

Holiness to the Lord in Everyday Life

By Elder Gerrit W. Gong
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Hamasinina ho an'ny [Tompo] amin'ny fiainana andavanandro

Nataon'ny Loholona Gerrit W. Gong
Ao amin'ny Kôlejin'ny Apôstôly Roambinifolo

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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.”

Mahatonga ny fiainana andavanandro ho masina ny hamasinana ho an'ny Tompo. Mahatonga antsika hanakaiky kokoa ny Tompo sy hifaly Aminy kokoa izany ary mampifanakaiky sy mahatonga antsika hifaly amintsika samy isika.

Nisy fampisehoana talenta nahafinaritra nandritra ny fivoriam-pianakavianay vao tsy ela, sady nisy fifaninanana ankamantatra.

Tsy nahazatra anefa io fifaninanana io. Ny tao amin'ny ekipa iray dia i Dadabe (izaho izany) sy zafikely roa, izay 12 sy 11 taona. Ny tao amin'ilay ekipa iray hafa kosa dia Ilon-tsaina Artifizialy (IA) izay nasain'ny vadin'ny zana-drahalahiko hitantara ankamantatra amin'ny fomban'i Gerrit W. Gong. I Dadabe Gerrit Gong no mifanandrana amin'i Gerrit Gong vokarin'ny Ilon-tsaina Artifizialy (IA).

Izaho sy ireo zafikeliko no nandeha voalohany.

Inona no iantsoana ny dinôzôro izay mankafy ilay trano fijerena sarimihetsika taloha? Tia Rex.

Nomena torolalana ilay Gerrit Gong vita amin'ny Ilon-tsaina Artifizialy hoe mieritrereta tahaka an'i Gerrit W. Gong. Miresaha tahaka azy.

Hoy i Gerrit Gong vita amin'ny ilon-tsaina artifizialy: “Ity misy ankamantatra toy ny hoe nolazain'i Gerrit W. Gong, araka ny fomba fitenin'ny feno fitiavana sy voadinika tsara ary mankahery: Nahoana ilay hazo feno fanetrentena no mampitsiky ny olona? Satria feno fitiavana ny faka nipoirany ary ny rantsany dia miseho amin-katsaram-panahy. Isika ihany koa, tahaka io hazo io, dia afaka mahazo hery avy amin'ny faka nipoirantsika sy mahazo fifaliana amin'ny fanehoana hatsaram-panahy amin'ny hafa.

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 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

Eny ary, ahoana ny fahitanareo an'izany? Izay no mahatonga an'ilay izy hoe ankamantatra avy amin'i Dadabe.

Feno zavatra manome fahafahana hihomehy sy hifaly ary hijery amin'ny maso feno fankasitrahana eny amin'ny manodidina antsika. Ny filazantsarantsika dia filazantsaran'ny fifaliana sy fahamasinana amin'ny fiainana andavanandro. Ny fanamasinana dia fanokanana zavatra ho amin'ny tanjona masina. Fa ny hoe hamasinina ihany koa dia manasa antsika hampiditra ao amin'ny fiainantsika andavanandro ny zavatra masina, dia ny fifaliana noho ny mofo azontsika isan'andro, ao anatin'ny rarint-saina sy ny fanamby eto amin'izao tontolo izao. Mba handehanantsika miaraka amin'ny Tompo, dia tsy maintsy miova ho masina isika, satria masina Izy, ary mba hanampiana antsika ho lasa masina, dia manasa antsika ny Tompo hiara-handeha Aminy.

Samy manana tantara avokoa isika. Tamin'ny nihaonanay sy Rahavavy Gong taminareo, mpi-kambana sy naman'ny Fiangonana any amin'ny toerana sy anaty toe-javatra maro, dia nankahery anay ny tantaranareo momba ny fanamasinana anareo ho an'ny Tompo eo amin'ny fiainanareo andavanandro. Miaina ny M fito ianareo: manana fifandraisana amin' Andriamanitra, miara-monina sy manana fangorahana aminareo samy ianareo, manolo-tena sy manao fanekempihavanana amin' Andriamanitra, sy amin'ny fianakaviana ary amin'ny namana—mifototra amin'i Jesoa Kristy Mpamonjy.

Mihamaro ny porofo manantitrantitra izao tranga mahavariana izao: ireo mpino ara-pivavahana amin'ny ankapobeny dia faly kokoa, salama kokoa, ary mahatratra ny tanjony kokoa noho ireo izay tsy manana fanoloran-tena na fifandraisana ara-panahy. Ny fahasambarana sy ny fahafaliam-po eo amin'ny fiainana, ny fahasalamana ara-tsaina sy ara-batana, ny antom-pisiana sy ny tanjona, ny toetra sy ny soatoavina, ny fifandraisana akaiky ara-piaramonina, eny na dia ny fizakan-tena ara-bola sy ara-pitaovana aza, amin'izany rehetra izany dia miroborobo ireo izay mandala ny fivavahany.

Mianoka fahasalamana ara-batana sy aratsaina tsara kokoa izy ireo sady manana fahafaliam-po kokoa amin'ny fiainany na firy na firy sokajin-taonany na avy aiza na avy aiza ny vondronolona niaviany.

Ilay antsoin'ny mpikaroka hoe “filaminan-drafitra entin'ny fivavahana” dia manome

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."

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."

fahazavana sy tanjona ary aingam-panahy ao anatin'ny fiainana kodiara-tsarety. Ny mpi-anakavin'ny finoana sy ny fivondronan'ny Olomasina dia miady amin'ny fahatsapana ho mitoka-monina sy ny fahatsapana ho irery anaty olona maro. Ny hoe hamasinina ho an'ny Tompo dia mandà ny tsy fahamasinana, mandà ny hafet-sifetsena miteraka fahavoazana ho an'ny hafa, mandà ireo algorythmes izay mampiasa fahatezavana sy fisaraham-bazana ho fitadiavam-bola. Ny hoe hamasinina ho an'ny Tompo dia manaiky izay masina sy maneho fanajana, manaiky ny fiovantsika ho olona afaka indrindra, faly indrindra, tsisy fitaka, ary olona tsara indrindra eo am-panarahantsika Azy am-pinoana.

Manao ahoana izany hoe hamasinina ho an'ny Tompo amin'ny fiainana andavanandro izany?

Ny hoe hamasinina ho an'ny Tompo amin'ny fiainana andavanandro dia tahaka ny tanora mahatoky anankiroa, herin-taona nivadiana, izay mizara amin'ny fomba tsisy fitaka sy tsy am-pi-ahiahiana ny fanekempihavanan'ny filazantsara sy ny fahafoizan-tena ary ny fanompoana eo amin'ny fiainan'izy ireo izay vao misonandrotra.

Hoy ilay tanora vavy: "Fony tany amin'ny lisea aho dia tao anaty aloka. Nahatsapa aho hoe tsy teo ho ahy Andriamanitra. Indray alina, nisy SMS nalefan'ny namako nanao hoe: -E! Efa namaky ny Alma 36ve ianao?-"

"Rehefa nanomboka namaky aho", hoy izy, "dia heniky ny fahatoniana sy ny fitiavana. Nahatsapa toy ny hoe nisy namihina mafy aho. Rehefa namaky ny Alma 36:12 aho dia nahafantatra fa nahita ahy ny Ray any An-danitra ary hainy tsara ny zavatra tsapako."

Notohizany hoe: "Talohan'ny nanambadianay, dia nolazaiko tamin-kitsimpo tamin'ny fofom-badiko hoe tsy dia manana fijoroana ho vavolombelona loatra momba ny fahafolonkarena aho. Nahoana isika no ilain' Andriamanitra hanome vola kanefa misy ireo hafa izay afaka manome be? Nanazava ilay fofom-badiko hoe tsy resaka vola izy fa fanarahana didy iray izay nangatahan' Andriamanitra mba hataontsika. Nanome fanamby ho ahy izy hoe hanomboka handoa fahafolonkarena."

"Tena hitako nitombo ny fijoroako ho vavolombelona", hoy izy. "Indraindray manify ny vola eo am-pelatanana, kanefa nahita fitahiana marobe izahay ary lasa ampy nivelomana ny karama."

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

Nilaza koa izy hoe: “ao amin’ny kilasin’ny mpitsabo mpanampy izay misy ahy dia izaho irery no mpikamban’ny Fiangonana ary izaho irery no efa manambady. Imbetsaka aho no sorena na mitomany rehefa miala avy ao am-pianarana satria nahatsapa hoe avahan’ireo mpiara-mianatra aho ary manao fanamarihana ratsy izy ireo momba ny finoako na ny fanaovako garmenta na ilay izaho nanambady mbola tanora.”

Kanefa notohizany hoe: “Tamin’ny telo volana sy tapany lasa teo aho dia nianatra ny fomba tsara kokoa hanambarako ny zavatra inoako sy ho lasa ohatra tsara amin’ny fiainana ny filazantsara. Nitombo ny fahalalako sy ny fijoroako ho vavolombelona satria nosedraina aho hoe afaka ny hijoro irery ve sy hatanjaka amin’ny zavatra inoako.”

Nanampy ralehilahy vadiny hoe: “Talohan’ny nandehanako nanao asa fitoriana dia naharay tolotra mba ho mpilalao baseball any amin’ny oniversite aho. Nandray fanapahan-kevitra saro-tra aho ary navelako ireo tolotra ireo ka nandeha nanompo ny Tompo aho. Tsy atakaloko na inona na inona ireo roa taona ireo.

“Rehefa nody aho”, hoy izy, “dia nieritreritra hoe ho sarotra ny fiverenana milalao saingy lasa natanjaka kokoa, sy haingana kokoa ary salama kokoa aho. Mafy kokoa ny fanipazako baolina noho ny tamin’izaho vao handeha hanao asa fitoriana. Maro kokoa ny tolotra voaraiko mba ho mpilalao noho ny tamin’izaho vao handeha ary anisan’izany ny sekoly izay efa nonofinofisiko hianarana. Ary ny tena manan-danja indrindra”, hoy izy, “dia niankina tamin’ny Tompo mihoatra noho ny hatrizay aho.”

Hoy izy namarana azy: “Tamin’izaho misiônera dia nampianatra aho fa ny Ray any An-danitra dia mampanantena antsika hery ao amin’ny vavaka ataontsika, kanefa indraindray dia adinoko izany ho an’ny tenako.”

Sesehena sy feno ny raki-tsoan’ireo fitahiana ho an’ireo misiônera nohamasinina ho an’ny Tompo. Indraindray tsy mora ny ara-bola sy ny fotoana ary ireo toe-javatra misy. Kanefa rehefa manokana fanamasinana ho an’ny Tompo ireo misiônera avy amin’ny sokajin-taona rehetra sy avy amin’ny toe-javatra rehetra, dia afaka ny hilamina ny zava-drehetra amin’ny fotoana sy amin’ny fomban’ny Tompo.

Ankehitriny, amin’ny fijery 48 taona aty aoriana dia izao no nozarain’ny misiônera zokiolona iray: “Hianatra any amin’ny oniversite no

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 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

nirian’ny dadako hoe hataoko fa tsy handeha hanao asa fitoriana. Fotoana fohy taorian’izay dia tapaka lalan-drà izy dia nodimandry teo amin’ny faha-47 taonany. Nahatsapa ho meloka aho. Ahoana no ahafahako mamitrana ny fihavanako amin’ny raiko?

“Taty aoriana”, hoy izy nanohy nitantara, “taorian’ny fanapahan-kevitro handeha hanao asa fitoriana, dia nahita ny raiko tao anaty nofy aho. Tony sy finaritra izy ary faly hoe hanompo aho.”

Hoy ilay misiônera zokiolona nanohy izany: “Araka ny ampianarin’ny Fotopampianarana sy Fanekepiahavanana fizarana 138 dia inoako fa ny raiko dia afaka ny manao asa fitoriana ao amin’ny tontolon’ny fanahy. Maka sary an-tsaina ny raiko eo am-panampiana ny dadan’ny dadabeko, izay nandao an’i Alemana fony izy 17 taona ary tsy hitan’ny fianakaviany intsony, mba ho hita indray aho.”

Nanampy ny vadiny hoe: “Amin’ireo dimy mirahalahy iray tampo amin’ny vadiko, dia ny efatra izay nanao asa fitoriana no manana diplaoma avy eny amin’ny anjery manontolo.”

Ny hoe hamasinina ho an’ny Tompo amin’ny fiainana andavanandro dia toy ny misiônera tanora eo am-pamitana ny asa fitoriana izay nianatra ny hamela an’ Andriamanitra hanjaka eo amin’ny fiainany. Teo aloha, rehefa asaina mitsodrano olona marary mafy io misiônera io dia hoy izy: “Manam-pinoana aho, homeko tsodrano izy mba ho sitrana. Kanefa,” ilay misiônera namarana ny asa fitoriana kosa niteny hoe: “nianatra aho tamin’izay fotoana izay ny tsy hivavaka ho an’izay tiako, fa ho an’izay fantatry ny Tompo fa ilain’ily olona. Notsofiko rano ilay rahalahy mba hahazo fiadanana sy fiononana. Avy eo dia nodimandry tamim-piadanana izy.”

Ny hoe hamasinina ho an’ny Tompo amin’ny fiainana andavanandro dia fahatsapana toy ny pitik’aho manazava hatrany ambadiky ny voaly mba hampifandray sy hampionona ary hampahery. Nilaza ny mpitantana ao amin’ny oniversite lehibe iray hoe mahatsapa izy fa misy olona tsy fantany, afa-tsy noho ny lazany ihany, mivavaka ho azy. Ireo olona ireo dia nanolotra ny fiainany ho an’ily oniversite ary mbola manohy miraharaha ny tanjon’ily oniversite sy ireo mpianatra ao aminy.

Misy rahavavy iray izay manao izay tsara indrindra vitany isan’andro taorian’ny fivadiam-pitokisan’ny vadiny taminy sy ireo zanany. Tena talanjona aminy sy amin’ireo tahaka azy aho.

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. 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.

Indray andro teo am-pamalonana ny lamba avy nosasana izy, dia nisento tamin’ny tenany nitsapa ireo garmenta nivangongo no nilaza hoe: “Atao inona moa?” Nandre feo malefaka izy nanome toky azy hoe: “Miaraka amiko ny fanekempihavanana nataonao.”

Nandritra ny 50 taona no naniriana raha-vavy iray hafa mba hanana fifandraisana amin’ny rainy. “Tamin’ny fahazazako,” hoy izy, “dia nifandray am-po kokoa ireo anadahiko sy ny dadako, ary izaho kosa niavaka—ilay vavitokana. Ny hany faniriako dia ny hoe -ho zanaka tsara- ank-asitrahan’ny dadako.

“Nodimandry avy eo ny reniko! Izy no hany nampifandray ahy tamin’ny dadako.

“Indray andro”, hoy ilay ranabavy, “dia nahare feo aho nanao hoe: -Asao ny dadanao ary ento any amin’ny tempoly miaraka aminao izy.- Teo no nanomboka ny fiarahako tamin’ny dadako indroa isam-bolana mankany amin’ny tranon’ny Tompo. Nolazaiko tamin’ny raiko hoe tiako izy. Nilaza tamiko izy fa tia ahy ihany koa.

“Nanasitrana anay ny fotoana niarahanay tao amin’ny tranon’ny Tompo. Tsy afaka nanampy anay ny reniko tetỳ an-tany. Nila niampita ny voaly izy mba hanampy anay hanamboatra izay rava. Nanatanteraka ny dianay mankany amin’ny fahafenoana sy fanasitranana ho fianakaviana mandrakizay ny tempoly ”

Hoy ilay raim-pianakaviana: “Ny fahavitrihana mankany amin’ny tempoly dia traikefa ara-panahy mahafinaritra ho ahy sy ny zanako vavitokana. Amin’izao izahay dia miara-mankany amin’ny tempoly ary mahatsapa fa mihamafy ny fifankatiavanay.”

Tafiditra ao amin’ny hoe hamasinina ho an’ny Tompo amin’ny fiainana andavanandro ny fotoana mapihetsi-po rehefa misy olona akaiky ny fo mandao ity fiainana ity. Tamin’ity taona ity no nandaozan’i Jean Gong reny malalako tsimoramora ity fiainana ity talohan’ny fitsingerenan’ny faha 98 taonany.

Raha manontany ny reniko ianareo hoe: “Inona no tianao, gilasy misy hanitra sôkôlà misy poti-boanjo sa hanitra sôkôlà fotsy misy sakamalaho sa hanitra frezy?” Dia hamaly i Mama hoe: “Afaka mba mahazo azy ireo tsirairay ve aho?” Iza no handà tsy hanome ny reniny, indrindra rehefa mankafy ny hanitra rehetra misy amin’ny fiainana izy?

Indray mandeha aho nanontany an’i Neny hoe inona no fanapahan-kevitra izay tena nisy