

Go and Do Likewise

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Nenda na Ukatende Vivyo Hivyo

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I would like to highlight those missionaries who are called to service assignments. They are examples to us.

While the Savior was traveling through Bethsaida, some individuals brought a blind man to Him. Perhaps they were hoping to see a miracle firsthand. The Savior “took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town” to heal him privately. Initially, the healing seemed less than effective. The man “looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking.” Jesus, compassionately, “put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up.” With that additional touch of the Savior’s hands, the blind man now “saw ... clearly.”

This is just one example of how the Savior’s life is characterized by humble acts of service. He reminds us that He “came not to be ministered unto, but to minister” and then invites us to follow His example by going the extra mile, giving to those who ask of us, and loving our neighbor. When asked, “Who is my neighbour?” Christ shared the parable of the good Samaritan, with a charge to “go, and do thou likewise.”

Missionaries of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are modern-day examples of the good Samaritan that Christ invites us to become. I would like to highlight those missionaries who are called to service assignments. They are examples to us of how service (1) opens hearts to the gospel of Jesus Christ, (2) allows all of us to minister regardless of our circumstances, and (3) brings the power of Christ into our lives.

Ningependa kuangazia wale wamisionari waliopangiwa kazi ya kutoa huduma. Wao ni mifano kwetu.

Wakati Mwokozi alipokuwa akisafiri kupitia Bethsaida, baadhi ya watu walimleta mtu asiyeona Kwake. Pengine walikuwa wakitajia kuona muujiza papo hapo. Mwokozi “alimchukua yule mtu asiyeona kwa kumshika mkono, na kumwongoza nje ya mji” ili kumponya kwa faragha. Mwanzoni, uponyaji ulionekana kuwa usio wa ufanisi sana. Yule mtu “akatazama juu, na akasema, ninaona watu kama miti ikitembea.” Yesu, kwa huruma, “aliweka mikono yake tena juu ya macho yake, na kumfanya aangalie juu.” Na kwa ule mguso wa ziada wa mikono ya Mwokozi, mtu yule asiyeona sasa “alionga ... wazi kabisa.”

Huu ni mfano mmoja tu wa jinsi maisha ya Mwokozi yanavyofahamika kwa vitendo vya unyenyekevu vya huduma. Anatukumbusha kwamba Yeye “hakuja kutumikiwa, bali kutumikia” na kisha anatalika kufuata mfano Wake kwa kwenda maili ya ziada, tukitoa kwa wale wanaotumia, na kuwapenda jirani zetu. Yeye alipoulizwa, “Na jirani yangu ni nani?” Kristo alishiriki mfano wa Msamaria mwema kwa wito wa “nenda, na ukatende vivyo hivyo.”

Wamisionari wa Kanisa la Yesu Kristo la Watakatifu wa Siku za Mwisho ni mfano wa siku za sasa wa Msamaria mwema ambao Kristo anatalika sisi tuwe. Ningependa kuangazia wale wamisionari walio pangiwa kazi ya kutoa huduma. Wao ni mifano kwetu sisi wa jinsi huduma (1) inavyofungua mioyo kwa injili ya Yesu Kristo, (2) inavyoruhusu sisi sote kutumikia bila kujali hali zetu, na (3) inavyoleta nguvu ya Kristo ndani ya maisha yetu.

First, Service Opens Hearts to the Gospel of Jesus Christ

In about 91 BC, Ammon, a Book of Mormon missionary, introduced himself to King Lamoni by saying, “I desire to dwell among this people for a time; ... [and] I will be thy servant.” Because of his service to the king, Ammon was granted an opportunity to “speak boldly, ... and tell [King Lamoni] ... by what power” he had performed his service. In return, the king promised that “whatsoever [Ammon] desirest ... [the king would] grant it.” Ammon’s only request was that the king listen to the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Ammon’s service resulted in “thousands of souls [brought] to repentance.”

In our day, service continues to lead others to the gospel. Sister Bevan was serving as a teaching missionary when she began experiencing health issues requiring her to return home for treatment. Instead of being released, she was able to continue serving as a service missionary from home.

While visiting a park, Sister Bevan and a friend were prompted to talk to a mother with four young children, but they hesitated and the family drove away. The next day, they returned to the park, praying that this family would be there. Miraculously, the mother was sitting in the exact same spot as the day before. This time Sister Bevan and her friend approached the mother, got to know her, and discovered that she was in desperate need of temporal help. They provided assistance and then invited her to learn about the gospel.

Because of that service and invitation, the mother and her oldest child were baptized, followed by the next oldest a year later. They remain active members today. Sister Bevan knew this experience was divinely inspired, and it “proved to [her] that [she] was exactly where God needed [her] to be.”

Like Ammon and Sister Bevan, as we serve others, we “show forth good examples unto them” and they desire to know the “reason of the hope that is in [us].”

Jesus invites us to “go, and do thou likewise.”

Kwanza, Huduma Inafungua Mioyo kwa Injili ya Yesu Kristo

Karibia mwaka wa 91 K.K, Amoni, Mmisionari wa Kitabu cha Mormoni, alijitambulisha mwenyewe kwa Mfalme Lamoni kwa kusema, “Ninatamani kuishi miongoni mwa watu hawa kwa muda; ... [nami] nitakuwa mtumishi wako.” Kwa sababu ya huduma yake kwa mfalme, Amoni alipewa fursa ya “kuzungumza kwa ujasiri, ... na kumwambia [Mfalme Lamoni] ... kwa uwezo gani” yeye alitenda huduma yake. Katika majibu, mfalme aliahidi kwamba “lo lote [Amoni] atakalotaka ... [mfalme ange] mpatia.” Ombi pekee la Amoni lilikuwa kwamba mfalme asikilize ujumbe wa injili ya Yesu Kristo. Matokeo ya huduma ya Amoni ilikuwa “maelfu ya roho [zililetwa] kwenye toba.”

Katika siku yetu, huduma inaendelea kuwaongoza wengine kwenye injili. Dada Bevan alikuwa anahudumu kama mmisionari wa kufundisha wakati alipoanza kupitia matatizo ya kiafya yaliyomhitaji yeye kurudi nyumbani kwa ajili ya matibabu. Badala ya kupumzishwa, yeye aliweza kuendelea kuhudumu kama mmisionari wa kutoa huduma akitokea nyumbani.

Wakati wakitembelea bustani, Dada Bevan pamoja na rafiki yake walishawishiwa kuzungumza na mama akiwa na watoto wadogo wanne, lakini walisita mpaka ile familia ikaondoka. Siku iliyofuata, walirudi kwenye ile bustani, wakisali kwamba familia hii ingekuwa pale. Kwa muujiza, mama yule alikuwa amekaa mahali pale pale kama siku ya jana. Wakati huu Dada Bevan na rafiki yake walimwendea yule mama, wakapata kumjua, na wakagundua kwamba alikuwa na haja ya msaada wa kimwili. Walitoa ule msaada na kisha wakamwalika kujifunza kuhusu injili.

Kwa sababu ya huduma hiyo na mwaliko, mama huyu na mtoto wake mkubwa walibatizwa, wakifuatiwa na mtoto aliyefuatia kwa ukubwa mwaka mmoja baadaye. Bado waumini hai hadi leo hii. Dada Bevan alijua uzoefu wake ulishawishiwa kiungu, na “ilithibitika [kwake] kwamba [yeye] alikuwa mahali pale pale Mungu alipohitaji [yeye] awepo.”

Kama Amoni na Dada Bevan, tunapo wahudumia wengine, sisi “tunaonyesha mfano mwema kwao” na wanatamani kujua “sababu ya tumaini lililoko ndani yetu [sisi].”

Yesu anatalika “nendeni, nanyi mkatende vivyo hivyo.”

Second, Service Allows All of Us to Minister Regardless of Our Circumstances

President Russell M. Nelson called on “every-worthy, able young man to prepare for and serve a mission” and for every able young sister to “pray to know if the Lord would have [her] serve a mission.” He promised that “your decision to serve a mission, whether a proselyting or a service mission, will bless you and many others.” Service missions changed the definition of the wordable. Now every worthy young man and woman who desires to serve a full-time mission for the Lord can do so, with very few exceptions.

Elder Holgado is an example of being able to serve regardless of personal circumstances. He was born with a rare genetic disorder, which precluded him from serving a teaching mission. Elder Holgado was called as a service missionary and volunteered in the bishops’ storehouse, where he helped others get the assistance they needed. He stocked shelves, bagged vegetables, and crushed cardboard boxes.

As Elder Holgado spoke in sacrament meeting after his mission, he shared that “God needs service missionaries. He needs people to love and serve others. These people stock toilet paper, bag broccoli, build furniture, and are good to people.”

You don’t need to have a service assignment or wear a name tag to do good. Every act of service is recognized by the Savior. We are all able to help others come unto Christ by serving with loving-kindness. We can all minister in Christ’s name to the one through the power of the Holy Ghost and live as examples of faith in Jesus Christ. Service allows us to present ourselves as living sacrifices who are acceptable to God.

Jesus invites us to “go, and do thou likewise.”

Third, Service Brings the Power of Christ into Our Lives

A young missionary who transferred from a teaching assignment to a service assignment

Pili, Huduma Inaturuhu Kutumikia Bila Kujali Hali Zetu

Rais Russell M. Nelson alitoa wito juu ya “kila mvulanamwenye kustahili, anayeweza ili kujiandaa kwa ajili ya na kuhudumu misheni” na kwa kila msichana anayeweza “kusali ili kujua kama Bwana angependa [yeye] ahudumu mishe-ni.” Aliahidi kwamba “uamuzi wako wa kuhudumu misheni, iwe ya kufundisha au misioni ya kutoa huduma, utakubariki wewe na wengine wengi.” Misheni za kutoa huduma zimebadilisha maana ya nenoweza. Sasa kila mvulana mwenye kustahili na msichana anayetamani kuhudumu kama mmisionari kwa ajili ya Bwana anaweza kufanya hivyo, isipokuwa wachache sana.

Mze Holgado ni mfano wa kuwa na uwezo wa kuhudumu bila ya kujali hali binafsi. Yeye alizaliwa na maradhi ya kurithi yasiyo ya kawaida, ambayo yalimtenga na kuhudumu kama mmisionari wa kufundisha. Mzee Holgado aliitwa kama mmisionari wa kutoa huduma na alijitolea kufanya kazi katika ghala ya askofu, mahali ambapo aliwasaidia wengine kupata msaada walio hitaji. Yeye alipanga safu, aliweka mboga katika maboksi, na kuvunja maboksi ya kadibodi.

Mzee Holgado alipokuwa akizungumza katika mkutano wa sakramenti baada ya misheni yake, alishiriki kwamba “Mungu anahitaji wamisionari wa kutoa huduma. Anahitaji watu wa kuwapenda na kuwahudumia wengine. Watu hawa hupanga karatasi za maliwato, kupakia brokoli kwenye mifuko, kujenga samani, na ni watu walio wema kwa watu.”

Huhitaji kupangiwa kazi ya kuhudumu au kuvaa tagi ya jina ili kufanya yaliyo mema. Kila tendo la huduma hutambuliwa na Mwokozi. Sisi sote tunaweza kuwasaidia wengine kuja kwa Kristo kwa kuhudumu kwa upendo wa ukarimu. Sisi sote tunaweza kutumikia katika jina la Kristo kwa yule mmoja kupitia uweza wa Roho Mtakatifu na kuishi kama mifano ya imani katika Yesu Kristo. Huduma inaturuhusu sisi kujiwasilisha wenyewe kama dhabihu inayo ishi ambayo inakubalika kwa Mungu.

Yesu anatalika “nendeni, nanyi mkatende vivyo hivyo.”

Tatu, Huduma Huleta Nguvu za Kristo Ndani ya Maisha Yetu

Mmisionari kijana aliyepewa uhamisho kuto-ka jukumu la kufundisha kuwa jukumu la kutoa

struggled with some personal challenges that left him needing Christ's healing power. Consecrated service brought that power into his life. He said, "I felt that when I was struggling, I could feel Christ lifting me up. There is something special about seeing Him bless people through a food pantry, in the temple, and through His gospel."

This elder began to feel deeper joy, and his newfound enthusiasm blessed him and his entire family. The Spirit entered their home more abundantly, they attended the temple together more regularly, and Christ became a greater focus in their family. This missionary believes that Christ saved his life and blessed his family through service.

President Nelson taught, "Willingness to serve and strengthen others stands as a symbol of one's readiness to be healed" by the redemptive power of the Savior.

Jesus invites us to "go, and do thou likewise."

Service Missionaries Are Examples of Consecrated Disciples of Jesus Christ

When you or a family member is blessed with a call as a service missionary, that is a moment to celebrate. Your family will now have a set-apart representative of the Lord Jesus Christ living in your home. That will change all of you for the good. There should be no disappointment in any call to serve. We sing, "I'll go where you want me to go" and "I'll be what you want me to be." Here is an opportunity to show that we really mean what we say!

To all of you who serve, and especially to the over 4,000 young service missionaries, we love you! If teaching missionaries are the Lord's mouth, then service missionaries are the Lord's hands, and you are not second-class missionaries. Each of you is vital to the gathering of Israel. President Nelson taught that "anytime we do anything that helps anyone ... to make and keep their covenants with God, we are helping to gather Israel."

You service missionaries gather Israel in so

huduma alipambana na baadhi ya changamoto binafsi ambazo zilimwacha akihitaji nguvu ya Kristo ya uponyaji. Huduma iliyowekwa wakfu ilileta nguvu hiyo ndani ya maisha yake. Yeye alisema, "Nilihisi kwamba wakati nilipokuwa niki-pambana, niliweza kumhisi Kristo akininyanyua juu. Kuna kitu fulani maalumu kuhusu kumwona Yeye akiwabariki watu kupitia stoo ya chakula, ndani ya hekalu, na kupitia injili Yake."

Mzee huyu alianza kuhisi shangwe ya kina, na hamasa mpya aliyoigundua ilimbariki yeye na familia yake yote. Roho aliingia ndani ya nyumba yao kwa wingi sana, walihudhuria hekaluni pamoja zaidi mara kwa mara, na Kristo akawa fokasi kuu katika familia yao. Mmisionari huyu anaamini kwamba Kristo aliokoa maisha yake na alibariki familia yake kupitia huduma.

Rais Nelson alifundisha, "Utayari wa kuhudumu na kuwaimarisha wengine vinasima kama ishara ya utayari wa mtu kuponywa" kwa nguvu za Mwokozi zenye kukomboa.

Yesu anataualika sisi "nendeni, nanyi mkatende vivyo hivyo."

Wamisionari wa Kutoa Huduma ni Mifano ya Wanafauzi wa Yesu Kristo Walio Wekwa Wakfu.

Wakati wewe au mshiriki wa familia anapobarikiwa kupata wito kama mmisionari wa kutoa huduma, huo ni wakati wa kushangilia. Familia yako sasa itakuwa na mwakilishi wa Bwana Yesu Kristo aliyesimikwa akiishi ndani ya nyumba Yenu. Hiyo itawabadilisha ninyi nyote kuwa wema. Hakupaswi kuwa na kubeza katika wito wo wote wa kuhudumu. Tunaimba, "Nitakwenda utakako" na "Nitakuwa utakacho." Hii ni fursa ya kuonyesha kwa hakika tunamaanisha kile tunachosema!

Kwenu ninyi nyote mnaohudumu, na mahususi kwa wamisionari vijana 4,000 mnaotoa huduma, sisi tunawapenda! Kama wamisionari wa kufundisha ni vinywa vya Bwana, basi ninyi wamisionari wa kutoa huduma ni mikono ya Bwana, na siyo wamisionari wa daraja la pili. Kila mmoja wenu ni muhimu sana katika kukusanya Israeli. Rais Nelson alifundisha kwamba "wakati wo wote tunapofanya kitu cho chote ambacho kinamsaidia mtu yeyote ... kufanya na kushika maagano yao na Mungu, tunasaidia kukusanya Israeli."

Ninyi wamisionari wa kutoa huduma

many ways, and your service changes lives. Often you don't know who the beneficiary of your service is, but God knows. Always remember that "inasmuch as ye [serve] one of the least of these, ... ye [serve Him]." We hear your voices as you volunteer at Church call centers; we see your smiles as you help in community organizations; and we feel your light as you serve in temples. You feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and give drink to the thirsty.

We all need to go and do likewise.

Service Is the Lifeblood of Disciples of Christ

Service has the power to open hearts to the gospel and allows all of us to give our whole soul to Christ. It changes our hearts to become more like Him, and in the process, we lift others. President Nelson once asked, "In this world smitten with spiritual decay, can individuals ... make a difference?" His answer: "Yes! ... 'The covenant people of the Lord, ... armed ... with the power of God in great glory' ... can lift the lives of all humankind." Through service we change hearts—and the world.

Christ "went about doing good." He ministered to the sick, gave sight to the blind, and visited the downtrodden. He cooked meals, helped at wedding feasts, and fed thousands who were hungry. As we give service in Christ's name to the one, we become increasingly holy and worthy of the gift of eternal life. Jesus Christ lives. He is my Savior and yours. He is our Redeemer. He is our great example of ministering. I invite each of us to go and do likewise. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

mnakusanya Israeli katika njia nyingi, na huduma yenu inabadilisha maisha. Mara nyingi wewe hujui mnufaika wa huduma yako ni nani, lakini Mungu anajua. Daima kumbuka kwamba "kadiri [umhudumiavyo] mmoja wa wadogo hawa, ... [umemhudumuia Yeye]." Tunasikia sauti zenu mnapojitolea kwenye vituo vya huduma vya Kanisa; tunaona tabasamu zenu mnaposaidia katika vikundi vya jumuiya na tunahisi nuru yenu mnapohudumu katika mahekalu. Mnawalisha wenye njaa, mnawavisha walio uchi, na mnawapa kinywaji wenye kiu.

Sisi sote tunahitaji kwenda, na kutenda vivyo hivyo.

Huduma ni Damu ya Uhai wa Wanafunzi wa Kristo.

Huduma inayo nguvu ya kufungua mioyo kwa ajili ya injili na inaturuhusu sisi sote kutoa nafsi yetu yote kwa Kristo. Huibadilisha mioyo yetu ili iwe kama Yeye, na katika mchakato, tunawainua wengine. Rais Nelson wakati mmoja alisema, "Katika ulimwengu huu uliopigwa kwa uozo wa kiroho, je, inawezekana watu ... wakafanya tofauti?" Jibu lake: "Ndiyo! ... 'Watu wa agano wa Mungu, ... waliovikwa silaha ... na nguvu za Mungu katika utukufu mkuu' ... wanaweza kuinua maisha ya wanadamu wote." Kupitia huduma tunabadilisha mioyo—na huu ulimwengu.

Kristo "alizunguka huko na huko akitenda wema." Aliwatumikia wagonjwa, alirejesha uoni kwa vipofu, na kuwatembelea walio kataliwa. Ali-pika vyakula, alisaidia katika sherehe za harusi, na akawalisha maelfu wenye njaa. Tunapohudumu katika jina la Kristo kwa yule mmoja, tunazidi kuwa watakatifu na wenye kustahili zawadi ya uzima wa milele. Yesu Kristo yu hai. Yeye ni Mwokozi wangu na wako. Yeye ni Mkombozi wetu. Yeye ni mfano wetu mkuu wa utumishi. Ninakualikeni kila mmoja wetu twende, na tutende vivyo hivyo. Katika jina la Yesu Kristo, amina.