

Home Front Series: Making Margin for the Mission
May 17 - 18, 2025

What a tribute to a wonderful soldier for Jesus, Roy “Shadow” Kunewa Helepololei who served Jesus well, and that’s how he lived, a man crucified with Christ this side of heaven, his old life gone, and now a new life with Christ. And what a great song that represents what happens at today’s baptism. And now let me read a portion of a letter PMike wrote to “From a grateful church”

For twenty remarkable years, Roy poured his soul into leading his Ohana Group with a love that was both gentle and compassionate. He had a rare gift—a way of seeing people, truly seeing them, and drawing them into a family bound by commitment and friendship. Under his guidance, the Ohana Group became more than a gathering; it was a sanctuary of belonging, a place where laughter, tears, and prayers were woven together into a true Ohana. His leadership was not top down, but about lifting others up, pointing us toward grace, and showing us what it means to love as Christ loves.

And oh, how Roy graced us with his sign dances! Those dances were Roy’s offering, a radiant expression of his faith, and we will forever be blessed by how he ushered Heaven onto the Earth.

On the church board of directors, Roy was a steady voice of wisdom and godly accountability. He brought understanding to complex decisions by his clarifying questions, always seeking what was right rather than what was easy. His counsel was rooted in scripture, seasoned with humility, and delivered with a quiet strength that made us all better stewards of this church. He held us to a higher standard—not out of judgment, but out of love for the NHCO family and its mission.

Roy Helepololei was a rare soul—a man who lived with purpose, led with compassion, and loved without measure. To his family, we extend our deepest gratitude for sharing him with us, and to Roy, we say mahalo nui loa for the indelible mark you’ve left on our lives. Your departure leaves an ache, but your life fills us with inspiration. We know you are now dancing before the throne of God, and we look forward to the day we’ll join you there. With love and eternal appreciation, PMike.

On a personal note, let me share some of my precious memories of Roy.

In my early yrs of being pastor and helping to get people connected in ohana groups, Roy and Pam would team up with Gayle and I. We’d start groups, become true ohana, install a leader, and then I moved on with the Helepololeis to connect others to become ohana. And we’d do this over and over. Until one time, Pam said to me, in the respectful but stern way of hers, and said “if you break us up from this group, I’ll leave the church,

but Pam that's the church. And they've been with their current OG since that time, carrying each other to Jesus, especially now as they mourn the loss of their patriarch.

One precious memory Gayle and I have, about 20 yrs ago now, we took a trip together with our kids, to NY NY. Because Roy's connections with his job as director of Security of Sheraton Hotel, Royal Hawaiian Hotel the Moana Surfrider, and the Princess Kaiulani he had some clout and perks. So we get to the Westin N.Y, in the center of Times Square Manhattan, high makamaka hotel, and we get to the front desk and check in, and the guest services person asks Roy what's your relationship with the Moriharas. And Roy confidently answers, Oh, this is my sister. Ok, you can get the family rate then. I look at Roy and he smiles. And after I tell Roy, not suppose to lie, and he said, didn't you teach us that we brothers and sisters in Christ. That's right! And we get one corner suite, overlooking times sq. In life, it's not about what you know, but who you know that counts. And we knew Roy.

Lastly, I'll never forget the time we had a Board retreat at Sheraton Hotel. There is area at the Sheraton with all these rocking chairs overlooking a pond. And he shared that when he'd face challenges at work, he'd take his seat on one of those rocking chairs and talk to Jesus. The director of security for all those Kyoya Hotels, Roy, sought Jesus presence. All great spiritual leaders find their way into God's very presence to get guidance and courage to lead well. That was our Roy.

And over the years when I needed someone to shepherd my heart with his listening ear, I'd call Roy and he'd listen well and reassured me. And I'll so miss that.

I'm sure he's been greeted in heaven with those words of Jesus, "well done my good and faithful servant" (Show Program photo **keynote**)

His celebration of life service will be held at Mililani Mortuary, Mauka

Chapel (**keynote image**) The family invites you to celebrate his illustrious life next Friday, May 23rd. Visitation: 5:30 pm; Services: 6:30 pm at Mililani Mortuary Mauka Chapel.

Roy made Margin for the Mission on his Home Front. And we are better because of Roy. And I get to share about this important value at NHCO.

You see whether Roy was at work or home, he carried the very presence of Jesus well. Why? Because he understood the mission of Jesus well and he made room for that wherever he went. (**Show series graphic keynote**)

This graphic captures the battle we face on our home front. What's at stake! It's the battle for our families and our close relationships. All around us we see broken families, disconnected families, families so busy with the cares of this world that they don't even connect deeply with one another. Sounds familiar, like your families at times, or maybe you experiencing peace in the midst of the battles the rage all around us on your home front. And especially in the Hawaii we know of today. The cost of living is so high that much of our best energies go into our careers to get ahead financially just to get by. We see what families do with all the extracurricular activities available today as well: Hula, Soccer, baseball, volleybal, martial arts, you name it. And our homes become a place we just eat, shower, sleep and repeat. Pet the wife/kids and kiss the dog.

So how is it on your Home Front. If the family is center of the home,

I wanna have us do a Home Inspection. Take one Home Inventory of how we are doing on our Home Front. Now I realize not all of you have kids or parents you live with, but I'm sure you have people in your lives. So I'm not excluding you.

How much of your best energies are spent at the office, outside of the home and away from your ohana? Are we busy chasing the American dream of home ownership, a great career, and plenny toys for our enjoyment. Or are we taking the time to make it our mission to know and love each other well.

Let's see what our master Jesus says should be our main mission for our Home. And I pray and hope we can be clear on that mission because it's so tempting to settle for lessor missions and get distracted from Jesus'

mission for us on the Home Front. So are you ready to hear our master's mission? You know this passage, so I figgah go read um in HP (**Keynote**)

One teacha dat teach da Rules From God stan up fo aks Jesus one question fo tes him. He tell, "Teacha, wat I gotta do fo get da real kine life dat goin stay to da max foeva?" Jesus tell, "Tell me wat da Rules From God tell inside da Bible." Da teacha tell, "Go all out fo show love an aloha fo yoa God, Da One In Charge. Show yoa aloha wit eryting inside you, wit how you feel, wit how you tink, an wit all yoa powa. An go all out fo show love an aloha fo erybody jalike you get love an aloha fo you." Jesus tell, "Dass right! Do dat an you goin live fo real kine" (Luke 10:25 - 28 DGASB).

In Matthew's rendering of loving God with everything we have and fo go all out fo show love an aloha fo erybody, Jesus says, "all the laws and the prophets" Da Nevium Law and Ketuvim (Writings). Dass the whole bible.

But we get distracted from Jesus Home Front mission. Easy fo get mission drift. And we need to be reminded on the Home Front and all that's going on in our lives, no foget fo make room, make margin in our homes to experience Jesus loving presence with our families. And if you don't have any biological ohana, God wants us to not to do life alone.

And right after this teaching, Jesus gives a story to illustrate this mission for his listeners, He tells the Good Samaritan story. You know that story, don't you. But right after that, Luke captures another Jesus encounter showing what is important in expressing love and aloha.

Have you all heard the story of the two sisters in the bible that hosted Jesus at their home? What's their names? Mary and Martha. And for those who know about them, who should we be more like Mary or Martha? Why not Martha? For those of you who are unfamiliar, I'd like to share a video about the story and I figure everyone can relate as this is a video that we show in our CA. Check um out.

(Video Keynote: 3:29) Wasn't that so good!

To be caught up in His presence, to have the attitude of "I just want to sit here at Your feet and know you more and sing out "I'm caught up in this holy moment and I never wanna leave" as the lyrics of that song we sang.

Our total devotion to the one that loves us, knows our anxious heart, know our future, cares for our best interest, promises to carry us through life's difficulties, he deserves our attention and devotion.

Now lissen up real good cuz this is kind of deep, the deepest sense of love is to know someone intimately and to accept them, to know their dreams, their experiences good and not so good, their hurts, their fears, disappointments, their joys, and to embrace that person in all their ways. Obviously this should happen and is a picture in a husband and wife relationship.

So let's go back to Mary and Martha. Mary decided it was more important to sit at Jesus feet to know him and for Jesus to know her.

Do we have that kind of attitude of getting close with God and that attitude of knowing God overflows into our relationships with those around us. And that can happen on the Home Front. I hope you have had those intimate "Knowing Conversations", vulnerable talks your or someone bearing their souls, sharing their joys, hurts, fears, their failures and it's a mutual sharing. When someone who sincerely wants to know you and allows you to be you as you share your true self, that's a gift of love! I wanna get good at this, cuz Jesus does this to me, I so wanna do this with others.

That can't happen in a setting like this. It happens on the Home Front and in settings where we can turn our chairs toward one another and listen

beyond the words and truly wanna know that person. As great as our weekend church services are in trying to get you into the presence of God, but we all need something more, it's a setting where we can know one another" Yes, the Home Front, but it other small group settings, ohana groups, Hope Ministry, settings where we can be Mary's to one another. I think there are more distractions today than ever before. There are so many things vying for our attention in this digital age, just in my lifetime (TV, how many of you remember TV will dials had only 12 stations and couldn't channel surf. **(keynote image)** Nobody had mobile phones, and if you had one, it was a brick. **(keynote image)** I go out to a restaurant and I see people on their phones while sitting across one another. Wow! We can be physically present with someone, but be miles away emotionally, not even paying attention to know each other. Now that was 2000 years ago. Why don't we imagine Jesus coming to our homes today. And he does! How so you ask? Let me ask you this question. How many of you trusted Jesus as your savior and as the one in charge of your lives, we say Lord? Ok dass good. So we know something miraculous and mysterious happened because of that. What is that? God's very presence is in our lives.

Paul tell dis, Eh! You know, you guys jalike one temple fo God, an his Spirit stay live inside you guys (1 Corinth 3:16 DGASB)! **(Keynote)**

Lissen up real good. You carry the very presence of Jesus! Tell the person next to you, "You carry Jesus in you"! "I carry Jesus in me" So pause and think with me, if we have the very presence of Jesus, his spirit with us, shouldn't we listen, speak to, and treat one another as if Jesus is right there with us? Does that give you a better perspective on the ongoing in your house? Are we making margin to really listen, care, learn from each other.

And treat each other well in our homes? Or are we just arguing, fighting, taking each other for granted cuz we so about ourselves?

Jesus comes to our homes all the time, and it's with one another, we just don't think of it that way. We think I'll be with Jesus when I go church, sure he's here. And that's our highest value, to host the very presence of Jesus. But for many of us we leave Jesus here when we leave. My prayer is for you to bring Jesus presence with you as you come and go! So I wanna challenge all of us, including myself: (Show #1 - 7 on the keynote slides **(Place two or three of these on one slide)**)

1. Do a Home Front Inspection

- **Challenge:** This week, take intentional time to assess your relationships at home or with those closest to you. Ask: *Are we connecting deeply, or just coexisting? Am I making space for God's presence in my home?*
- **Practical Step:** Set aside 30 minutes with each family member or close friend just to **listen and connect**—no agenda, no screens.

2. Create Margin for What Matters Most

- **Challenge:** Identify **one area** in your life where busyness or overcommitment is crowding out time with God or time with your loved ones.
- **Practical Step:** Cut one thing from your weekly schedule this week (a meeting, a show, a scroll session), and use that time to be **fully present**—either in quiet with God, or with someone in your ohana.

3. Be Present Like Mary

- **Challenge:** In the spirit of Mary, choose to **sit at Jesus' feet** instead of rushing through a chore or a task.
- **Practical Step:** Spend 10–15 minutes daily this week in **unhurried devotion**—read Scripture, journal, or just sit in silence acknowledging God's presence in your life.

4. Host the Presence of Jesus at Home

- **Challenge:** Ask yourself, *If Jesus was physically in your home this week, how would I speak to and treat those around me?*
- **Practical Step:** For one week, **act intentionally** as though **Jesus is present at your dinner table, in your conflicts, and in your celebrations**. Let that shape your words and attitude.

5. Carry the Mission into Your Workplace

- **Challenge:** Roy carried Jesus into his job as Director of Security—not by preaching, but through presence, integrity, and compassion. What does that look like in your setting?
- **Practical Step:** Find one way to bring God's aloha into your work this week—an **encouraging word, a prayer for a coworker, a moment of kindness**.

6. Shepherd Like Roy

- **Challenge:** Who in your life needs someone to really see them, to draw them into community, or to walk with them in grace?

- **Practical Step:** Invite one person into deeper connection—**join a small group**, reach out to a lonely neighbor, or offer to pray with someone going through a hard time.

7. Celebrate and Support Others in Their Faith Journey

- **Challenge:** As others declare their faith (like those being baptized at Alii Beach Park), are you actively supporting and celebrating the steps of faith in your community?
- **Practical Step: Attend today's baptism**, write a note of encouragement to someone new in their faith, or start discipling someone who's hungry for more of Jesus.

Closing Reflection

To make room. To live with margin. To love like Jesus—at home, at work, in our ohana.

Which of these challenges speaks most to your current season of life?

Would you like help creating a simple weekly action plan to follow through?

Let's stand as we close: End with the best gift of love is that God came close to us. He wants to make house in the homes of our hearts first. If you've never made a decision to receive his love, believe he died for you. I wanna give you that opportunity to do so now