

The Triumph of Hope

By Elder Neil L. Andersen
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Ushindi wa Tumaini

Na Mzee Neil L. Andersen
Wa Akidi ya Mitume Kumi na Wawili

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Hope is a living gift, a gift that grows as we increase our faith in Jesus Christ.

My dear brothers and sisters across the world, as we begin this very special time of general conference, the eyes of heaven will certainly be focused upon us. We will hear the voice of the Lord through His servants; we will feel the “guiding, directing, [and] comforting” influence of the Holy Ghost, and our faith will be strengthened.

Three years ago, President Russell M. Nelson began general conference with these words: “Pure revelation for the questions in your heart will make this conference rewarding and unforgettable. If you have not yet sought for the ministering of the Holy Ghost to help you hear what the Lord would have you hear during these two days, I invite you to do so now. Please make this conference a time of feasting on messages from the Lord through His servants.”

The scriptures link three words powerfully together: faith, hope, charity. The gift of hope is a priceless endowment from God.

The word hope is used for many things we want to happen. For example, “I hope it won’t rain,” or “I hope our team wins.” My intent is to speak of our sacred and eternal hopes centered in Jesus Christ and the restored gospel and our “confident expectation[s] of ... the promised blessings of righteousness.”

Our Hope for Eternal Life

Tumaini ni zawadi hai, zawadi inayokua wakati tunapoongeza imani yetu katika Yesu Kristo.

Akina kaka na dada zangu wapendwa kote ulimwenguni, tunapoanza muda huu maalumu wa mkutano mkuu macho ya mbinguni bila shaka yatafokasi kwetu. Tutasikia sauti ya Bwana kupitia watumishi Wake; tutahisi ushawishi wenye “kuongoza, kuelekeza na kufariji” wa Roho Mtakatifu, na imani yetu itaimarishwa.

Miaka mitatu iliyopita, Rais Russell M. Nelson alifungua mkutano mkuu kwa maneno haya: “Ufunuo halisi kwa ajili ya maswali katika moyo wako utafanya mkutano huu kuwa wenye thawabu na usiosahaulika. Kama bado hujatafuta kuhudumiwa na Roho Mtakatifu ili akusaidie kusikia kile ambacho Bwana angetaka usikie katika siku hizi mbili, ninakualika kufanya hivyo sasa. Tafadhali fanya mkutano huu kuwa muda wa kusherehekea katika jumbe kutoka kwa Bwana kupitia watumishi Wake.”

Maandiko huunganisha kwa nguvu maneno matatu: imani, tumaini na hisani. Zawadi ya tumaini ni endaumenti ya thamani mno kutoka kwa Mungu.

Nenotumainilinatuma kwa ajili ya vitu vingi tunavyotaka vitokee. Kwa mfano, “Natumaini mvua haitanyesha,” au “Natumaini timu yetu ishinde.” Lengo langu ni kuzungumza kuhusu matumaini yetu matakatifu na ya milele katika Yesu Kristo na injili ya urejesho, na “[ma]tarajio ya ujasiri ya ... baraka zilizoahidiwa za utakatifu.”

Tumaini Letu kwa ajili ya Uzima wa Milele

Our hope of eternal life is assured through the grace of Christ and our own choices, allowing us the remarkable blessing of returning to our heavenly home and living forever in peace and happiness with our Heavenly Father, His Beloved Son, our faithful family and precious friends, and the righteous men and women from every continent and every century.

On earth we experience joy and sorrow as we are tested and proven. Our victory comes through faith in Jesus Christ as we triumph over our sins, difficulties, temptations, unfairness, and the challenges of this mortal life.

As we strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ, we see beyond our struggles to the blessings and promises of eternity. Like a light whose brilliance grows, hope brightens the darkened world, and we see our glorious future.

Hope Comes from God

Since the beginning, our Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son have eagerly blessed the righteous with the precious gift of hope.

After leaving the garden, Adam and Eve were taught by an angel of the promise of Jesus Christ. The gift of hope enlightened their lives. Adam declared, “My eyes are opened, and in this life I shall have joy.” Eve spoke of “the joy of [their] redemption, and the eternal life which God giveth unto all the obedient.”

Just as the Holy Ghost brought hope to Adam, the power of the Lord’s Spirit enlightens the faithful today, illuminating the reality of eternal life.

The Savior sends us a Comforter, the Holy Ghost, a companion bringing faith, hope, and peace “not as the world giveth.”

“In the world,” the Savior said, “ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer [keep a brightness of hope]; I have overcome the world.”

In times of difficulty, we choose to trust the Lord in faith. We quietly pray, “Not my will but thine be done.” We feel the Lord’s approval for our meek willingness, and we await the promised peace the Lord will send in His chosen timing.

Tumaini letu la uzima wa milele limehaki-kishwa kupitia neema ya Kristo na chaguzi zetu wenyewe, likiruhusu baraka kuu ya kuru-di kwenye makazi yetu ya mbinguni na kuishi milele katika amani pamoja na Baba wa Mbinguni, Mwanawe Mpendwa, familia zenye uaminifu na marafiki wapendwa, na wanaume na wanawake wenye haki kutoka kila bara na kila karne.

Duniani tunapitia shangwe na huzuni wakati tukijaribiwa na kuthibitishwa. Ushindi wetu huja kupitia imani katika Yesu Kristo wakati tunaposhinda dhambi zetu, magumu, majaribu, kukosa haki, na changamoto za maisha haya ya duniani.

Tunapoimarisha imani yetu katika Yesu Kristo, tunatazama zaidi mahangaiko yetu hadi kwenye baraka na uzima wa milele. Kama vile kwa mwanga ambao uangavu wake hukua, tumaini huangaza ulimwengu wa giza na tunaona siku zetu tukufu za baadaye.

Tumaini Hutoka kwa Mungu

Tangu mwanzo, Baba yetu wa Mbinguni na Mwanawe Mpendwa kwa dhati wamekuwa wakiwabariki wenye haki kwa zawadi za thamani kuu ya tumaini.

Baada ya kuondoka bustanini, Adamu na Hawa walifundishwa na malaika kuhusu ahadi za Yesu Kristo. Zawadi ya tumaini ilianguza maisha yao. Adamu alitangaza, “Macho yangu yamefunguliwa, na katika maisha haya nitakuwa na shangwe.” Hawa alizungumza kuhusu “shangwe ya ukombozi [wao], na uzima wa milele ambao Mungu huutoa kwa wote walio watiifu.”

Kama vile Roho Mtakatifu alivyoleta tumaini kwa Adamu, nguvu ya Roho wa Bwana huwaelimisha waaminifu leo hii, ikiangazia uhalisia wa uzima wa milele.

Mwokozi humtuma kwetu Mfariji, Roho Mtakatifu, mwenza kuleta imani, tumaini, amani “si kama ile ulimwengu utoayo.”

“Ulimwengu,” Mwokozi alisema, “mnayo dhiki: lakini jipeni moyo [shikilieni mwangaza wa tumaini]; mimi nimeushinda ulimwengu.”

Katika nyakati za magumu, tunachagua kumwamini Bwana kupitia imani. Kimya kimya tunasali, “Si Mapenzi Yangu, bali Yako Yatendeke.” Tunahisi uthibitisho wa Bwana juu ya utayari wetu wa unyenyekevu na tunasubiria amani iliyoahidiwa ambayo Bwana ataituma kwa muda Wake aliouchagua.

The Apostle Paul taught, “The God of hope [will] fill you with ... joy and peace ... , that ye may abound in hope,” “rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation;” “through the power of the Holy Ghost.”

A Lesson of Hope

The prophet Moroni knew firsthand about having hope in Christ during tribulation. He explained his harrowing situation:

“I am alone. ... I have not ... whither to go.”

“I make not myself known ... lest they should destroy me.”

Remarkably, in this dark and lonely hour, Moroni records his father’s words of hope:

“If a man have faith he must needs have hope; for without faith there cannot be any hope.”

“What is it that ye shall hope for? ... Ye shall have hope through the atonement of Christ and the power of his resurrection, to be raised unto life eternal.”

My brothers and sisters, hope is a living gift, a gift that grows as we increase our faith in Jesus Christ. “Faith is the substance of things hoped for.” We build this substance—the evidence blocks of our faith—through prayer, temple covenants, keeping the commandments, continually feasting on the scriptures and the words of modern-day prophets, taking the sacrament, serving others, and worshipping weekly with our fellow Saints.

A House of Hope

To fortify our hope in a time of increasing wickedness, the Lord has directed His prophet to dot the earth with His temples.

As we enter the Lord’s house, we feel the Spirit of God, verifying our hope.

The temple testifies of the empty tomb and that life beyond the veil continues for all.

For those who do not have an eternal companion, the ordinances powerfully confirm that every righteous person will receive every promised blessing.

There is sublime hope as a young couple kneels across the altar to be sealed, not just for time but for eternity.

There is an immensity of hope for us in the promises made to our posterity, whatever their

Mtume Paulo alifundisha, “Mungu wa tumaini [atawajaza] ninyi na ... furaha ... , mpate kuzidi sana kuwa na tumaini,” “kwa tumaini, mki-furahi; katika dhiki, mkisubiri;” “katika nguvu za Roho Mtakatifu.”

Somo la Tumaini

Nabii Moroni alijua hapo kabla kuhusu kuwa na tumaini katika Kristo wakati wa dhiki. Alifanua hali ya yake kuhuzunisha:

“Niko peke yangu. ...” Sina ... popote pa kwenda.”

“Na sitaki kujionyesha ... wasije wakanian-gamiza.”

Cha kushangaza, kwenye wakati huu wa kiza na wa upweke, Moroni aliandika maneno ya baba yake ya tumaini:

“Ikiwa mtu ana imani lazima ahitaji kuwa na tumaini; kwani bila imani hakuwezi kuwepo na tumaini lolote.”

“Na ni kitu gani mtakachotumainia? ... Mtakuwa na tumaini kupitia upatanisho wa Kristo na nguvu ya ufufuko Wake, kuinuliwa kwenye maisha ya milele.”

Akina kaka na akina dada, tumaini ni zawadi hai, zawadi inayokua wakati tunapooengeza imani yetu katika Yesu Kristo. “Imani ni haki-ka ya mambo yatarajiwayo.” Tunajenga hakika hii—tofali za ushahidi wa imani yetu kupitia sala, maagano ya hekaluni, kushika amri, kuendelea kusherehekea maandiko na maneno ya manabii walio hai, kupokea sakramenti na kuabudu kila wiki pamoja na Watakatifu wenzetu.

Nyumba ya Tumaini

Ili kuimarisha tumaini letu katika nyakati za ongezeko la uovu, Bwana amemuelekeza nabii Wake kuijaza dunia kwa makehalu Yake.

Tunapoingia katika nyumba ya Bwana, tunahisi Roho wa Mungu, akithibitisha tumaini letu.

Hekalu hushuhudia kuhusu kaburi lililo wazi na maisha ambayo huendelea kupita pazia kwa ajili ya wote.

Kwa wale ambao hawana mwenza wa milele, ibada kwa nguvu huthibitisha kwamba kila mtu mwenye haki atapokea kila baraka iliyoahidiwa.

Kuna tumaini kuu wakati wanandoa vijana wanapopiga magoti kwenye madhabahu ili kuunganishwa, si tu kwa muda bali kwa milele yote.

Kuna wingi wa tumaini kwetu katika ahadi zilizowekwa kwa ajili ya kizazi chetu, bila kujali

current circumstances.

There is no pain, no sickness, no injustice, no suffering, nothing that can darken our hope as we believe and hold tightly to our covenants with God in the house of the Lord. It is a house of light, a house of hope.

When Hope Is Discarded

We shed tears of sorrow as we see the sadness and despair in those who have no hope in Christ.

I recently observed from a distance a couple who at one time had faith in Christ but then decided to discard their belief. They were successful in the world, and they found pleasure in their intellect and the rejection of their faith.

All seemed well until the husband, still young and energetic, suddenly fell ill and died. Like an eclipse of the sun, they had blocked the light of the Son, and the result was an eclipse of hope. The wife, in her disbelief, now felt disoriented, painfully unprepared, unable to comfort her children. Her intellect had told her that her life was in perfect order until suddenly she could see no tomorrow. Her despair brought darkness and confusion.

Hope in Heartbreaking Tragedy

Let me contrast her painful despair with another family's hope in Christ during a heartbreaking time.

Twenty-one years ago the newborn son of my nephew Ben Andersen and his wife, Robbie, was life-flighted from their Idaho farming community to Salt Lake City. I arrived at the hospital, and Ben explained the severe, life-threatening complications with their baby's heart. We placed our hands on Trey's tiny head. The Lord blessed him with continued life.

Trey had heart surgery the first week of his life, and more surgeries followed. As the years passed, it became apparent that Trey would need a heart transplant. Although his physical activities were limited, his faith expanded. He wrote, "I have never felt sorry for myself because I have always known the importance of having faith

hali zao za sasa.

Hakuna maumivu, ugonjwa, ukosefu wa haki, mateso wala chochote ambacho kinaweza kutia giza tumaini letu wakati tunapoamini na kushikilia kwa nguvu maagano yetu na Mungu katika nyumba ya Bwana. Ni nyumba ya nuru, nyumba ya tumaini.

Wakati Tumaini Linapotupwa

Tunatokwa machozi ya huzuni wakati tunapooni huzuni na ukiwa wa wale ambao hawana tumaini katika Kristo.

Hivi karibuni kwa mbali niliwaona wana-ndoa ambao awali walikuwa na imani katika Kristo lakini baadae wakaamua kuitupa imani yao. Walikuwa na mafanikio ya kiulimwengu, na walijivunia uwezo wao wa kiakili na kuikataa imani yao.

Yote yalionekana kuwa sawa mpaka mume, akiwa bado kijana na mwenye nguvu, ghafla alipougua na kufa. Kama vile kupatwa kwa jua, walikuwa wameziba mwangaza wa Mwana, matokeo yake ilikuwa ni kupatwa kwa tumaini lao. Mke, katika kutoamini kwake, sasa akihisi kutojua cha kufanya, kwa uchungu akiwa hajajandaa, alishindwa kuwafaraji watoto wake. Uwezo wake wa akili ulikuwa umemwambia kwamba maisha yake yalikuwa katika mpangilio mzuri mpaka pale ambapo ghafla hakuweza kuiona kesho. Kukata tamaa kwake kulileta giza na mkanganyiko.

Tumaini katika Janga la Kuvunja Moyo

Acha nionyeshe tofauti kati ya majonzi yake na tumaini kwa Kristo la familia nyingine kwenye wakati wa kuvunjika moyo.

Miaka ishini na moja iliyopita mpwa wangu, mwana mpya wa kiume wa Ben Andersen na Robbie, mkewe, alisafirishwa akiwa mahututi kutoka kwao Idaho kuja Jiji la Salt Lake. Nilifika hospitali, na Ben akaelezea hali ya hatari, ya kutishia maisha iliyoko kwenye moyo wa mtoto wao mchanga. Tuliweka mikono yetu kwenye kichwa kidogo cha Trey. Bwana alimbariki kwa kuendeleza maisha yake.

Trey alifanyiwa upasuaji wa moyo wiki ya kwanza ya maisha yake, upasuaji zaidi ulifuata. Kadiri miaka ilivyopita, ilionekana kwamba Trey angehitaji kupandikizwa moyo. Ingawa shughuli zake za kimwili zilikuwa na ukomo, imani yake iliongezeka. Aliandika "Sijawahi kuhisi kujio-nea huruma kwa sababu mara zote nimejua

in Jesus Christ and a testimony of the plan of salvation.”

Trey kept on his phone this well-known quote from President Nelson: “The joy we feel has little to do with the circumstances of our lives and everything to do with the focus of our lives.”

Trey wrote: “I have always looked forward to serving a full-time mission, but ... my doctors won’t let me serve a mission until at least a year after my transplant. ... I’ve put my faith in Jesus Christ.”

Trey was excited at being accepted into the accounting major at BYU beginning this semester, but even more excited in late July when he received the very anticipated telephone call to come to the hospital for his heart transplant.

“One year,” Trey said, “and I will be on my mission.”

There were great expectations as he entered the operating room. However, during the surgery there were devastating complications, and Trey never regained consciousness.

His mother, Robbie, said: “Friday had been the most heartbreaking day ... just trying to wrap our minds around it. ... I had stayed up late just trying to process everything. ... But Saturday, I woke up with a feeling of absolute joy. It wasn’t just peace; it wasn’t denial. I felt joy for my son, and I felt joy as his mother. ... Ben had gotten up a lot earlier than me, and when we finally got a chance to talk, Ben had awakened with the exact same feeling.”

Ben explained: “Clarity came to my soul as God taught me through His Holy Spirit. I awoke at 4:00 a.m. and was filled with indescribable peace and joy. How is this possible? ... The passing of Trey is so very painful, and I miss him so much. But the Lord does not leave us comfortless. ... I look forward to a joyful reunion.”

The Promise of Hope

Trey had noted in his journal these words from President Nelson’s general conference talk: “It doesn’t seem possible to feel joy when your child suffers with an incurable illness or when you lose your job or when your spouse betrays

umuhimu wa kuwa na imani katika Yesu Kristo na ushuhuda wa mpango wa wokovu.”

Trey aliweka nukuu hii maarufu kutoka kwa Rais Nelson kwenye simu yake: “Furaha tunayoi-hisi inahusiana kwa kiasi kidogo na hali za maisha yetu na inahusiana na kila kitu kinachohusu fokasi ya maisha yetu.”

Trey aliandika: “Mara zote nimekuwa niki-tazamia kutumikia kama mmisionari, lakini ... madaktari wasingeniruhusu kutumikia misheni mpaka mwaka mmoja baada ya kupandikizwa moyo. ... Nimeweka imani yangu katika Yesu Kristo.”

Trey alifurahi kwa kukubaliwa kujiunga na digrii ya uhasibu huko BYU kuanzia muhula huu, lakini furaha zaidi ni kuhusu mwishoni mwa mwezi wa Julai ambapo alipokea simu aliy-oitarajia kwa hamu ya kwenda hospitali kupand-ikizwa moyo.

“Mwaka mmoja” Trey alisema, “Nitakuwa kwenye misheni yangu.”

Kulikuwa na matazamio makubwa wakati alipoingia kwenye chumba cha upasuaji. Hata hivyo, wakati wa upasuaji kulikuwa na changamoto za kukatisha tamaa, na Trey hakuweza kuzinduka.

Robbie, mama yake, alisema: “Jumaa ilikuwa siku ya kuvunja moyo ... tunajaribu tu kuweka mawazo yetu sawa kuihusu. ... Nilikaa mpaka usiku sana nikijaribu kutafakari kila kitu. ... Lakini Jumamosi, niliamka na hisia ya shangwe kabisa. Haikuwa tu amani; haikuwa kukataa. Nilihisi shangwe kwa ajili ya mwanangu, na nilihisi shangwe kama mama yake. ... Ben alikuwa ameamka mapema kuliko mimi, na wakati hatimaye tulipopata nafasi ya kuzungumza, Ben alikuwa pia ameamka na hisia sawa na zangu.”

Ben alifafanua: “Uelewa ulikuja nafsi mwangu wakati Mungu akinifundisha kupitia Roho Wake. Niliamka mnamo saa 10 alfajiri na nilijawa na amani na shangwe isiyoelezeka. Hii inawezekanaje? ... Kifo cha Trey ni cha kueleta huzuni sana, ninamkumbuka sana. Lakini Bwana hatuachi bila faraja. ... Ninatazamia kwenye muunganiko wenye shangwe.”

Ahadi ya Tumaini

Trey alikuwa ameandika kwenye shajara yake maneno haya ya Rais Nelson kutoka kwenye ujumbe wake wa mkutano mkuu: “Haionekani kuwezekana kuwa na furaha wakati mtoto wako anapokuwa na maradhi yasiyotibika au unapo-

you. Yet that is precisely the joy the Savior offers. His joy is constant, assuring us that our ‘afflictions shall be but a small moment’ [Doctrine and Covenants 121:7] and be consecrated to our gain.”

Brothers and sisters, the peace you seek may not come as quickly as you desire, but I promise you that as you trust in the Lord, His peace will come.

May we nurture our precious faith, pressing forward with a perfect brightness of hope. I testify that our hope is our Savior, Jesus Christ. Through Him, all our righteous dreams will be realized. He is the God of hope—the triumph of hope. He lives and He loves you. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

poteza kazi yako, au mwenza wako anapokusaliti. Hata hivyo hiyo ndiyo furaha anayotoa Mwokozi. Furaha Yake ni endelevu, ikituhakikishia kwamba ‘mateso yetu yatakuwa kwa muda’ [Mafundisho na Maagano 121:7] na yatatakaswa kwa ajili yetu.”

Akina kaka na akina dada, amani muita-futayo inaweza isije kwa haraka kama mnavyotamani, lakini ninawaahidi kwamba mnapomtumainia Bwana, amani Yake itakuja.

Na tuikuze imani yetu, tukisonga mbele kwa mng’aro mkamilifu wa tumaini. Ninashuhudia kwamba tumaini letu ni Mwokozi wetu Yesu Kristo. Kupitia Yeye, ndoto zote za haki zitatimizwa. Yeye ni Mungu wa tumaini—ushindi wa tumaini. Yeye Yu hai na Yeye anakupenda. Katika jina la Yesu Kristo, amina.