



United We Stand, Divided We Fall Pastor Rob Gross December 30, 2022

#### **Be Alert!**

This past week the **enemy was working overtime to try and steal my identity**. He was **attacking my mind with thoughts**:

- Nothing you are doing is making a difference!
- Why did you purchase this building?
- You should pack up and retire.

I knew full well it was the enemy trying to bring discouragement, worry, anxiety, and fatigue. Because the truth is we have been making a big difference in many lives and God wants us to take a leap of faith to move into the new thing He has for us. To make that leap we need to know our identity, who we are in God and what we have been called to accomplish on His behalf.

Then on Wednesday I could not find my wallet that had a lot of cash, my credit cards, and some gift cards, as well as my driver's license. With angst and tension, I decided to quiet myself and listen to the Lord. He said, "Your lost wallet is a picture of what the enemy is trying to do right now. He is trying to steal your identity and your call. Your wallet is not lost, and I will get it back for you."

This morning I was sitting at my wife's desk. Her drawer was open and as I looked in, **there was my wallet.** 

Many of you here have also been battling with fatigue, imbalance, and discouragement. Be careful and be wary, the enemy is trying to steal your identity, the call God has on your life to advance His kingdom in 2023. This tells me 2023 is going to be a great year. Do not lay down your gifts! Do not lay down your call!

Really worship the Lord! Thank Him! Lift up the Lord! He is faithful to take care of our health, finances, and all we need!

Why is spiritual darkness lingering in our nation to such a profound degree?

There are many reasons why spiritual darkness lingers in our nation today such as immorality, idolatry, rebellion against authority and more. But one of the main reasons is there is a **lack of unity among God's family**. Jesus said in Matthew 12:25 that a **house divided (i.e., a marriage, family, community, or nation) cannot stand.**"

At age 63 prior to his death in 1885, **Ulysses S. Grant**, the 18th President of the *United* States, made arrangements for his funeral. Knowing that the Civil War, which had ended 20 years earlier, had created a huge chasm or divide in America, he requested that Buckner and Johnston be two of his pallbearers. They had fought against him during the Civil War twenty years earlier. Why such an unusual request? He wanted unity and peace for the country.

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(United We Stand cont.)

Again, there are many reasons why spiritual darkness lingers in our nation today, but the main reason is the **lack of unity among God's family**.

In the New Testament the phrase "in one accord" is mentioned twelve times. Twelve is the number of God's government, otherwise referred to in scripture as the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is the King's domain over evil. Spiritual blindness increases with disunity, but God's kingdom power increases when God's people get on the same page.

To be "in one accord" literally means "to lock arms with the same purpose." When we function in unity, Acts 2:1-3 says we release a sound like a rushing wind which brings down evil in the land and releases God's transforming power upon individuals and families.

Three action steps we can take to maintain and build unity.

- 1. Unite in Worship to Rout the Enemy.
- 2. Commit Ourselves to Stay in Unity.
- 3. Unite in Our Purpose.

## 1. Unite in Worship to Rout the Enemy.

If we devote ourselves to worship the Lord and commit ourselves to unite our hearts during worship each Sunday, we will realize greater breakthroughs as the Lord routs the enemy. In 2 Chronicles 20:21-23 we have the story of Jehoshaphat who sent out those who sang to the Lord and praised Him before battle, and their enemies were routed and destroyed one another.

In 2023 I challenge each of you to come each Sunday with a **passionate expectancy and eagerness to unite with other believers to worship Jesus.** This means **coming early or on time** and not hanging out outside the garage while praise and worship is going on inside the garage. Jesus deserves our full focus and attention, not our leftovers or halfhearted praise and worship.

# 2. Commit Ourselves to Stay in Unity

To be eager means to make every effort. We are to make every effort to maintain our unity.

When we are offended, disappointed or bitter, it is **not easy to remain united**. Our tendency is to quit and run for the door.

God responded in the opposite spirit. **He was so** offended by our sins that **He sent Jesus to die** on a cross instead of wiping us off the map (like He did in the days of Noah). Romans 5:8 says that *while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* 

At some point in 2023 you are going to get offended. Ask the Holy Spirit right now to remind you to make every effort to remain in unity when you want to run.

God offends our minds to reveal our hearts. I am glad I get offended because it means God is giving me an opportunity to clean up my heart. Jesus said in the last days the love of many will grow cold.

# 3. Unite in Our Purpose

Through many years of seeking the Lord and watching what He has done, our leadership figured out that God's purpose for our church was and is to transform nations through the restoration of the family. This is why our vision statement is, "Heal the Man, Heal the Land!" I wanted it to be, "Heal the Fam, Heal the Land."

There is **diversity in unity which means we each have different gifts, passions, and callings,** but it is my firm conviction that the Lord has placed each of us here to **unite our callings and gifts to restore families.** 

Get on the *Pathway to Transformation*. Take our values class next month that Pastor Luis is teaching.

We cannot score touchdowns or goals if we are not on the same page. Jesus is the quarterback calling the plays and we are His teammates.















Unite in Worship Alan Esparza, Worship Director January 22, 2023

MVCC worship team vision: Uniting our hearts to pursue a culture of pure worship that creates a connection between heaven and earth. Facilitating a safe environment for people to come and be vulnerable in His presence.

God has been speaking to me that we are to **work in unity**. Every Sunday we have a different worship team, but my heart is for all of us to have the **same heart**, **the same vision**.

It has not been easy taking over a ministry because whenever God wants to do something, there is always going to be opposition. That is why it **is important to unite our hearts in this church, starting with the worship team.** This includes our **sound and graphics team** because they are leading worship along with us. Without the lyrics you could not really sing along. Without the sound team, you could not really hear what we play. Also, **all of us in the church must come united, worship together, and enter into the presence of the Lord.** 

Every Wednesday night the worship team meets to pursue this new vision. **Starting January 25**, we are going to open every fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 pm to everyone who wants to come to worship. I am looking for those who have a heart of worship to minister to the Lord. You do not need to have a gift in music, but just a heart of worship that hopefully will birth something new in our church.

All Church Worship Nights Fourth Wednesday of Every Month 7:00 pm, MVCC

















New Level of Unity: Bless, Not Blast Jr. and Krystle Ilar December 30, 2022

We want to create a landing strip for the Holy Spirit to come when we gather and bless us, our state, our nation, our leaders. What draws the Holy Spirit to land? It is UNITY! That is why the enemy works overtime to get us to go into disunity, to break us apart.

Church is not a show. Church is a bunch of families, singles, couples, all who gather, and we are all wounded. It is okay. We are all houses under construction. We will never put anyone down because we are all healing at different rates.

-Pastor Rob

<u>Pastor Rob</u>: As a couple you fought a lot and were not united. How did the Lord help you get on the same page; help you get more united as a couple?

**<u>Krystle</u>**: I was blowing up Pastor Rob's phone with messages **asking him to pray for us. I wrote that we need help. We are fighting.** Things are ugly. Things are bad. There was rage, lies, and hidden things. We would say to each other things like, "I am going to leave. I do not want this anymore."

God brought me here to Mountain View. Jr. cannot come on Sundays because he works. I was introduced to an ohana group, and I did not want to be there. I am almost forty and some of the others are not even in their twenties. I thought what am I going to do there.

But I got involved and also involved in Healing Hearts. Healing hearts revealed a lot of generational traumas that I knew I had but did not think were holding me down. I did not think the enemy was using it against me, against my marriage, and against my husband and kids. That really helped me have a breakthrough.

Pastor Rob: How about you, Jr.?

<u>Jr.</u>: Breakthrough for me was because she messaged you, I did meet with you a couple of times. You and Krystle emphasized to me that

we are not each other's enemy. Also, at Healing Hearts the Holy Spirit helped me realize how hard my heart was. The Holy Spirit softened my heart regarding my relationships, especially my relationship with my wife. Krystle is not my enemy. The enemy is the enemy. She is my wife and not my enemy. She is for me and here to partner with me, not to bring me down. I continue to see that and remember that.

**Krystle is my lifelong partner**. She is the woman God called me to be with and make a covenant with; to love my wife as Christ loves the church. He laid down His life for us, the church. So, I realized that and allowed God to move in my heart, to remove the stones in my heart, and to implant the truths.

It is still a work in progress, but as Pastor Rob says, there are layers and I need to allow God to continue to peel off the layers. So, at the beginning of 2022, Krystle was messaging Pastor Rob a lot because we were like cutting each other's throats, fighting badly, below the belt kind of style.

For me, it was hard because I was not plugged in and not part of Mountain View. Now it is a whole different season in our marriage with God in the forefront as my number one relationship and my wife as my number one ministry to start improving my relationships. She keeps emphasizing that to me and I appreciate it, so I remember that. We challenge ourselves to be one percent better with each day. God can move in miraculous ways, and we can also work to improve and be at least one percent better than the day before.

We also try to close the doors on the enemy. For example, we try not to let the sun go down on our anger. We try to remember it is not flesh and blood that we war against, but the principalities and rulers of the enemy. We have to remind ourselves because the enemy seems to come on bad days.

**<u>Pastor Rob</u>**: Krystle wrote to me, "Oh my gosh, **Jr. put his hands on me and started rebuking the enemy to get off of me**." That was huge!

<u>Jr.</u>: Yeah, I try more to bless my wife, not blast her.



## My Thundering Grace Karen Lewis December 30, 2022

With all the worship, I saw Jesus in the sky and there behind Him were legions and legions of angels on horseback with their swords. Down below Jesus's feet were throngs and seas of people worshipping Him. I was so overwhelmed at His majesty and how fortunate we are to be found.

Do you understand how much God loves you? How awesome His grace is? When I look back at all I went through this year with all the challenges I had, honestly, I really do not know how I made it through. I really don't. I think probably many of you feel that way. But here we are, and we are going to move forward.

The Lord would say to you, "Let my thundering grace wash over you. Let it crack open any hardness in your hearts as He cracks through the sky in the still of the night. Let it thunder through your life. Let Him in to open and heal the places you have hidden and closed. For now is the season for opening those closed doors of the heart, revealing the hidden fears and judgements that have hindered you and held you back. In this revealing, my presence and my thundering grace will birth forth deeper healing. I desire for you to drink from the deepest depths of my ancient well. To the degree you allow my Spirit in to heal you is the degree that you can drink of the depths of my well. Deep cries out to deep and from the depths of my heart as your Father and Savior, I cry out for my children to come to me fully and know me completely. So come and let my thundering grace sift and shift, heal and seal you by my Holy Spirit. Embrace the process. Embrace my love. Embrace the future, with joyous anticipation and expectation, for you walk and abide in my kingdom. Leave the old behind. You cannot move forward always looking behind in the rear-view mirror.

"Except for the purposes of emotional healing and reconciliation, look up to me as I am moving you forward, up and out. As you continue to commit to your emotional healing, you will see unlimited, unlimited, unlimited breakthroughs. This is the year to commit to prioritize your priorities and find your place in my kingdom. You have only begun. I reiterate, you have only begun to scratch the surface of what I have for you, and the capabilities, giftings, and anointings that you were created and designed to operate in.

"So, I started to stir in you, to re-awaken in you what the enemy tried to shut down. For now is the time as you continue to pull off the layers of healing, I continue to lift the veils and blinders and open your eyes and minds to new revelations. Feed this stirring. Feed this fire. Feed the passion with times of worship and frequent visits to my throne room. We are in this together.

"This coming year, you will feel my presence and learn to live in it constantly, continuously, to bask in it, and draw from it. There will come a quiet and solemn moment in each of your lives when you will understand who you are in me and what it means to live in my presence. I surround you, I encompass you, protect you, and guide you. Of whom or what shall you fear?

"Nay, instead you will learn to walk in my authority and take your place in my kingdom, thriving in the work of the revival. Oh, how I love you. Oh, what great things I have in store for you. Challenges, yes many. But great breakthroughs galore. This the year of the more, the more, the more. Step into it with great anticipation." Your heavenly Father.

**Now is the Time to Take Your Place** Karen Lewis continues December 30, 2022

From your creation in the womb, I touched you, I created you, I designed you for this time in history. The time is now, now, now that you become activated with all that I have placed within you, your original design walking on my ancient path. Will you step forward into your destiny? Will you take up your cross and follow me? Will you lay down your lives for your brothers and sisters? It is now! It is now! Let nothing hold you back. This is serious business. For I am calling you now. I am calling you into the more. I am getting ready to release the waves of fire, revival, glory, and evangelism. It is coming! It is coming! It is coming! Get ready! Get ready!

For I need you! I can do it by myself, but I choose to use you. Let yourself be activated and commit for you have been enlisted in my army. It is time for you to step up and take your place.

### I Am Doing a New Thing Pastor Rob Gross, January 8, 2023

The throne of God is present. He is very much here. The cherubim are revelatory beings with eyes on their wings. They hold up God's throne.

### The cherubim shall spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings. (Exodus 25:20 ESV)

**Overshadow** means to **cover**, **protect**, **to encounter**. I believe the **Lord** is **building** a **pavilion**, a **tent**, of **His presence that** is **going to carry us forward through 2023**. One of the things we, as the people of God, struggle with is that **God is always doing** a **new thing**.

Sometimes we get so used to formula. Mothers feed their baby formula, but God does not want formula in the church. He wants intimacy. A mom can feed her baby formula through a bottle, but there is nothing like a mother nursing her child, the intimacy between mother and child. **God wants intimacy**. God wants us to understand **He is doing a new thing**.

Leah just texted me that **she sees the** *wheels* **and a sound of a mighty water fall and flashes of lightning** from Ezekiel 1.

From the midst of it came the likeness of four living creatures.... they had a human likeness, but each had four faces, and each of them had four wings.... The four had the face of a lion ... the face of an ox, ... the face of an eagle.... Wherever the spirit would go, they went.... Their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches moving to and fro among the living creatures. And the **fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning**. And the living creatures darted to and fro, like the appearance of a **flash of lightning**.

Now as I looked at the living creatures, ...their appearance and construction being as it were a wheel within a wheel. ... Wherever the spirit wanted to go, they went, and the wheels rose along with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels... ... And when they went, I heard the sound of their wings like the sound of many waters, like the sound of the Almighty, a sound of tumult like the sound of an army.

...above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of a throne, ...and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance. ... I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness around him. ...

Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. (Ezekiel 1:5-28 ESV)

Tides are shifting; pathways are widening, and narrow gates are expanding of your revelatory power, Lord. I believe God is releasing a wheel within a wheel of a throne room company of sons and daughters, radical sons and daughters that will align with the spirit of Elijah.

Jesus said in Matthew 17:11, *Elijah does come,* and he will restore all things.

Elijah must come first. Before the kingdom comes, Elijah comes to make everything right with our families, to restore wounds in our hearts, to remove all the sexual stuff that plagues us from the enemy, to raise orphans from the dead to a place where they understand that their father and mother do love and appreciate them unconditionally, to bring forth the spirit of Elijah. He is releasing the bowls of anointing and appointing, removing and planting for the next stage of growth here in Hawaii and in our church, and will release a frequency that is more the frequency that is called *more than enough*. And this will bring the people out and bring the people in.

A door just opened in the Spirit, and I think we are supposed to walk through it. **He is overshadowing us with His glory**. He is **building a pavilion of His presence for this new year. It is an increase of His glory, an increase of miracles, an increase**. **This is an increase.** 

This is the tent of meeting where God is going to meet with us. Walk through. The spirit of Elijah will touch you. The spirit of Elijah is going to appoint and align us with what God wants to do in this new year.

# **A Pivotal Time** Pastor Rob Gross, January 15, 2023

I had this dream recently. I went into a doctor's office, got flipped on my side, and he jammed a rod into my hips, I felt like Jacob (Genesis 22). I feel **this is a pivotal time.** 

Then I was flipped on my back and there was a huge Hawaiian man, a mighty man who began to pump my heart, putting new life into my heart. I really believe, in fact I see it in the Spirit, there is a spring right here now. I believe when you walk through this spring, the escapism is going to wash off, staying in the four walls of the church only is going to wash off, and you are going to get empowered with the glory of God. It is a new day. Today is a pivotal time. We are in a pivot season, a pivot moment.

I am standing in the spring right now. Come. You are going to get washed off and at the same time you are going to get empowered. Do not come through this place just for the *high*. Do not come through this place just for an anointing or a *feel-good time*. Come through this place so we can de-populate hell in Hawaii.

In 1997 I was at First Assembly of God. I was a Southern Baptist pastor, and I was thrown to the floor. I had no clue about the Holy Spirit. I felt like the alien in that movie. It was like my stomach was going up and down. Another pastor came by and told me, "**Pastor Rob, the Lord wants you to prophesy.**" I said, "What's that?" Southern Baptists do not know what prophesy is. I started to cry about a great wind, a revival wind that would blow through the Hawaiian Islands. I began to scream and shout. I felt the Lord's love all over me. He said, "I want my church back! I want my church back! Why won't you give her back to me!" The room was filled with pastors.

The Lord is going to do it. The question is, "Are you going to be a part of the team?"

The Lord goes out like a mighty man, like a man of war he stirs up his zeal; he cries out, he shouts aloud, he shows himself mighty against his foes. (Isaiah 42:13 ESV)

## It is Time for a New Wave of God's Love Chad Dedmon, January 15, 2023

I got to visit the first church established in Kona over 200 years ago and I pray God do it again. It may look different, but **He wants to do it again. He is the same yesterday, today and forever.** 

Lord, in these islands the majority knew you. Let there be a wave of your spirit, a wave of your love. I pray for new wineskins. I pray for new expressions that carry love out into the streets, out in the beaches, out in the coastlands, the highways, and byways, and that it would be oozing through the package of love.

Lord, release the spirit of adoption. We prophesy that healing and wholeness are coming to families. Hawaii is going to be a forerunner for us as Americans. There are things that will happen on the islands that will release the ohana spirit that will be a wave on the mainland.

Lord, we pray for **Malachi 4:6 to be established**. We are looking for **your Spirit to begin to heal the generations.** 

He will turn the hearts of the fathers back to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction. (Malachi 4:6 ESV)

We prophesy to Oahu: Let there be new parks formed, new places where families can come together and connect. Father, crash in. Holy Spirit, crash in. I pray as friends of God because if you want to be an intercessor, an evangelist, the greatest call is to be a friend. Friendship is maturity of sonship and daughterhood.

Lord, I pray that you will anoint friends of God in this room, that each of us will recognize and become familiar with the arrows you have given us in our quiver. I pray for some of us who have dusty arrows. It is time for the breath of God, the wind of God to breathe and let the dust begin to come off. It is time of us to become familiar with the arrows God has given us in our quiver. Lord, let the winds blow again.



**The Lord is Our Best Friend** Pastor Rob Gross January 8, 2023

It is 2023! One of the things we can look forward to in the new year is we can throw out the garbage that was not so good in the previous and look forward to what God is doing in the new year.

Remember when David wrote Psalm 23? He was in dire straits. The king's throne was being torn away by his own son, Absalom. It was worse than that because not only was the king's son trying to take the king's throne, but he was also trying to take his father's life. If you ever go to Jerusalem, you cross over the Kidron valley, and walk up the Mount of Olives into the wilderness.

David and his faithful followers left in the night quickly to escape Absalom's wrath. That is when the Lord anointed David to say, "The Lord is my shepherd.... Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for your rod and your staff comfort me... Your goodness and kindness will pursue me all the rest of the days of my life."

I want you to focus on the phrase, *The Lord is my shepherd* from Psalm 23. In Hebrew, the word *Lord* is translated *I am*. If you go to Exodus 3:14, Moses has an encounter with God at the fiery bush and the Lord says, *I am who I am*. If you translate shepherd in Hebrew, it means 'best friend'. The great I am, the Lord is our best friend. And His goodness and loving kindness will chase us down all the days of our lives. Whatever you are going through or have gone through in 2022, as you enter 2023 be mindful that the Lord is your best friend. He has your back. He has your finances and your family's back. He has Hawaii's back. He has our nation's back. God wants to give us the revelation of the friendship of God.

Behold, I am doing a new thing, now it springs forth do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

## Increase Our Capacity January 22, 2023

<u>Michele Okimura</u>: Grow in greater capacity to love yourself. Extravagantly love yourself, but not in pride. God's Word says we are to love others as we love ourselves. So, if you love yourselves in a growing, greater capacity, you will have a greater capacity to love the world. God is calling each of us to have a greater capacity to love the people around us.

## **<u>Pastor Rob</u>** from the prophet Larry Pearson:

There is an aspect of God coming to recharge your internal capacity, your inner life vision for expansion. This is not so much an external expansion, but an internal expansion. It is an expansion of partnership and friendship with God.

Grace is capacity, capacity for the kingdom of God; capacity for your sonship, capacity for your daughterhood, capacity for the revelation of the Father and His delight for you, capacity for your friendship. God wants us to get it. God wants us to know that He is with us, that He works through us. When you have those doubts and crying sessions in your bed, the Father wants you to know He is with you. You are yoked together with Abba. He will never leave you or forsake you.

We have an **enemy who does not want the world to know Jesus and so he fights us. He puts doubts in our minds and in our hearts.** 

**2023 is about the revelation of friendship of God.** If we are going to move forward into revival, all of us are going to really have to **understand who we are in God. God is our Friend and He has got our back no matter what we go through.** 

God wants to release a fresh understanding of the realm of overshadowing. There is an invitation to be overshadowed by the glory cloud. It basically means God has our backs. God covers us. God protects us. God provides for us. He overshadows us at all times.

We must get out of this silo. We must transition from receiving the glory to giving it away. If you take care of who is important to God, He will take care of who is important to you. It is not about just getting the glory but about giving it away.









## Judgement Free in 2023 AKA Bring on the Forgiveness!!

January 8, 2023 Beth Bachran

www.mvcchawaii.org

# **Encountering Jesus**

January 15, 2023 Chad Dedmon

### www.mvcchawaii.org

www.encounteringjesus .com

## **Banter to Obedience**

January 22, 2023 Michele Okimura

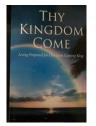
#### www.mvcchawaii.org

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#### Conquering Disappointment

January 29, 2023 Pastor Rob Gross

www.mvcchawaii.org



### Thy Kingdom Come

Tues., March 7- May 23 MVCC, 10:30 – 12 noon Amy Sugawa

Join Amy this coming spring to grow in a **deeper, more intimate love relationship** with our Lord and Best Friend. Learn how to live the **abundant life** He wants for us. Amy will share examples from her life about a **wonderful journey living a life led by the** Holy Spirit. Receiving Christ into our hearts is only the beginning of a wonderful adventure He has for us.

When we **know and love the Lord, live** according to His will and ways, we will be like the wise virgins in Matthew 25. He will recognize us when we cry, "Lord, Lord!" and we will be with Him for eternity.

God is shaking everything that can be shaken, and we need to **build our faith to persevere and endure whatever trials and shaking occurs.** We want to **build our homes upon the solid rock of Jesus** and **bring our families and as many as possible with us** when He returns for us to go to an eternity where there is no more pain, sorrow, or tears but only love, joy, and peace. We will pray for an **unbroken circle in heaven for our loved ones.** 

Is the increasing frequency and intensity of the shaking a sign the Lord may return soon? **Be alert! The truth is that there is an eternity without Christ that is permanent. Life is short. Be ready**!

Amy's book, *Thy Kingdom Come*, is required and available at the resource table on Sundays at \$15 for the class. All proceeds will go to MVCC.

Contact Amy at <u>amysugawa@gmail.com</u> to register for the class.