Malagasy

Embrace the Lord's Gift of Repentance

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Of the Seventy

Raiso tanteraka ilay fanomezana avy amin'ny Tompo, dia ny fibebahana

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Ao amin'ny Fitopololahy

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Let us not wait for things to get hard before turning to God. Let us not wait until the end of our mortal lives to truly repent.

Aoka isika tsy hiandry fahasarotana vao hitodika amin' Andriamanitra. Aoka isika tsy hiandry ny fiafaran'ny fiainantsika an-tany vao hibebaka marina.

I testify of a loving Heavenly Father. In the April 2019 general conference, moments after I was sustained in my new responsibility as a General Authority Seventy, the choir sang a rendition of "I Stand All Amazed" that pierced my heart and soul.

I marvel that he would descend from his throne divine
To rescue a soul so rebellious and proud as mine,
That he should extend his great love unto such as I,
Sufficient to own, to redeem, and to justify.

As I heard those words, I was all amazed. I felt that despite my inadequacies and flaws, the Lord blessed me to know that "in his strength I can do all things."

The common feeling of inadequacy, weakness, or even unworthiness is something with which many of us sometimes struggle. I still struggle with this; I felt it the day I was called. I have felt it many times, and I still feel it right now speaking to you. However, I have learned that I am not alone with these feelings. In fact, there are many accounts in the scriptures of those who seem to have felt similar feelings. For example, we remember Nephi as a faithful and valiant servant of the Lord. At times, even he struggled with feelings of unworthiness, weakness, and

Mijoro ho vavolombelona ny amin'ilay Ray any An-danitra be fitiavana aho. Nandritra ny fihaonamben'ny Fiangonana tamin'ny aprily 2019, fotoana fohy taorian'ny nanohanana ahy amin'ny andraikitro vaovao amin'ny maha Fitopololahy Manampahefana Ambony ahy, dia nihira ny "Endrey mahagaga ahy" izay nanindrona ny foko sy ny fanahiko ny amboarampeo.

Mahagaga, nandao ny lapan'Izy ho ahy,

Mba hamonjena ireo toa ahy ratsy fanahy,

Natolony ho ahy 'lay fitiavan-dehibe,

Ampy hanamarin'ahy ny fanavotany.

Rehefa nandre ireo teny ireo aho dia tena talanjona. Nahatsapa aho fa na dia teo aza ny tsy fahaizako sy ny tsy fahatanterahako dia nitahy ahy ny Tompo mba hahafantatra fa "amin'ny heriny no ahafahako manao ny zava-drehetra."

Ny fahatsapana mahazatra momba ny tsy fahaiza-manao, ny fahalemena, na ny tsy fahamendrehana mihitsy aza dia zavatra iray izay atrehan'ny maro amintsika indraindray. Mbola manana olana amin'izany aho; nahatsapa an'izany aho tamin'ny andro niantsoana ahy. Efa nahatsapa izany imbetsaka aho ary mbola mahatsapa izany amin'izao fotoana izao eto am-piresahana aminareo. Na izany aza anefa dia nianatra aho fa tsy izaho irery no manana ireo fahatsapana ireo. Raha ny marina dia misy tantara maro ao amin'ny soratra masina momba ireo izay toa

inadequacy.

He said: "Notwithstanding the great goodness of the Lord, in showing me his great and marvelous works, my heart exclaimeth: O wretched man that I am! Yea, my heart sorroweth because of my flesh; my soul grieveth because of mine iniquities."

The Prophet Joseph Smith spoke of often feeling "condemned," in his youth, "for [his] weakness and imperfections."But Joseph's feelings of inadequacy and worry were part of what led him to ponder, study, learn, and pray. As you may remember, he went to pray in the grove near his home to find truth, peace, and forgiveness. He heard the Lord say: "Joseph, my son, thy sins are forgiven thee. Go thy way, walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments. Behold, I am the Lord of Glory. I was crucified for the world that all those who believe on my name may have eternal life."

Joseph's sincere desire to repent and seek the salvation of his soul helped him come to Jesus Christ and receive forgiveness of his sins. This continuous effort opened the door to the continuing Restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

This remarkable experience of the Prophet Joseph Smith illustrates how feelings of weakness and inadequacy can help us recognize our fallen nature. If we are humble, this will help us come to recognize our dependence upon Jesus Christ and stir within our hearts a sincere desire to turn to the Savior and repent of our sins.

My friends, repentance is joy!Sweet repentance is part of a daily process through which, "line upon line, precept upon precept,"the Lord teaches us to live a life centered in His teachings. Like Joseph and Nephi, we can "cry unto [God]

nanana fahatsapana mitovy amin'izany. Ohatra, tsaroantsika amin'ny maha-mpanompon'ny Tompo mahatoky sy be herimpo azy i Nefia. Indraindray, na dia izy aza, dia nanana olana tamin'ny fahatsapana ho tsy mendrika sy fahalemena ary tsy fahaizana.

Hoy izy: "Na dia eo aza ny halehiben'ny hatsaram-pon'ny Tompo tamin'ny nanehoany tamiko ny asany lehibe sy mahatalanjona, dia niantsoantso ny foko hoe: Indrisy olona fadiranovana aho! Eny, malahelo ny foko noho ny nofoko; ory ny fanahiko noho ny heloko."

Nilaza ny Mpaminany Joseph Smith fa nahatsiaro tena "ho meloka [matetika]," tamin'ny fahatanorany, "noho ny fahaleme[ny] sy ny tsy fahatanteraha[ny]."Saingy ny fahatsapan'i Joseph ny tsy fahaizany ary ny fanahiany dia anisan'ny nitarika azy hisaintsaina, handalina, hianatra ary hivavaka. Mety ho tsaroanareo angamba fa nandeha nivavaka tao anatin'ny ala kely iray akaikin'ny tranony izy mba hitady fahamarinana sy fiadanam-po ary famelan-keloka. Naheno ny Tompo niteny izy nanao hoe, "Ry Joseph zanako, voavela ny helokao. Mandehana, araho ny lalàko, ary tandremo ny didiko. Indro, izaho no Tompon'ny Voninahitra. Nohomboina teo amin'ny hazofijaliana ho an'izao tontolo izao aho mba hahazoan'izay rehetra mino ny anarako ny fiainana mandrakizay."

Ny fanirian'i Joseph tamin-kitsimpo hibebaka sy hikatsaka ny famonjena ny fanahiny dia nanampy azy hanatona an'i Jesoa Kristy sy handray ny famelana ny fahotany. Nanokatra ny varavarana ho an'ny Famerenana amin'ny laoniny eo an-dalam-pitohizan'ny filazantsaran'i Jesoa Kristy amin'ny andro farany izany ezaka tsy tapaka izany.

Io traikefa mahatalanjona niainan'ny Mpaminany Joseph Smith io dia maneho ny fomba ahafahan'ny fahatsapana fahalemena sy tsy fahaizana manampy antsika hamantatra ny toetoetrantsika lavo. Raha toa ka manetry tena isika dia afaka hanampy antsika hahafantatra ny fianteherantsika amin'i Jesoa Kristy izany ary afaka mamporisika ao am-pontsika faniriana amin-kitsimpo hitodika amin'ny Mpamonjy sy hibebaka amin'ireo fahotantsika izany.

Ry namako, fifaliana ny fibebahana!Ny fibebahana tsara dia ampahany amin'ny dingana atao isan'andro izay ampianaran'ny Tompo antsika, "andalan-tsoratra anampy andalan-tsoratra, fitsipika anampy fitsipika,"mba hiainana fiainana

for mercy; for he is mighty to save." He can fulfill any righteous desire or longing and can heal any wound in our lives.

In the Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ, you and I can find countless accounts of individuals who learned how to come unto Christ through sincere repentance.

I'd like to share with you an example of the tender mercies of the Lord through an experience that occurred in my beloved home island of Puerto Rico.

It was in my hometown of Ponce that a sister in the Church, Célia Cruz Ayala, decided that she was going to give a Book of Mormon to a friend. She wrapped it and went to deliver this gift, more precious to her than diamonds or rubies, she said.On her way, a thief approached her, grabbed her purse, and ran away with the special gift inside.

When she told this story at church, her friend said, "Who knows? Maybe this was your opportunity to share the gospel!"

Well, a few days later, do you know what happened? Célia received a letter. I hold that letter, which Célia sharedwith me, in my hand today. It says:

"Mrs. Cruz:

"Forgive me, forgive me. You will never know how sorry I am for attacking you. But because of it, my life has changed and will continue to change.

"That book [the Book of Mormon] has helped me in my life. The dream of that man of God has shaken me. … I am returning your five [dollars,] for I can't spend them. I want you to know that you seemed to have a radiance about you. That light seemed to stop me [from harming you, so] I ran away instead.

"I want you to know that you will see me again, but when you do, you won't recognize me, for I will be your brother. … Here, where I live, I have to find the Lord and go to the church you

mifototra amin'ny fampianarany. Tahaka an'i Joseph sy Nefia, isika dia afaka "hitalaho amin' [Andriamanitra mba hahazo] famindrampo; fa mahery Izy ka mahavonjy." Afaka manatanteraka izay faniriana na hetraheta feno fahamarinana rehetra Izy ary afaka manasitrana izay ratra rehetra eo amin'ny fiainantsika Izy.

Ao amin'ny Bokin'i Môrmôna: Testamenta iray hafa momba an'i Jesoa Kristy dia mahita tantara tsy hay ho isaina momba ny olona izay nianatra ny fomba hanatonana an'i Jesoa Kristy amin'ny alalan'ny fibebahana amin-kitsimpo izaho sy ianao.

Te hizara ohatra iray amin'ny famindram-po feno fitiavana an'ny Tompo aminareo aho amin'ny alalan'ny zavatra niainako iray izay nitranga tany Porto Rico izay nosy niaviako.

Tao amin'ny tanàna niaviako tao Ponce no nisy an'i Celia Cruz, rahavavy iray tao amin'ny Fiangonana, izay nanapa-kevitra fa hanome ny Bokin'i Môrmôna ny namana iray. Nofonosiny ilay izy ary nandeha nanatitra an'io fanomezana io izy, izay sarobidy kokoa aminy noho ny diamondra na ny robia, hoy izy.Nony teny an-dalana dia nisy mpangalatra nanatona azy, naka ny pôketrany, ary nandositra nitondra ilay fanomezana manokana tao anatiny.

Rehefa nizara an'io tantara io tany am-piangonana izy dia hoy ny namany hoe: "Iza no mahalala? Angamba fahafahanao nizara ny filazantsara izany!"

Fantatrao ve hoe inona no nitranga andro vitsivitsy taty aoriana? Naharay taratasy iray i Célia. Inty an-tanako ilay taratasy izay nozarain'i Célia tamiko. Izao no lazainy:

"Ramatoa Cruz:

"Mamelà ny heloko, mamelà ny heloko. Tsy ho fantatrao mihitsy ny haben'ny alaheloko noho ny fanafihana anao. Saingy noho io zavatra io dia niova ny fiainako ary mbola hiova hatrany.

"Nanampy ahy teo amin'ny fiainako ilay boky [ny Bokin'i Môrmôna]. Nisy fiantraikany mafy tamiko ny nofin'ilay lehilahin' Andriamanitra. … Averiko ny dimy [dôlaranao], fa tsy afaka mandany izany aho. Tiako ho fantatrao fa toa nanana famirapiratana nanodidina anao ianao. Toa nanakana ahy [tsy hanisy ratsy anao izany hazavana izany, ka] nandositra kosa aho.

"Tiako ho fantatrao fa hahita ahy indray ianao, saingy rehefa hahita ahy ianao, dia tsy ho fantatrao aho, satria ho rahalahinao aho. … Mila mitady ny Tompo aho eto amin'ny toerana misy

belong to.

"The message you wrote in that book brought tears to my eyes. Since Wednesday night I have not been able to stop reading it. I have prayed and asked God to forgive me [and] I ask you to forgive me. … I thought your wrapped gift was something I could sell. [Instead,] it has made me want to [change] my life. … Forgive me, forgive me, I beg you.

"Your absent friend."

Brothers and sisters, the light of the Savior can reach us all, no matter our circumstances. "It is not possible for you to sink lower than the infinite light of Christ's Atonement shines," said President Jeffrey R. Holland.

As for the unintended recipient of Célia's gift, the Book of Mormon, this brother went on to witness more of the Lord's mercy. Although it took time for this brother to forgive himself, he found joy in repentance. What a miracle! One faithful sister, one Book of Mormon, sincere repentance, and the Savior's power led to the enjoyment of the fulness of blessings of the gospel and sacred covenants in the house of the Lord.Other family members followed and accepted sacred responsibilities in the Lord's vineyard, including full-time missionary service.

As we come unto Jesus Christ, our path of sincere repentance will eventually lead us to the Savior's holy temple.

What a righteous motive to strive to be clean—to be worthy of the fulness of the blessings made possible by our Heavenly Father and His Son through sacred temple covenants! Serving regularly in the house of the Lord and striving to keep the sacred covenants we make there will increase both our desire and our ability to experience the change of heart, might, mind, and soul necessary for us to become more like our Savior. President Russell M. Nelson has testified: "Nothing will open the heavensmore[than worshipping in the temple]. Nothing!"

ahy ary mankany amin'ny fiangonana misy anao.

"Nandraraka ny ranomasoko ny hafatra nosoratanao tao amin'ilay boky. Tsy afaka nitsahatra namaky azy aho hatramin'ny alarobia alina. Nivavaka aho ary nangataka tamin' Andriamanitra mba hamela ahy [ary] mangataka aminao aho mba hamela ahy. … Noheveriko fa zavatra azoko hamidy ny fanomezana nofonosinao. Nahatonga ahy [kosa] haniry [hanova] ny fiainako ilay izy. … Mamelà ny heloko, mamelà ny heloko, miangavy anao aho.

"Ilay namanao tsy eo anilanao."

Ry rahalahy sy ranabavy, mahatakatra antsika rehetra ny fahazavan'ny Mpamonjy, na inona na inona toe-javatra iainantsika. "Tsy misy izany hoe milentika lalina loatra ianao ka tsy ho tratran'ny hazavana tsy manam-pahataperan'ny Sorompanavotan'i Kristy," hoy ny Filoha Jeffrey R. Holland.

Raha ny amin'ilay olona nahazo tsy nampoizina ny fanomezan'i Celia, ny Bokin'i Môrmôna, dia vavolombelona hatrany tamin'ny famindram-po sesehen'ny Tompo ity rahalahy ity. Na dia nila fotoana aza io rahalahy io vao namela ny tenany, dia nahita fifaliana tamin'ny fibebahana izy. Tena fahagagana izany! Rahavavy mahatoky iray, Bokin'i Môrmôna iray, fibebahana amin-kitsimpo, ary ny herin'ny Mpamonjy dia nitarika tamin'ny fankafizana ny fahafenoan'ireo fitahiana avy amin'ny filazantsara sy ireo fanekempihavanana masina ao amin'ny tranon'ny Tompo.Nisy olona hafa tao amin'ny fianakaviana izay nanaraka sy nanaiky handray andraikitra masina tao amin'ny tanimboaloboky ny Tompo, anisan'izany ny fandehanana manao asa fitoriana amin'ny fotoana feno.

Rehefa manatona an'i Jesoa Kristy isika dia hitondra antsika any amin'ny tempoly masin'ny Mpamonjy ny lalan'ny fibebahantsika amin-kitsimpo.

Tena hery manosika feno fahamarinana tokoa izany hoe miezaka ny ho madio izany—ny mba ho mendrika ny fahafenoan'ireo fitahiana azontsika ho raisina noho ny Raintsika any An-danitra sy ny Zanany tamin'ny alalan'ny fanekempihavanana masin'ny tempoly! Ny fanompoana tsy tapaka ao amin'ny tranon'ny Tompo sy ny fiezahana hitandrina ireo fanekempihavanana masina ataontsika any dia hampitombo ny faniriantsika sy ny fahafahantsika hiaina ny fiovam-po, hery, saina, ary fanahy ilaina mba hahatongavantsika kokoa tahaka ny Mpamon-

jy antsika. Nijoro ho vavolombelona ny Filoha Russell M. Nelson hoe: "Tsy misy hanokatra ny lanitrakokoa[noho ny fitsaohana ao amin'ny tempoly]. Tsy misy!"

My dear friends, do you feel inadequate? Do you feel unworthy? Are you second-guessing yourself? Perhaps you might worry and ask: Do I measure up? Is it too late for me? Why do I keep failing when I am trying my absolute best?

Ry namako malala, mahatsiaro ho tsy mahay ve ianareo? Mahatsapa ho tsy mendrika ve ianareo? Tsy azonao antoka ve hoe mety ny hataonao? Angamba mety manahy ianao ary manontany hoe: maharaka aho ve? Tsy efa tara loatra ve raha ny momba ahy? Nahoana aho no tsy mahomby foana rehefa miezaka mafy manao izay fara-heriko?

Brothers and sisters, surely we will make mistakes in our lives along the way. But please remember that, as Elder Gerrit W. Gong has taught: "Our Savior's Atonement is infinite and eternal. Each of us strays and falls short. We may, for a time, lose our way. God lovingly assures us [that] no matter where we are or what we have done, there is no point of no return. He waits ready to embrace us."

Ry rahalahy sy ranabavy, azo antoka fa hanao fahadisoana isika eo amin'ny fiainantsika eny am-pandehanana eny. Nefa mba tsarovy fa, araka ny nampianarin'ny Loholona Gerrit W. Gong hoe: "Tsy manam-petra sy mandrakizay ny Soro-mpanavotan'ny Mpamonjy antsika. Samy mania sy mety lavo avokoa isika tsirairay avy. Indraindray isika dia mety ho very lalana. Manome toky am-pitiavana antsika Andriamanitra [fa] na aiza na aiza misy antsika na inona na inona zavatra nataontsika, fa tsy misy an'izany hoe tsy afaka miverina ilalana izany intsony. Miandry Izy ary vonona ny hamihina antsika."

As my dear wife, Cari Lu, has also taught me, we all need to repent, rewind, and reset the time to "zero o'clock" every single day.

Araka ny nampianarin'i Cari Lu, vady malalako ahy koa dia mila mibebaka ary manodina sy mamerina ny fotoana ho ora "aotra" indray isan'andro isika rehetra.

Obstacles will come. Let us not wait for things to get hard before turning to God. Let us not wait until the end of our mortal lives to truly repent. Instead, let us now, no matter which part of the covenant path we are on, focus on the redemptive power of Jesus Christ and on Heavenly Father's desire for us to return to Him.

Ho avy ireo fahasarotana. Aoka isika tsy hiandry fahasarotana vao hitodika amin' Andriamanitra. Aoka isika tsy hiandry ny fiafaran'ny fiainantsika an-tany vao hibebaka marina. Fa izao kosa, aoka isika izao, na inona na inona ampahan'ny lalan'ny fanekempihavanana izay hizorantsika, hifantoka amin'ny hery manavotr'i Jesoa Kristy sy amin'ny fanirian'ny Ray any An-danitra ho antsika mba hiverina Aminy.

The Lord's house, His holy scriptures, His holy prophets and apostles inspire us to strive towards personal holiness through the doctrine of Christ.

Ny tranon'ny Tompo sy ireo soratra masiny, ary ireo mpaminany sy apôstôliny masina dia mitaona antsika hiezaka mba hahatratra ny fahamasinan'ny tena manokana amin'ny alalan'ny fotopampianaran'i Kristy.

And Nephi said: "And now, behold, my beloved brethren, this is the way; and there is none other way nor name given under heaven whereby man [and woman] can be saved in the kingdom of God. And now, behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, and the only and true doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Ary hoy i Nefia: "Ary ankehitriny, indro ry rahalahiko malala, izany no lalana; ary tsy misy lalana na anarana hafa nomena ambanin'ny lanitra, izay hahazoana mamonjy ny olona ho ao amin'ny fanjakan' Andriamanitra. Ary ankehitriny, indro izany no fotopampianaran'i Kristy, ary ny hany fotopampianarana marina an'ny Ray sy an'ny Zanaka ary an'ny Fanahy Masina."

Our process of "at-one-ment" with God may

Mety ho fanamby amintsika ny fizotry ny

feel challenging. But you and I can pause, be still, look to the Savior, and seek to find and act on what Hewould have us change. If we do so with full intent, we will witness His healing. And think of how our posterity will be blessed as we embrace the Lord's gift of repentance!

The Master Potter, taught my dad, will mold and refine us, which can be difficult. Nonetheless, the Master Healer will also cleanse us. I have experienced and continue to experience that healing power. I testify that it comes through faith in Jesus Christ and daily repentance.

Oh, it is wonderful that he should care for me

Enough to die for me!

I testify of God's love and of the infinite power of His Son's Atonement. We can feel it profoundly as we sincerely and wholeheartedly repent.

My friends, I am a witness of the glorious Restoration of the gospel through the Prophet Joseph Smith and the current divine guidance of the Savior through His prophet and mouthpiece, President Russell M. Nelson. I know Jesus Christ lives and that He is the Master Healer of our souls. I know and I testify that these things are true, in the holy name of Jesus Christ, amen.

"fahatongavana-ho-iray" amin' Andriamanitra. Saingy afaka miato, manana fitoniana, mibanjina ny Mpamonjy, ary mikatsaka ny hahita sy hanao zavatra araka izay tiany hovaintsika izaho sy ianao. Raha manao izany amin'ny finiavana feno isika dia ho vavolombelon'ny fanasitranany isika. Ary eritrereto ny hitahiana izaitsizy ny taranatsika rehefa mandray tanteraka ny fanomezana avy amin'nyTompo, dia ny fibebahana isika!

Ilay Tompo Mpanefy Tanimanga, araka ny nampianarin-draiko ahy, no hamolavola sy hanadio antsika, izay mety ho dingana sarotra. Ary hanadio antsika ihany koa ilay Tompo Mpanasitrana. Efa niaina sy mbola miaina izany hery manasitrana izany aho. Mijoro ho vavolombelona aho fa tonga amin'ny alalan'ny finoana an'i Jesoa Kristy sy ny fibebahana isan'andro izany.

Endrey mahagaga re, fitiavan-dehibe

Nomeny ny ainy re."

Mijoro ho vavolombelona aho ny amin'ny fitiavan' Andriamanitra sy ny amin'ny hery tsy manam-petran'ny Sorompanavotan'ny Zanany. Afaka mahatsapa izany lalina isika rehefa mibebaka amin-kitsimpo sy amin'ny fo manontolo.

Ry namako, Izaho dia vavolombelon'ny Famerenana amin'ny laoniny ny filazantsara feno voninahitra tamin'ny alalan'ny Mpaminany Joseph Smith sy ny fitarihana masin'ny Mpamonjy amin'izao fotoana izao amin'ny alalan'ny mpaminaniny sy mpitondra teniny, ny Filoha Russell M. Nelson. Fantatro fa velona i Jesoa Kristy ary Izy no Mpanasitrana Lehibe ny fanahintsika. Fantatro ary mijoro ho vavolombelona aho fa marina ireo zavatra ireo, amin'ny anarana masin'i Jesoa Kristy, amena.