

Nourish the Roots, and the Branches Will Grow

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Fa'a'amu te mau a'a, e tupu mai te mau 'āma'a

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Nō te pupu nō te Tino 'Ahuru Ma Piti 'āpōsetolo

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The branches of your testimony will draw strength from your deepening faith in Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son.

E fāri'i te mau 'āma'a 'o tō 'outou 'itera'a pāpū i te pūai nā roto mai i tō 'outou fa'aro'o hōhonu i roto i te Metua i te Ao ra 'e Tāna Tamaiti here.

An Old Chapel in Zwickau

The year 2024 is something of a milestone year for me. It marks 75 years since I was baptized and confirmed a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Zwickau, Germany.

My membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is precious to me. To be counted among God's covenant people, with you, my brothers and sisters, is one of the greatest honors of my life.

When I think about my personal journey of discipleship, my mind often goes back to an old villa in Zwickau, where I have cherished memories of attending sacrament meetings of the Church of Jesus Christ as a child. It is there where the seedling of my testimony received its earliest nourishing.

This chapel had an old air-driven organ. Every Sunday a young man was assigned to push up and down the sturdy lever operating the bellows to make the organ work. I sometimes had the great privilege of assisting in this important task.

While the congregation sang our beloved hymns, I pumped with all my strength so the organ would not run out of wind. From the bellows operator seat, I had a great view of some stunning stained-glass windows, one depicting the Savior Jesus Christ and another portraying

E fare purera'a tahito i Zwickau

'Ua riro te matahiti 2024 'ei matahiti faufa'a roa nō'u. A 75 matahiti i teie nei mai tō'u bā-petizora'ahia e tō'u ha'amaura'ahia 'ei melo nō te 'Ēkālesia a Iesu Mesia i te Feiā Mo'a i te mau mahana hop'a nei i Zwickau, i te fenua Purutia.

E tao'a faufa'a rahi tō'u ti'ara'a melo i roto i te 'Ēkālesia a Iesu Mesia. 'Ia 'āmui atu ia 'outou e tō'u mau taeae 'e mau tuahine, i roto i te nuna'a o te fafau'a a te Atua, o te hōē ia o te mau hanahana rahi roa a'e 'o tō'u orara'a.

'Ia feruri ana'e au i tō'u iho tere 'ei pipi, e ho'i pinepine tō'u ferurira'a i ni'a i te hōē fare tahito nō Zwickau, tei reira tō'u mau ha'amana'ora'a i te haerera'a i te mau purera'a 'oro'a a te 'Ēkālesia a Iesu Mesia, 'ei tamari'i. I reira te huero 'o tō'u 'itera'a pāpū i fāri'i ai i tāna mā'a mātāmua.

Tē vai ra hōē hāmonia tahito i roto i teie fare purera'a. I te mau sabbati ato'a, e fa'ata'ahia te hōē feiā 'āpī tamāroa nō te tūra'i 'e nō te taumi i te 'auri fa'a'ohipara'a o te mata'i pupuhi nō te fa'ata'ira'a i te hāmonia. I te tahi taime 'ua fāna'o vau i te ha'amaita'ira'a rahi 'ia tauturu i teie 'ohipa faufa'a roa.

'A hīmene ai te 'āmura'a i tā mātou hīmene herehia, e pāmu vau ma tō'u pūai 'ia 'ore te hāmonia 'ia 'ere i te mata'i. Mai ni'a mai i te pārahira'a 'o te taata pāmu, 'ua nehenehe iā'u 'ia 'ite i te tahi mau hi'o māmarama nehenehe mau, i ni'a i te hōē tē vai ra te hōhō'a 'o Iesu Mesia, 'e te tahi 'o

Joseph Smith in the Sacred Grove.

I can still remember the sacred feelings I had as I looked at those sunlit windows while listening to the testimonies of the Saints and singing the hymns of Zion.

In that holy place, the Spirit of God bore witness to my mind and heart that it was true: Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world. This is His Church. The Prophet Joseph Smith saw God the Father and Jesus Christ and heard Their voices.

Earlier this year, while on assignment in Europe, I had the opportunity to return to Zwickau. Sadly, that beloved old chapel isn't there anymore. It was torn down many years ago to make room for a large apartment building.

What Is Eternal, and What Is Not?

I admit that it's sad to know that this beloved building from my childhood is now just a memory. It was a sacred building to me. But it was just a building.

By contrast, the spiritual witness I gained from the Holy Ghost those many years ago has not passed away. In fact, it has grown stronger. The things I learned in my youth about the fundamental principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ have been my firm foundation throughout my life. The covenant connection I forged with my Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son has stayed with me—long after the Zwickauchapel was dismantled and the stained-glass windows were lost.

“Heaven and earth shall pass away,” Jesus said, “but my words shall not pass away.”

“The mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord.”

One of the most important things we can learn in this life is the difference between what is eternal and what is not. Once we understand that, everything changes—our relationships, the choices we make, the way we treat people.

Knowing what is eternal and what is not is key to growing a testimony of Jesus Christ and

Iosepha Semita ia i roto i te uru rāau mo'a.

Tē ha'amana'o noa nei ā vau i te mau ferurirāa mo'a tā'u i fāri'i 'a hi'o ai au i taua mau ha'amāramarama hitihia e te mahana, a fa'aro'o noa ai au i te mau 'itera'a pāpū o te feiā mo'a 'e 'a hīmene ai i te mau hīmene nō Siona.

I roto i taua vāhi mo'a ra, 'ua fa'a'ite mai te Vārua Maita'i i tō'u vārua 'e i tō'u 'āau ē, e parau mau : 'o Iesu Mesia te Fa'aora o te ao nei. Teie tāna 'Ēkālesia. 'Ua 'ite te peropheta Iosepha Semita i te Atua te Metua te Metua 'e ia Iesu Mesia 'e 'ua fa'aro'o i tō rāua reo.

I te 'omuarāa o teie matahiti, a tere ai au i Europa, 'ua ti'a iā'u 'ia ho'i i Zwickau. Te vāhi pe'ape'a rā, 'aita fa'ahou taua fare purera'a tahito ra i reira. 'Ua vāvāhilia te reira e rave rahi matahiti i ma'iri nō te fa'ati'a i te hōē fare fa'aearea rahi.

E aha te mea mure 'ore, 'e e aha te mea e 'ere i te mea mure 'ore ?

Tē parau nei au ē, e mea pe'ape'a 'ia 'ite ē, 'ua riro teie fare here 'o tō'u tamari'i-rī'i-ra'a 'ei ha'amana'ora'a noa i teie nei. Nō'u nei, 'ua riro te reira 'ei fare mo'a. Terā rā, e fare noa te reira.

I te tahi a'e pae, te 'itera'a pāpū pae vārua tā'u i fāri'i nā roto mai i te Vārua Maita'i i taua mau matahiti e rave rahi i ma'iri a'e nei, 'aita te reira i mo'e. Te parau mau, 'ua pūai a'e te reira. Te mau mea tā'u i ha'api'i mai i tō'u 'āpirāa nō ni'a i te mau parau tumu rahi o te 'evanelia a Iesu Mesia, 'ua riro te reira 'ei niu pāpū nō'u i roto i tō'u orara'a tāto'a. Te tāairāa o te fafaua'a tā'u i rave 'e tō'u Metua i te Ao ra 'e Tāna Tamaiti here, 'ua vai noa te reira i roto iā'u—e mea maoro i muri a'e i te vāvāhi-ra'a-hia te fare purera'a nō Zwickau 'e te mo'era'a te mau ha'amāramarama hi'o.

« E mou te ra'i 'e te fenua », tē nā reira ra Iesu, « e 'ore roa rā tā'u parau e mou ».

« E ta'a 'ē ho'i te mau mou'a, e huritumuhia ho'i te mau 'āivi ; e 'ore rā tā'u hāmani maita'i ia 'oe e ta'a 'ē, 'e te faufa'a hau nā'u ra, e 'ore ia e huritumuhia, tē nā reira maira te Fatu ».

Te hōē o te mau mea faufa'a roa a'e tā tātou e nehenehe e 'apo mai i roto i teie orara'a maori rā, te ta'a-ē-ra'a i rotopū i te mea mure 'ore 'e te mea e 'ere i te mea mure ore. 'Ia 'ite ana'e tātou i te reira, e tau i te mau mea ato'a—tō tātou mau tāairāa, te mau ma'itira'a ta tātou e rave, tō tātou huru i ni'a i te ta'ata.

Te 'itera'a i te mea mure 'ore 'e te mea e 'ere i te mea mure 'ore, e mea faufa'a te reira nō te

His Church.

Don't Mistake the Branches for the Roots

The restored gospel of Jesus Christ, as the Prophet Joseph Smith taught, “embrace[s] all, and every item of truth.” But that doesn’t mean that all truth is of equal value. Some truths are core, essential, at the root of our faith. Others are appendages or branches—valuable, but only when they are connected to the fundamentals.

The Prophet Joseph also said, “The fundamental principles of our religion are the testimony of the Apostles and Prophets, concerning Jesus Christ, that He died, was buried, and rose again the third day, and ascended into heaven; and all other things which pertain to our religion are only appendages to it.”

In other words, Jesus Christ and His atoning sacrifice are the root of our testimony. All other things are branches.

This is not to say that the branches are unimportant. A tree needs branches. But as the Savior told His disciples, “The branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine.” Without a connection to the Savior, to the nourishment found in the roots, a branch withers and dies.

When it comes to nourishing our testimonies of Jesus Christ, I wonder if we sometimes mistake the branches for the roots. This was the mistake Jesus observed in the Pharisees of His day. They paid so much attention to the relatively minor details of the law that they ended up neglecting what the Savior called “the weightier matters”—fundamental principles like “justice and mercy and faith.”

If you want to nourish a tree, you don’t splash water on the branches. You water the roots. Similarly, if you want the branches of your testimony to grow and bear fruit, nourish the roots. If you are uncertain about a particular doctrine or practice or element of Church history, seek clarity with faith in Jesus Christ. Seek to understand His sacrifice for you, His love for you, His will for you. Follow Him in humility. The branches of your testimony will draw strength from your deepening faith in Heavenly

fa’arahi i te hōē ’itera’a pāpū nō Iesu Mesia ē nō tāna ’Ēkālesia.

’Eiaha e hape i te mau ’āma’a e mau a’a

Mai tā te peropheta Iosepha Semita i ha’api’i mai, tē ’evanelia i fa’aho’i-fa’ahou-hia mai a Iesu Mesia, tē fāri’i nei te reira i te mau mea ato’a o te parau mau ». E ’ere rā te aurā’a ē, hōē ā faufa’a tō te mau parau mau ato’a. E mea faufa’a roa te tahi mau parau mau i ni’a i te niu ’o tō tātou fa’aro’o. E mau hu’ahu’a ’aore rā e mau ’āma’a te tahi atu mau mea—e mea faufa’a, ’ia ta’ā’ihia rā rātou i te mau mea tumu.

’Ua parau ato’a te peropheta Iosepha, « Te mau parau tumu nō tō tātou ha’apa’ora a ’o te ’itera’a pāpū ia ’o te mau ’āpōsetolo ē te mau peropheta, nō ni’a ia Iesu Mesia ē, ’ua pohe ’Oia, ’ua tanuhia ’Oia, e ’ua ti’afa’ahou mai i te toru o te mahana, e ’ua haere atu i ni’a i te ra’i; e te tahi atu mau mea ato’a nō ni’a i tō tātou ha’apa’ora a ’e mau hu’ahu’a ana’e ia nō te reira ».

E nehenehe e parau ē, ’o Iesu Mesia ē tōna tusia tāraehara, ’o te a’a ia ’o tō tātou ’itera’a pāpū. Te tahi atu mau mea ra, e mau ’āma’a ia.

E ’ere teie nō te parau ē, e mea faufa’a ’ore te mau ’āma’a. E tītauhia te mau ’āma’a i ni’a i te hōē tumu rā’au. Terā rā, mai tā te Fa’aora i parau i tāna mau pipi, « Mai te ’āma’a e’ita e hotu noa ’oia ana’e ra, ’ia ’ore ’ia ’ati mai i te vine ra ». E marō ē e pohe te hōē ’āma’a mai te mea ē, ’aita e tāairā’a ē te Fa’aora, e te mā’a i roto i te mau a’a.

Nō te fa’aamu i tō tātou ’itera’a pāpū no Iesu Mesia, tē uiui nei au ē, i te tahi mau taime, ’aita ānei tātou e hape ra i te mau ’āma’a ei mau a’a. Teie te hape tā Iesu i ’ite i roto i te mau pharisea i Tōna ra anotau. Nō tō rātou ha’apa’o maita’i i te mau tuha’a ta’a maita’i o te ture, ’ua ha’apa’o ’ore rātou i te mea tā te Fa’aora i pi’i ē, « te mau mea faufa’a a’e »—te mau parau tumu mai « te parau-ti’a, te aroha, e te fa’aro’o ».

Mai te mea e hina’aro ’outou e fa’aamu i te hōē tumu rā’au, e’ita ’outou ē nīni’i i te pape i ni’a i te mau ’āma’a. E nīni’i ’outou i te pape i ni’a i te mau a’a. ’Oia ato’a, mai te mea e hina’aro ’outou i te mau ’āma’a ’o tō ’outou ’itera’a pāpū ia tupu i te rahi ē ’ia hotu i te mā’a, a fa’aamu i te mau a’a. Mai te mea ’aita ’outou i pāpū nō ni’a i te hōē ha’api’ira’a tumu ’aore rā, te hōē ’ohipa, e ’aore rā te hōē tuha’a o te ’āamu o te ’Ēkālesia, a patu i tō ’outou fa’aro’o i ni’a ia Iesu Mesia. A ’imi ’ia ’ite i Tāna tusia nō ’outou, Tōna here nō ’outou, e Tōna

Father and His Beloved Son.

For example, if you want a stronger testimony of the Book of Mormon, focus on its witness of Jesus Christ. Notice how the Book of Mormon testifies of Him, what it teaches about Him, and how it invites and inspires you to come unto Him.

If you're seeking a more meaningful experience in Church meetings or in the temple, try looking for the Savior in the sacred ordinances we receive there. Find the Lord in His holy house.

If you ever feel burned out or overwhelmed by your Church calling, try refocusing your service on Jesus Christ. Make it an expression of your love for Him.

Nourish the roots, and the branches will grow. And in time, they will bear fruit.

Rooted and Built Up in Him

Strong faith in Jesus Christ doesn't happen overnight. No, in this mortal world, it's the thorns and thistles of doubt that grow spontaneously. The healthy, fruitful tree of faith requires intentional effort. And a vital part of that effort is making sure we are firmly rooted in Christ.

For example: At first, we may be drawn to the Savior's gospel and Church because we are impressed by the friendly members or by the kind bishop or the clean looks of the chapel. These circumstances are certainly important to grow the Church.

Nevertheless, if the roots of our testimony never grow deeper than that, what will happen when we move to a ward that meets in a less impressive building, with members who aren't so friendly, and the bishop says something that offends us?

Another example: Doesn't it seem reasonable to hope that if we keep the commandments and are sealed in the temple, we will be blessed with a

hina'aro nō 'outou. 'A pēe iāna ma te haēha'a. E fāri'i te mau 'āma'a ò tō 'outou 'itera'a pāpū i te pūai nā roto mai i tō 'outou fa'aroò hōhonu i roto i te Metua i te Ao ra 'e Tāna Tamaiti here.

'Ei hi'ora'a, mai te mea ē, e hina'aro 'outou i te hōē 'itera'a pāpū pūai aē nō ni'a i te Buka a Moromona, 'a fa'atumu i ni'a i te 'itera'a pāpū nō ni'a ia Iesu Mesia. Hi'o nāhea te Buka a Moromona i te fa'a'ite pāpū iāna, e aha tāna e ha'api'i nei nō ni'a iāna, 'e e mea nāhea te reira i te tītau-manihini-ra'a 'e te fa'aurura'a ia 'outou 'ia haere mai Iāna ra.

Mai te mea ē, tē 'imi ra 'outou i te hōē 'itera'a faufa'a aē i roto i te mau putuputura'a a te 'Ēkālesia 'e 'aore rā i roto i te hiero, 'a tāmata i te 'imi i te Fa'aora i roto i te mau 'ōro'a mo'a tā tātou e fāri'i i reira. 'A 'imi i te Fatu i roto i tōna fare mo'a.

Mai te mea ē, 'ua paruparu roa 'outou 'e 'aore rā, 'ua teimaha roa 'outou i tō 'outou pi'ira'a nō te 'Ēkālesia, 'a tāmata i te fa'atumu fa'ahou i tā 'outou tāvinirā'a i ni'a ia Iesu Mesia. 'A fa'ariro i te reira 'ei fa'a'itera'a i tō 'outou here iāna.

'A fa'aamu i te mau a'a, e tupu mai te mau 'āma'a. 'E a muri aē, e fa'atupu rātou i te mau hotu.

« A'ahia 'e niuhia i roto iāna »

E'ita te fa'aroò pūai ia Iesu Mesia e tupu noa mai terā. 'Aita, i roto i teie ao tāhuti nei, o te mau tātaramoa 'e te mau tumu rā'au o te fē'a'a tē tupu 'oi'oi noa mai. E tītau te tumu rā'au oraora maita'i 'e te hotu o te fa'aroò i te tūtavara'a mana'o-maita'i-hia. E te hōē tuha'a faufa'a roa o taua tūtavara'a ra, o te ha'apāpūra'a ia ē, 'ua a'a pāpū tātou i roto i te Mesia.

'Ei hi'ora'a : I te 'omuara'a, e nehenehe tātou e 'ana'anatae i te 'evanelia 'e te 'Ēkālesia a te Fa'aora nō te mea 'ua fa'ahiahia tātou i te mau melo auhoa, 'aore rā te 'ēpisekōpo maita'i, 'e 'aore rā, te huru mā o te fare purera'a. E mea pāpū ē, e mea faufa'a teie mau huru nō te fa'atupu i te 'Ēkālesia i te rahi.

Terā rā, mai te mea ē, 'aita roa atu te mau a'a ò tō tātou 'itera'a pāpū e tupu hōhonu aē, e aha ia tē tupu mai 'ia haere ana'e tātou i te hōē pāroita o tē putuputu i roto i te hōē fare e 'ere i te mea fa'ahiahia roa, 'e te mau melo e 'ere i te mea auhoa, 'e 'ia parau mai te 'ēpisekōpo i te hōē mea o tē fa'a'ino ia tātou ?

Te tahi fa'ahou hi'ora'a : E 'ere ānei i te mea tano 'ia ti'aturi ē, mai te mea ē, e ha'apa'o tātou i te mau fa'auera'a 'e e tā'atihia tātou i roto i te hiero, e

large, happy family with bright, obedient children, all of whom stay active in the Church, serve missions, sing in the ward choir, and volunteer to help clean the meetinghouse every Saturday morning?

I certainly hope that all of us will see this in our lives. But what if it doesn't happen? Will we stay bound to the Savior regardless of circumstances—trusting Him and His timing?

We must ask ourselves: Is my testimony based on what I hope to happen in my life? Is it dependent on the actions or attitudes of others? Or is it firmly founded on Jesus Christ, “rooted and built up in him,” regardless of life's changing circumstances?

Traditions, Habits, and Faith

The Book of Mormon tells of a people who “were strict in observing the ordinances of God.” But then a skeptic named Korihor came along, mocking the Savior's gospel, calling it the “foolish” and “silly traditions of their fathers.” Korihor led “away the hearts of many, causing them to lift up their heads in their wickedness.” But others he could not deceive, because to them, the gospel of Jesus Christ was much more than a tradition.

Faith is strong when it has deep roots in personal experience, personal commitment to Jesus Christ, independent of what our traditions are or what others may say or do.

Our testimony will be tested and tried. Faith is not faith if never tested. Faith is not strong if never opposed. So don't despair if you have trials of faith or unanswered questions.

We should not expect to understand everything before we act. That is not faith. As Alma taught, “Faith is not to have a perfect knowledge of things.” If we wait to act until all of our questions are answered, we severely limit the good we can accomplish, and we limit the power of our

ha'amaita'ihia ia tātou i te hōē 'utuāfare rahi 'e te 'oāoa, 'e te mau tamari'i māmarama 'e te ha'apa maita'i, 'o tē vai itoitō noa i roto i te 'Ēkālesia, e tāvini i te misioni, e hīmene i roto i te pupu hīmene a te pāroita, e hōro'a i te rima tauturu nō te tāmā i te fare purera'a i te mau po'ipo'i mahana mā'a ato'a ?

Te ti'aturi pāpū nei au ē, e 'ite tātou pāto'a i te reira i roto i tō tātou orara'a. 'E mai te mea rā ē, e'ita e tupu ? E 'ati noa ānei tātou i te Fa'aora noa atu te mau huru tupura'a, ma te ti'aturi iāna 'e i tōna taime ?

E ti'a ia tātou 'ia ui ia tātou iho : 'Ua niuhia ānei tō'u 'itera'a pāpū i ni'a i te mea 'o tā'u e hīna'aro e tupu mai i roto i tō'u orara'a ? Tei te huru ānei o te mau 'ohipa 'aore rā te mau huru o vetahi 'ē ? 'Aore rā 'ua niu-pāpū-hia ānei te reira i ni'a ia Iesu Mesia, « 'ia a'ahia 'e niuhia i roto iāna », noa atu te mau taurā'a o te orara'a nei ?

Te mau parau tutu'u, te mau peu 'e te fa'aro'o

Tē fa'ati'a nei te Buka a Moromona i te parau nō te hōē nūna'a tāata tei « ha'apa'o ma'ite i te mau fa'au e te Atua ». Terā rā, 'ua haere mai te hōē tāata fē'a'a, 'o Korihora te i'oa, ma te fa'ao'o i te 'evanelia a te Fa'aora, ma te pi'i i te reira te mau « parau tutu'u ma'ama'a » 'a tō rātou mau metua ». 'Ua arata'i « 'ē atu Korihora i te 'āau o te mau tāata e rave rahi, i fa'ateitei ai rātou i tō rātou upōo i tā rātou parau ti'a 'ore ». Terā rā, 'aita tāna e nehenehe e ha'avare i te tahi atu mau tāata nō te mea, nō rātou, 'ua hau atu te 'evanelia a Iesu Mesia i te hōē parau tutu'u.

E mea pūai te fa'aro'o 'ia a'a hōhonu ana'e te reira i roto i te 'itera'a o te tāata iho, tōna fafau'ia ia Iesu Mesia, noa atu e aha tā tātou mau parau tutu'u 'e 'aore rā, e aha tā vetahi 'ē e parau 'e 'aore rā, e rave.

E tāmatahia tō tātou 'itera'a pāpū. E 'ere te fa'aro'o i te fa'aro'o mai te mea ē, 'aita roa atu e tāmatahia. E 'ere te fa'aro'o i te mea pūai mai te mea ē, 'aita roa atu e pāto'ihia. Nō reira 'e'ia e hepohepo mai te mea ē, e tāmatarā'a tō 'outou nō ni'a i te fa'aro'o 'aore rā te mau uira'a 'aita i pāhonohia.

'Eiaha e mana'o ē, e tā'a tātou i te mau mea ato'a hou a rave ai tātou i te hōē 'ohipa. E 'ere te reira te fa'aro'o. Mai tā Alama i ha'api'i ra, « E 'ere te fa'aro'o i te 'ite mau i te mau mea e vai nei ». Mai te mea ē, e ti'a'i tātou 'ia rave i te 'ohipa e tae roa atu i te taime 'ua pāhonohia mai tā tātou

faith.

Faith is beautiful because it persists even when blessings don't come as hoped for. We can't see the future, we don't know all the answers, but we can trust Jesus Christ as we keep moving forward and upward because He is our Savior and Redeemer.

Faith endures the trials and the uncertainties of life because it is firmly rooted in Christ and His doctrine. Jesus Christ, and our Father in Heaven who sent Him, together constitute the one undeviating, perfectly reliable object of our trust.

A testimony is not something that you build once and it stands forever. It's more like a tree that you nourish constantly. Planting the word of God in your heart is only the first step. Once your testimony starts to grow, then the real work begins! That's when you "nourish it with great care, that it may get root, that it may grow up, and bring forth fruit." It takes "great diligence" and "patience with the word." But the Lord's promises are sure: "Ye shall reap the rewards of your faith, and your diligence, and patience, and long-suffering, waiting for the tree to bring forth fruit unto you."

My dear brothers and sisters, my dear friends, there's a part of me that misses the old Zwickau chapel and its stained-glass windows. But over the past 75 years, Jesus Christ has led me on a journey through life that is more thrilling than I could ever have imagined. He has comforted me in my afflictions, helped me to recognize my weaknesses, healed my spiritual wounds, and nourished me in my growing faith.

It is my sincere prayer and blessing that we will constantly nourish the roots of our faith in the Savior, in His doctrine, and in His Church. Of this I testify in the sacred name of our Savior, our Redeemer, our Master—in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

mau uirā'a ato'a, e tāōti'a rahi ia tātou i te maita'i tā tātou e nehenehe e rave, 'e e tāōti'a ia tātou i te mana 'o tō tātou fa'aro'o.

E mea nehenehe roa te fa'aro'o nō te mea e vai noa te reira noa atu ē, 'aita te mau ha'amaita'ira'a e tae mai mai tei ti'aturihia. E'ita tā tātou e nehenehe e hi'o i te tau nō a muri a'e, 'aita tātou i 'ite i te mau pāhonora'a ato'a, e nehenehe rā tā tātou e ti'aturi ia Iesu Mesia 'a haere tāmāu noa ai tātou i mua 'e i ni'a nō te mea 'o 'oia tō tātou Fa'aora.

E fa'aoroma'i te fa'aro'o i te mau tāmātara'a 'e te mau mea pāpū 'ore o te orara'a nō te mea 'ua a'a-pāpū-hia te reira i ni'a i te Mesia 'e tana ha'api'ira'a tumu. 'O Iesu Mesia 'e tō tātou Metua i te Ao ra tei tono mai iāna, 'ua riro ia rāua 'ei tumu hō'e roa 'e te ti'aturi pāpū i tō tātou ti'aturira'a.

E 'ere te 'itera'a pāpū i te hō'e mea tā 'outou e patu hō'e a'e taime, 'e e vai noa te reira ē a muri noa atu. E au te reira i te hō'e tumu rā'au tā 'outou e fa'aamu tāmāu noa. Te fa'anahora'a i te parau a te Atua i roto i tō 'outou 'ā'au o te taahirā'a mātāmua noa ia te reira. 'Ia ha'amata ana'e tō 'outou 'itera'a pāpū i te tupu i te rahi, i reira e ha'amata ai te 'ohipa mau ! « E tauturu ia tātou ma te tia'i maite, 'ia a'ahia, 'ia tupu i ni'a, 'e 'ia fa'ahotu mai ho'i i te mā'a nā tātou ». E titauphia « te itoitō rahi » 'e « te fa'aoroma'i i te parau » Terā rā, e mea pāpū te mau parau fafau a te Fatu : « E 'ōōti 'outou i te utu'a nō tō 'outou fa'aro'o, 'e tō 'outou itoitō, 'e te fa'aoroma'i, 'e te marū, ma te tia'i i tō te rā'au e hotu mai nā 'outou ».

E te mau tae'a e te mau tuahine here, tē vai ra te tahi pae o tō'u 'ā'au 'o tē mihi nei i te fare purera'a tahito nō Zwickau 'e tōna mau fa'aramama hi'o. Terā rā i roto i nā matahiti e 75 i ma'iri a'e nei, 'ua arata'i Iesu Mesia iā'u i roto i te hō'e tere i roto i te orara'a nei tei hau atu i te fa'ahiahia i te mau mea ato'a i ferurihia e au. 'Ua tāmāhanahana 'oia iā'u i roto i tō'u mau 'ati, 'ua tauturu mai iā'u 'ia 'ite i tō'u mau paruparu, 'ua fa'aora i tō'u mau pēpē i te pae vārua, 'e 'ua fa'aamu iā'u i roto i tō'u fa'aro'o e tupu noa ra.

'Ia tāmāu noa tātou i te fa'aamu i te mau a'a o tō tātou fa'aro'o i te Fa'aora, i tana ha'api'ira'a tumu, 'e i roto i tana 'Ēkālesia, 'o tā'u ia pure 'e tā'u ha'amaita'ira'a. Tē fa'a'ite pāpū nei au i te reira nā roto i te i'oa mo'a o tō tātou Fatu 'e Fa'aora, 'o Iesu Mesia, 'āmene.