



GENUINE COMMUNITY Pastor Rob Gross July 2, 2023

Let us start to pray that we have genuine community in our church. I am not saying we are not at that level, but I am saying we can go deeper.

We have not really addressed this issue. What are people going to come into? We want all these people to come in during the revival. Will they be coming into a house that is loving, kind, willing to sacrifice and reach out, and incorporate them and bring them into our lives? Or are we just a place for them to come on Sunday mornings?

How about if we do what God really wants us to do? He wants to release His burning love in this hour so people fulfill Malachi 4:5-6, because God wants to turn the hearts of the fathers back to their children and hearts of the children back to their fathers or the land will be stricken with a curse.

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction. (Malachi 4:5-6 ESV)

God is saying to us is **if we want to see revival** in the land, families must heal. This is going to take a supernatural outpouring of God's presence to change our hearts.

OHANA - You Never Have to be Alone

Series: Home Improvement Pastor Rob Gross July 2, 2023

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." (Genesis 2:18 ESV)

Most people understand Genesis 2:18 to be about marriage. However, this verse can also point to other human relationships as **God intended for us to be in community with one another; not to be islands unto ourselves.** Unfortunately, many of us grew up in homes and were part of a family, but we did not experience community.

Community is defined as a group of people who authentically care about each other's well-being and as a result, feel a sense of genuine belonging together. The early church was a fellowship of disciples who shared their lives.

The believers spent their time listening to the teaching of the apostles. They shared everything with each other. They ate together and prayed together. Many wonders and miraculous signs were happening through the apostles, and everyone felt great respect for God.

(Acts 2:42-43 ERV)

All the believers stayed together and shared everything. They sold their land and the things they owned. Then they divided the money and gave it to those who needed it. The believers shared a common purpose, and every day they spent much of their time together in the Temple area. They also ate together in their homes. They were happy to share their food and ate with joyful hearts. (Acts 2:44-46 ERV)

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(Ohana continues.)

Remember that community is a group of people who authentically care about each other's well-being and as a result feel a sense of genuine belonging together. We define the biblical church as a community of rich relationships.

In reality, a community consists of real people with real stories, real hopes, real dreams, and very real challenges who authentically care about each other's well-being.

Caring about one another is the absolute core of community!

The root of sin is independence.

In those days the Israelites did not have a king, so everyone did whatever they thought was right.

(Judges 21:25 ERV)

The church is God's antidote for independence. The church gives us the opportunity to open up to others with all the pains and pleasures that come with that process.

When people care about each other in this manner they develop trust. And trust unlocks sharing, support, hope, safety, and collaboration towards common goals and feel a genuine sense of belonging.

Authentic community addresses the most fundamental human needs that every person has:

- We want to be loved unconditionally.
- We do not want to be lonely.
- We want to know that we *belong* somewhere.

Real community gives us a sense of home, a sense of family, a sense of "these are my real friends." This is my tribe; this is where I belong. This is where I am accepted for who I really am, warts and all. Being a part of a community gives people a sense of shared identity. The corporate sum is bigger than the individual parts.

God's family is a community that gathers together at least once a week to worship Jesus and support one another. When we are part of a community of faith, we share the same identity as Christians or fellow believers in Christ.

Many believers misunderstand what church community is because they see it through the lens of broken or dysfunctional family. No family is perfect and every family deals with relational issues.

My observation is that most of us are experientially rich, but relationally poor. We do things together like going on a trip together, but do not really communicate or develop relationships with love, trust, sharing, supporting one another, with shared goals, and a sense of belonging.

We then bring our relational patterns into the church and perceive "church" through our family's lenses.

The Church is **not a**...

- Building you go to.
- Civic organization.
- Social club.
- Seminar.
- Costco.

The church is a network of relationships centered around Jesus. We drive to this building to be with the family of God. I am saddened when people do not feel like they belong in God's family.

What blocks us from having community and being friends and family in the Church?

- Busyness, other priorities.
- The high cost of living in Hawaii.
- Not understanding the Lord's heart.

Settle It Karen Lewis July 2, 2023

Some of you have some things to settle with yourselves, maybe with others, and maybe with God. Today you need to settle it in your hearts. You can be at war with your past. I am telling you what I need to hear myself. You need to settle it and reconcile it in your heart of who you are. You are a child of the Most High God. You are not an orphan. You belong to the Most High God. Anything that comes up in your life, your past, your mindset, and anyone trying to tell you otherwise is deceiving and lying to you. You must get this settled in your heart because you cannot move forward into being family and being connected if you do not feel you know who you are. When God gave you His Son, you are covered under the blood when you receive that gift. It is all under the blood. He does not go fishing. He does not go looking into your past and bring up stuff. Settle it in your heart who you are so you can move forward to connect with one another; be the family you are. Be the children of God you are and truly step into your destiny for the King and His kingdom.

Karen Lewis, July 16, 2023

During worship I had a vision of some hearts here that have been extremely pierced in the past. Some have been recently extremely broken and disappointed to the point of tormenting you. This is the season God wants us to deal with this today.

Pastor Rob says it might go along with the message today. [Ask for Forgiveness, Reconciling with Your Loved Ones. See www.mvcchawaii.org]

If you are one of these people, God wants you to be aware of what He is going to do today through the message. The season is now that it is to be highlighted today that God wants to deal with this. God wants to heal you so you can move forward.

Ask for the Ancient Paths Pastor Rob Gross July 16, 2023

Are any of you feeling fearful, anxious, and afraid? Are any of feeling very fatigued, tired, or worn out?

Thus says the LORD: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls." (Jeremiah 6:16 ESV)

Ancient is defined as everlasting, forevermore, eternity, from of old, lasting, duration. Ephesians 2:6 says, God "raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

What happens when our spirit man, our soul gets stressed and anxious? We leave the ancient pathway. We are pulled in a different direction away from Christ. For if we are seated with Christ, we are at rest and we are experiencing peace in the midst of the storm.

Isn't it interesting that Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us to trust in the Lord. It is speaking of faith. Faith is trust in the Lord. Trust in the Lord with how much of our hearts? ALL! We are not to lean on our own understanding. This is where we get snagged and hooked, because in our minds, we try to logic things through. We have to trust in the Lord and lean not on our own understanding in the things of God, in the times not understood by us. We are to acknowledge He is God and He is taking care of every issue in our hearts, not just someone else's issue. Sometimes we pray and believe the Lord will take care of someone else's issue, but not me, not my family. We can renounce that thought. We can learn not to lean on our own understanding, and He will make our paths straight. Jeremiah 6:16 tells us to stay on the ancient path, the way of Christ.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV)

Let Go of the Old

Karen Lewis July 23, 2023

[The **Lion of Judah is here** today, and He is **roaring with fire coming out of His mouth.**]

I am an all-consuming fire. I am the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega. I love you all with an all-consuming fire.

The enemy has been coming in with strategies of entrapments and hooks of deceit. Some of you do not know Me the way I want you to know Me. I am a personal, intimate God and I am standing at the door of your heart and knocking. Whether you have given your life to me or not, I am standing at the door this day, this moment, and I am knocking. I want to come in like a flood. I want to invade your life with goodness, mercy, favor, blessings, and honor because I love you so much.

Many of you are holding on to the past. You cannot fill yourselves with the new that I am calling in at this time if you are filling your heart, mind, emotions, and your will with things of the past. You cannot move forward if you are looking in the rear-view mirror.

This is a new season. It is a serious season, and I am coming in with the tools and warfare to bring you in, to equip you, to train you, to prepare you. You will get through this with My mind and My power through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Open your hearts. Let go of the things that you think you need. You do not need them. You need more of Me, more of My love, more of the guidance of My Holy Spirit.

I am doing a new thing and I am preparing you. Let go of the old. Come into the new. Open the door of your heart. All those things, those hooks, just declare and decree you have authority over them, and unhook them from your lives. Beware of the entrapments.

(Karen continues next column).

Change Today

Ben Vegas July 23, 2023

The Lord has been impressing upon my heart that throughout all the circumstances and the situations that every one of you may be going through in your lives, do not see the circumstances or situations, see the opportunity in every one of those things. Every time you may feel defeated or like you are not this or not that, the Lord is saying, "Yes, I am! Yes, you are! Keep that in your hearts, in your minds.

During this week, this is the **time for change** in each and everyone of your lives. Change is about to come into your lives. It is not a matter of who, what, where, but it is going to be today. The Lord wants you to know that **today change is coming**. The manifestation may come later, but the change is now, and it is going to take place in your hearts, minds, bodies, spirit, and soul.

(Karen continues.)

When the enemy comes in like a little spider, it starts weaving his web into your life. You know suddenly you are not thinking the way you are supposed to be thinking.

Spend your quiet time with me. My love for you is all-consuming. My promises are true. I will never leave you or forsake you. I will be with you until the end. The end will be the beginning.

Let me touch you. Let me love you. Let me lavish my love on you. For we are in a new season, and it is imperative that you get this and come on board. For only then can I bring you through. Only then can My kingdom advance.

Come to me, all you who are heavy laden for I will give you rest. I will give you guidance. It is time this day. It is time right now. Let go of the old and all that holds you back whether it is a mindset, a habit, a thought, anything. Come to me. Behold, I stand at the door and knock.

The Hebrides Revival, 1949 – 1952 Pastor Rob Gross July 23, 2023

The Hebrides is a group of islands off the coast of Scotland. There were two elderly sisters, Peggy and Christine Smith, who prayed a promise in a small cottage by the village of Barvas. Peggy was eighty-four years old and blind, and Christine was eighty-two years old and almost bent over double with arthritis. Unable to attend public worship, their humble cottage became a sanctuary where they met with God. To them came the promise: "I will pour water upon him that is thirsty and floods upon the dry ground." They pleaded this day and night in prayer.

One night Peggy had a revelation, revival was coming, and the church of her fathers would be crowded again with young people. She sent for the minister, the Rev. James Murray MacKay, and told him what God had shown her, asking him to call his elders and deacons together for special times of waiting upon God. In the same district a group of men praying in a barn experienced a foretaste of coming blessing.

Another man, Duncan Campbell, was serving elsewhere in the United Kingdom. He felt he was to go the Hebrides, so he just left the church he was to preach at.

This revival was so incredibly amazing. The bars were empty, and people were worshipping God daily for twenty-four hours. Buses came dropping people off at the church for the revival meetings that were taking place. It was an incredible move of God.

Years ago, I was in small rowboat off the coast of the Hebrides Islands and I believe, without a shadow of doubt, **revival will come again**. The question is when. I do not think we are ever fully prepared for it.

This morning I felt spiritual fire all over the right side of my face and sensation on my legs that were pillars of fire. I confirmed this with Paul Cox.

Karen Lewis had a vision that was confirmed by Marisa Lee who felt an orb of some kind in her hand. It may have something to do with evangelism, living water, life, or something new that God wants to do today. There is a release of refreshing and renewing and it had fire in the orb.

I heard this song in my spirit, *Pass It On* (eHymnBook.org). The first stanza goes:

It only takes a spark to get a fire going.

And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.
That's how it is with God's love.
Once you've experienced it.
You spread His love to everyone.
You want to pass it on...

Mona Subeldia's vision: "I saw a light, a ball of light. Light was emanating from it. Then I saw a big bowl overlaid with blue glaze over it. The inside was filled with this crystal-clear water that was pouring out. It was like the Lord's hands were pouring out this water from the river of life, the streams of living water. It kept flowing and it was super crystal-clear."

Pastor Rob: Would you all pray with me? Lord Jesus, would you light a fire in us today? Would you spark us, Lord Jesus? Would you spark the Hawaiian Islands? Would you come and move?

We have been calling out to you, Lord. We want to see more. We are not satisfied. We are hungry. We are dry. Come and burn us up for you and for your kingdom! May your kingdom come to Hawaii!



The outreach team for the homeless gathered together at Thomas Square on Saturday, July 29. Next month the outreach will be on Saturday, August 26. It is usually on the last Saturday of each month.

If anyone is interested in serving in this ministry, the Body of Christ Hawaii meets also at Blaisdell Park in Aiea every Tuesday @5pm for worship and Bible study with the homeless and once a month at different parks and beaches in the Honolulu vicinity.

Please contact Jamie Roman or Joyce Miyamoto to donate hygienic items, food and snacks, clothing, and backpacks.



LEI PO'O

Mountain View Community Church July 15, 2023

Mahalo nui loa to leaders TC Chun and Donna Stevens for coordinating the team that made the Lei Po'o such a beautiful blessing for all participants. A big thank you also to team members Lovey Denis, Pastor Barb Gross, Dhayna Hee, Jeanne Horne, Lokelani Kahoopii, Ivy Kitamura, Linda Miyata, Pastor Yvette Salazar, Ben Vegas, Claire Yamashiro, and Cathy Young for all your hard work.





















We Love You and Honor You, Elena Barbour July 9, 2023

Elena, we are so very proud of you. You have been faithfully serving on the worship team fourteen of your 28 years of life. It has been beautiful watching you grow. Elena, you are one of our most favorite people. We love your sense of humor, your transparency, and always wanting to better yourself. In whatever season you are in, you are always growing more and more like Jesus. You have grown as a singer, piano player, and worship leader leading a full band on your own. We are so amazed and marvel at how much you have grown. We are so very proud of you. We will miss you and wish you wonderful things in your next season. —Jordan and Steph Gross



L to R: Jordan, Elena, Steph, Pastor Rob



Barbour ohana: Angelica, Gabriella, Elena, David, Deborah

We want to honor your whole family and thank you for all the years of faithful service, setting up and taking down the church, all the worship, Jewish feasts, beautiful dance. You are just an amazing family. We love you and honor you. Jesus honors you and may every family serve Jesus like you do. —Pastor Rob

This Certificate of Appreciation is awarded to Elena Barbour. We are forever grateful for your devotion and leadership. Your legacy will always be honored.











Ohana – You Never Have to Be Alone (Series: Home Improvement) July 2, 2023 Pastor Rob Gross

www.mvcchawaii.org



Pastors Rob & Brandon Gross

Family Values
(Series: Home Improvement)

July 9, 2023 Pastor Rob Gross

www.mvcchawaii.org



Ask for Forgiveness:
Reconciling with Your Loved Ones
(Series: Home Improvement)

July 16, 2023

Pastor Rob Gross

www.mycchawaii.org



We are family and we enjoy community.

Family Sunday: Time to Hang Out & Have Fun (Series: Home Improvement)

July 23, 2023

www.mvcchawaii.org



The Difference Between Isolation and Singleness (Series: Home Improvement)

July 30, 2023

Danny Jones

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