

CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS (Fall 2026)

Why We Share

INTRODUCTION: SOMEBODY SHARED WITH US

Welcome back to our **Church Without Walls** series.

Church is more than a place we go for a couple hours on a weekend. Church is ordinary people like you and me who meet Jesus and follow Him into our world—bringing hope to the hurting, light into the darkness, and the love of God to the people around us.

Church is about ordinary people carrying an extraordinary message.

Let me begin with one question:

Who was one of the first person who shared the good news of Jesus with you?

Turn to somebody next to you and tell them who it was.

[Allow a brief response.]

How many of you are here today because somebody cared enough not to keep the gospel to themselves?

For me, it happened when I was an 18-year-old freshman at UH. One of my fellow kolohe coworkers from my summer job, Jay Hoshino, ran up to me and said: “Earl! Earl! Guess what? I’m saved!”

I didn’t fully understand what he meant, but Jay was excited about his newfound faith in Jesus. He was no shame. He shared what happened to him and helped me take my next steps toward Jesus.

I'm grateful Jay didn't keep the good news to himself.

Almost every one of us who follows Jesus is here because somebody shared with us.

Last week, Pastor Mark helped us understand **what the gospel is**. Sin separated us from God, but because God loved us, He sent His Son, Jesus, to pay the price we could never pay. Jesus invites us to receive Him and return to a loving relationship with God.

That is the gospel.

But once we know the gospel, what do we do with it? Why should we share it?

Here is the main thought I want you to remember:

We share because we care, because people matter to God.

And today I want to give us three actions:

See the person. Tell your story. Take the step.

1. SEE THE PERSON—BECAUSE EVERY PERSON MATTERS TO GOD

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:14–15:

“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all... And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.”

Paul said: **“Christ’s love compels us.”**

He wasn't driven by guilt, religious pressure, or the need to win arguments.

He was driven by love.

We don't share because we think we're better than other people. We don't share to look spiritual. And we don't share because one pastor guilt-tripped us. **We share because people matter to God.**

And honestly, some people are harder to care about—the one who irritates you, the one who hurt you, the one who cut you off on the freeway, or the relative who knows exactly how to push your buttons.

Even the ugly-acting ones matter to God.

Jesus didn't only make for church people. He died for the construction worker, the office worker, the student, the athlete, the neighbor, and the relative in your own 'ohana who may never walk into one church service.

Our lives are more than the years we spend here. We were created for eternity with God. Our hope for eternity cannot rest only on wishful thinking. Our hope rests in knowing Jesus.

That truth should not make us judgmental. It should make us loving, prayerful, and courageous.

We don't share to frighten people. We share because we don't want anybody to miss the life Jesus offers—now and for eternity.

Remember this:

People are not projects. People are precious to God.

So here is the action: **See the person.**

Slow down long enough to notice the person God has placed in front of you. Learn their names. Listen to their stories.

And Ask God:

“Lord, help me see this person the way You see them.”

We share because we care, because people matter to God.

2. TELL YOUR STORY—BECAUSE JESUS HAS CHANGED YOU

When I first came to Jesus, I thought being saved was mainly about my final destination—where I would go after I die.

But I began to understand that eternal life begins now, when we enter into a relationship with Jesus. I met Jesus, and my life has never been the same.

Now, I must confess: I can still be pushy, obnoxious, selfish, and prideful. Just ask Gayle and Kanoe. But I am not the same person I was before.

Jesus has been changing how I think, how I love, how I forgive, how I treat people, and how I live. And because Jesus has changed my life, I want other people to know Him too, don't you.

Just before Jesus returned to heaven, He told His disciples:

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses . . . (Acts 1:8 NIV).

Jesus didn't say everybody had to become one theologian, professional preacher, or outgoing extrovert.

He said: **“You will be my witnesses.”**

What does a witness do?

A witness simply tells what they experienced, what changed, and why Jesus matters to them.

You don't need to know everything about the Bible to tell somebody what Jesus has done for you.

You don't need to be perfectly transformed to tell someone Jesus is transforming you.

Maybe you're thinking: "I no like offend anybody." "I don't know enough."

"I'm not outgoing." "Pastor, that's your job."

But sometimes being a witness begins by listening well, loving genuinely, and having enough courage to say:

"Can I share briefly what Jesus has been doing in my life?"

We all have amazing stories about encountering and walking with Jesus, but many of us don't know how to tell them clearly, naturally and compellingly.

That is why we will offer a Transformation Academy class called **Telling Your Story**, on Sundays after second service. You'll hear about this and other TA classes shortly.

It will help you recognize what God has done in your life and share it in a personal, understandable way that points people toward Jesus.

Because somebody in your life may never listen to one sermon from me—but they may listen to your story.

Your coworker may listen to another coworker. One student may listen to another student. Your relative may not open up to a pastor, but they may open up to you.

So here is the action step: **Tell your story and how Jesus enters our Story**

You can begin with three simple statements:

Before Jesus...

What was happening in my life? My problem or challenge. For me it was I was deathly scared of death cuz I didn't know what would happen.

Next, I met Jesus...

How did I begin trusting Him? I wanted everlasting life, but I learned that that life started with having a real relationship with Jesus for now and after I die.

Then, what's been happening. ...

What has He been changing in me? I'm no longer afraid of death, I have reason for living, and my life is way better with him in charge.

You have a story worth telling because Jesus is writing it.

3. TAKE THE STEP—GO WHERE GOD SCATTERS YOU

Jesus said in Matthew 5:13:

“You are the salt of the earth.”

But what good is salt when it stays inside the saltshaker?

Poho the salt stay inside. No can add flavor. No can preserve anything.

No can make any difference. **The salt has to leave the shaker.**

And we are flavorful Hawaiian salt!

Our weekend services are important. We gather to worship, learn, pray, and encourage one another.

But the goal is not simply to keep filling the saltshaker with more Christians.

We gather fo God scatter (keynote slide) us into our worlds

You study Jesus' live, He didn't stay inside the synagogue waiting for everybody to come.

He went to homes, roadsides, fishing boats, wells, dinner tables, and places religious people avoided.

And God scatters us (mimic throwing the salt) into our neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, families, athletic fields, and communities.

Wherever God's people go, the church goes.

I want to show you one example. This is one of our Church Without Walls ministries—a coed softball team reaching people around Mililani and Central O'ahu, including many who don't attend any weekend service.

As you watch, don't only see softball players. See people God loves, relationships being formed, and a mission field where God has already placed us. **[SHOW SOFTBALL VIDEO.]**

Mahalo Coach, Lance/Moana, Coach Alex, and Coach Kim

That is Church Without Walls.

Those are not simply names on one roster. Those are people valuable to God.

They will watch how we respond when we win, how we respond when we lose, how we treat people, and whether the love of Jesus is real in our lives. **Softball is not the mission. People are the mission.**

The field is simply one place God has scattered us to love people, pray for them, and—when He opens the opportunity—share the good news.

Jesus gives us another picture in Mark 4.

²⁶He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground.²⁷Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.²⁸All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head.²⁹As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

A farmer scatters seed, but he cannot force it to grow. His responsibility is to scatter faithfully and trust God to do what only God can do.

I remember sharing the gospel with Gayle's brother, Gordon—one local Pidgin-speaking braddah.

I used Da Jesus Book and drew one simple picture: God on one side, people on the other, and Jesus bringing us back to God.

I asked:

“Gordon, you understand?” He said something like: “Yeah, dass good.”

And that was it. I thought my words fell on deaf ear.

But years later, after Gordon trusted Christ, and when I asked how he believed, he took out his bible and he pulled out the picture I had drawn for him.

I no joke, thought nothing had happened, but the seed had not disappeared. God was working underneath the surface where I could not see.

Remember: **We cannot save nobody. Only Jesus saves.**

We cannot force the seed to grow. But we can pray. We can love.

We can share. We can scatter the seed and trust God with the results.

So here is the action:

Take the step.

You don't need to manufacture one dramatic spiritual moment.

Just be available. Be attentive. Be prayerful. Be willing.

The methods may look different—one conversation, one softball team, one invitation, or one mission across the Pacific—but the mission is the same:

Take the good news of Jesus beyond the walls and choose to be scatter your transforming lives and flavor people with the good news of Jesus.

PERSONAL RESPONSE: ONE PERSON, ONE PRAYER, ONE STEP

Who is one person God has already placed around you who may not yet know Jesus?

Don't think about everybody in Hawai'i.

Think about one person—one neighbor, coworker, classmate, family member, or teammate.

Write that person's name and your name on your **Connection Card**.

Our prayer team will pray with you for God to reach that person through your witness.

Then make these three commitments:

One Person

I will see this person as precious to God.

One Prayer

I will pray:

“Lord, open their heart, open an opportunity, and help me see them the way You do.”

One Step

I will listen to their story, offer to pray, share what Jesus has done in my life, ask a spiritual question, or invite them to church and sit with them.

God will open opportunities when we open our eyes.

See the person. Tell your story. Take the step.

Because we share because we care, because people matter to God.

INTRODUCING KANOE

Not everybody is called to cross an ocean, but every Christian is called to cross something.

Maybe it is the fence between you and your neighbor, the hallway between you and your coworker, or the awkwardness of beginning one spiritual conversation with someone in your 'ohana.

Some are called across the street.

Some are called onto a campus.

And sometimes God calls someone across the ocean.

For the past six years, we have watched God prepare Kanoe through ministry at UH Mānoa and UH West O'ahu, summer missions in New Jersey, the Philippines, and Fiji, and helping equip others to use Soularium across Pacific cultures.

Now God is sending her to New Zealand to equip, encourage, and care for university ministry workers who will reach students with the gospel.

Kanoe, come and share why reaching university students matters so much to you, why you are willing to leave Hawai'i and what is familiar, and what you are praying God will accomplish through those you equip.

Show Soularium Video (4 minutes)

[KANOE SHARES FOR APPROXIMATELY 7 MINUTES.]

1. "Kanoe, why is sharing the gospel with university students so important to you?"
2. "Why are you willing to leave Hawai'i, your family, and what is familiar to serve in New Zealand?"
3. "What do you hope God will accomplish through the university ministry workers you will equip?"

CLOSING CHALLENGE

Kanoe, thank you for sharing your story and being willing to say yes to God's call.

Some of us are scattered across the street, across an office, onto a campus, or across the Pacific.

The distance may be different, but the calling is the same.

Because every person matters to God, we intentionally and boldly carry the good news of Jesus beyond the walls.

Church, who is your one person? What is your one prayer?

And what is the one step God is asking you to take?

Commission Kanoe, But let's commission us all to be his witnesses

Let's pray.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus,

Thank You that somebody cared enough to share the good news with us.

Thank You for the person who prayed for us, loved us, invited us, shared their story, and pointed us toward You.

Most of all, thank You for loving us enough to come for us, die for us, rise again, and bring us back into a relationship with You.

Forgive us when fear, busyness, or concern about what others might think has kept us silent.

Give us Your heart for the people around us.

Help us remember that people are not projects; they are precious to You.

Right now, bring one person to our minds. (See that person)

Help us see them the way You see them.

Give us courage to listen, love, serve, and—when You open the opportunity—share what Jesus has done in our lives.

Holy Spirit, empower us to be Your witnesses.

We cannot save anybody; only Jesus saves. But we can pray, love, scatter the seed, and trust You with the results.

We also pray for Kanoe as You send her to New Zealand.

Protect her, provide for her, guide her, and use her to equip ministry workers so that students throughout New Zealand and the Pacific will encounter the love and truth of Jesus.

And as You send Kanoe across the Pacific, remind us that You are sending every one of us.

Send us into our homes, workplaces, campuses, athletic fields, neighborhoods, and community.

We gather here so You can scatter us there.

May we be ordinary people who boldly and lovingly carry Your extraordinary message.

Because we care, because people matter to You, and because the love of Christ compels us.

In Jesus' name, Dass it!

Small Group Discussion Questions: **See the person. Tell your story. Take the step.**

1. **See the Person:** Who is one person God has placed in your life who may not yet know Jesus? What makes it difficult—or easy—for you to see and love that person the way God does?
2. **Tell Your Story:** If someone asked you, “What difference has Jesus made in your life?” what would you say? Share briefly using: **Before Jesus... I met Jesus... Since then...**
3. **Take the Step:** What is one intentional step you could take with that person this week—listen to their story, offer to pray, share something Jesus has done in your life, ask a spiritual question, or invite them to church?
4. **Pray and Act:** What fear, hesitation, or obstacle might keep you from taking that step? Share it with the group, then **pray for one another by name and for the specific people God has placed on your hearts.** Ask the Holy Spirit for an open door and the courage to walk through it.