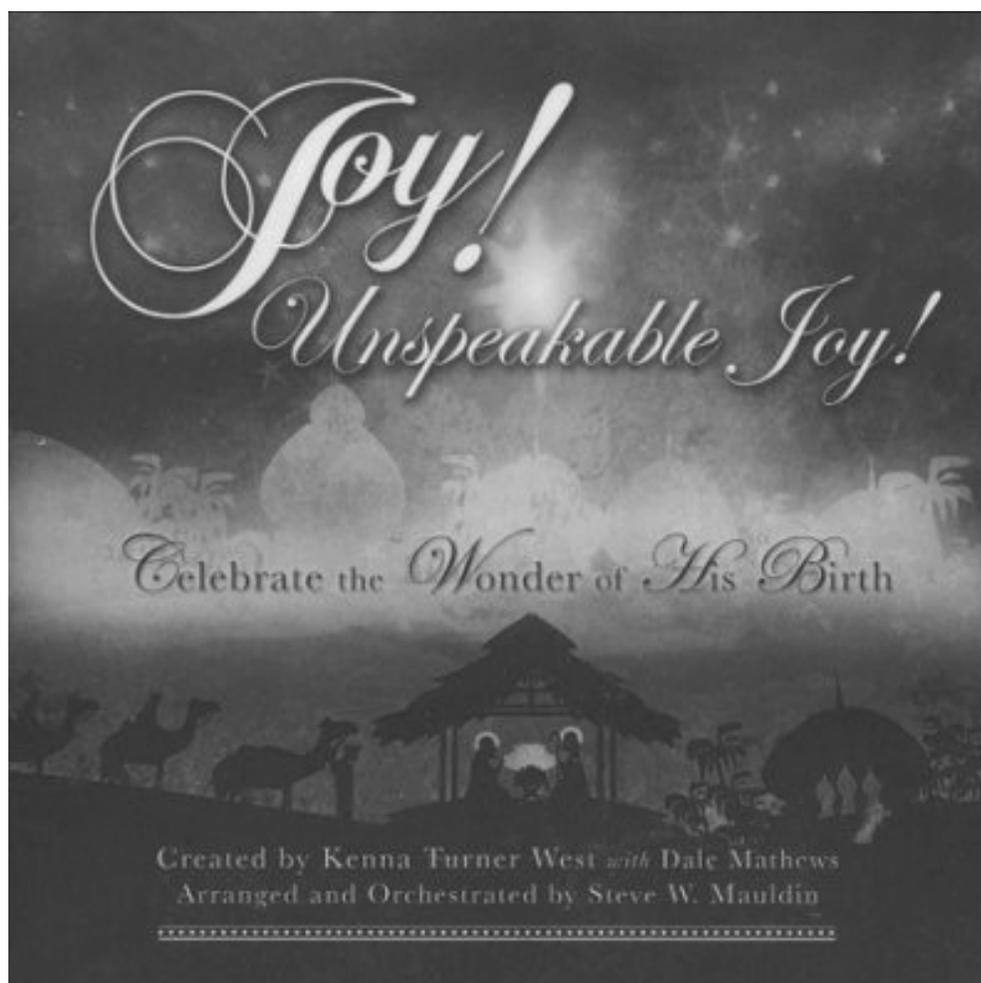
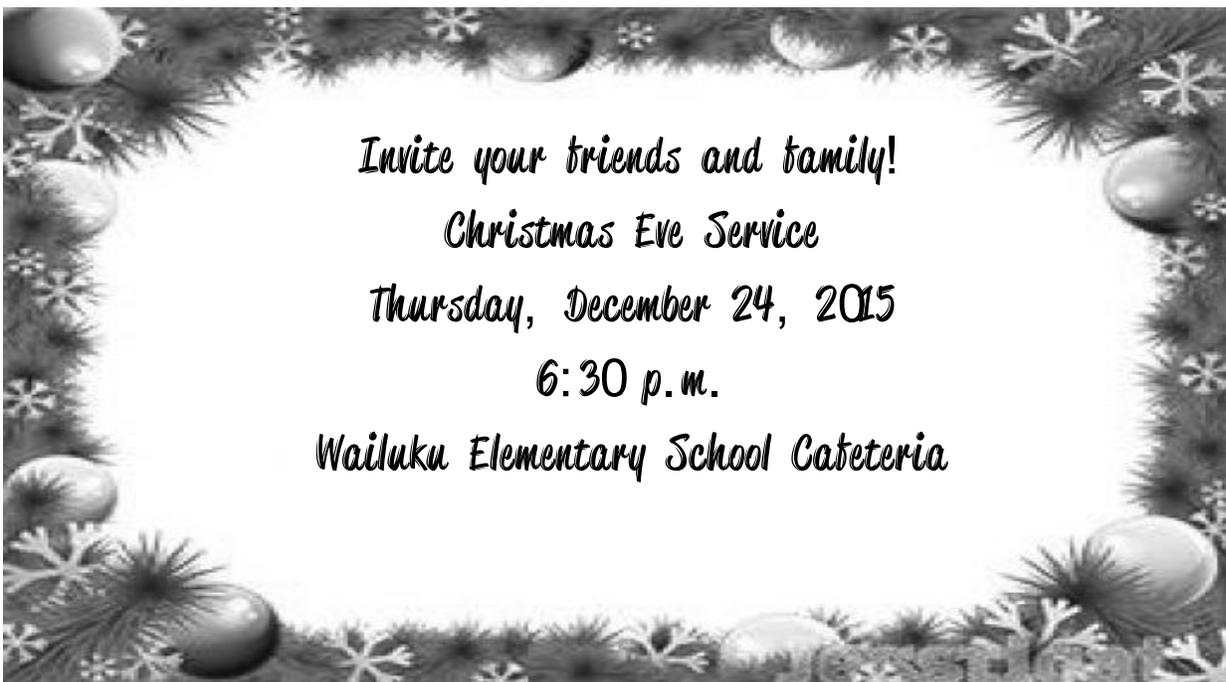
**Where:** VIF High  
Street Sanctuary



**What:** A men's  
breakfast and a time to  
plan for a VIF Big Game

**Why:** Fellowship

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



Presented by  
Maui Philippine Baptist  
Church Choir

A Christmas Musical

7:00 pm,

Dec. 20, 2015

at

Kahului Baptist Church  
309 S. Puunene Ave.,  
Kahului

7:00 pm, Dec. 21, 2015

at

Queen Kaahumanu  
Shopping Center

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



**DISASTER RELIEF**  
call Church Office  
244-0865

**Church Cleaning Ministry**  
call Church Office  
244-0865

*Malama Pregnancy Center of Maui*  
280-5810  
[Jenn.mpcmaui@gmail.com](mailto:Jenn.mpcmaui@gmail.com)

**CRISIS CARE MINISTRY**  
Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro  
419-8100

**Handyman Ministry**  
Andy Sniffen  
264-0526

**“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving”**  
**Colossians 4:2 (ESV)**

Here are opportunities to gather together in prayer

**Sunday; 6am**  
**(Pastor Jeremy’s Office)**

**Monday; 10 am & 6:30 pm**  
**(High St Sanctuary)**

Gather together to pray for God to move within ourselves, our church, community, nation and world. Please join us for these very powerful times with the Lord and our brothers and sisters.

## Sundays Schedule

<b>6:00 am</b> Prayer Meeting <i>(Pastor Jeremy’s Office)</i>	<b>10:30 am</b> Sunday School <i>(Children &amp; Youth-High St Property; Adults-WES)</i>
<b>7:00 am</b> Set-up	
<b>9:00 am</b> Worship Service <i>(no childcare)</i>	<b>6:00 pm</b> Evening Service <i>(High St Property)</i>

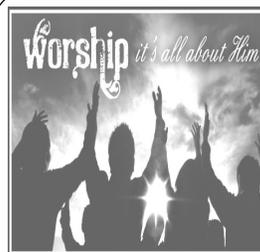
# Valley Isle Fellowship Calendar

## December 2015

- 20 6 am - Prayer Time (Pastor Jeremy's Office)  
9 am - Pastor Stephen  
10:30 am - Sunday School at High St Property  
- Adult Sunday School @ WES  
6 pm - Pastor Stephen
- 21 10 am - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary  
6:30 pm - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary
- 23 6:30 pm - Youth Group "Fuel" @ Sanctuary
- 24 12 noon - Office closes  
6:30 pm - Christmas Eve Service (WES) - Pastor  
Jeremy
- 25 Christmas Day - Office closed
- 27 6 am - Prayer Time (Pastor Jeremy's Office)  
9 am - Pastor Darren  
10:30 am - Sunday School at High St Property  
- Adult Sunday School @ WES  
6 pm - Pastor Stephen
- 28 10 am - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary  
6:30 pm - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary
- 30 6:30 pm - Youth Group "Fuel" @ Sanctuary
- 31 12 noon - Office closes

## January 2016

- 1 New Years Day - Office Closed
- 3 6 am - Prayer Time (Pastor Jeremy's Office)  
9 am - Pastor Stephen  
10:30 am - Sunday School at High St Property  
- Adult Sunday School @ WES  
6 pm - Pastor Stephen
- 4 10 am - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary  
6:30 pm - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary
- 6 6:30 pm - Youth Group "Fuel" @ Sanctuary
- 10 6 am - Prayer Time (Pastor Jeremy's Office)  
9 am - Pastor Stephen  
10:30 am - Sunday School at High St Property  
- Adult Sunday School @ WES  
6 pm - Pastor Stephen



### Today's Worship Songs

Angels We Have Heard On High

Hark The Herald Angels Sing

Joy

## Valley Isle Fellowship

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

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### SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

Wailuku Elementary School Cafeteria  
355 S High St. Wailuku, HI 96793

Service - 9:00 am

Sunday School - 10:30 am

(Children & Youth Sunday School at High Street property;  
Adults at WES)

#### Associate Pastor

Darren Sarmiento  
Cell: (808) 757-1651

Email: [darrenvif@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:darrenvif@hawaii.rr.com)

#### Senior Pastor

Stephen Kaneshiro  
Cell: (808) 419-8100

Email: [icastephen@gmail.com](mailto:icastephen@gmail.com)

121 Ho`owaiwai Lp #801  
Wailuku, HI 96793

#### Associate Pastor

Jeremy Kaneshiro  
Cell: (808) 280-2780

Email: [vifjeremy@gmail.com](mailto:vifjeremy@gmail.com)



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