

December 22, 2013

Look Around, Lift Up, & Laugh With

The Christmas Season is a time of much love and joy. However, it is also a time of great sorrow, loneliness, and despair. This kind of great personal pain is there because of the recent loss of a loved one. The joy and reunion seen in many just emphasizes the loneliness of those without a loving and supportive community. The happiness and joy of what seems to be everybody, deepens the despair of those who seem like they have no hope.

We in the body of Christ have the hope and remedy for those whose personal pains seem to be heightened during this Christmas Season. We can share with those around us the hope that can be found only in Jesus Christ. We need to look around, lift up, and laugh with those in personal despair.

Look around because all around us are people who are suffering with this kind of pain. They are within our biological families, our church families, and even in the circle of our friendship families. People who are doing their best to mask these pains by trying to quietly slip through the cracks and disappear so they can suffer in solitude. These are people that might resist you, but need to know of your love and care. People who may try to avoid you but need to know that you notice and care. People who may display grumpiness and even anger, but need to know that you still love them.

These people try to go unnoticed, but they need you. They are all around us and we need to look around and see them.

When these people are discovered, they need to be lifted up with the love of Jesus Christ. They need to know that the Love of God through Jesus Christ, is meant for them. Even though they may have just lost a loved one, they need to know that their loved one is in the hands of the Lord, and they are in the hands of the Lord. The Lord desires to turn their sorrows into joy. He desires for them to have an abundant life.

Their loneliness may be heightened and deepened because of the joy that they see in others. We need to share with them that they don't have to remain in a state of loneliness, but they can experience the joy and abundance that the Lord desires them to have. However, the answer to this is that they have to move to Him and not away from Him. They need to allow Him to shower them with His love, grace, forgiveness, and healing. They need to stop running from and to stop rejecting Him.

Their personal pain is increased when they see the joy that is all around them. Their sense of hopelessness is increased because their hope has been grounded on what they could do and what they have and are experiencing. We need to share with them that if they change their perspective to a reliance on Jesus Christ and what He has already done for them, then they can experience the Hope of All Glory, which is new life in Jesus Christ.

You see, hope is not grounded on what you can do or what you have or are experiencing. Real hope is grounded on what Jesus has already done for us.

This hope is still grounded in spite of what we have or may be experiencing. This is hope is the hope of glory that says that regardless of what we are going through, the Bible tells us that we are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ. We are not victims, but victors. We may be going through tough times now, but we know how the story ends.

Dear people of VIF. When we look around and lift up those who are around us, we can also laugh with them as they rejoice in the hope and glory that only Jesus Christ can give to them. These are people in need. They are people in need of the Love, Grace, Forgiveness, and Healing that only Jesus can give them.

Let's look around, lift up, and laugh with those in personal pain that are all around us. God bless you and have a Merry Christmas.



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Yours in Christ
Stephen Kaneshiro

.....Better Than Jesus?

In John 14:12-14 it says, ¹² *"I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father."* ¹³ *You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father.* ¹⁴ *Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!*

When you initially read these verses, you would assume that this pertains to doing things better than Jesus. However, I'd like to share with you that this is not what Jesus is saying. Think about it, who is able to preach better than Jesus, the one who preaches with authority? Who is able to do miracles better than Jesus, like feeding the five thousand with some fish and bread and have 12 basketful of leftovers? What about turning stones into bread, raising the dead to life, healing the sick and lame, giving sight to the blind and calming the storms with his spoken word. When you look at it that way, how are we able to do anything better than Jesus?

What Jesus is really saying in context is that you will have greater opportunities of outreach when sharing the gospel and discipling people. Jesus said in **Acts 1:8**,

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

When Peter received the Holy Spirit he preached the gospel to the Jews at Pentecost and 3000 of them believed in Jesus. Another time Peter and John preach the gospel and 5000 more men not counting women and children believed in Jesus. In **Acts 8** the Jews who believed in Jesus were being persecuted for their faith in Him and it scattered them all over the region.

Their sharing also spread to the Gentiles. Because of this, both Jews and Gentiles began to believe in Him. Scholars have said that the Apostles and many other disciples have reached more people with the gospel than Jesus when he walked this earth in the flesh, and that is precisely the point Jesus was stating in John 14:12. However, we need to be reminded that we will never do or be better than Jesus because we must realize that it is still Christ working through us by the power of the Holy Spirit, to reach more people with the good news. We need to be a people asking Jesus to use us not to be better than Him but to give others an opportunity to believe in Him and become Christ-like.

Pastor Darren
Sarmiento



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.

Pastor Jeremy

The example and the fuel

Philippians 2:1-11

1. The blessings of gospel community (vs.1-2)

_____ (vs.1a)

Comfort from _____ (vs.1b)

_____ with and in the Spirit (vs.1c)

_____ and sympathy (vs.1d)

_____ (vs.2)

2. The key to unity: _____ (vs.3-5)

Humility isn't _____ or _____. (vs. 3)

Humility considers _____ more significant (vs.4-5)

3. Christ is our example (vs. 6-11)

Although Lord, He didn't cling to his _____ or _____ (vs. 6)

In letting go of his status and rights, he put on _____ (vs.7)

His humble mission was about _____ (vs.8)

Jesus' victory voids my need to seek my _____ or _____. (vs.9-11)

NOTES:

Pastor Stephen
Prayer that Exalts Jesus Christ
John 17:1-8

- I. Jesus always does things at the _____!
- A. Galatians 4:4 (NLT) – “But when the right time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman, subject to the law.
1. Not too _____ & not too _____.
 2. At just the _____.
- B. v. 1 “...the hour has come.”
1. The time of His final act to bring _____ & _____ to all mankind – His _____ and _____.
 2. Before the cross – He had the opportunity to _____ the Father.
 3. After the cross – He _____ the Father.
 4. Because the “hour” had come, He _____ about this hour, He _____ over this hour, and He _____ for this hour.
- II. Jesus is to be _____.
- A. v. 1 – Here Jesus asks the Father to _____ Him.
1. This is so He can return the _____ to the _____.
 2. This is because He has _____ over everyone and it is only through Him that men can have _____ – v. 2
- B. v. 4 – Jesus Glorified the Father by _____ all that the Father _____ to Him.
1. v. 6 – Jesus has _____ and _____ to the Father those who are His.
 2. These are _____ ones who have _____ the Father’s words.
 3. v. 7 – “everything I have is a gift from you.”
 - a. What did Jesus _____?
 - b. Did He have earthly _____?
 - c. Did He have earthly _____?
 - d. Did He have earthly _____?
 - e. Did He have the message of _____?
 4. v. 8 – The message of eternal life has been _____ .
 - a. They _____ and _____ it.
 - b. Do you believe that they would continue to spread this same _____, no matter what the _____ may be?
- III. Jesus’ ultimate _____ is Out Of This World
- A. v. 5 – “the glory we shared before the world began.”
- B. This is a plea to return to _____ and to be seated at the _____ right hand.
- IV. So when you pray, Seek to _____ the Lord Jesus Christ!!!

NOTES:

ANNOUNCEMENT



VIF Surf Ministry

December 23, 2013
(Monday)
8 am—12 pm
Kalama Beach Park

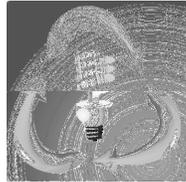
COME JOIN US

For more information call Daryl Quenga

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. 28, 2013 (Saturday) @ 6 PM Worship Center

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 other 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 28th 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. 28th.

PRAYER MEETING CANCELLED

Dec 25, 2013 and January 1, 2014
will be cancelled. We will
resume this meeting on
January 8, 2014.



CHILD CARE SCHEDULE

TODAY

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

December 29

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



Kids' Christmas Presentation

at Maui Philippine Baptist Church

7:00pm, December 22, 2013
You are invited.

309 S. Puunene Avenue, Kahului

ANNOUNCEMENT

6

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 6:30 PM

Our annual Christmas Eve service will be held on Tuesday,
December 24th

Wailuku Elementary School Cafeteria

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



*Christmas
Eve*

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

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

- 20 - DOE last day of School
- 22 - am Pastor Jeremy
pm Stephen - Prayer that Exalts Jesus
- 24 - 6:30 pm Pastor Jeremy - Christmas Eve Svs
- 29 - am Pastor Darren - Jesus, the Hope for the Future
pm Jeremy - Prayer that Protects the Church

January 2014

- 5 - am Pastor Stephen
Noon-2pm Worker Recruitment & Training Orientation
pm Pastor Darren - Prayer for those who will be saved
- 7 - DOE Students return to school
- 9 - 8am-3pm MCBA Pastors' Conference
(Kihei Baptist Chapel)
- 12 - am Pastor Jeremy
pm Stephen - Prayer for VIF
- 19 - am Pastor Darren - Sanctity of Human Life
pm Jeremy
- 20 - Martin Luther King Day Holiday
Surf Ministry
- 23 - MCBA Executive Board Mtg
- 26- am Pastor Stephen
pm Pastor Darren

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