

Right Before Our Eyes

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Lige for øjnene af os

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The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is growing in members and families, missions and missionaries, meetinghouses and temples.

Brothers and sisters, I am so grateful to be with you. We love you, we are grateful for you, and we feel blessed by your prayers.

President Russell M. Nelson said at our last conference: “Do you see what is happening right before our eyes? I pray that we will not miss the majesty of this moment! The Lord is indeed hastening His work.”

Hastening His work. “Hastening” is a word that matters. It suggests moving quickly, accelerating, and even urgency. In the growth of the Church and the plan of Christ, hastening is happening. And we are all a part of it.

In April 1834 in Kirtland, Ohio, the Prophet Joseph Smith gathered all who held the priesthood into a little schoolhouse about 14 feet (4.3 m) square. We could fit dozens of those schoolhouses in this Conference Center, with room to spare. Joseph Smith said, “It is only a little handful of Priesthood you see here tonight, but this Church will fill North and South America—it will fill the world.”

That prophecy is being fulfilled “right before our eyes.” The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is growing in members and families, missions and missionaries, meetinghouses and temples, and in enrollment in our seminaries, institutes, and universities all around the world.

We are grateful to be on earth when the Church is increasing in numbers and influence, but more importantly in the hearts and lives of

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Brødre og søstre, jeg er taknemmelig for at være sammen med jer. Vi elsker jer, takker for jer, og vi føler os styrkede af jeres bønner.

Præsident Russell M. Nelson sagde ved vores seneste konference: »Ser I, hvad der sker lige for øjnene af os? Jeg beder til, at vi ikke vil gå glip af storheden i dette øjeblik! Herren fremskynder i sandhed sit værk.«

Gud fremskynder sit værk. Ordet »fremskynder« er betydningsfuldt. Det indebærer, at man sætter fart i noget, accelererer, at noget haster. Fremskyndelsen sker i Kirkens vækst og i Kristi plan. Og vi er alle en del af den.

I april 1834, i Kirtland i Ohio, samlede profeten Joseph Smith alle, der bar præstedømmet, i en lille skole, der blot var ca. 18 kvadratmeter stor. Vi kunne sætte dusinvis af sådanne små skoler ind i dette konferencecenter, og der ville stadig være plads til overs. Joseph Smith sagde: »Det er kun en lille håndfuld præstedømmebærere, I ser her i aften, men denne kirke kommer til at opfylde Nord- og Sydamerika – den kommer til at opfylde hele verden.«

Den profeti bliver opfyldt »lige for øjnene af os«. Jesu Kristi Kirke af Sidste Dages Hellige vokser i antallet af medlemmer, familier, missioner, missionærer, kirkebygninger og templer, og hvad angår tilmeldinger til seminar, institut og universiteter verden over.

Vi er taknemmelige for at være på jorden i en tid, hvor Kirken vokser både i antal og indflydelse, men endnu vigtigere i hjertet og livet hos dens

its members. We are known as disciples of Jesus Christ. We share our testimonies of Him, His Church, His ways, and His covenant path. We are His people, and He is our Savior.

I marvel at what President Nelson calls the “majesty of this moment” and express profound gratitude to the Lord for His work. I encourage us to stand tall as His disciples, eyewitnesses of the fulfillment of prophecy, both ancient and modern.

There are naysayers who shout, “Lo, here!” and ... “Lo, there!” just as they did in the Prophet Joseph Smith’s time. However, they are and will be but mere footnotes in this noble work. Remember the words of Joseph Smith: “No unhallowed hand can stop the work from progressing; persecutions may rage, ... but the truth of God will go forth boldly, nobly, and independent, till it has penetrated every continent, visited every clime, swept every country, and sounded in every ear, till the purposes of God shall be accomplished, and the Great Jehovah shall say the work is done.”

In my assignments this year, I have had a front-row seat to the Lord hastening His work. The Church is building temples at an unprecedented pace, giving more members an opportunity to worship in the house of the Lord. Second, missionary work is gathering record numbers to the fold of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ. And third, Church education in many configurations is at a new high in teaching those who “seek this Jesus.”

Today the Church has 367 temples in various stages of design, construction, or operation. And for what purpose? The answer is proclaimed on each temple: “Holiness to the Lord.” The temple opens the way to the highest blessings our Father in Heaven has for each one of us. Brothers and sisters, we are hastening our holiness as we live temple worthy, as we worship in the house of the Lord, and as we make covenants with God for ourselves and on behalf of our ancestors on the other side of the veil.

President Nelson has said: “The assaults of the adversary are increasing exponentially, in intensity and in variety. Our need to be in the temple on a regular basis has never been greater. I plead with you to take a prayerful look at how you spend your time.” In His house we can feel the Lord’s hallowed presence and transcendent peace.

medlemmer. Vi er kendt som Jesu Kristi disciple. Vi kan dele vores vidnesbyrd om ham, hans vej og hans pagtssti. Vi er hans folk, og han er vor Frelser.

Jeg fryder mig over det, som præsident Nelson kalder »storheden i dette øjeblik«, og udtrykker dyb taknemmelighed til Herren for hans værk. Jeg opfordrer os til at ranke ryggen som hans disciple, som øjenvidner til opfyldelsen af både gammel og nutidig profeti.

Der er skeptikere, som råber: »Se her« ... »Se der« akkurat som de gjorde på Joseph Smiths tid. Dog er de, og vil fortsat kun være, fodnoter i dette ædle værk. Husk Joseph Smiths ord: »Ingen uhellig hånd kan standse dette værks fremgang. Forfølgelser kan rase ... men Guds sandhed vil gå fremad frimodigt, ædelt og uafhængig[t], indtil den har gennemtrængt hvert kontinent, besøgt hvert himmelstrøg, fejet hen over hvert land og lydt i hvert eneste øre – indtil Guds hensigter er udført, og den store Jahve skal sige, at værket er fuldbragt.«

I forbindelse med mine opgaver i år har jeg fra første række set, hvordan Herren fremskynder sit værk. Kirken bygger templer i et hidtil uset tempo, hvilket giver flere medlemmer mulighed for at tilbede i Herrens hus. For det andet fører missionering et rekordstort antal ind i den gode Hyrdes, Jesu Kristi, fold. Og for det tredje, når Kirkens uddannelsessystem i dens mange konfigurationer ud til endnu flere end før af dem, »der søge[r] denne Jesus«.

I dag har Kirken 367 templer, der befinder sig i forskellige stadier, hvad angår udformning, konstruktion og drift. Og med hvilket formål? Svaret på det står på hvert tempel: »Helliget Herren.« Templet baner vejen for vor himmelske Faders højeste velsignelser til hver eneste af os. Brødre og søstre, vi fremskynder vores helligelse, når vi lever tempelværdigt, når vi tjener i Herrens hus, og når vi indgår pagter med Gud for os selv og på vegne af vores forfædre på den anden side af sløret.

Præsident Nelson har sagt: »Modstanderens angreb vokser med stadig større hastighed, intensitet og variation. Vores behov for at komme regelmæssigt i templet har aldrig været større. Jeg beder jer indtrængende om bønsmødt at se på, hvordan I bruger jeres tid.« I Herrens hus kan vi føle hans hellige nærhed og overjordiske fred.

Last year I was privileged to preside at the dedication of the Mendoza Argentina Temple. In my message, I referred to Elder Melvin J. Ballard's 1926 prophecy that the work of the Lord would grow slowly for a time in South America, "just as an oak grows slowly from an acorn. It will not shoot up in a day," but thousands would join the Church, and the nations of South America would become "a power in the Church." I saw that prophecy fulfilled right before my eyes.

Mendoza, once a small acorn, has become a mighty oak. That growth is being repeated across continents and isles of the sea.

We see the Lord hastening His work in missions. In 2024, 80,000 missionaries were serving in 450 missions. Thirty-six of those are new missions. Last year missionary work brought over 308,000 new members into the Church. More than numbers, the spirit of the gathering is bringing souls to Jesus Christ and His gospel.

I think of the Apostles Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball, who in 1839 set off as missionaries to the British Isles. They were ill; they left families sick and destitute. Nevertheless, the two climbed into a wagon, and while still in sight of their loved ones, Heber said, "Let's rise up and give them a cheer." The two struggled to their feet and shouted, "Hurrah, hurrah for Israel."

I saw that same enthusiasm for the Lord's work in Lima, Peru, when I met with missionaries from the missionary training center and missions in Lima. What a sight! I saw the hastening right before my eyes. There are now seven missions in just the city of Lima.

At the end of our meeting, the missionaries had a special surprise for me. They rose up and cheered, "Hurrah for Israel." I will never forget that moment; I wish all of you could have been there. Right before my eyes were missionaries who had set aside "the things of this world" to serve the Lord and help hasten His coming.

We see the Lord hastening educational opportunities for our members and even those not of our faith around the world. One of the things that distinguishes us as a church is our emphasis on education. The Lord commanded in the early days of the Restoration to "seek learning, even by study and also by faith." That is happening today and is worthy of a resounding "hurrah."

Sidste år havde jeg privilegiet af at præsidere over indvielsen af templet i Mendoza i Argentina. I mit budskab refererede jeg til ældste Melvin J. Ballards profeti om, at Herrens værk for en stund ville vokse langsomt i Sydamerika, »ligesom en eg vokser langsomt frem af et agern. Det skyder ikke op på en dag«, men tusinder ville tilslutte sig Kirken, og de sydamerikanske lande »ville blive en stor del af Kirken«. Jeg så den profeti gå i opfyldelse lige for øjnene af mig.

Mendoza, engang et lille agern, er nu blevet en mægtig eg. Den samme vækst ser man mange andre steder på tværs af kontinenter og øer i havet.

Vi ser, hvordan Herren fremskynder sit værk i missioner. I 2024 tjente 80.000 missionærer i 450 missioner. 36 af dem er nye missioner. Sidste år førte missionering flere end 308.000 nye medlemmer ind i Kirken. Og bagom tallene fører indsamlingens ånd sjæle til Jesus Kristus og hans evangelium.

Jeg tænker på apostlene Brigham Young og Heber C. Kimball, der i 1839 drog ud for at missionere på de Britiske Øer. De var syge, og de efterlod sig syge og fattige familier. Ikke desto mindre kravlede de to op på en vogn, og mens deres kære stadig kunne se dem, sagde Heber: »Lad os rejse os og give dem en opmuntring.« Så de to kæmpede sig på benene og råbte: »Hurra, hurra for Israel.«

Jeg så den samme begejstring for Herrens værk i Lima i Peru, hvor jeg mødtes med missionærer fra missionærskolen og missioner i Lima. Sikke et syn! Jeg så det fremskyndede værk med egne øjne. Lige nu er der syv missioner alene i selve byen Lima.

Ved slutningen af vores møde havde missionærerne en særlig overraskelse til mig. De rejste sig og råbte: »Hurra for Israel.« Jeg vil aldrig glemme det øjeblik; jeg ville ønske, at I kunne have været der. Lige for øjnene af mig var der missionærer, der havde fortaget »det, der er af denne verden«, for at tjene Herren og være med til at fremskynde hans komme.

Vi ser, at Herren fremskynder uddannelsesmuligheder for vores medlemmer, ja tilmed for dem, der ikke er af vores tro, rundt om i verden. En af de ting, der kendetegner os som kirke, er vores fokus på uddannelse. Herren befalede i genoprettelsens første tid, at vi skulle »stræb[e] efter at lære, ja, ved studium og også ved tro«. Det sker i dag, og det fortjener et højlydt »hurra«.

Currently more than 800,000 students worldwide are enrolled in seminary and institute, the highest enrollment in the history of the Church. Our youth gather in a variety of ways, from early-morning, daytime, and evening classes to online and in-home study. They are a mighty and righteous battalion, gaining strength from each other as they learn of Jesus Christ, follow, and testify of Him as the Son of God.

Last fall I spoke at a devotional to an arena full of seminary and institute students and their parents at the University of Utah. Their attendance said much about their desire to know and follow Jesus Christ. My message to those students was clear: Give the Lord equal time. I counseled them to balance their studies with true higher learning, even a study of “the Son of the living God.”

I ask the same of everyone today: Whatever is on your to-do list, give equal time, not spare time, to the Lord in personal scripture study, family study of Come, Follow Me, prayer, Church callings, ministering, partaking of the sacrament, worshipping in the temple, and pondering the things of God. Our Lord and Savior has said, “Learn of me ... and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” Take Him at His word. And give Him equal time.

President Nelson has said: “I plead with you to let God prevail in your life. Give Him a fair share of your time. As you do, notice what happens to your positive spiritual momentum.”

We see that momentum building at seminaries, institutes, and Church universities. In these environments, the Lord is a priority. So should He be in each one of our lives.

Another area that shows the growing reach of education in the Church is BYU-Pathway Worldwide. Across the world, enrollment has reached nearly 75,000 and continues to grow rapidly. Most are members, and more than one-third are in Africa. Pathway is all about access to education. Completing the courses means access to employment, and access to employment means a better life for families and more opportunities to serve the Lord.

When I was meeting with stake leaders in Uganda, I learned that the entire stake presidency was enrolled in BYU-Pathway. The more prepared we are temporally and spiritually, the more we can thwart the adversary’s cunning at

For øjeblikket er over 800.000 studerende tilmeldt seminar og institut, hvilket er det højeste antal tilmeldte i Kirkens historie. Vores unge samles på forskellig vis, lige fra tidligt om morgenen til midt på dagen til klasser om aftenen, online og via hjemmestudium. De udgør en mægtig og retskaffen bataljon, der styrker hinanden, mens de lærer om Jesus Kristus, følger og vidner om ham som Guds Søn.

I efteråret talte jeg ved et foredrag i en arena fyldt med seminar- og institutelever og deres forældre ved University of Utah. Deres tilstedeværelse sagde meget om deres stærke ønske om at følge Jesus Kristus. Mit budskab til de elever var klart: Giv Herren lige så meget tid. Jeg rådede dem til at afbalancere deres studier med sand, højere læring, ja selve studiet af »den levende Guds Søn«.

I dag beder jeg alle om at gøre det samme: Hvad end der står på jeres liste over gøremål, så giv Herren lige så meget tid – ikke blot den tid, der er i overskud – i form af personligt studium af skriften, familiestudium af Kom og følg mig, bøn, kirkekaldelser, omsorg, deltagelse i nadveren, tempeltjeneste og granskning af det, der hører Gud til. Vor Herre og Frelser har sagt: »Lær af mig ... så skal I finde hvile for jeres sjæle.« Tag ham på ordet. Og giv ham lige så meget tid.

Præsident Nelson har sagt: »Jeg beder jer indtrængende om at lade Gud råde i jeres liv. Giv ham en fair del af jeres tid. Når I gør det, så læg mærke til, hvad der sker med jeres positive åndelige momentum.«

Vi ser dette momentum bygge sig op i seminar, institut og Kirkens universiteter. I de omgivelser er Herren en prioritet. Det bør han også være i vores liv.

Et andet område, der viser rækkevidden af Kirkens uddannelsessystem, er BYU-Pathway Worldwide. Verden over har tilmeldingerne rundet tæt på 75.000 og vokser stadig hurtigt. De fleste er medlemmer, og mere end en tredjedel befinder sig i Afrika. Pathway handler om adgang til uddannelse. At fuldføre et kursus giver adgang til beskæftigelse, og adgang til beskæftigelse giver et bedre liv for familier og flere muligheder for at tjene Herren.

Under et møde, jeg havde med stavsledere i Uganda, fandt jeg ud af, at hele stavspræsident-skabet var tilmeldt BYU-Pathway. Jo bedre forberedt vi er både timeligt og åndeligt, desto bedre kan vi afværge modstanderens listige angreb.

tacks. Remember the words of Peter: “The devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

I recognize that in the midst of the good news of the gospel, there are those who struggle, who have faith challenges, doubts, and questions that seem to have no answers. Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is the answer. Start with Him. Look for His hand in your life. Listen to Him. “Let not your heart be troubled,” He said in His last hours to His disciples before Gethsemane, before carrying His cross through the streets of Jerusalem, before Golgotha, where He completed His atoning sacrifice—what only He, the Begotten Son of God, could do.

Know that He understands. He took upon Himself all our sins, mistakes, misery, and very bad days that we might live again with our Father in Heaven in eternity. He has said, “Look unto me in every thought; doubt not, fear not.” Faith in Jesus Christ can lift you up and heal your wounded soul. Trust Him and you will hasten your return to “the arms of his love.”

I emphasize again the words of our living prophet: “Do you see what is happening right before our eyes? I pray that we will not miss the majesty of this moment! The Lord is hastening His work.” May we as disciples of our day shout, “Hurrah for Israel” as we prepare for the return of our Lord and Savior. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Husk Peters ord: »Djævelen går omkring som en brølende løve og leder efter nogen at sluge.«

Jeg anerkender, at midt i alle evangeliets gode tidender er der nogle, der kæmper, som har udfordringer med deres tro, som tvivler og har spørgsmål, der tilsyneladende ikke er svar på. Brødre og søstre, Jesus Kristus er svaret. Begynd med ham. Se efter hans hånd i jeres liv. Lyt til ham. »Lad ikke jeres hjerte forfærdes,« sagde han i sine sidste timer til sine disciple inden Gethsemane, inden han bar sit kors gennem Jerusalems gader, inden Golgata, hvor han fuldbrogede sit sonoffer – som han alene, som Guds Enbårne Søn, kunne.

Vid, at han forstår jer. Han påtog sig alle vores synder, fejltagelser, tragedier og rigtigt dårlige dage, så vi en dag igen kan bo med vor himmelske Fader i al evighed. Han har sagt: »Se hen til mig i alle jeres tanker; tvivl ikke, frygt ikke.« Tro på Jesus Kristus kan »løfte dig op« og læge den sårede sjæl. Stol på ham, så I fremskynder at blive »omsluttet af hans kærligheds arme«.

Jeg understreger igen vor levende profets ord: »Ser I, hvad der sker lige for øjnene af os? Jeg beder til, at vi ikke vil gå glip af storheden i dette øjeblik! Herren fremskynder i sandhed sit værk.« Må vi som disciple i vor tid råbe »hurra for Israel«, mens vi baner vejen for, at vor Herre og Frelser vil vende tilbage. I Jesu Kristi navn. Amen.