

“This Is My Gospel”—“This Is My Church”

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»Dette er mit evangelium« – »Dette er min kirke«

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This is the Savior's gospel, and this is His Church (see 3 Nephi 27:21; Mosiah 26:22; 27:13). The combination of the two is powerful and transformative.

For centuries, black powder was the most powerful explosive available. It could launch cannon balls, but it wasn't effective for most mining and road construction projects. It was just too weak to shatter rock.

In 1846 an Italian chemist named Ascanio Sobrero synthesized a new explosive, nitroglycerin. This oily fluid was at least a thousand times more powerful than black powder. It could easily shatter rock. Unfortunately, nitroglycerin was unstable. If you dropped it from a small height, it'd blow up. If it got too hot, it'd blow up. If it got too cold, it'd blow up. Even placed in a cool, dark room and left alone, it'd eventually blow up. Most countries banned its transportation, and many banned its manufacture.

In 1860 a Swedish scientist named Alfred Nobel began trying to stabilize nitroglycerin. After seven years of experimentation, he achieved his goal by absorbing nitroglycerin into a nearly worthless substance known as diatomaceous earth, or kieselguhr. Kieselguhr is a porous rock that can be crumbled into a fine powder. When mixed with nitroglycerin, kieselguhr absorbs the nitroglycerin, and the resultant paste can be shaped into “sticks.” In this form, nitroglycerin was much more stable. It could be safely stored, transported, and used with undiminished explosive power. Nobel named the combination of nitroglycerin and kieselguhr “dynamite.”

Dette er Frelserens evangelium, og dette er hans kirke (se 3 Ne 27:21; Mosi 26:22; 27:13). Kombinationen af de to er både kraftfuld og forandrende.

I århundreder var sort krudt det kraftigste sprængstof, der fandtes. Det kunne affyre kanonkugler, men ved størstedelen af opgaverne i minedrift og vejbyggeri var det ikke effektivt. Det var simpelthen for svagt til at splintre sten.

I 1846 var der en italiensk kemiker ved navn Ascanio Sobrero, der syntiserede et nyt sprængstof, nitroglycerin. Denne olieholdige væske var mindst tusinde gange kraftigere end sort krudt. Den kunne med lethed splintre sten. Desværre var nitroglycerin ustabil. Det sprang i luften, hvis man tabte det fra lav højde. Det sprang i luften, hvis det blev for varmt. Det sprang i luften, hvis det blev for koldt. Selv hvis man placerede det i et køligt, mørkt rum og lod det være, sprang det til sidst i luften. De fleste lande nedlagde forbud mod at transportere det, og mange lande forbød produktion af det.

I 1860 var der en svensk videnskabsmand ved navn Alfred Nobel, der indledte forsøg på at stabilisere nitroglycerin. Efter syv års eksperimenter nåede han sit mål ved at lade et næsten værdiløst stof, også kaldet diatoméjord eller kiselgur, absorbere nitroglycerinen. Kiselgur er en porøs stenart, som kan males til et fint pulver. Når kiselgur bliver blandet med nitroglycerin, absorberer kiselguren nitroglycerinen, og den pasta, der kommer ud af det, kan formes til »stænger«. I denne tilstand var nitroglycerin langt mere stabilt. Det kunne opbevares, transporteres og benyttes sikkert med uformindsket sprængkraft. Nobel navngav kombinationen af

Dynamite changed the world. It also made Nobel wealthy. Without a stabilizer, nitroglycerin was just too hazardous to be commercially valuable, as Ascanio Sobrero found out. By itself, as I mentioned, kieselguhr was of little value. But the combination of the two components made dynamite transformative and precious.

In a similar way, the combination of the gospel of Jesus Christ and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints provides powerful and transformative benefits for us. The gospel is perfect, but a divinely commissioned church is required to preach it, maintain its purity, and administer its sacred ordinances with the Savior's power and authority.

Consider the combination of the Savior's gospel and His Church as established by the Book of Mormon prophet Alma. The Church was responsible for preaching "nothing save it were repentance and faith on the Lord, who [would redeem] his people." Using God's authority, the Church was responsible for administering the ordinance of baptism "in the name of the Lord, as a witness [of entering] into a covenant with him [to] serve him and keep his commandments." The people who were baptized took on themselves the name of Jesus Christ, joined His Church, and were promised great power through an outpouring of the Spirit.

People flocked to the Waters of Mormon to hear Alma preach the gospel. Though they revered those waters and the surrounding forests, the Lord's Church was not a location or a building, nor is it today. The Church is simply ordinary people, disciples of Jesus Christ, gathered and organized into a divinely appointed structure that helps the Lord accomplish His purposes. The Church is the instrument through which we learn the central role of Jesus Christ in Heavenly Father's plan. The Church offers the authoritative way for individuals to participate in ordinances and make lasting covenants with God. Keeping those covenants draws us closer to God, gives us access to His power, and transforms us into who He intends us to become.

Just as dynamite without nitroglycerin is unremarkable, the Savior's Church is special only if it is built on His gospel. Without the Savior's gospel and the authority to administer the ordi-

nitroglycerin og kiselgur »dynamit«.

Dynamit forandrede verden. Den gjorde også Nobel velhavende. Uden en stabilisator var nitroglycerin simpelthen for farligt til at give det nogen handelsværdi, som Ascanio Sobrero havde fundet ud af. I sig selv havde stabilisatoren, kiselgur, som nævnt, ringe værdi. Men kombinationen af de to komponenter gjorde både dynamit flytbar og dyrebar.

På tilsvarende vis giver kombinationen af Jesu Kristi evangelium og Jesu Kristi Kirke af Sidste Dages Hellige kraftfulde og forandrende fordele for os. Evangeliet er fuldkomment, men det er nødvendigt med en kirke med guddommelig bemyndigelse til at forkynde det, opretholde dets renhed og administrere dets hellige ordinancer med Frelserens magt og myndighed.

Tænk på kombinationen af Frelserens evangelium og hans kirke, som den blev etableret af profeten Alma i Mormons Bog. Kirken var ansvarlig for at prædike »intet ... undtagen omvendelse og tro på Herren, som [ville forløse] sit folk«. Med Guds myndighed var kirken ansvarlig for at administrere dåbens ordinance »i Herrens navn som et vidnesbyrd ... om, at ... [indgå] en pagt med ham om, at ... tjene ham og holde hans befalinger«. De mennesker, der blev døbt, påtog sig Jesu Kristi navn, tilsluttede sig hans kirke, og blev lovet stor kraft gennem udgydelse fra Ånden.

Folk strømmede til Mormons vande, for at høre Alma prædike evangeliet. Selvom de ærede de vande og de omkringliggende skove, var Herrens kirke ikke et sted eller en bygning, og det er den heller ikke i dag. Kirken er ganske enkelt almindelige mennesker, Jesu Kristi disciple, som er samlet og organiseret i en guddommelig anvist struktur, som hjælper Herren med at opnå sine hensigter. Kirken er det redskab, hvorigennem vi lærer om den centrale rolle, som Jesus Kristus har i vor himmelske Faders plan. Kirken tilbyder den bemyndigede måde, hvorpå enkeltpersoner kan deltage i ordinancer og indgå evige pagter med Gud. Når vi holder disse pagter, kommer vi Gud nærmere, vi får adgang til hans kraft, og vi bliver forandret til den person, som han har til hensigt, at vi skal blive.

Ligesom dynamit uden nitroglycerin ikke er noget særligt, er Frelserens kirke kun særlig, hvis den er bygget på hans evangelium. Uden Frelserens evangelium og myndighed til at forrette dets

nances thereof, the Church isn't exceptional.

Without the stabilizing effect of kieselguhr, nitroglycerin had limited value as an explosive. As history has shown, without the Lord's Church, humanity's understanding of His gospel was likewise unstable—prone to doctrinal drift and subject to the influence of different religions, cultures, and philosophies. An amalgamation of those influences has been manifested in every dispensation leading up to this last one. Though the gospel was initially revealed in its purity, the interpretation and application of that gospel gradually took on a form of godliness that lacked power because the divinely authorized framework was absent.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints enables access to God's power because it is authorized by Him both to teach the doctrine of Christ and to offer the gospel's saving and exalting ordinances. The Savior yearns to forgive our sins, help us access His power, and transform us. He suffered for our sins and longs to pardon us from the punishment that we otherwise would deserve. He wants us to become holy and be perfected in Him.

Jesus Christ has the power to do this. He didn't simply sympathize with our imperfections and lament our eternal condemnation in consequence of sin. No, He went beyond that, infinitely beyond that, and restored His Church to enable access to His power.

The core of the gospel that the Church teaches is that Jesus Christ bore "our griefs, and carried our sorrows." He had "laid on him the iniquity of us all." He "endured the cross," broke "the bands of death," "ascended into heaven, and ... sat down on the right hand of God, to claim of the Father his rights of mercy." The Savior did all this because He loves His Father and He loves us. He has already paid the infinite price so He can "[claim] all those who have faith in him [and advocate]" for them—for us. Jesus Christ wants nothing more than for us to repent and come unto Him so that He can justify and sanctify us. In this desire, He is relentless and unwavering.

The access to God's covenantal power and His covenantal love is through His Church. The combination of the Savior's gospel and His Church transforms our lives. It transformed my

ordinances. Kirken ikke enestående.

Uden kieselgurens stabiliserende virkning havde nitroglycerin kun en begrænset værdi som sprængstof. Som historien har vist os, var menneskehedens forståelse af Herrens evangelium ligeledes ustabil uden hans kirke – tilbøjelig til afvigelser i læresætninger og genstand for forskellige religioners, kulturers og filosofiers påvirkning. En sammenblanding af disse påvirkninger er blevet manifesteret i hver uddeling, som har ført frem til denne den sidste. Selvom evangeliet i begyndelsen blev åbenbart i al sin renhed, antog fortolkningen og anvendelsen af det evangelium efterhånden en form for gudsfrygt, som manglede kraft, fordi de guddommeligt bemyndigede rammer var fraværende.

Jesu Kristi Kirke af Sidste Dages Hellige muliggør adgang til Guds kraft, fordi den er bemyndiget af ham til både at undervise i Kristi lære og tilbyde evangeliets frelsende og ophøjende ordninger. Frelseren længes inderligt efter at tilgive vores synder, give os adgang til sin kraft og transformere os. Han led for vores synder og længes efter at benåde os fra den straf, som vi ellers ville stå til. Han ønsker, at vi skal blive hellige og blive fuldkomne i ham.

Jesus Kristus har kraften til at gøre dette. Ikke alene havde han medfølelse med vores ufuldkommenheder og sørgede over, at vi for evigt var fordømt som konsekvens af vores synder. Nej, han gik længere end det, uendeligt længere end det, og genoprettede sin kirke for at give adgang til sin kraft.

Kernen i det evangelium, som kirken underviser i, er, at Jesus Kristus påtog sig »vore sygdomme [og bar] vore lidelser«. Han »lod al vor skyld ramme ham«. Han »udholdt korset«, brød »dødens bånd«, steg »op til himlen og [satte] sig ved Guds højre hånd for af Faderen at gøre krav på den ret, som han har til at vise barmhjertighed«. Frelseren gjorde alt dette, fordi han elsker sin Fader, og han elsker os. Han har allerede betalt den uendelige pris, så han kan »[gøre] krav på alle dem, der har tro på ham« og tale deres sag – vores sag. Der er intet, Jesus Kristus ønsker mere, end at vi omvender os og kommer til ham, så han kan retfærdiggøre og helliggøre os. I dette ønske er han stålsat og urokkelig.

Adgang til Guds kraft gennem pagt og hans pagtskærlighed sker gennem hans kirke. Kombinationen af Frelserens evangelium og hans kirke forandrer vores liv. Den forandrede min mormor

maternal grandparents. My grandfather Oskar Andersson worked in a shipyard on Högmarsö, an island in the Stockholm archipelago. His wife, Albertina, and their children lived on the Swedish mainland. Once every two weeks, on Saturday, Oskar rowed his boat home for the weekend before returning to Högmarsö on Sunday evening. One day, while on Högmarsö, he heard two American missionaries preach the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. Oskar felt that what he heard was pure truth, and he was filled with unspeakable joy.

The next time he returned home, Oskar excitedly told Albertina all about the missionaries. He explained that he believed what they taught. He asked her to read the pamphlets they had given him, and he told her that he didn't think that any of their future children should be baptized as infants. Albertina was furious and threw the pamphlets on the rubbish heap. Not much was said between them before Oskar returned to work on Sunday evening.

As soon as he was gone, Albertina retrieved those pamphlets. She carefully compared their doctrine with the teachings in her well-worn Bible. She was astonished to feel that what she read was true. The next time Oskar returned home, he received a warm welcome, as did the copy of the Book of Mormon he brought with him. Albertina eagerly read, again comparing the doctrine to that in her Bible. Like Oskar, she recognized pure truth and was filled with unspeakable joy.

Oskar, Albertina, and their children moved to Högmarsö to be close to the few Church members there. A week after Oskar and Albertina were baptized in 1916, Oskar was called to be the group leader on Högmarsö. Like many converts, Oskar and Albertina faced criticism because of their new faith. Local farmers refused to sell them milk, so Oskar rowed across the fjord every day to purchase milk from a more tolerant farmer.

Yet during the ensuing years, Church membership on Högmarsö increased, in part because of Albertina's powerful testimony and burning missionary zeal. When the group became a branch, Oskar was called as the branch president.

Members of that Högmarsö branch revered that island. This was their Waters of Mormon. This was where they came to a knowledge of their Redeemer.

og morfar. Min morfar, Oskar Anderson, arbejdede på et skibsværft på Högmarsö, en ø i den stockholmske skærgård. Hans hustru, Albertina, og deres børn boede på det svenske fastland. En gang hver anden uge, om lørdagen, roede Oskar sin jolle hjem for at holde weekend, før han vendte tilbage til Högmarsö søndag aften. En dag mens han var på Högmarsö, hørte han to amerikanske missionærer prædike Jesu Kristi gengivne evangelium. Oskar følte, at det, han hørte, var ren sandhed, og han blev fyldt med uudsigelig glæde.

Da han næste gang vendte hjem, fortalte Oskar begejstret Albertina alt om missionærerne. Han forklarede, at han troede på det, de underviste i. Han bad hende om at læse de pjecer, de havde givet ham, og han fortalte hende, at han ikke syntes, at nogen af deres fremtidige børn skulle døbes som små. Albertina blev rasende og smed pjecerne på affaldsdyngen. Der blev ikke sagt mange ord imellem dem, inden Oskar vendte tilbage til sit arbejde søndag aften.

Så snart han var taget af sted, samlede Albertina pjecerne op. Hun sammenlignede omhyggeligt deres lære med det, hendes godt slidte bibel belærte om. Hun blev forbløffet over at føle, at det, hun læste, var sandt. Da Oskar næste gang vendte hjem, modtog han en varm velkomst, og det gjorde det eksemplar af Mormons Bog, han havde med sig, også. Albertina læste ivrigt og sammenlignede igen læren med den i sin bibel. Ligesom Oskar genkendte hun ren sandhed og blev fyldt med uudsigelig glæde.

Oskar, Albertina og deres børn flyttede til Högmarsö for at være tæt på de få medlemmer af kirken, der boede der. En uge efter Oskar og Albertinas dåb i 1916, blev Oskar kaldet som gruppeleder på Högmarsö. Som mange nyomvendte mødte Oskar og Albertina kritik på grund af deres nye tro. De lokale bønder nægtede at sælge dem mælk, så Oskar roede over fjorden hver dag for at købe mælk af en mere tolerant bonde.

Men alligevel øgedes medlemstallet på Högmarsö i de følgende år, til dels på grund af Albertinas stærke vidnesbyrd og hendes brændende iver for missionering. Da gruppen blev til en gren, blev Oskar kaldet som grenspræsident.

Medlemmerne i Högmarsö gren ærede den ø. Den var deres Mormons vande. Det var her, de kom til kundskab om deres Forløser.

Over the years, as they kept their baptismal covenant, Oskar and Albertina were transformed by the power of Jesus Christ. They longed to make more covenants and receive their temple blessings. To obtain those blessings, they permanently emigrated from their home in Sweden to Salt Lake City in 1949. Oskar had served as the leader of the members on Högmarsö for 33 years.

The combination of nitroglycerin and kieselguhr made dynamite valuable; the combination of the gospel of Jesus Christ and His Church is beyond price. Oskar and Albertina heard about the restored gospel because a prophet of God had called, assigned, and sent missionaries to Sweden. By divine commission, missionaries taught the doctrine of Christ and by priesthood authority baptized Oskar and Albertina. As members, Oskar and Albertina continued learning, developing, and serving others. They became Latter-day Saints because they kept the covenants they made.

The Savior refers to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as “my church” because He commissioned it to accomplish His purposes—preaching His gospel, offering His ordinances and covenants, and making it possible for His power to justify and sanctify us. Without His Church, there is no authority, no preaching of revealed truths in His name, no ordinances or covenants, no manifestation of the power of godliness, no transformation into who God wants us to become, and God’s plan for His children is set at naught. The Church in this dispensation is integral to His plan.

I invite you to commit yourself more fully to the Savior, His gospel, and His Church. As you do so, you will find that the combination of the Savior’s gospel and His Church brings power into your life. This power is far greater than dynamite. It’ll shatter the rocks in your way, transform you into an inheritor in God’s kingdom. And you will be “filled with that joy which is unspeakable and full of glory.” In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Som de i årenes løb holdt deres dåbspagt, blev Oskar og Albertina forandret gennem Jesu Kristi kraft. De længtes efter indgå flere pagter og at modtage deres tempelvelsignelser. For at opnå de velsignelser, emigrerede de permanent fra deres hjem i Sverige til Salt Lake City i 1949. Oskar havde tjent som leder for medlemmerne på Högmarsö i 33 år.

Kombinationen af nitroglycerin og kiselgur gjorde dynamit værdifuldt; kombinationen af Jesu Kristi Kirke og hans evangelium er uvurderlig. Oskar og Albertina hørte om det gengivne evangelium, fordi en Guds profet kaldte, tildelte og sendte missionærer til Sverige. Med guddommelig bemyndigelse underviste missionærer i Kristi lære, og med præstedømmets myndighed døbte de Oskar og Albertina. Som medlemmer fortsatte Oskar og Albertina med at lære, udvikle sig og tjene andre. De blev til sidste dages hellige, fordi de holdt de pagter, de havde indgået.

Frelseren kalder Jesu Kristi Kirke af Sidste Dages Hellige for »min kirke«, fordi han har bemyndiget den for, at han kan opnå sine hensigter— prædike sit evangelium, tilbyde sine ordnancer og pagter og gøre det muligt at lade sin kraft retfærdiggøre og helliggøre os. Uden hans kirke er der ingen myndighed, ingen åbenbarede sandheder, der prædikes i hans navn, ingen ordnancer eller pagter, ingen tilkendegivelser af guddommelighedens kraft, ingen udvikling til at blive dem, Gud ønsker, at vi skal blive, og Guds plan for sine børn bliver nulstillet. Kirken i denne uddeling er en uundværlig del af hans plan.

Jeg opfordrer jer til at hengive jer mere hjerteligt til Frelseren, hans evangelium og hans kirke. Når I gør det, vil I opdage, at kombinationen af Frelserens evangelium og hans kirke bringer kraft ind i jeres liv. Den kraft er langt større end dynamit. Den vil splintre stenene på jeres vej og forvandle jer til at blive en arving i Guds rige. Og I vil blive »fyldt af den glæde, der er uudsigelig og fuld af herlighed«. I Jesu Kristi navn. Amen.