

Evangelism:
Thursday Morning Email Devotion for October 26, 2023

Aloha MPC ‘Ohana,

It’s October 26, and time for another Thursday Morning Email Devotion.

Nan and I don’t own a television, so I get my news mostly from Hawai’i Public Radio. I think HPR is a credible news outlet, and I trust the accuracy of their reporting. And yet, true as that is, it’s also true that sometimes I would rather not hear any of the news of the day at all – not from HPR or anywhere else.

Because there often seems to be so much bad news in the world at present. Bad news from Maui. Bad news from Ukraine. Bad news from the Middle East. Bad news from China. Bad news from Washington DC. Bad news from the CDC. Bad news from Wall Street. Bad news from the *Star Advertiser* and the television. Bad news from social media and the internet.

Bad news, too, from friends and neighbors. Bad news from the doctor. Bad news from the boss. Bad news from the bank. Bad news from here, there, and seemingly everywhere.

Which is one of many reasons why our mission as Christians matters so much here and now, in the world today. Because in Jesus Christ, we have *good news*. Good news to share. The good news of God.

Good news which really could bring some mililani to people’s troubled hearts, weighed down by the weight of the world. So, let’s go out into our community and into our world and share the good news we’ve been given!

“Oh, gulp,” you might be thinking. “This devotion is about sharing the gospel. I know what that is. It’s called ‘evangelism.’ And evangelism scares me. I mean, I’m not sure what to say. I’m not sure I’ve got the Bible down cold enough. I’m not sure I know all the theological answers to the questions which people might ask me. I’m not even sure where to start or how to break the ice. I mean, I can’t remember, how many ‘spiritual laws’ are there supposed to be, anyway? Where, again, is the onramp to ‘Romans Road’? And how exactly does that prayer about asking Jesus into your heart go?”

Relax. Please. I don’t know how many “spiritual laws” there are supposed to be, either. I lost the last pamphlet like that, which somebody handed me. And that’s okay, because that’s not what I’m talking about anyway. I’m not talking about a formula or a project or a pamphlet or a proof text or a special prayer.

Instead, I just want to ask you to think about one question: “In my own life, what is one good and true thing that I know, or that I’ve experienced, because of God?”

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That's what I'd like you to focus on. What do you know? What have you experienced? In your own life. Because of God.

Think of it like a fill-in-the-blank sentence: "In my own life, this is one good and/ or true thing that I know because of God:

_____."

If you can, please fill in that blank right now.

Because as soon as you do that, then you'll know: "Here's *my* good news. My good news to share."

It could be all kinds of things. For example...

"In my own life, this is one good and/ or true thing that I know because of God: *I know I'm not alone.*"

Or, "In my own life, this is one good and/ or true thing that I know because of God: *I know that when I pray, I feel peace.*"

Or, "In my own life, this is one good and/ or true thing that I know because of God: *I know my family is a gift, and I feel so blessed.*"

Or, "In my own life, this is one good and/ or true thing that I know because of God: *I know I'm so grateful for me being led to MPC. I've been given so much love here.*"

Or it could be a million and one other things too.

What I'm asking you is, what is "good" to you about being a Christian, about being a believer?

"In my own life, this is one good and/ or true thing that I know because of God: _____." Please fill in the blank.

Because *that* is your good news to share. And there are people out there in our world who would be blessed, encouraged, helped, inspired, preserved, maybe even saved, if you would just speak up and share your good news with them.

Because the world is full of people who are desperate to hear a little good news, some good word which might give them even the smallest little reason to feel a little mililani in their life again. So don't be afraid to speak up and to share your good news with them!

Let people know about the good news which you have come to believe in your own life, because of your faith. Because the world is full of people who are looking for a little good news. And if you'll let him, God might just use you to bring that good news to your neighbor's heart – and with it, some much-needed mililani, too; in Jesus' name.

Me ke aloha,
Pastor Ron

복음 전도:
2023년 10월 26일 목요일 아침 이메일 묵상

알로하 MPC ‘오하나,
10월 26일은 또 다른 목요일 아침 이메일 묵상 시간입니다.
Nan과 저는 텔레비전이 없어서 주로 하와이 공영 라디오에서 뉴스를 듣습니다.
나는 HPR이 믿을 만한 언론 매체라고 생각하며 그들의 보도가 정확하다고 믿습니다.
그러나 그것이 사실이기는 하지만 때로는 오늘의 뉴스를 HPR이나 다른 어느 곳에서도 전혀
듣고 싶지 않은 것도 사실입니다.
현재 세상에는 나쁜 소식이 너무 많은 것 같기 때문입니다.
마우이에서 나쁜 소식이 왔습니다.
우크라이나에서 나쁜 소식입니다.
중동에서 나쁜 소식이 전해졌습니다.
중국에서 나쁜 소식이 전해졌습니다.
워싱턴 DC에서 나쁜 소식이 전해졌습니다.
CDC에서 나쁜 소식이 왔습니다.
월스트리트의 나쁜 소식.
스타광고주 와 텔레비전의 나쁜 소식입니다.
소셜 미디어와 인터넷의 나쁜 소식.
친구와 이웃으로부터도 나쁜 소식이 전해집니다.
의사로부터 나쁜 소식이 전해졌습니다.
상사의 나쁜 소식.
은행에는 나쁜 소식입니다.
여기저기서, 그리고 걸보기에는 모든 곳에서 나쁜 소식이 들려옵니다.
이것이 바로 지금 이 세상에서 그리스도인으로서의 우리의 사명이 그토록 중요한 이유 중 하나
입니다.
예수 그리스도 안에서 우리에게 _좋은 소식_ 있기 때문입니다.
좋은 소식을 공유합니다.
하나님의 좋은 소식.
세상의 무게에 짓눌려 있는 사람들의 불안한 마음에 실제로 약간의 밀리라니를 가져다줄 수 있
는 좋은 소식입니다.
그러니 우리 지역 사회와 세계로 나가서 우리가 받은 좋은 소식을 공유합시다!
“아, 꿀꺽꿀꺽”이라고 생각할 수도 있습니다.
“이 헌신은 복음을 나누는 것입니다.
나는 그것이 무엇인지 압니다.
그것을 ‘전도’라고 합니다. 그리고 전도는 두렵습니다.

