



# The Cornerstone

*“Changed Lives Changing Lives.”*

## Love Notes

### Has God Ever Seemed Far Away?



Pastor Barry

Have there ever been times in your life when God seemed far away? If you answered “yes” you are not alone. Job asked, “*Oh that I knew where I might find Him.*” (Job 23:3) Likewise, Isaiah was heard to say, “*You are a God that hides yourself, O God of Israel.*” (Isaiah 45:15)

Isn't it ironic

***“You shall seek me, and find me, when you shall search for me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:3)***

though, that we should have difficulty finding God when the very essence of salvation is God's search for us? Jesus promised, “...seek and you shall

find...” (Matthew 7:7) In spite of this promise and others like it, you and I on occasion may face obstacles in finding a deep sense of closeness with God. Here are some thoughts about why we may at times find it difficult to experience a deep closeness with God.

1. We don't really take enough time to get close to God. Isaiah 44 speaks about a man who first provides for the necessities of life and the only after these needs are met does he take time to seek and worship. That's often the way we approach God. First come the bare essentials, next, time for pleasure, and then, and only then do we consider God.

2. We may have a misconception about our relationship with God requiring a lot of outward observances. For instance, the Pharisees viewed the correctness of their outward appearance, carefulness of diet and a host of other things as being most important. Yet, through these outward acts they did not find God.

3. Often our search for

God becomes an extension of our own selfishness. We don't really want God, we want His blessing. We attempt to use God rather than allowing Him to use us.

4. We are not ready to make the commitments Christ demands. We'd like to experience the blessing of His presence but are we ready to live the way He says we must? Nothing seemed to puzzle Jesus more than people who professed to be His disciples and yet refused to follow His teachings. He said, “*Why do you call me Lord and do not the things I say?*” (Luke 6:46)

While these are some possible reasons God may sometimes seem far away, let me say it again... The essence of Christianity is not man's pitiful, stumbling climb upward to God, but rather God's magnificent, glorious search for man. Through Jeremiah God promised long ago, “*You shall seek me, and find me, when you shall search for me with all your heart.*” (Jeremiah 29:3)

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## Happy Birthday First Baptist Church... By Sharon Dumas

On February 12, 1930 a few Baptists gathered at Prince Kuhio School Auditorium to establish the charter for First Baptist Church and Bible College of Honolulu, T.H. The group met at Queen Kaahumanu School for a couple years but struggled with disagreements. In the summer of 1932, Dr. John Dean brought leadership. The name of the church was changed to Calvary Baptist Church. In the 1930's the church decided to rent the facilities of the Makiki Christian Church which was then located on our present site in the old Hawaiian Ahupua'a of Kulaokahua. In 1938, the Baptists purchased the property for \$5,700.00. To the left is a picture of the building that came to be known as "Termite Palace". The mortgage was paid off in 1942 with a few generous donations from the members. In the 1930's the congregation sought to establish a relationship first with the Southern Baptists and then with the General Association of regular Baptists but nothing permanent happened. In the mid 1940's the church became associated with the Northern Baptists of Southern California. That group was later renamed American Baptists. During the War, the church ministered to prison inmates, to servicemen and others via a radio program.



*The "Old Building" which served the congregation of Makiki Christian Church from 1905-1932 and was later sold to First Baptist*

After the war there were more internal conflicts within the church. Doctor Fickett was assigned to go to Hawaii to close the floundering church but he was able to turn it around. In the mid 1950's the church name was changed to the First Baptist Church of Honolulu. Under the next pastor Robert Bradford, the church started 3 churches: one in Kailua, one in Ewa and one in Pearl Harbor. The Kailua church still exists as First Baptist Windward. In the late 1950's the church expanded by building the educational building. At about the same time, the old "Termite Palace" had to be torn down and the present sanctuary was dedicated on Nov. 14, 1963.

Notice the two way traffic on Pensacola and the absence of high rises around the church. During the early 60's the church had a ministry at the East West Center. In the late 1960's the church opened a day care center which served the community for about 15 years. Trinity Baptist also became part of the Hawaii Association of American Baptist Churches at this time. The late 70's brought more financial difficulties. However, on the eve of our Jubilee Celebration, President Carter sent the congregation a letter expressing congratulations on its ministry. Some of us remember such terms as "Positive Christian Singles", "Akamai Hui", and the "E.M.E. Class" from the last part of the 20th century. For the last 30 years the church has had its ups and downs but is flourishing today. We presently have three weekly services and a weekly television broadcast. We look



*The construction site of our current sanctuary*

forward to the day in 2026 when we will open our time capsule which is enclosed in the courtyard. Today we are covenanting members with Transformation Ministries. Since its founding the church has been led by about 15 different pastors. The three pastors who served the longest (about 11 years each) are Edward M. Shipman, William R. Tipton, and Alfred Van Selow. (If you have old pictures or memories of the church that you would like to share, please contact me.)

**On the Web/TV... [www.intouch.org](http://www.intouch.org)** - In Touch Ministries with Charles Stanley has just started a series on Dr. Stanley's 30 Life Principals. Recorded versions of past messages are available to watch online or order on CD(\$5)/DVD(\$15). Messages in the series so far include: Our Intimacy with God, A Life of Obedience, The Dark Moments in Our Life, and Fight Your Battles on Your Knees. Sermon Outlines and Life Principals Notes are also available. This series contains excellent tools for godly living and their website is full of other good resources. "In Touch" is a ministry of First Baptist Church of Atlanta.



*Dr. Stanley*

## Let's Get Acquainted... By Mimi S. Matsumori

Oftentimes God works in an amazing way when it is least expected. And that was how He worked in **Allen and Tes Cunningham**'s lives when they were single. It was 1989, soon after Allen moved to Hawaii from Long Island, NY. He was living a "rock bottom life" personally and spiritually. Unexpectedly, through a strange turn of events, he heard a message on the Prodigal spoken by a Christian at a courtyard he was sitting in one day. Something sparked inside of him – "God loves me just the way I am even though I've been that prodigal son in the Bible." Soon, he was invited to accept Jesus, and he did. He has never looked back since, as he started walking a devoted Christian life.

In the same year (1989), across the globe, Tes, a movie-loving college student in Cebu, Philippines, accepted Jesus into her heart after watching "Believers in Heaven". It was through an invitation by a pastor's wife of a Baptist church. Another movie she watched, "The Burning Hell" had scared her to death, making her realize even though she had grown up in a home that practiced religion, she hadn't been saved yet and was destined for eternal separation from God. After getting her degree in elementary education, she worked as a teacher for 3 years, then as a supervisor for 7 years at a Christian academy in her country.

Time went by, and we all know how God has blessed the world through the Internet. It surely blessed Allen and Tes across the distance, connecting them through Christian Pen Pal, an online personals site. Allen decided to travel to the Philippines to meet Tes personally, and she agreed, just to "check each other out" with their own eyes. They came to love each other for their common belief and faithfulness, the qualities they still possess today as they approach life with kindness toward each other and trust in the Lord.

Since their marriage in 2003, the FBCH family has had the privilege of welcoming their first daughter **Althea** (now 5), and the second, **Chloe** (1) - the beautiful girls Allen and Tes believe are gifts from God. They find it a challenge to raise them in a Christian way in this world but believe it is possible by the grace of God, *and they do their part by reading from a Children's Bible and praying with Althea*. It is a joy to see her very interested in learning about God.

Tes quotes Proverbs 3:5-6 and Hebrews 13:5 as her reminders of trusting in the Lord and believing in His provision. Allen cites Jeremiah 29:11, as an image of who God the Father is to him. And this is the kind of father he wants to be to his daughters. He points out the importance of waiting upon the Lord, with complete trust in what He is doing in our life even when we don't understand... *and this is what we need to keep in mind as we live and wait for the Christ's coming for His bride, the Church, because the Lord has promised this in His Word and we can depend on Him. This gives us peace and hope each day as He teaches us to live for Him.*

## World Baptist Alliance Congress Prayer Warriors...

The Congress will take place at the Convention Center from July 28 to August 1. We are expecting about 15,000 Baptists from all around the world to be here for the Congress. There is a women's conference that precedes the main Congress. Registration for the two events is separate. Type in Baptist World Alliance Congress in your browser or pick up a registration form at the information table on Sundays to register. We are seeking prayer warriors who will volunteer two hours each day of the Congress to be available in the prayer room at the Congress to pray for those who request prayer. It will work much like the prayer room at HIM. Check it out when you go to HIM to get an idea of what is involved. We also need people to help set up the prayer room probably on July 27. If you can not afford the Congress fees but want to volunteer, please let me know as soon as possible. There may be church funds or Congress passes that you can use to enter the Convention Center to volunteer. We also pray usually on the third Tuesday of each month at 3:30. Please join us then even if you can not help out during the Congress. If you have questions or you want to be involved, please contact Sharon Dumas, 277-7801, [sharond@pixi.com](mailto:sharond@pixi.com).



*Allen and Tes Cunningham  
with Althea and Chloe*



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## Faithful... In Season and Out of Season

[www.FBC-Honolulu.org](http://www.FBC-Honolulu.org)

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### A Thought for the Day... Did you



**know...** that a "Thought for the Day" goes out every Monday – Friday to over 80 people? Sign-Up Today. *A Thought for the Day* is a 30 - 40 second phone message by Pastor Barry. The

pre-recorded inspirational telephone message is received around 8:00 am Monday - Friday. You may sign up by calling the church office.

### Watch us on

**TV...** Tune in to KWHE-TV Channel -14\* on Sundays @ 6 pm, Mondays @ 10:30 pm, and Thursdays @ 3:30 am.

(\* Channel-11 on Oceanic Cable)



**The Cornerstone...** is published monthly by the First Baptist Church of Honolulu. For more information visit our website at [www.FBC-Honolulu.org](http://www.FBC-Honolulu.org) or phone the church office at 808-521-4708. **The First Baptist Church of Honolulu...** is a diverse, enthusiastic group of Christian believers ministering to the heart of the city in the heart of the city. We are a purpose-driven church, affiliated with Transformation Ministries, (formerly known as the American Baptist Churches of the Pacific Southwest). Weekend services are on Sat at 5:30pm & Sunday Worship at 8:30 (traditional) & 10:00 am.

#### **Our Staff...**

- Dr. Barry D. Lovett, Senior Pastor, 521-4708
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- Grace Kawano, Office Mgr/Admin Assistant, 521-4708
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## Love and Respect...

### The Love She Most Desires - The Respect He Desperately Needs

Small Group for Married Couples

6:00 – 7:30 PM Sundays

beginning February 14

1164 Basswood Place

**Dan and Julie Gunderson, Facilitators**

A wife has one driving need -- to feel loved. When that need is met, she is happy. A husband has one driving need -- to feel respected. When that need is met, he is happy. When either of these needs isn't met, things get crazy. "Love and Respect" reveals why spouses react negatively to each other, and how they can deal with such conflict quickly, easily and biblically. Based on over three decades of counseling, as well as scientific and biblical research, **Dr. Emerson Eggerichs** and his wife, **Sarah**, have already taken the "Love and Respect" message across America and are changing the way couples talk to, think about,



Emerson received his B.A. in Biblical Studies and an M.A. in Communications from Wheaton College and Graduate school. He was awarded his Masters in Divinity from Duquesne Seminary. Later, he earned his Ph.D. from Michigan State University in Child and Family Ecology. Emerson was the senior pastor of East Lansing Trinity church from 1980 to 1999. Emerson and Sarah have three adult children, Jonathan, David, and Joy.

and treat each other. The book Love and Respect (The Love She Most Desires / The Respect He Desperately Needs) won two awards in 2005: the Gold Medallion and Retailers Choice. The Love & Respect book has been selected as the "2007 Book of the Year for Family Christian Stores."

**Work Day...** On February 27th we will be having a work day at our church. Breakfast will be served at 7:30am. The work is scheduled from 8am-12 noon. If you can come for 1 or 2 hours, great - any help would be appreciated.



**HIM Conference...** coming to the Hawaii Convention Center March 4-6.

#### Featuring:

- Pre-conference Intensives
- 6 General Sessions
- 100 Elective Seminars
- 40 Speakers
- Youth Program
- David Crowder Worship Concert



**For more info or to sign up:** call 988-9777 / toll-free (877) 998-9777 or go to [www.himonline.org](http://www.himonline.org).

### Children to Present Easter Musical... Palm Sunday, March 28th -

The Children of FBCH will be presenting the Easter Musical, "Super Hero". The story is about a group of children and youth preparing for a musical play during the Easter season. There are 2 characters who think that Jesus is a super hero much like Batman and Batgirl. They befriend a reluctant choir member and together they discover Jesus is the ultimate super hero. The kids will be dancing and/or singing 5-6 songs.

Your child will receive the script starting Jan 29th, and will be receiving a practice CD on Feb 6.

To enroll your child, for rehearsal dates, or for more info contact **Glenda Horner** (256-3875 or messages at 685-6305).

