

Waves of Faith

Kailua Christian Church (United Church of Christ)
317 Manono Street, Kailua, HI 96734-2211
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FROM OUR MODERATOR

I have been watching and enjoying a TV series called “The Bear”. It is a story about an elite chef named Carmy Berzatto who returns home to Chicago after his drug addict older brother dies by suicide and leaves him the local family sandwich shop. He inherits the shop and rejoins a collection of longtime friends and co-workers.

On July 16, 2023, David French wrote an article in the New York Times entitled: “‘The Bear’ and the Need for a Place to Belong”. It’s about an interesting and difficult character in the show named Richie Jerimovich. I encourage you to read the article. Richie is not easy to like or get along with. He is loud and confrontational; he curses a lot and doesn’t think that he has any skills or value, and his life is filled with broken relationships. Carmy and Richie, nevertheless, call each other cousin and they keep working with each other. Carmy expresses his love for Richie by making it clear to Richie that he has a place and a purpose.

The gist of the article and Richie’s character and the show is that we all need a place to belong no matter how much pain we are in or how much we are suffering or how difficult we are to be around. David French quotes scripture in his article and describes Richie and our nation as follows:

One of the most beautiful passages in all of Scripture is in the Book of Isaiah. In Christian tradition, the prophet describes the coming messiah and declares, “A bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench.” Richie is the very definition of a

bruised reed, and as is so often the case, his bruises don’t manifest themselves in attractive ways. It’s easy to love someone who presents as vulnerable. It’s harder to love those who manifest their pain with rage and snarls. I’ve seen this with my own eyes. I’ve seen how we’ve become a nation of bruised reeds, busy breaking one another. We see the rage but we miss the pain. We exclude the very people we most need to include. We lash back to inflict even greater wounds. We forget to seek the virtues hidden under a shell of vice.

So many people all around us are in pain and suffering and are hard to love. These include our family members, our co-workers, our neighbors, our homeless neighbors, our friends with mental illnesses and our addicted friends and relatives. I suspect that all of these people are bruised reeds that are in need of someone like Carmy and a virtual family like the people in the sandwich shop. We need to figure out how to be more like Carmy, making it clear to all our bruised reeds that they have a place and a purpose with us.

No matter how bruised or faint we are, God will not break us or quench out our fire. The O Holy Night Christmas Carol lyrics say: “Long lay the world in sin and error pining, ‘til He appears, and the soul felt its worth”. We need to show and express our love for the bruised reeds and the faintly burning wicks to make it known that He has appeared, and all of our souls can now feel our worth. We have a place and a purpose with God too.



DEACONS CORNER**Growing to Love by Not Being Indifferent**

God brought us to earth in a physical body to face challenges and situations that help us learn and grow so we can become more like Him.

Your body belongs to the earth and one day it will die but your spirit goes on forever. Everything you do in your journey on earth matters to God. He wants you to be diligent in meeting others' needs as well as managing your own.

God gives us the gift of free will so that we can make choices which means we also have to make earthly decisions. God wants you to make wise choices, and he has given you an open invitation to ask for wisdom (James 1:5). One of the great things about having the power to choose is that if you don't like the place, you are in your life right now, you can change it!

"The opposite of love is not anger. It's indifference." This is one of my favorite Tim Keller quotes.

Simply put, indifference is apathy. It is a psychological situation centered on a lack of compassion, sympathy, empathy, or concern. Indifference encourages one to remain at a distance from a situation, challenge, conflict, or confrontation, not caring about how something plays out.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not mistreat, it does not seek its own interests, it is not easily angered, it does not hold grudges. Love does not rejoice in injustice, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things (1 Corinthians 13).

God is love and He is not indifferent.

The Bible itself directly relates love to action, to compassion, that is, to caring. In 1 John 3:17-18, it is written: "If anyone has material resources

and sees his brother in need and has no pity on him, how can the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and in truth".

To love in thought is much easier than to love in deed. When we love in deed we choose to walk beside the other, which can be difficult, when we live in an individualistic world. But we, as the light of the world and the salt of this earth, cannot conform to the standards of society, but to the standard proposed by the Word. We need to love our neighbor as ourselves and if this biblical love is a reality in our lives, we will never be indifferent to the pain of others, be it emotional, physical or financial.

You can be used as a tool in someone's life to make a difference and if you have ever had the opportunity to make a difference in someone's life, you know the joy and reassurance it brings to the heart and how it makes our God happy. May we be willing to listen to the other, to care for those around us.

Over and over, the Bible teaches us a key to overcome fear God's way is to put aside our fears, telling us that He "has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline". (2 Timothy 1:7).

By rejoicing daily that there is a perfect life to be had ahead, you can get through the imperfections and be glad for your life in the here-and-now.

God wants us to be audacious in his call to love others. To put others ahead of ourselves, love people we don't like (or don't even know), and share our resources generously. It's love that forces us to grow.

The July Deacons Benevolence Fund offering was a tremendous success. KCC was able to collect \$4,895.00. This will definitely help applicants who are seeking financial help from our church. Thank you so much for opening up your hearts in giving generously.

Vernon Pang – KCC Deacon

PRAYERS & PRAISES**Please keep in your prayers**

- ~ Healing for Jean Miyaji at Plaza
- ~ Warren and Lynne Nakano
- ~ Florence Miyashiro ~ Sharon Mon
- ~ Dot Suzuki ~ Wilma Chung
- ~ John Sakamoto, son-in-law, Tony Sarabia and Coreen and Cheryl (John's daughters)
- ~ Myrtle & Lowell Terada continued health
- ~ Henry Tom, and son-in-laws, **James**/Claire Steele and **Rick**/Val Aquino ~ Kira Chong
- ~ Sharon Nishihira ~ Steve Hammann
- ~ Sharon's friend, Erin ~ Larry & Sandra Siu
- ~ Harrison Lum ~ Damien Wong
- ~ Dennis Nakashima ~ Macadangdang Ohana
- ~ Mia's last season of soccer at Stanford.
- ~ Jiggs Tamashiro, Stella Wakamatsu and daughter Michi, Nani Oda, Nancy Arakaki, Walter Yeda, Brian Nakashima, Harry Imai, Hazel Masuda, Carl Nemoto, Jean Kana-zawa, and all our families dealing with high-risk health factors.
- ~ Prayers For our Worship Team & Musicians
- ~ Pray for healing for Chaplain Clive Cowell.
- ~ Family of Steve Marsh on his passing.
- ~ Maureen Wakuzawa's mom recovery
- ~ Ed & Noelani Jai
- ~ Aaron's retirement and new job of grandpa.

**NA ANELA I KA HANA A KE AKUA**

(Angels in the Works for God)

LEARNING IS LIFELONG!

Forty members and friends (including **Annette's** prayer group sisters) thoroughly enjoyed **Annette Kam's Wait – Don't Die Yet!** presentation on July 22, based on her caregiving experience for both, her father-in-law and mother in law. What an inspiring true story!

Annette also brought her mother-in-law's cousin, Jeannette Kaneshiro, who actually recommended this learning experience for all of you.

Many commented on Annette's charm, humor, enthusiasm and amazing ability to communicate/motivate all of us. Comments included: "Best class ever; Wow – such an awesome speaker!; Wonderful presentation!; Outstanding!; Thank you – loved her presentation!"

It's no wonder that all 50 **Wait – Don't Die Yet!** books were quickly sold! Requests to purchase more books can be arranged at her special price of \$15. Please contact Kammy (808-261-0125) or Myra (808-348-2297) by July 31 if you are interested. Thank you all for supporting Annette's God-led mission of educating others in "helping you complete all necessary tasks you need before and after saying goodbye".

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Aisha Hassan
Howard O Yoshida
Mary Ann Nemoto
Hamza Hassan
Gail Yoneshige
Alianna Ramos
Cassie Grable
Karen Miyahara

Jane Tengan
Mikey Pangilinan
Michele Pangilinan
Kanani Todd
Rev. Irene Willis
Hassan

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Ken & Chris Nakamatsu
Eric & Mary Ann Nemoto
Vernon & Jennifer Pang
Aaron & Colette Tanaka



(Na Anela article continues)

St. Francis Healthcare System's Caregiver Education and Wellness Series continue to provide excellent caregiving and health/wellness classes for the community.

St. Francis Healthcare System of Hawaii's Caregiver Education and Wellness Series.

The schedule of August classes can be found at: <https://www.stfrancishawaii.org/s/courses>. You can sign up directly online.

Individual Classes:

Aug 04: Fri, 9:30 – 10:30 am; Rooted in Wellness: Ho'okua'aina visit at Kapalei

Aug 11: Fri, 10 – 11:30 am; Medicare Basics

Aug 15: Tue, 5 – 6 pm; Muscle Stiffness and Spasticity

Aug 18: Fri, 10 – 11:30 am; Hands-on Bathing

Aug 31: Thu, 5 – 6:30 pm; Social Security Benefits and You

Weekly Session Classes:

Aug 01 - 29: Tue, 9 – 10 am; Body and Brain Yoga Tai Chi

Aug 01 - 29: Tue and Fri, 12 - 12:30 pm; Boxing Fundamentals

Aug 02 - 30: Sat, 8 - 9 am; Zumba Gold by Francis via Zoom

Aug 5 – 26: Mon, Wed and Fri, 5:15 – 6:30 pm; Zumba by Frances via Zoom

Aug 02 - 30: Wed, 8 – 9 am; Empower You! (focus is on people with Parkinson's)

Aug 07 - 28: Mon, 8 - 9 am; Big Moves! Monday (focus is on people with Parkinson's)

Aug 03 - 31: Thu, 9 – 10 am; Tripudio Movement System with Ellie

Note: *In-person sessions will be held at Senior Community Center at the Kupuna Village in Liliha.*

Contact me at yamadamyra@hawaii.rr.com or call (808) 348-2297 if you have questions.

Please invest your time and energy in any one of these free and informative classes.

Mahalo, Stay Healthy and God Bless! Myra



BIBLE INSTITUTE OF HAWAII NEWS

“Growing in The Word”

No Registration or Fee Required

August 23 & 30 (2/4 weeks left)

Wednesdays, 7:15 – 8:30 pm

ALL INVITED on Zoom – FREE!

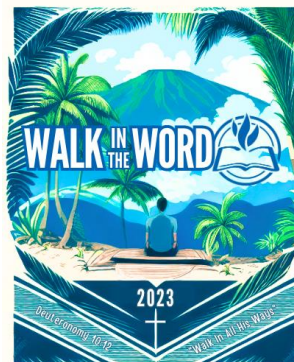
[ZOOM Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 850 8617 3674 Passcode:

bihchapel

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85086173674?pwd=azZsNlpxbzBJTTdZeVhtNFFlVUt看pdz09>

BIH Walk in the Word: “Walk in All His Ways” (Dt. 10:12)



**REGISTRATION
ONLINE opening soon!**

Date: Saturday, September 16, 2023

Time: 8:00-10:30 am

Location: Kalihi Union Church Gym

Registration Fee: \$30 (Includes a commemorative T-shirt!)

Come support this great ministry who has been a great support to us throughout the years.

“JUST SHOW UP” ON ZOOM

Join BIH for the Public Reading of Scripture!
Free – No registration required. Just Show Up!

Aug. 01 - Aug. 29, 2023 Tues. 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.
Rodney Wong and Jason Sumner co-facilitators.

BIH Fall Quarter offering great classes.

**Sign up for a 8 week class to be held here on
Monday evenings, September 25 thru
November 13, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

THE ORDER OF SALVATION

Dr. Rick Bartosik, facilitator

Register online at www.biblehawaii.org for more details and other seminars coming up!
Ask about “The Bring a Friend for Free” offer.

MOMENTS TO REMEMBER

Sharing pictures to celebrate
and that makes you smile.



Mia Anne
Watanabe, April
Jessee, and John
Sakamoto

Day of
Testimonies.



Excited keikis enjoying their first Kailua Fourth of July Parade! Grandpa Paul Grable and Lisa and Grandma Jolene Chang watch their ohana who were visiting from CA and from chinatown.

The awesome men of Kailua!



Vernon Pang, Dennis Fong, Paul Grable, and
Barney Pilla. Thanking God for them!



Aisha and daddy, Hamza celebrate both their
birthdays here at KCC. Birthday blessings!



Aloha alive
and well at
KCC.
Aunty Alice
and Aunty
Nani
enjoying the
fellowship
at Na Anela
Event.



Teradas to the rescue! Dump run and awesome
manpower from Joan, Mark, and Lowell!

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Welcoming our guest pastors!

We look forward to having Rev. David Yoshida join us on Sunday, August 6 to provide the message and also serve the sacrament of Holy Communion for us. David grew up attending Kalihi Union Church, graduated from Iolani, and eventually obtained his Master's in Divinity. He serves at The Giving Circle Church, a church in formation with the Oahu Association UCC. This will be the first time he will be joining us and we look forward to his visit.

We are also so looking forward to Pastor Irene Willis Hassan sharing her first message as our new settled Pastor on Sunday, August 13th. We look forward to many more! Come join us in welcoming her!



IHS welcomes all!

In 1978, IHS first opened its doors. Completely run by volunteers, their first location offered programs for Hawaii's homeless population: meals, case management, employment services, and help to navigate health care systems. They are celebrating 45 years in the community... with their community, and will celebrate this milestone with a Community Volunteer Day called Malama Meetup. Contact volunteer@ihshawaii.org for more information



**YOU CAN MAKE
A DIFFERENCE!**

**A big mahalo for
your support!!!**

Mālama Meetup Community Volunteer Day

**Join us on August 19th and participate in our
community volunteer day!**

Volunteer opportunities are available at multiple IHS locations, in the morning, afternoon, and evening.

[View all projects and sign up](#)