

Blessed Are the Peacemakers

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Heri Wapatanishi

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Wa Akidi ya Mitume Kumi na Wawili

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Peacemaking still begins in the most basic place—in our hearts. Then in homes and families.

Welcome to general conference. How grateful we are to be gathered.

As we anticipate these conference proceedings, we are acutely aware of the weeks leading up to it. We realize that our hearts are mourning loss, and some feel uncertainty caused by violence or tragedy throughout the world. Even devout people gathered in sacred spaces—including our hallowed chapel in Michigan—have lost their lives or loved ones. I speak from my heart, realizing that many of your hearts are burdened by what you, your families, and our world have undergone since last general conference.

Capernaum in Galilee

Imagine with me you are a young teenager in Capernaum, near the Sea of Galilee, during the ministry of Jesus Christ. Word spreads of a rabbi—a teacher—whose message draws multitudes. Neighbors plan to travel to a mount overlooking the sea to hear Him.

You join others walking the dusty roads of Galilee. Upon your arrival, the large crowd gathered to hear this Jesus surprises you. Some quietly whisper, “Messiah.”

You listen. His words touch your heart. On the long walk home, you choose quiet over conversation.

Upatanishi bado unaanzia mahala pa muhimu zaidi—ndani ya mioyo yetu. Kisha nyumbani na kwenye familia.

Karibuni kwenye mkutano mkuu. Tunashukuru jinsi gani kwa kukusanyika.

Tunapotazamia matangazo haya ya mkutano, tunafahamu vyema juu ya wiki zilizotangulia hili. Tunatambua kwamba mioyo mingi inaomboleza kwa upotevu, na baadhi wanahisi kutokuwa na uhakika kunakosababishwa na vurugu au majanga kote ulimwenguni. Hata watu wacha Mungu waliokusanyika katika sehemu takatifu—ikijumuisha kanisa takatifu katika Michigan—wamepoteza maisha yao au wapendwa wao. Ninazungumza kutoka ndani ya moyo wangu, nikitambua kwamba mingi ya mioyo yenu imelemewa na kile ambacho ninyi, familia zenu, au ulimwengu wetu umepitia tangu mkutano mkuu uliopita.

Kapernaumu Galilaya

Vuta taswira pamoja nami kwamba wewe ni kijana katika Kapernaumu, kando ya Bahari ya Galilaya, wakati wa huduma ya Yesu Kristo. Taarifa zinasambaa kuhusu rabi—mwalimu—ambaye ujumbe wake unawavuta wengi. Majirani wanapanga kusafiri kwenda mlima ulio mkabala na bahari ili kumsikiliza.

Unaungana na wengine kutembea katika njia yenye vumbi ya Galilaya. Unapofika, umati mkubwa uliokusanyika kumsikiliza huyu Yesu unakushangaza. Baadhi wananong’ona kwa upole, “Masiya.”

Unasikiliza. Maneno Yake yanaugusa moyo wako. Kwenye matembezi marefu ya kurudi nyumbani, unachagua ukimya badala ya mazu-

You ponder wondrous things—things that transcend even the law of Moses. He spoke of turning the other cheek and loving your enemies. He promised, “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”

In your reality, as you feel the weight of difficult days—uncertainty and fear—peace feels distant.

Your pace quickens; you arrive home breathless. Your family gathers; your father asks, “Tell us what you heard and feel.”

You share that He invited you to let your light shine before others, to seek righteousness even when persecuted. Your voice catches as you repeat, “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”

You ask, “Can I truly become a peacemaker when the world is in commotion, when my heart is filled with fear, and when peace seems so far away?”

Your father glances at your mother and answers gently, “Yes. We begin in the most basic place—in our hearts. Then in our homes and families. As we practice there, peacemaking can spread to our streets and villages.”

Fast Forward 2,000 Years

Fast forward 2,000 years. No need to imagine—this is our reality. Although the pressures felt by today’s rising generation differ from those of the young person in Galilee—polarization, secularization, retaliation, road rage, outrage, and social media pile-ons—both generations face cultures of conflict and tension.

Gratefully, our young men and women are similarly drawn to their Sermon-on-the-Mount moments: seminary, For the Strength of Youth conferences, and Come, Follow Me. Here they receive the same enduring invitations from the Lord: to let their light shine before others, to seek righteousness even when persecuted, and to love their enemies.

They also receive encouraging words from living prophets of the Restoration: “Peacemakers needed.” Disagree without being disagreeable. Replace contention and pride with forgiveness and love. Build bridges of cooperation and under-

ngumzo.

Unatafakari mambo ya kustaajabisha—mambo ambayo ni zaidi hata ya sheria ya Musa. Alizungumza kuhusu kugeuza shavu lingine na kuwapenda maadui zako. Aliahidi, “Heri wapatanishi: maana hao wataitwa wana wa Mungu.”

Katika uhalisia wako, kadiri unavyohisi uzito wa siku ngumu—kutokuwa na uhakika na hofu—amani inaonekana kutofikika.

Hatua zako zinaongezeka; unafika nyumba ni umechoka sana. Familia yako inakusanyika; baba yako anauliza, “Tuambie kile ulichosikia na kuhisi.”

Unashiriki kwamba Alikualika kuacha nuru yako iangaze mbele za watu, kutafuta haki hata wakati unapoudhiwa. Sauti yako inatetemeka unaporudia, “Heri wapatanishi: maana hao wataitwa wana wa Mungu.”

Unauliza, “Ninaweza kweli kuwa mpatanishi wakati ulimwengu upo katika vurugu, wakati moyo wangu umejaa hofu, na wakati amani inaonekana kutofikika?”

Baba yako anamtazama mama yako na kujibu kwa upole, “Ndiyo. Tunaanzia mahali pa muhimu zaidi—ndani ya mioyo yetu. Kisha kwenye nyumba na familia zetu. Tunapofanya mazoezi huko, upatanishi unaweza kusambaa kwenye mitaa na vijiji vyetu.

Peleka Mbele Miaka 2,000

Peleka mbele miaka 2,000. Hakuna haja ya kuvuta taswira—huu ni uhalisia wetu. Ingawa mashinikizo yanayohisiwa na kizazi chipukizi cha leo ni tofauti na yale ya kijana katika Galilaya—ubaguzi, ukosefu wa dini, visasi, hasira barabarani, jeuri, na mashambulizi kwenye mitandao ya kijamii—vizazi vyote viwili vinakabiliwa na tamaduni za migogoro na mashinikizo.

Kwa shukrani, wavulana na wasichana wetu kadhalika wameletwa kwenye nyakati zao za Mahubiri ya Mlimani: seminari, mikutano ya Kwa Ajili ya Nguvu kwa Vijana, na Njoo, Unifuata. Hapa wanapokea mialiko sawa ya kudumu kutoka kwa Bwana: kuacha nuru yao iangaze mbele za watu, kutafuta haki hata wakati wanapoudhiwa, na kuwapenda maadui zao.

Wanapokea pia maneno ya kutia moyo kutoka kwa manabii walio hai wa Urejesho: “Wapatanishi Wanahitajika.” Kuwa na maoni tofauti bila kuwa adui. Badilisha ubishi na kiburi kwa msa-maha na upendo. Jenga madaraja ya ushirikiano

standing, not walls of prejudice or segregation. And the same promise: “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”

The hearts of today’s rising generation are filled with a testimony of Jesus Christ and a hope for the future. Yet they too ask, “Can I truly become a peacemaker when the world is in commotion, my heart is filled with fear, and peace seems so far away?”

The resounding response is once again yes! We embrace the words of the Savior: “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you. ... Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

Today, peacemaking still begins in the most basic place—in our hearts. Then in homes and families. As we practice there, peacemaking will spread into our neighborhoods and communities.

Let’s further consider these three places where a modern-day Latter-day Saint makes peace.

Peacemaking in Our Hearts

The first is in our hearts. A visible element of Christ’s ministry demonstrates how children were drawn to Him. Therein lies a clue. Looking into the pure and innocent peacemaking heart of a child can be an inspiration for our hearts. Here is how several Primary-age children answered “What does it look like to be a peacemaker?”

I share their responses straight from their hearts! Luke said, “Always help others.” Grace shared how important it is to forgive each other, even when it doesn’t feel fair. Anna said, “I saw someone who didn’t have anyone to play with, so I went to play with her.” Lindy reflected that to be a peacemaker is to help others. “Then you pass it on. It will just keep going on and on.” Liam said, “Don’t be mean to people, even if they are mean to you.” London exclaimed, “If someone teases or is mean to you, you say, ‘Please stop.’” Trevor observed, “If there is one donut left and you all want it, you share.”

These children’s responses are evidence to me that we are all born with divine inclinations toward kindness and compassion. The gospel of Jesus Christ nurtures and knits these divine

na uelewa, si kuta za chuki au ubaguzi. Na ahadi ileile: “Heri wapatanishi: maana hao wataitwa wana wa Mungu.”

Mioyo ya kizazi chipukizi cha leo imejaa ushuhuda wa Yesu Kristo na tumaini kwa ajili ya siku zijazo. Na bado wao pia wanauliza, “Ni-naweza kweli kuwa mpatanishi wakati ulimwengu upo katika vurugu, moyo wangu umejaa hofu, na amani inaonekana kutofikika?”

Jibu imara kwa mara nyingine ni ndiyo! Tunayakubali maneno ya Mwokozi: “Amani nawaachieni; amani yangu nawapa. ... Msifad-haike mioyoni mwenu, wala msiwe na woga.”

Upatanishi bado unaanzia mahala pa muhimu zaidi—ndani ya mioyo yetu. Kisha nyumbani na kwenye familia. Tunapofanya mazoezi huko, upatanishi utasambaa katika ujirani na jumuiya zetu.

Hebu tuzingatie zaidi maeneo haya matatu ambapo Mtakatifu wa Siku za Mwisho wa leo “anakuwa mpatanishi .

Upatanishi Ndani ya Mioyo Yetu

Kwanza ni ndani ya mioyo yetu. Kipengele cha wazi cha huduma ya Kristo kinaelezea jinsi watoto walivyovutiwa Naye. Hapo ndipo ki-dokezo kilipo. Kutazama ndani ya moyo msafi na usio na hatia wa upatanishi wa mtoto inaweza kuwa uvuvio kwa mioyo yetu. Hivi ndivyo watoto kadhaa wa umri wa Msingi walivyojibu “Inaonekanaje kuwa mpatanishi?”

Ninashiriki majibu yao moja kwa moja kutoka mioyoni mwao! Luke alisema, “Daima wasaidie wengine.” Grace alishiriki jinsi ilivyo muhimu kusameheana, hata wakati ambapo haionekani kuwa sawa. Anna alisema, “Nilimwona mtu ambaye hana wa kucheza naye, hivyo nilienda kucheza naye.” Lindy alisema kwamba kuwa mpatanishi ni kuwasaidia wengine. “Ki-sha unasongesha hilo mbele. Litaendelea mbele tena na tena.” Liam alisema, “Usiwe mkorofi kwa watu, hata kama wao ni wakorofi kwako.” London alisema kwa msisitizo, “Ikiwa mtu anafanya mzaha au ni mkorofi, unasema, ‘Tafadhali acha.’” Trevor alisema, “Ikiwa kuna donati moja imebaki na wote mnaitaka, mnagawana.”

Majibu ya watoto hawa ni ushahidi kwangu kwamba sote tumezaliwa na tabia ya asili ya kiungu ya ukarimu na huruma. Injili ya Yesu Kristo hukuza na kufuma pamoja tabia hizi za

traits, including peacemaking, into our hearts, blessing us in this life and the next.

Peacemaking at Home

Second, building peacemaking in our homes by using the Lord's pattern to influence our relationships with one another: persuasion, long-suffering, gentleness, kindness, meekness, and love unfeigned.

Here is an inspiring story that demonstrates how one family made peacemaking a family affair, putting these principles into practice.

Children in this family were struggling in their relationship with an adult whose demeanor was often grumpy, condescending, and curt. The children, hurt and frustrated, began to wonder if the only way forward was to mirror that same mean-spirited behavior.

One evening the family spoke openly together about the tension and the toll it was taking. And then an idea emerged—not just a solution but an experiment.

Instead of responding with silence or retaliation, the children would do something unexpected: they would respond with kindness. Not just polite restraint but a deliberate, heartfelt outpouring of kind words and thoughtful deeds, no matter how they were treated in return. All agreed to try it for a set time, after which they'd regroup and reflect.

Though some were hesitant at first, they committed to the plan with genuine hearts.

What happened next was nothing short of remarkable.

The cold exchanges began to thaw. Smiles replaced scowls. The adult, once distant and harsh, began to change. The children, empowered by their choice to lead with love, found joy in the transformation. The change was so profound that the planned follow-up meeting was never needed. Kindness had done its quiet work.

In time, true bonds of friendship were formed, lifting everyone. To be peacemakers, we forgive others and deliberately build others up instead of tearing them down.

Peacemaking in Our Communities

Third, peacemaking in our communities. In

kiungu, ikijumuisha upatanishi, ndani ya mioyo yetu, zikitubariki katika maisha haya na yajayo.

Upatanishi Nyumbani

Pili, kujenga upatanishi ndani ya nyumba zetu kwa kutumia mpangilio wa Bwana kushawishi mahusiano kati yetu: ushawishi, uvumilivu, upole, ukarimu, unyenyekevu na upendo usio unafiki.

Hapa kuna hadithi ya kuvutia inayoelezea jinsi familia moja ilivyofanya upatanishi kuwa lengo la pamoja, wakifanyia kazi kanuni hizi.

Watoto katika familia hii walikuwa wakipata shida katika uhusiano wao na mtu ambaye tabia yake mara nyingi ilikuwa hasira, kujikweza, na ukali. Watoto, wakiumizwa na kukasirishwa, walianza kujiuliza ikiwa njia pekee ilikuwa ni kuiga tabia zilezile za roho ya ukatili.

Jioni familia ilizungumza kwa uwazi pamoja kuhusu hali ile na madhara yake. Na kisha wazo likaibuka—si tu suluhisho bali jaribio.

Badala ya kujibu kwa ukimya au kisasi, watoto wangepanya jambo lisilotarajiwa: wangepibu kwa ukarimu. Si tu kujizuia kwa upole bali utoaji wa makusudi, kutoka moyoni wa maneno ya ukarimu na matendo ya kujali, bila kujali malipo yake. Wote walikubali kujaribu kwa muda fulani, ambapo baadaye wangekutana tena na kujadili.

Ingawa baadhi mwanzoni walisita, walijikita kwenye mpango kwa moyo wa dhiti.

Kilichotokea baadaye kilikuwa cha kustaajabisha.

Uadui ulianza kupungua. Tabasamu zikachukua nafasi ya hasira. Mtu mzima yule, aliyekuwa adui na mkali, alianza kubadilika. Watoto, wakipewa nguvu na uchaguzi wao wa kuongoza kwa upendo, walipata shangwe katika badiliko. Badiliko lilikuwa kubwa kiasi kwamba mkutano wa ufuatiliaji uliopangwa haukuhitajika. Ukarimu ulikuwa umefanya kazi yake ya kimya kimya.

Baada ya muda, miunganiko ya kweli ya urafiki ilijengwa, ikimuinua kila mmoja. Ili kuwa wapatanishi, tunawasamehe wengine na kwa makusudi kuwainua wengine badala ya kuwashusha chini.

Upatanishi kwenye Jumuiya Zetu

Tatu, upatanishi kwenye jumuiya zetu.

the troubled years of World War II, Elder John A. Widtsoe taught: “The only way to build a peaceful community is to build men and women who are lovers and makers of peace. Each individual, by that doctrine of Christ ... holds in his hands the peace of the [whole] world.”

The following story beautifully illustrates that precept.

Several years ago, two men—a Muslim imam and a Christian pastor from Nigeria—stood on opposite sides of a painful religious divide. Each had suffered deeply. And yet, through the healing power of forgiveness, they chose to walk a path together.

Imam Muhammad Ashafa and Pastor James Wuye became friends and unlikely partners in peace. Together they established a center for interfaith mediation. They now teach others to replace hatred with hope. As two-time nominees for the Nobel Peace Prize, they recently became inaugural recipients of the Commonwealth Peace Prize.

These former enemies now travel side by side rebuilding what was broken, living witnesses that the Savior’s invitation to be peacemakers is not only possible—it is powerful.

When we come to know the glory of God, then we “will not have a mind to injure one another, but to live peaceably.” In our congregations and our communities, may we choose to see one another as children of God.

A One-Week Peacemaker Plan

In summary, I offer an invitation. Peacemaking demands action—what might that be, for each of us, starting tomorrow? Would you consider a one-week, three-step peacemaker plan?

A contention-free home zone: When contention starts, pause and reboot with kind words and deeds.

Digital bridge building: Before posting, replying, or commenting online, ask, Will this build a bridge? If not, stop. Do not send. Instead, share goodness. Publish peace in the place of hate.

Repair and reunite: Each family member could seek out a strained relationship in order to apologize, minister, repair, and reunite.

Katika miaka ya dhiki ya Vita ya Pili ya Dunia, Mzee John A. Widtsoe alifundisha: “Njia pekee ya kujenga jumuiya yenye amani ni kuwajenga wanaume na wanawake wenye upendo na wapatanishi. Kila mmoja, kwa fundisho hilo la Kristo ... anashikilia mikononi mwake amani ya ulimwengu [mzima].”

Hadithi ifuatayo inaelezea kwa uzuri mstari huo.

Miaka kadhaa iliyopita, wanaume wawili—imamu wa Kiislamu na Pasta wa Kikristo kutoka Nigeria—walisimama pande mkabala za mgawanyo mchungu wa kidini. Kila mmoja alikuwa ameteseka sana. Na bado, kupitia nguvu ya uponyaji ya msamaha, walichagua kutembea pamoja.

Imamu Muhammad Ashafa na Pasta James Wuye walikuwa marafiki na washirika ambao hawakutarajiwa wa amani. Kwa pamoja walianzisha kituo kwa ajili ya upatanishi wa mchanganyiko wa dini. Sasa wanawafundisha wengine kubadilisha chuki kwa tumaini. Wakiwa wameteuliwa mara mbili kwa ajili ya Tuzo ya Amani ya Nobel, hivi karibuni wamekuwa wapokeaji wa uzinduzi wa Tuzo ya Amani ya Jumuiya ya Madola.

Maadui hawa wa zamani sasa wanasafiri bega kwa bega kujenga kile kilichovunjika, ushahidi hai kwamba mwaliko wa Mwokozi wa kuwa wapatanishi si tu unawezekana—bali pia una nguvu.

Tunapopata kuujua utukufu wa Mungu, ndipo, “hatutakuwa na nia ya kuumizana, bali kuishi kwa amani.” Katika mikusanyiko yetu na jumuiya, na tuchague kutazamana kama watoto wa Mungu.

Mpango wa Wiki Moja wa Mpatanishi

Kwa ufupi, ninatoa mwaliko. Upatanishi unahitaji tendo—tendo hilo laweza kuwa lipi, kwa kila mmoja wetu, kuanzia kesho? Je, unaweza kuzingatia mpango wa wiki moja, wenye hatua tatu wa mpatanishi?

Nyumba isiyo na mabishano: Wakati mabishano yanapoanza, tulia na anza upya kwa maneno na matendo ya ukarimu.

Kujenga maelewano mtandaoni: Kabla ya kuposti, kujibu, au kutoa maoni mtandaoni, uliza, Je hili litaleta maelewano? Ikiwa halileti, acha. Usitume. Badala yake, shiriki wema. Tangaza amani mahala pa chuki.

Rekebisha na unganisha tena: Kila mwanafamilia angeweza kutafuta uhusiano uliovunjika ili kuomba msamaha, kuhudumu, kurekebisha, na

kuunganisha.

Conclusion

It has been a few months since I felt an undeniable impression leading to this message: “Blessed Are the Peacemakers.” In conclusion, may I share impressions that have pressed upon my heart over this time.

Peacemaking is a Christlike attribute. Peacemakers are sometimes labeled naive or weak—from all sides. Yet, to be a peacemaker is not to be weak but to be strong in a way that the world may not understand. Peacemaking requires courage and compromise but does not require sacrifice of principle. Peacemaking is to lead with an open heart, not a closed mind. It is to approach one another with extended hands, not clenched fists. Peacemaking is not a new thing, hot off the press. It was taught by Jesus Christ Himself, both to those in the Bible and the Book of Mormon. Peacemaking has since been taught by modern-day prophets from the earliest days of the Restoration even to this day.

We fulfill our divine role as children of a loving Heavenly Father as we strive to become peacemakers. I bear testimony of Jesus Christ, who is the Prince of Peace, the Son of the living God, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Hitimisho

Imekuwa miezi kadhaa tangu nilipohi-si msukumo usioepukika ulioongoza kwenye ujumbe huu: “Heri Wapatanishi.” Katika kuhitimisha, naomba nishiriki misukumo ambayo imekuja moyoni mwangu kwa kipindi hiki.

Upatanishi ni sifa kama ya Kristo. Wapatanishi nyakati zingine wanaitwa washamba au dhaifu—katika hali zote. Lakini bado, kuwa mpatanishi si kuwa dhaifu bali ni kuwa imara katika njia ambayo ulimwengu hauielewi. Upatanishi huitaji ujasiri na mwafaka lakini hauhitaji dhahibu ya kuvunja maadili. Upatanishi ni kuongoza kwa moyo mkunjufu, si kukataa mawazo mapya. Ni kufikiana kwa mikono iliyonyooshwa, si ngumi zilizokunjwa. Upatanishi si jambo jipya, la moto kutoka kwenye mashine. Lilifundishwa na Yesu Kristo Mwenyewe, kwa wale walio kwenye Biblia na Kitabu cha Mormoni. Upatanishi tangu hapo umefundishwa na manabii wa siku za leo tangu siku za mwanzo za Urejesho hata hivi leo.

Tunatimiza jukumu letu la kiungu kama watoto wa Baba wa Mbinguni mwenye upendo kadiri tunavyojitahidi kuwa wapatanishi. Ninashuhudia juu ya Yesu Kristo, ambaye ni Mfalme wa Amani, Mwana wa Mungu aliye hai, katika jina la Yesu Kristo, amina.