

Holiness to the Lord in Everyday Life

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Igapäevane Issandale pühitsetus

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Holiness to the Lord makes daily living sacred. It draws us closer and happier to the Lord and each other.

Our recent Gong family reunion included a fun talent show, complete with a dad jokes contest.

But this contest was unusual. On one team was Grandpa (me) and two of the grandchildren, ages 12 and 11. On the other team was an artificial intelligence (AI) program prompted by a cousin to tell dad jokes in the style of Gerrit W. Gong. Grandpa Gerrit Gong versus AI Gerrit Gong.

The grandchildren and I went first.

What do you call a dinosaur who crashes his car? Tyrannosaurus Wrecks.

AI Gerrit Gong was instructed—think like Gerrit W. Gong. Talk like him.

AI Gerrit Gong—“Here is a dad joke as if spoken by Gerrit W. Gong, embracing his warm, thoughtful, and uplifting style: Why did the humble tree make people smile? Because it was rooted in love and reached out with branches of kindness. Like that tree, we too can find strength in our roots and joy in extending kindness to others.”

Well, what do you think? That’s why they’re called dad jokes.

All around us are opportunities to laugh, delight, see with grateful eyes. Ours is a gospel of joy and holiness in everyday life. Holiness sets things apart for sacred purpose. But holiness also invites us to infuse daily living with the sacred—to rejoice in daily bread amidst this world’s thistles and thorns. To walk with the Lord, we must become holy, for He is holy, and to help us

Issandale pühitsetus muudab igapäevaelu pühaks. See teeb meid Issanda ja üksteisega lähedasemaks ja õnnelikumaks.

Meie hiljutisel Gongi perekonna kokkutulekul toimus ka lõbus talendiõhtu koos isanaljade võistlusega.

See võistlus polnud tavaline. Ühes võistkonnas olin mina vanaisana koos kahe 12- ja 11-aastase lapselapsega. Teises võistkonnas oli tehisaru-programm, mis oli saanud ühelt nõbult käskluse rääkida isanalju Gerrit W. Gongi stiilis. Vanaisa Gerrit Gong tehisaru Gerrit Gongi vastu.

Meie lastelastega alustasime.

Kuidas nimetada dinosaurust, kes teeb autoavarii? Türrannosaurus vrakis.

Tehisaru Gerrit Gong sai juhise: mõtle nagu Gerrit W. Gong. Räägi nagu tema.

Tehisaru Gerrit Gong: „Siin on üks Gerrit W. Gongi soovias läbimõeldud ja meeltülendavas stiilis räägitud isanali: miks pani puukõverik inimesed naeratama? Sest ta oli istutatud armastusega ja ta oksad olid lahkesti välja sirutatud. Selle puu sarnaselt võime ka meie oma juurtest jõudu saada ja leida teiste vastu lahke olemisest rõõmu.”

Mida te arvate? Sellepärast neid kutsutaksegi isanaljadeks.

Meie ümber on palju võimalusi naerda, rõõmustada ja tänu silmis ringi vaadata. Meil on igapäevase rõõmu ja pühitsetuse evangeelium. Pühitsemine eraldab asju püha eesmärgi nimel. Kuid pühitsetus kutsub meid ka immutama igapäevaelu pühade asjadega – tundma rõõmu igapäevasest leivast keset maailma okkaid ja ohakaid. Kõndimaks Issandaga, peavad meist saama

become holy, the Lord invites us to walk with Him.

We each have a story. As Sister Gong and I meet you—Church members and friends in many places and circumstances—your stories of holiness to the Lord in everyday life inspire us. You live seven Cs: communion with God, community and compassion with each other, commitment and covenant with God, family, and friends—centered in Jesus Christ.

Growing evidence highlights this striking fact: religious believers are on average happier, healthier, and more fulfilled than those without spiritual commitment or connection. Happiness and life satisfaction, mental and physical health, meaning and purpose, character and virtue, close social relationships, even financial and material stability—on each measure, religious practitioners flourish.

They enjoy better physical and mental health and greater life satisfaction across all ages and demographic groups.

What researchers call “religious structural stability” offers clarity, purpose, and inspiration amidst life’s twists and turns. The household of faith and community of Saints combat isolation and the lonely crowd. Holiness to the Lord says no to the profane, no to snarky cleverness at others’ expense, no to algorithms that monetize anger and polarization. Holiness to the Lord says yes to the sacred and reverent, yes to our becoming our freest, happiest, most authentic, best selves as we follow Him in faith.

What does holiness to the Lord in everyday life look like?

Holiness to the Lord in everyday life looks like two faithful young adults, married for a year, sharing with authenticity and vulnerability gospel covenants, sacrifice, and service in their unfolding lives.

She begins, “In high school, I was in a dark place. I felt like God wasn’t there for me. One night, a text from a friend said, ‘Hey, have you read Alma 36 ever?’”

“As I started reading,” she said, “I was overcome with peace and love. I felt like I was being given this big hug. When I read Alma 36:12, I knew Heavenly Father saw me and knew exactly how I was feeling.”

pühad, sest Tema on püha, ning selleks, et aidata meil pühaks saada, kutsub Issand meid endaga kõndima.

Meil kõigil on oma lugu. Kui me õde Gongiga teiega – paljudest paikadest ja oludest pärit Kiriku liikmete ja sõpradega – kokku saame, inspireerite te meid oma igapäevase Issandale pühitsetuse lugudega. Teie elus on seitse K-d: kontakt Jumalaga, kogukond jakaastunne üksteise vastu, kohustus Jumala, pere ja sõprade ees ning nendega sõlmitud kokkulepe, mille keskmeks on Jeesus Kristus.

Üha enam tõendeid osutab silmatorkavale tõsiasjale, et usklikud on keskmiselt õnnelikumad, tervemad ja rahulolevamad kui need, kellel puudub vaimne kohustus või side. Önn ja eluga rahulolu, mentaalne ja füüsiline tervis, tähendus ja eesmärk, iseloom ja vooruslikkus, lähedased sotsiaalsed suhted, isegi rahaline ja materiaalne stabiilsus – usklikel läheb hästi kõigi nende mõõduvate puhul.

Neil on parem füüsiline ja vaimne tervis ning nad on oma eluga rohkem rahul igas vanuses ja rahvastikurühmas.

„Usuline struktuurne stabiilsus”, nagu teadlased seda nimetavad, pakub elu keerdkäikudes selgust, eesmärki ja inspiratsiooni. Usukodakond ja pühade kogukond võidavad eraldatuse ja üksildase rahvahulga. Issandale pühitsetus ütleb ei labasusele, ei ninakale nutikusele teiste kulul, ei algoritmidele, mis teenivad raha viha ja vastandumise arvelt. Issandale pühitsetus ütleb jah pühale ja aupaklikule, jah kõige vabamaks, õnnelikumaks, ehedamaks ja paremaks minaks saamisele, kui me Teda usuga järgime.

Mida Issandale pühitsetus igapäevaelus tähendab?

Igapäevane Issandale pühitsetus on nagu kaks aasta aega abielus olnud ustavat noort täiskasvanut, kes jagavad nende ees lahti rulluvas elus usalduslikult ja haavatavalt evangeeliumilepinguid, ohverdusi ja teenimist.

Naine alustab: „Ma olin keskkoolis sünges olukorras. Tundsin, et Jumal pole lähedal, kui ma Teda vajan. Ühel õhtul sain ma sõbralt tekstisõnumi: „Tšau! Kas sa oled lugenud kunagi Alma 36. peatükki?””

„Seda lugema hakates,” ütles ta, „valdasid mind rahu ja armastus. Tundsin, et mulle tehti üks suur kalli. Kui ma lugesin Alma 36. peatükist 12. salmi, teadsin, et Taevane Isa näeb mind ja teab täpselt, mida ma tunnen.”

She continues, "Before we got married, I was honest with my fiancé that I didn't have a great testimony of tithing. Why did God need us to give money when others had so much to give? My fiancé helped explain it's not about money but following a commandment asked of us. He challenged me to start paying tithing.

"I really saw my testimony grow," she said. "Sometimes money gets tight, but we saw so many blessings, and somehow paychecks were enough."

Also, "in my nursing class," she said, "I was the only member of the Church and the only one married. Many times I left class frustrated or crying because I felt classmates singled me out and made negative comments about my beliefs, my wearing my garments, or my being married so young."

Yet she continues, "This past semester I learned how to better voice my beliefs and be a good gospel example. My knowledge and testimony grew because I was tested in my ability to stand alone and be strong in what I believe."

The young husband adds, "Before my mission I had offers to play college baseball. Making the difficult decision, I put those offers aside and went to serve the Lord. I wouldn't trade those two years for anything.

"Returning home," he said, "I expected a difficult transition but found myself stronger, faster, and healthier. I was throwing harder than when I left. I had more offers to play than when I left, including my dream school. And, most importantly," he said, "I rely upon the Lord more than ever."

He concludes, "As a missionary I taught that Heavenly Father promises us power in our prayers, but sometimes I forget that for myself."

Our treasury of missionary holiness-to-the-Lord blessings is rich and full. Finances, timing, and other circumstances are often not easy. But when missionaries of all ages and backgrounds consecrate holiness to the Lord, things can work out in the Lord's time and way.

Now with a 48-year perspective, a senior missionary shares, "My dad wanted me to get a college education, not go on a mission. Shortly after that, he had a heart attack and died at age 47. I felt guilty. How could I make things right with my father?

"Later," he continues, "after I decided to serve

Ta jätkab: „Enne abiellumist rääkisin ma oma kihlatule ausalt, et mul ei ole kümnise kohta tugevat tunnistust. Miks on Jumalal vaja meie raha, kui teistel on nii palju anda? Mu kihlatu aitab selgitada, et asi pole rahas, vaid meilt palutud käsu järgimises. Ta esitas mulle väljakutse hakata kümnnist maksma.

Ma nägin, kuidas mu tunnistus kasvas," ütles ta. „Mõnikord on rahaga kitsas, kuid me nägime nii palju õnnistusi ja mingil kombel palgast piisas."

Lisaks „olin ma oma õenduse kursusel ainuke Kiriku liige ja ainus, kes oli abielus," rääkis ta. „Lahkusin sageli tunnist pettunult või nuttes, sest mulle tundus, et ma olin jäänud klassikaaslastele hambusse, ja nad kommenteerisid negatiivselt mu tõekspidamisi, templipesu kandmist või nii noorena abiellumist."

Kuid siiski ta jätkas, „Õppisin viimasel semestril oma tõekspidamisi paremini väljendama ja evangeeliumiga heaks eeskujuks olema. Mu teadmised ja tunnistus kasvasid, kuna mind pandi proovile, kas ma suudan üksi kindlaks jääda ja oma tõekspidamistes tugev olla."

Noor abielumees lisab: „Mulle tehti enne misjonit pakkumisi kõrgkoolis korvpalli mängida. Ma tegin raske otsuse ning lükkasin need pakkumised kõrvale ja läksin Issandat teenima. Ma ei vahetaks neid kahte aastat millegi vastu.

„Ma ootasin koju naastes rasket üleminekuperioodi," ütles ta, „kuid avastasin, et olen tugevam, kiirem ja tervem. Ma viskasin kõvemini kui lahkudes. Ma sain mängimiseks rohkem pakkumisi kui lahkudes, teiste seas ka oma unistuste koolilt. Ja kõige tähtsam on see," rääkis ta, „et ma usaldan Issandat rohkem kui iial varem."

Ta sõnab lõpetuseks. „Ma õpetasin misjonärina, et Taevane Isa lubab meile palvetes väge, kuid vahel kipub see mul endal ununema."

Meie misjonäride Issandale pühitsetuse õnnistuste varasalt on rikkalik ja pilgel. Rahade, ajastuse ja muude oludega pole sageli kerge. Kuid kui igas vanuses ja eri taustaga misjonärid pühitsevad pühaduse Issandale, saavad asjad hakata toimuma Issanda ajastuse järgi ja Tema moel.

Nähes nüüd asju 48-aastasest vaatenurgast, jagab üks seniormisjonär: „Isa tahtis, et ma saaksin ülikoolihariduse ega läheks misjonile. Peagi pärast seda sai ta südamerabanduse ja suri 47-aastasena. Tundsin end süüdi. Kuidas küll kõike isale heastada?"

Ta jätkas: „Hiljem, kui ma olin otsustanud

a mission, I saw my father in a dream. Peaceful and contented, he was happy I would serve.”

This senior missionary continues, “As-Doctrine and Covenants section 138 teaches, I believe my father could serve as a missionary in the spirit world. I picture my father helping our great-grandfather, who left Germany at age 17 and was lost to the family, be found again.”

His wife adds, “Among the five brothers in my husband’s family, the four who served missions are the ones with college degrees.”

Holiness to the Lord in everyday life looks like a young returning missionary who learned to let God prevail in his life. Earlier, when asked to bless someone who was very sick, this missionary said, “I have faith; I will bless him to recover. Yet,” the returning missionary says, “I learned in that moment to pray not for what I wanted but for what the Lord knew the person needed. I blessed the brother with peace and comfort. He later passed away peacefully.”

Holiness to the Lord in everyday life feels like a spark arcing across the veil to connect, comfort, and strengthen. An administrator at a major university says he feels individuals he knows only by reputation praying for him. Those individuals devoted their lives to the university and continue to care about its mission and students.

A sister does her best each day, after her husband was unfaithful to her and the children. I deeply admire her and others like her. One day while folding laundry, her hand on a stack of garments, she sighed to herself, “What’s the point?” She felt a tender voice assure her, “Your covenants are with me.”

For 50 years, another sister yearned for a relationship with her father. “Growing up,” she says, “there were my brothers and my dad, and then there was me—the only daughter. All I ever wanted was to be ‘good enough’ for my dad.

“Then my mom passed away! She was my only liaison between my dad and me.

“One day,” the sister said, “I heard a voice say, ‘Invite your dad and take him to the temple with you.’ That was the beginning of a twice-a-month date with my daddy to the house of the Lord. I told my dad I loved him. He told me he loved me too.

“Spending time in the house of the Lord has healed us. My mom could not help us on earth.

misjonil teenida, nägin ma oma isa unes. Ta oli rahuliku ja rahulolevana õnnelik, et ma lähen teenima.”

See seeniormisjonär jätkab: „Nagu Õpetuse ja Lepingute 138. osas õpetatakse, usun ma, et mu isa võiks teenida misjonärina vaimumaailmas. Kujutan, et mu isa aitas üles leida meie vanavana-isa, kes lahkus 17-aastaselt Saksamaalt ja jäi oma pere jaoks kadunuks.”

Tema abikaasa lisab: „Neil neljal vennal viiest, kes mu abikaasa peres misjonil teenisid, on akadeemiline kraad.”

Igapäevane Issandale pühitsetus on nagu noor koju naasev misjonär, kes õppis laskma Issandal oma elus valitseda. Kui sel misjonäril varem kedagi väga haiget õnnistada paluti, ütles ta: „Mul on usku. Ma õnnistan, et ta saab terveks. Kuid,” ütleb koju naasnud misjonär, „tol hetkel sai mulle selgeks, et ma ei pea paluma seda, mida ma tahan, vaid seda, mida see inimene Issandale teadaolevalt vajab. Ma õnnistasin seda venda rahu ja trööstiga. Ta suri hiljem rahulikult.”

Igapäevane Issandale pühitsetus on nagu teisele poole eesriiet lennanud säde, mis ühendab, trööstib ja tugevdab. Ühe suure ülikooli juht ütleb, et tunneb, kuidas inimesed, keda ta teab üksnes maine järgi, palvetavad tema eest. Need inimesed pühendasid oma elu ülikoolile ning hoolivad jätkuvalt selle missioonist ja õpilastest.

Üks öde annab iga päev endast parima, pärast seda kui tema abikaasa talle ja nende lastele truudust murdis. Ma imetlen teda ja teisi temasarnaseid sügavalt. Kui ta ühel päeval pesu voltides käe templipesu hunniku otsa asetab, ohkas ta endamisi: „Mis mõte sel on?” Ta tundis, kuidas õrn hääle talle kinnitas: „Sa sõlmisid oma lepingud minuga.”

Üks teine öde igatses 50 aastat isa-tütrel suhet. Tema sõnul näisid „üles kasvades tema vennad ja isa kokku kuuluvat ning tema ainsa tütrena eraldi. Tahtsin vaid isale „kõlvata”.

Siis suri mu ema! Ta oli mu ainus side isa ja minu vahel.

Ühel päeval,” ütles öde, „kuulsin ma häält: „Kutsu isa kaasa ja mine koos temaga templisse.” Sellest sai alguse kaks korda kuus toimuv isaga Issanda kojas käimine. Ütlesin isale, et ma armastan teda. Ta ütles, et ka tema armastab mind.

Issanda kojas aja veetmine on meid tervendanud. Ema ei saanud meid maa peal aidata.

It took her being on the other side of the veil to help mend what was broken. The temple completed our journey to wholeness as an eternal family.”

The father says, “The temple dedication was a great spiritual experience for me and my only daughter. Now we attend together and feel our love strengthen.”

Holiness to the Lord in everyday life includes tender moments when loved ones pass. Earlier this year, my dear mother, Jean Gong, slipped into the next life days before her 98th birthday.

If you asked my mother, “Would you like rocky road, white chocolate ginger, or strawberry ice cream?” Mom would say, “Yes, please, may I taste each one?” Who could say no to your mother, especially when she loved all of life’s flavors?

I once asked Mom which decisions had most shaped her life.

She said, “Being baptized a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and moving from Hawaii to the mainland, where I met your father.”

Baptized as a 15-year-old, the only member of her large family to join our Church, my mother had covenant faith and trust in the Lord that blessed her life and all our family generations. I miss my mother, as you miss members in your family. But I know my mother is not gone. She is just not here now. I honor her and all who pass as valiant examples of everyday holiness to the Lord.

Of course, holiness to the Lord in everyday life includes coming more often to the Lord in His holy house. This is true whether we are Church members or friends.

Three friends came to the Bangkok Thailand Temple open house.

“This is a place of super healing,” said one.

In the baptistry, another said, “When I am here, I want to be washed clean and never sin again.”

The third said, “Can you feel the spiritual power?”

With nine sacred words, our temples invite and proclaim:

“Holiness to the Lord.

“The House of the Lord.”

Holiness to the Lord makes daily living sacred. It draws us closer and happier to the Lord

Selleks et aidata parandada, mis oli katki, pidi ta olema teisel pool eesriiet. Templis sai meie igavene pere terviklikuks.”

Isa sõnul oli „templi pühitsemine talle ja ta ainsale tütrele suur vaimne kogemus. Nüüd me käime seal koos ja tunneme, kuidas meie armastus tugevneb.”

Igapäevase Issandale pühitsetuse juurde kuuluvad õrnad hetked, mil armas inimene sureb. Minu kallis ema Jean Gong lipsas varem sel aastal mõned päevad enne oma 98. sünnipäeva surmajärgsesse ellu.

Mu emalt küsiti: „Kas sa soovid vahukommi, valge šokolaadi ja ingveri või maasika maitsega jäätist?” Ema vastas: „Jah, palun. Ma maitseksin neid kõiki.” Kes suudaks oma emale ei öelda, eriti kui need kõik olid tema lemmikjäätised?

Küsisin kord emalt, millised otsused olid ta elu enim kujundanud.

Ta ütles: „Viimse Aja Pühade Jeesuse Kristuse Kiriku liikmeks pühitsemine ja Havaitl mandrile kolimine, kus ma su isa kohtasin.”

Saanud 15-aastasena ristitud ja olles oma suures peres ainus liige, kes meie Kirikuga oli liitunud, oli mu emal lepinguline usk Issandasse ja usaldus Tema vastu, mis õnnistasid tema elu ja kõiki meie pere põlvkondi. Ma igatsen oma ema järele, nagu teie igatsete taga oma pereliikmeid. Kuid ma tean, et mu ema pole kadunud. Teda pole lihtsalt praegu siin. Ma austan teda ja kõiki, kes on oma igapäevase Issandale pühitsetusega vapraks eeskujuks.

Loomulikult hõlmab igapäevane Issandale pühitsetus sagedamat Issanda kotta Tema juurde tulemist. See kehtib nii Kiriku liikmete kui ka sõprade puhul.

Kolm sõpra tulid Tais Bangkoki templi lah-tiste uste päevale.

„See on ülimalt tervendav paik,” ütles üks.

Teine sõnas ristimisruumis: „Mul tekib siin tahtmine saada puhtaks pestud ja enam mitte kunagi patustada.”

Kolmas ütles: „Kas te tunnete seda vaimset väge?”

Meie templid kutsuvad ja kuulutavad nelja püha sõnaga:

„Issandale pühitsetud.

Issanda koda.”

Issandale pühitsetus muudab igapäevaelu pühaks. See teeb meid Issanda ja üksteisega

and each other and prepares us to live with God our Father, Jesus Christ, and our loved ones.

As did my friend, you may wonder if your Heavenly Father loves you. The answer is a resounding, absolute yes! We can feel His love as we make holiness to the Lord ours each day, happy and forever. May we do so, I pray in the sacred name of Jesus Christ, amen.

lähedasemaks ja õnnelikumaks ja valmistab meid elama meie Jumal Isaga, Jeesuse Kristuse ja meile armsate inimestega.

Ka teie võite mu sõbra sarnaselt mõtiskleda, kas teie Taevane Isa teid armastab. Vastus on kõlav absoluutne jah! Me võime tunda Tema armastust, kui muudame Issandale pühitsetuse oma igapäevaelu osaks rõõmuga ja igavesti. Ma palvetan, et me seda teeksime. Jeesuse Kristuse pühal nimel, aamen.