



## He Is Nearer Now

*Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro*

Matthew 24 is a passage of scripture that might be helpful for you to keep before you in these days of un-

**Jesus  
is coming  
soon.  
Are you ready?**

precedented turmoil and challenge. I don't want to alarm you and say to you that the end is impending because no one knows when that will happen

*(Matthew 24:36 (NLT) "However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows.)* However, scripture does say that we should be aware of the times *(Matthew 24:32-33 (NLT) <sup>32</sup> "Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branches bud and its leaves begin to sprout, you know that summer is near. <sup>33</sup> In the same way, when you see all these things, you can know his return is very near, right at the door.)* Therefore, knowing the Word of God and being able to accurately evaluate what is happening in the world today are all very vital in being able to love and obey Jesus Christ.

Many of the things in Matthew 24 seem to be so relevant that it is almost like reading through the headlines in today's newspapers. For instance *(Matthew 24:4-8 (NLT) <sup>4</sup> Jesus told them, "Don't let anyone mislead you, <sup>5</sup> for many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah.' They will deceive many. <sup>6</sup> And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately. <sup>7</sup> Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. <sup>8</sup> But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come.)* The tensions in our country and in the world are many. I count at least three major crises that are hitting us in the U.S. One is the COVID-19 Pandemic. Two is the faltering and maybe even the collapse of our economy because of joblessness. Finally, the third crisis is the moral

collapse that is being demonstrated in all of the riots that are flooding in on us.

The Word of God also tells us that sin will be rampant all around us. But we are to be vigilant and diligent in loving and obeying our Lord *(Matthew 24:12-13 (NLT) <sup>12</sup> Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> But the one who endures to the end will be saved.)* We are being called at this very moment to endure until the end. "Enduring" is a term that warns us to make every effort to hang on tightly to the Lord, no matter what may happen. It is telling me that it won't be easy, but it is also telling me that "enduring" will result in us being "saved."

To me, Matthew 24 is not a detailed road map that is telling us all of the signs leading to the "end of days," but rather a note of encouragement that if these grand signs begin to appear, "Don't Give Up!" This may not be the "end of days" but this is also not a time to get discouraged and to give up! This is a time to hang on and to be even more true and loyal to Jesus Christ.

Some of the questions that you might reflect on that might give you encouragement during these trying days are:

- "Has Jesus ever failed you?"
- "What is the greatest gift that He has given to you?"
- "Did you deserve it?"



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# He Is Nearer Now

*Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro*

“Why did He offer it to you?”

“What did it cost Him?”

“What did you have to do to receive it?”

“What does He desire of you?”

“Will He ever fail you?”

If you are having difficulty answering these questions, please feel to give me a call (808-419-8100) and I will be honored to help you navigate through these questions. He loves you so much, especially during these days, and He is asking us to love and trust Him. Remember, you will not be able to trust Him, unless you love Him. Matthew 22:37-40 needs to be applied first in our lives, because this is the Greatest Commandment, before you can apply Proverbs 3:5-6. How can you trust someone with your whole life if you don't love Him with your whole life? God bless you as you navigate the path to loving and trusting Him with all your life.

\* \* \* \* \*



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Valley Isle Fellowship

**251 Pualalea Circle**

**Wailuku, HI 96793**

“Thank you”



## **GRIEF SHARE SUPPORT GROUP**

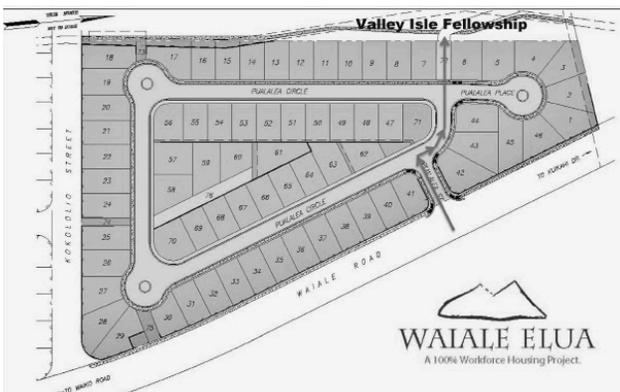
**Session starts June 6 - August 29**

**13 Saturdays 8 am- 10 am**

**@ Valley Isle Fellowship**

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or contact Don Booth @ (808)495-1628**

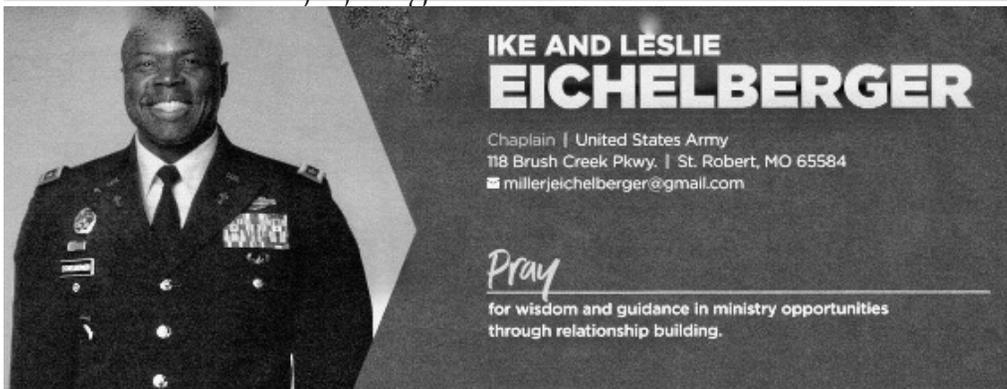


We are now using our permanent entrance on Pualalea Circle off of Waiale Road.



# MISSION NEWS

## NAMB Missionary Spotlight:



### Chaplaincy

Pray for the more than 3,500 SBC-endorsed military, healthcare and public safety chaplains as they do the difficult work of pastoring in uniform and supporting and counseling people in time of crisis.



## International Mission Board

*Connecting in Prayer*

<https://www.imb.org/pray/>

### \* Tea River People of South Asia

“Nearly every pastor or Christian worker I know has called to ask for help,” said Aquila,\* a harvest worker, recounting how difficult times are during the coronavirus lockdown in his South Asian country. Unable to work during the lockdown, day laborers have lost their income, and many furloughed employees who had climbed above the poverty level have now fallen back below it. “Yes, we want to help believers, but we also want to gain entry into new areas and strengthen relationships in other villages so that we will have opportunities to preach the gospel and make disciples,” Aquila added. Lately, desperately hungry people have attacked aid workers when there wasn’t enough food to go around. Beggars have become more belligerent and even violent, and other people have resorted to begging, stealing, or even suicide rather than watch their families starve. As Aquila and other Christian workers coordinate food relief distributions in the Tea River Area, ask God to give wisdom in decision making for where, when, and how to distribute the food effectively and safely. Pray for the protection and safety of the workers and those helping them give relief. Ask God to use the food relief efforts to show His lovingkindness to hurting people, to open doors for the gospel, and to draw people to Himself. (\*name changed)

### \* Peoples of Ghana

“We have asked before for prayer for the Gills,\* an unreached Muslim people group,” writes the Convention Team. “A person from this people group is a believer and wants to reach his people for Christ. First, there was no one to help. Then, he disobeyed and ran to the sea. He called himself ‘Jonah’ when he returned. Next, there was all the time needed to restart church partnerships and get financial support. Currently, a longtime medical condition has resurfaced, and he cannot travel. He is doing therapy given to him by a physical therapist; surgery would be the next step. Pray for Isaac\* to be encouraged. Pray for his wife to support the idea of becoming a missionary family. Petition for obedience in all things. One day in early May, as Muslims observed the Islamic month of Ramadan, Christian Ghanaians prayed for the Gill people during a special Ramadan days of prayer focus. This people group is resistant to the gospel. Some Great Commission Christian organizations are working in the surrounding areas. Please pray for the salvation of the Gill people. (\*names changed)

### \* Macedonians of Macedonia

(ma-suh-DOH-nyuns) - “Please lift up the teams here in Macedonia as we continue to navigate plans for the summer months. While the coronavirus has left its mark here, we are hopeful to still host an event this month to draw in multiple unbelieving families, giving us opportunities to share the story and love of Christ with them in very real and personal ways. Please pray for the Lord’s wisdom and guidance for both us and our country’s leadership during this season. Thank you!”

# In the Face of Evil, There is Power in the Lord

*Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro*

I. \_\_\_\_\_ God. – *Ephesians 5:1-4*

A. In \_\_\_\_\_ you do.

B. You are His \_\_\_\_\_.

C. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ.

D. Be filled with \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

II. Don't be \_\_\_\_\_. – *Ephesians 5:5-9*

A. \_\_\_\_\_ will not make it.

B. Don't be fooled by " \_\_\_\_\_ " \_\_\_\_\_.

C. God's anger falls on the \_\_\_\_\_.

D. People of \_\_\_\_\_.

III. \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord. – *Ephesians 5:10-20*

A. Be careful in \_\_\_\_\_ what pleases the Lord.

B. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ in but \_\_\_\_\_ evil.

C. Remember that Christ \_\_\_\_\_ you from the dead to the \_\_\_\_\_.

D. Be careful in bringing \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord.

E. Live a life of \_\_\_\_\_.