

The Wind Did Never Cease to Blow

By Elder Aroldo B. Cavalcante
Of the Seventy

Tuul ei lakanud kunagi puhumast

Vanem Aroldo B. Cavalcante
Seitsmekümnest

October 2024 general conference

We can help others progress in their journey to receive God's blessings.

In 2015, in the state of Pernambuco, Brazil, 62 members of the J. Reuben Clark Law Society cooperated with the state Prosecutor's Office in investigating the legal challenges of residents in four different nursing homes. For five hours one Saturday, these attorneys interviewed over 200 residents one by one, each of whom had been functionally forgotten by society.

During their interviews, they discovered several crimes that had been committed against the elderly residents, such as abandonment, mistreatment, and misappropriation of funds. A key pillar of this law society is to care for the poor and in need. Just two months later, the prosecutor successfully filed charges against the responsible parties.

Their assistance is a perfect example of King Benjamin's teaching "that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God."

One resident I personally interviewed during the pro bono project was a kindhearted 93-year-old woman named Lúcia. Grateful for our service, she jokingly exclaimed, "Marry me!"

Surprised, I responded: "Look over there at that beautiful young woman! She is my wife and the state prosecutor."

She quickly fired back: "So what? She is young, pretty, and can easily get married again. All I have is you!"

The wonderful residents did not have all their problems solved that day. They undoubtedly continued to experience hardship from time to time

Me saame aidata teistel edeneda nende teekonnal Jumala õnnistusteni.

2015. aastal tegid Brasiilias Pernambuco osariigis 62 J. Reuben Clarki juristide ühinguliiget osariigi prokuratuuriga koostööd nelja erineva hooldekodu elanike õiguslike väljakutsete uurimisel. Ühel laupäeval küsitlesid need advokaadid viis tundiükshaaval üle 200 elaniku, kellest igaüks oli ühiskonna poolt eiratud ja unustatud.

Vestluste käigus avastasid nad mitmeid eakate elanike vastu toime pandud kuritegusid, nagu hülgamine, väärkohtlemine ja raha omastamine. Selle juristide ühingu põhisammas on vaeste ja abivajajate eest hoolitsemine. Vaid kaks kuud hiljem esitas prokurör edukalt süüdistuse vastutavatele isikutele.

Nendepoolne abi on täiuslik näide kuningas Benjamini õpetusest: „Kui te olete oma kaasinimeste teenistuses, te olete ainult oma Jumala teenistuses.”

Üks elanik, keda ma pro bono projekti ajal isiklikult intervjuueerisin, oli heasüdamlik 93-aastane naine nimega Lúcia. Tundes tänulikkust meie teenimise eest, hüüatas ta naljaga pooleks: „Abiellu minuga!”

Üllatunult vastasin: „Vaadake seda kaunist noort naist seal! Ta on minu abikaasa ja osariigi prokurör.”

Ta ütles kiiresti vastu: „Mis siis? Ta on noor, ilus ja võib kergesti uuesti abielluda. Aga minul oled ainult sina!”

Need toredad elanikud ei leidnud tol päeval lahendusi kõikidele oma probleemidele. Kahtlemata kogesid nad aeg-ajalt raskusi nagu jered-

like the Jaredites in their boats on the challenging journey to the promised land, “buried in the depths of the sea, because of the mountain waves which broke upon them.”

But that Saturday, the nursing home residents knew that regardless of their earthly anonymity, they were known personally by a loving Heavenly Father, One who responds to even the simplest of prayers.

The Master of masters caused “a furious wind” to blow the Jaredites toward promised blessings. Similarly, we can decide to serve as a humble gust of wind in the Lord’s hands. Just as “the wind did never cease to blow” the Jaredites toward the promised land, we can help others progress in their journey to receive God’s blessings.

Several years ago, when Chris, my dear wife, and I were interviewed for my calling as bishop, our stake president asked me to prayerfully consider names to recommend as counselors. After hearing the names I recommended, he said I should know a few things about one of the brethren.

First, this brother could not read. Second, he didn’t have a car he could use to visit members. Third, he always—always—used sunglasses at church. Despite the president’s honest concerns, I felt strongly that I should still recommend him as my counselor, and the stake president supported me.

The Sunday my counselors and I were sustained in sacrament meeting, the surprise on the members’ faces was evident. This dear brother slowly made his way up to the stand, where the overhead lights reflected brightly across his sunglasses.

As he sat by my side, I asked him, “Brother, do you have problems with your vision?”

“No,” he said.

“Then why do you use sunglasses at church?” I asked. “My friend, the members need to see your eyes, and you must be able to see them better too.”

In that moment, he took off his sunglasses and never used them at church again.

This beloved brother served at my side until my release as bishop. Today, he continues to serve faithfully in the Church and is an example of dedication and commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ. And yet, years ago, he was an unknown sunglass-wearer sitting essentially forgotten in

lased oma pargastel raskel teekonnal töötatud maale, „maetud meresügavustesse lainevallide pärast, mis murdusid nende peal”.

Kuid sel laupäeval teadsid hooldekodu asukad, et hoolimata nende maisest anonüümsusest tunneb neid isiklikult armastav Taevane Isa, kes vastab ka kõige lihtsamale palvele.

Õpetajate Õpetaja lasi „raevukal tuulel” puhuda jeredlasi töötatud õnnistuste poole. Samamoodi võime otsustada teenida Issanda käes alandliku tuuleilina. Nii nagu „ei lakanud tuul kunagi puhumast” jeredlasi töötatud maa poole, saame aidata teistel edeneda nende teekonnal Jumala õnnistusteni.

Mitu aastat tagasi, kui meie vaiajuhataja vestles minu ja mu kalli abikaasa Chrisiga minu kutsumisest piiskopiks, palus ta mul palvemeelselt kaaluda nimesid, keda oma nõuandjateks soovitada. Kuulnud nimesid, keda ma soovitasin, ütles ta, et ma peaksin ühe venna kohta mõnda asja teadma.

Esiteks ei osanud see vend lugeda. Teiseks ei olnud tal autot, millega ta saaks liikmeid külastada. Kolmandaks kandis ta kirikus alati –alati– päikeseprille. Vaatamata juhataja siirale murele tundsin ma kindlalt, et peaksin teda siiski oma nõuandjana soovitama, ja vaiajuhataja toetas mu soovi.

Pühapäeval, kui mind ja mu nõuandjaid sakramendikoosolekul toetati, võis liikmete nägudel näha üllatust. See kallis vend astus aeglaselt üles poodiumile, kus lambivalgus eredalt tema päikeseprillidelt peegeldus.

Kui ta mu kõrval istus, küsisin temalt: „Vend, kas sul on nägemisega probleeme?”

„Ei,” vastas ta.

„Miks sa siis kirikus päikeseprille kannad?” küsisin ma. „Mu sõber, liikmed peavad nägema su silmi ja ka sina pead neid paremini nägema.”

Sel hetkel võttis ta päikeseprillid eest ega kandnud neid enam kirikus.

See armastatud vend teenis minu kõrval, kuni mind piiskopi kutsest vabastati. Tänapäeval jätkab ta ustavat teenimist Kirikus ning on eeskujuks Issandale Jeesusele Kristusele pühendumisest. Ja ometi oli ta aastaid tagasi tundmatu päikeseprillide kandja, kes istus kogudusepingil

the pews of the chapel. I often wonder, “How many faithful brothers and sisters sit forgotten among us today?”

Whether we are well-known or forgotten, trials will inevitably come to each one of us. As we turn to the Savior, He can “consecrate [our] afflictions for [our] gain” and help us respond to our trials in a way that facilitates our spiritual progression. Whether for nursing home residents, a misjudged Church member, or anyone else, we can be “the wind [that] did never cease to blow,” bringing hope and guiding others to the covenant path.

Our beloved prophet, President Russell M. Nelson, made an exciting and inspiring invitation to the youth: “I reaffirm strongly that the Lord has asked every worthy, able young man to prepare for and serve a mission. For Latter-day Saint young men, missionary service is a priesthood responsibility. ... For you young and able sisters, a mission is also a powerful, but optional, opportunity.”

Every day, thousands of young men and women answer the Lord’s prophetic call by serving as missionaries. You are brilliant, and as President Nelson has said, you can “have more impact on the world than any previous generation!” Of course, that does not mean you will be the best version of yourself the moment you step foot in the missionary training center.

Instead, you might feel like Nephi, “led by the Spirit, not knowing beforehand the things which [you] should do. Nevertheless [you] went forth.”

Perhaps you feel insecure like Jeremiah did and want to say, “I cannot speak: for I am a child.”

You might even see your personal shortcomings and want to cry out like Moses did: “O my Lord, I am not eloquent ... : but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.”

If any of you beloved and mighty young men and women is having a thought like this right now, remember that the Lord has answered, “Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee.” And He promises, “Therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.”

Your transformation from your natural to spiritual self will occur “line upon line, precept upon precept” as you earnestly strive to serve Jesus Christ in the mission field through daily

sisuliselt unustatuna. Mõtlen sageli, kui palju ustavaid vendi ja õdesid istub täna meie seas unustatuna?

Olenemata sellest, kas oleme hästi tuntud või unustatud, tabavad meid kõiki paratamatult katsumused. Kui me pöördume Päästja poole, siis Ta „pühitseb [meie] kannatused [meile] kasuks” ja aitab meil reageerida meie katsumustele viisil, mis hõlbustab meie vaimset arengut. Hooldekodu elaniku, väärakohtumõistmise osaks langenud Kiriku liikme või kellegi teise jaoks võime olla tuuleks, mis „ei lakanud .. kunagi puhumast”, tuues lootust ja suunates teisi lepingurajale.

Meie armastatud prohvet president Russell M. Nelson esitas noortele põneva ja inspireeriva kutse: „[Ma] kinnitan .. jõuliselt, et Issand on palunud igal väärilisel ja selleks võimelisel noorel mehel valmistuda ja teenida misjonil. Viimse aja pühade noorte meeste jaoks on misjoniteenistus preesterluse kohustus. .. Teie, noorte ja võimekate õdede jaoks on misjon samuti vägev, kuid valikuline võimalus.”

Iga päev vastavad tuhanded noored mehed ja naised Issanda prohvetlikule kutsele misjonäridena teenides. Olete suurepärased ja president Nelsoni sõnul võite „mõjutada maailma rohkem, kui eelnevad põlvkonnad seda tegid”. Muidugi ei tähenda see, et te oleksite hetkel, mil astute misjonäride koolituskeskusesse, endapärast versioon.

Selle asemel võite tunda end nagu Nefi, et teid juhatab Vaim ja te „ei [tea] ette, mida [te] peaksite [te] tegema. Ometi [te lähete] edasi.”

Võib-olla tunnete end ebakindlalt nagu Jeremija ja tahate öelda: „Ma ei oska rääkida, sest ma olen noor!”

Te võite isegi näha oma isiklikke vajakajäämisi ja soovida hüüda nagu Mooses: „Oh Issand, mina ei ole sõnakas mees .., sest mul on raskevõitu suu ja raskevõitu keel!”

Kui kellelgi teist, armastatud ja vägevad noored mehed ja naised, on praegu selline mõte, siis pidage meeles, et Issand on vastanud: „Ära ütle: ma olen noor, vaid mine kõikjale, kuhu ma sind läkitan.” Ja Ta lubab: „Nüüd mine, ja mina olen abiks sinu suule ning õpetan sind, mida sa pead rääkima!”

Teie muutumine loomupärasest minast vaimsekstoimub „[rida] rea peale, õpetus õpetuse peale”, kui püüate tõsiselt teenida Jeesust Kristust misjoniväljal igapäevase meelega paranduse, usu,

repentance, faith, exact obedience, and hard work to “find constantly, teach repentance, and baptize converts.”

Though you wear a name tag, sometimes you may feel unrecognized or forgotten. However, you must know that you have a perfect Heavenly Father, who knows you personally, and a Savior, who loves you. You will have mission leaders who, despite their imperfections, will serve you as “the wind [that] did never cease to blow” in guiding you along your journey of personal conversion.

In the “land that floweth with milk and honey” you will serve in on your mission, you will be spiritually reborn and become a lifelong disciple of Jesus Christ as you draw near to Him. You can come to know that you are never forgotten.

Though some may wait “a long time” for relief, for they “have no man” that can yet help, the Lord Jesus Christ has taught us that no one is ever forgotten by Him. On the contrary, He was a perfect example of seeking out the one in every moment of His mortal ministry.

Each of us—and those around us—faces our own storms of opposition and waves of trials that submerge us daily. But “the wind [will not] cease to blow towards the promised land ... ; and thus [we shall be] driven forth before the wind.”

Each of us can be a part of this wind—the same wind that blessed the Jaredites in their journey and the same wind that, with our help, will bless the unrecognized and forgotten to reach their own promised lands.

I testify that Jesus Christ is our Advocate with the Father. He is a living God and acts as a strong wind that will always guide us along the covenant path. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

täpse kuulekuse ja kõva töö kaudu, et „pidevalt leida, õpetada meeleparandust ja ristida usku pöördunuid”.

Kuigi kannate nimesilti, võite mõnikord tunda end tundmatu või unustatuna. Siiski peate teadma, et teil on täiuslik Taevane Isa, kes tunneb teid isiklikult, ja Päästja, kes teid armastab. Teil on misjonijuhid, kes hoolimata oma ebatäiuslikkusest teenivad teid kui tuul, mis „ei lakanud .. kunagi puhumast”, juhatahes teid isikliku pöördumise teerajal.

Maal, „mis piima ja mett voolab”, teenite te oma misjonil, sünnite vaimselt uuesti ja saate Tema lähemale tulles Jeesuse Kristuse eluaegseks jüngeriks. Saate teada, et teid ei unustata kunagi.

Kuigi mõned võivad „juba kaua aega” leevendust oodata, sest neil „ei ole seda inimest”, kes saaks neid aidata, on Issand Jeesus Kristus meile õpetanud, et Tema ei unusta kunagi kedagi. Vastupidi, Ta oli oma sureliku teenimisaja igal hetkel suurepärase näide selle ühe leidmisest.

Me kõik ühes meid ümbritsevate inimeste gaseisame silmitsi omaenda vastuseisu tormide ja katsumuste lainetega, mis meid iga päev vee sügavustesse uputavad. Kuid „tuul [ei lakanud] kunagi puhumast töötatud maa suunas; ja nõnda [ajab] tuul [meid] edasi”.

Igaüks meist võib olla osa sellest tuulest – samast tuulest, mis õnnistas jeredlasi nende teekonnal, ja samast tuulest, mis meie abiga aitab tundmatutel ja unustatutel jõuda oma töötatud maale.

Ma tunnistan, et Jeesus Kristus on meie Eestkostja Isa juures. Ta on elav Jumal ja tegutseb tugeva tuulena, mis juhib meid alati lepingurajal. Jeesuse Kristuse nimel, aamen.