



So, I just want to welcome everyone here and those online. If you're visiting or perhaps this is your first time with us, we are so happy you could join us. If we haven't met, my name is Lori Shimabukuro, and I get to serve as part of the amazing pastoral team here at NHCO.

Before we go any further, let's pray ... Heavenly Father, how good and pleasant it is that we get to recognize what an amazing Father we have and to explore the love we have for You and in You corporately with each other. It is beyond what we could ever imagine. Lord, as so many have prayed before, would you help us in our unbelief. Embrace each one this morning in a tangible way. Give us the fortitude and strength found in Your Spirit to do all you ask. Lord, let every word be yours, bring Your revelation, that You alone would be glorified. Amen.

Little known secret. I have a fear of water. See in my lifetime, I have nearly drowned about a dozen times in my life. Once even while taking my certification for swimming. I have taken swimming lessons, but still. So, what does that have to do with what we are discussing today? Well, in our faith we have these things called baptisms. We don't have a fount. We get in the open ocean and sometimes getting in the water can be tough. But what helps me is something my swim instructor told me - "Stop looking around and focus on the mission. You know what you need to do. You have what it takes. Now get in there and swim!" I need to tell you, when we get in the water and you can feel the Spirit of the Lord moving, as folks publicly declare what is happening inside, the water doesn't matter.

I think that is what God's message to us today. "Stop looking around. Focus on the mission. You know what you need to do. You have what it takes. Now get in there and swim!"

As you may know, we are in our One New World series where we have been discussing God's great plans and promises for this world. With all the changes that we have undergone in this past year and a half, how many of us, just by show of hands have out of exasperation, frustration, or irritation questioned, "what is this world coming to?" Turn to your neighbor and say, "Don't be exasperated, ... don't be frustrated, ... don't be irritated, ... but be exhilarated because the good news, is the good news."

"Stop looking around. Focus on the mission. You know what you need to do. You have what it takes. Now get in there and swim!"

In the interest of time I won't recap every message. But if you missed any of the series, you'll want to go online and watch the messages. In a nutshell, we have an overview of His plan, we don't have the exact timing, but we know the "why" (to reestablish His Kingdom), and we know it's coming. We discussed how our God is a God of redemption He likes to redeem and restore. He makes all things new, part of that is bringing His people through seasons of course correction and preparation, for seasons of promise and newness. Make no mistake, we are in a season of preparation for a season of promise.



And like all things where we arrive depends upon how well we have prepared. So, the one question I have is how do we best prepare for the promise season to come?

If you sense an urgency, you are right. There is a huge urgency because as P. Earl shared last week, the one thing we cannot do in Heaven is share the good news of Jesus Christ. The choice given by the Gospel has a shelf life because of "end times." Not just the one in the Bible. Let me clarify. Every moment is an end time for someone. Right now, ... right now, ... because someone, somewhere is in their end time and once they leave this side of Heaven, their ability to make a choice for the Gospel will cease to exist. Have they had the chance to build a relationship with Jesus, become a disciple. Our friends, our family, our neighbors, our co-workers, others in our class, on our sports teams. But that's a lot of people. You know what? You are right.

Last week, P. Earl shared Acts 1:8:

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Remember he showed the map? And he presented an amazing job talking about being God's witness to our Jerusalem. Today we, pick up and discuss being witness in our Judea, and Samaria. If that's not pidgin, get it? Wea you goin'? Sum area? Wea? Sum area? Ova dea? Wea everybody stea. And then to the ends of the earth. Today we are discussing Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth. We are discussing community transformation and missions abroad.

As part of our foundation for our discussion we'll focus on two verses. Would you take out your Bibles or your phones and mark or click on:

1) Mark 12:28-34 (Matthew 22:35-40 & Luke 10:25-28)

2) Matthew 28:16-20 (Mark 16:14-18, Luke 24:44-49, John 20:19-23 & Acts 1:8)

Found them, good. These two passages are the two greats. Respectively they are called The Great Commandment and The Great Commission.

So, as you may know the Great Commandment was given by Jesus as He was in ministry prior to the crucifixion. You know, where the Holy man of the law was hoping to trick Jesus. Jesus' masterful response direct from the Shema (read scripture). In one simple response Jesus summarizes everything in the 10 commandments the need for Our love and right relationship with God from which naturally flows our relationship with people.

He later goes and fulfills the 10 commandments (the law we could not fulfill). Then, after His resurrection, gives The Great Commission. There it is ... Jesus gave the BHAG, this BIG HAIRY AUDACIOUS GOAL, to go and make disciples of all nations. *"baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded. And for sure, I will be with you always to the very end of the age."*



In other words, "Stop looking around. Focus on the mission. You know what you need to do. You have what it takes. Now get in there and swim!"

Let's face it, as P. Glenn mentioned we have been "looking around." We have been distracted with social media, games, habits, that have eased the stress and pain of what is currently going on in today's world. The plan of the enemy to take us away from the mission we have been given.

What's important to remember is the commission is a co-mission, a mission between us and God. Just as P. Mark spoke about Noah. God co-missioned Noah to build a boat. See the idea of commission or co-missioning implies responsibility of the parties involved to achieve the mission. We are being asked to co-mission in being His witness and making disciples. It's clear. It's awesome. It's a promise that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit will be there every step of the way. So, why then, has our great commission too often become a great omission?

I'm touching on this because in order to have community transformation (the Judea's, Samaria's and everywhere else), it begins with the Jerusalem. It's been said, community transformation happens one life at a time. It is the overlap of these lives that collectively change villages, and villages become communities, that is community transformation. It's not a large science but when God-led and Spirit-filled. See we're not just discussing community transformation of the human-kind. We want God proportions. Man-based community transformation is temporal because it is based on the strongest village or person. God based community transformation is living. It is REVIVAL. No dry, dead bones, it is vibrant, moving, and growing based on God. REVIVAL is not this crazy daunting state we need to enter into. Defined the word "revival" is from the Hebrew word *chayah* and means "to bring back to life," to "restore to well-being," or to rebuild. It also referred to God's gracious work for His people.

In the New Testament it is referred to as *Anazopureo*, "to stir up or kindle as fire" to stir up the gift of God which is in us. REVIVAL is not something to be beckoned for, it is already here. God has already given it to us. It is in our cities, our workplaces, our schools, our families, we are not waiting for revival. Revival is waiting for us to hunger for it. How many of us would like to see that in our communities? Communities of spirit-filled change.

Where there is a saturation of His Spirit in every area of community (homes, schools, workplaces, everywhere). His Spirit patiently awaits as we tarry about deciding whether to respond to the world or follow Him. It is a culmination of all we have been discussing over the past several weeks. It is a merging if you will of every act of love that each one moves in and through not for earthly gain but to honor God Himself. The result is a community that beckons back to Acts 2. intentional communities that come together to honor Jesus and honor Jesus in each other, unity, and transformed lives. The tearing down of lies and generational curses that foster fear, scarcity, death, that can hold a community captive are broken and a sense of peace and abundance rises once again.



As these lives are revived, there is an outpouring of His spirit for more. Practically speaking there is a supernatural vesting or unction that arises when we cry out to God for leading. While we may not be led to lead a movement, we are all called to community transformation, revival.

So, would you take this moment and consider what is the community you are called to? Then ask the Lord, what are the felt needs that need to be responded to. Those will become your bridges to the people.

As we move forward there are three musts in any type of community transformation. We see this in Kanoe's testimony, the work that God is doing through the Au's and the Antolin's in sports, P. Earl's efforts with the Hawaii pidgin bible, Zaira and Sam's efforts on the Waianae Coast, Kim Keliholokai and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Wayne Miyasato through Bible studies and mentorship at work, my husband Guy in working with the elementary school children and their families. Speak to these folks. I am not the expert. I am just like you. Folks just wanting to see God move and lives changed.

I can only share from my vantage point ... For this season God is using The Hope Center and the Wahiawa Ohana Market to make a difference. A few comments about Wahiawa Ohana Market (Show graphic)

"Stop looking around. Focus on the mission. You know what you need to do. You have what it takes. Now get in there and swim!"

Community transformation must have:

- God - Community transformation is a co-mission. With us and God. Without God we become a form without power. Gifted people can sustain it temporarily. It is God's power that makes the difference between true change and temporary adjustment.

- prayer - It is in prayer that you get your specific assignments, the leadings, and revelation. He will open doors that we cannot open on our own and those doors cannot be closed.

- Unity - P. Theresa presented an awesome message regarding Unity in Christ. This is critical. Without unity the flames of revival have no air. Unity is essential in revival lest it be snuffed out. It does not mean you need to buy into someone else's agenda if it does not agree with God. But you do need to agree to disagree for the greater work of Christ.

So, what keeps us from hosting and sustaining revival (be it personal or otherwise)?

1. Our comforts and our fears

Fears will keep us from moving forward

Comforts will keep us in a form without power



I believe today, God wants to break every schema that might keep God Him in a box. Any thoughts that might keep Him from being who He needs to be. He wouldn't want that for us, why would we want that for Him. Our entire lives this side of Heaven is about discovering and becoming the best we can be not as the world would have us be, not as folks around us would have us be, not for any checklist or any manmade swag, but for who God made you and made us to be.

These fears and comforts often times translate into our preferences. Are we willing to release our schema of how things need to be, lest they become a tool for the scheme of the enemy?

2. Consider are we willing to give up our personal comfort and be inconvenienced for the sake of the call

3. Remember the past but don't live in it. To sit in the safety of the stories he has given of the past is to forsake the price given on the cross. The preparation the Lord has done for us. It will also limit the preparation He is doing in and through us now.

As we examine how to facilitate community transformation and revival, it becomes obvious it shouts ONE. ONE in UNITY with God (to love God) and ONE in UNITY with each other (to love people).

Therefore, your relationship with God is of utmost importance. He wants a relationship with you. He is a personal God. Consider two instances ... 1) Saul - gets knocked off his horse and God asks him why do you persecute me (not my people, not those guys, me); 2) Matthew 25 speaks of how when the King returns he will sit on his throne and separate those who are sheep from those who are goats. He will bless those sheep with an inheritance and He says, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. The people reply when were you these? The Lord's reply, what you did to the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did to me.

It reveals how deeply personal the Lord's relationship with us is. So today we get to stand and come before our Lord, to commit, recommit, or perhaps reconcile with Him. I believe this evening (morning) He is reminding us there is no condemnation but His love.

"Stop looking around. Focus on the mission. You know what you need to do. You have what it takes. Now get in there and swim!"



## Questions for Mission 2 message:

**1. What are the two "Great" scriptures? (Greatest Commandment & Great Commission) Consider what commission implies. Consider what the commandment requires. How are we doing with respect to these?**

**2. What is community transformation? How do they tie into community transformation?**

**3. Name three things absolutely necessary for community transformation aka revival?**

Prayer & Presence

People

Preference

**4. What is revival?**

**5. What role does unity have in revival?**

**6. What stood out to you about the rich young ruler? Why is it important to our modern-day consideration of Jesus? How does our releasing our old thinking, old ways, help to honor God? What old ideas do we need to surrender?**

**7. What communities have the Lord brought you to? How is God asking you to make an intentional impact in each area?**

Home

Work

School

Hobbies

Church