

True to the Faith That Our Parents Have Cherished

By Elder Hans T. Boom
Of the Seventy

Mer nu end før vil vi kæmpe og stride

Ældste Hans T. Boom
De Halvfjerds

April 2025 general conference

Please learn and receive strength from the faith and testimonies of those who came before you.

While I was visiting the Nashville Tennessee Temple for a temple review, I was privileged to do a walk-through as part of this assignment, reviewing this beautiful house of the Lord. I was especially impressed with the painting of Mary Wanlass called *Carry On* hanging on the wall in the office of the matron.

This is the story behind the painting:

“In Missouri in 1862, the 14-year-old Mary Wanlass promised her dying stepmother that she would see to it that her disabled father [and her four much younger siblings would all make] it to the Valley of the Great Salt Lake. ... Mary drove the oxen and milk cows that pulled the wagon, in which her father [was bedridden, and] she cared for her ... siblings. After each day’s journey, she fed the family by foraging edible plants, flowers, and berries. Her only compass was the instruction she had received to keep traveling west ‘until the clouds become mountains.’

“They reached [the] Utah Valley in September, having traveled all spring and summer. Her father died not long after the family settled in Utah County, where Mary later married and raised her [own] family.”

This is an amazing story of the faith and strength of a 14-year-old young woman that can help each one of us today to “just carry on.”

“Just carry on”—or freely translated in my native Dutch language, *Gewoon doorgaan*—is also my mom and dad’s lifelong slogan.

My parents and in-laws are the pioneers in our family. They have crossed their own “plains,” just like all those who are coming into the

Lær og modtag styrke fra troen og vidnesbyrdene fra dem, der kom før jer.

Da jeg besøgte templet i Nashville i Tennessee for at foretage en gennemgang af templet, fik jeg som en del af opgaven også privilegiet af at få en rundvisning i dette smukke Herrens hus. Jeg blev især imponeret over maleriet af Mary Wanlass med titlen *Fortsæt [Carry On]*, der hænger på væggen på tempelpræsidentindens kontor.

Dette er historien bag maleriet:

»I 1862 lovede den 14-årige Mary Wanlass i Missouri sin døende stedmor, at hun ville sørge for, at hendes handicappede far [og hendes fire meget yngre søskende alle] ville nå til Salt Lake-dalen... Mary drev de okser og malkekøer, der trak vognen, [hvor hendes far lå sengeliggende], og hun tog sig af sine ... søskende. Efter hver dagsrejse brødfødte hun familien ved at finde spiselige planter, blomster og bær. Hendes eneste kompas var den instruktion, hun havde fået, om at blive ved med at rejse vestpå, »indtil skyerne bliver til bjerge.«

»De nåede frem til Utah Valley i september efter at have rejst hele foråret og sommeren. Hendes far døde ikke længe efter, at familien bosatte sig i Utah County, hvor Mary senere giftede sig og stiftede sin [egen] familie.«

Det er en forbløffende historie om en 14-årig ung kvindes tro og styrke, som kan støtte os alle i dag til »bare at fortsætte«.

»Bare fortsæt« – eller løst oversat til mit modersmål, hollandsk: *Gewoon Doorgaan*, – er også min mors og fars livslange motto.

Mine forældre og svigerforældre er pionererne i vores familie. De har krydset deres egne »sletter«, ligesom alle dem, der kommer ind i

Church, the Lord's fold, every day. Their stories have little to do with oxen and wagons but have the same effect on future generations.

They embraced the gospel and were baptized in their young adult years. Both my parents had a difficult childhood. My father grew up on the island of Java in Indonesia. During World War II, he was forcefully separated from his family and interned in a concentration camp, where he suffered unspeakable hardships at a young age.

My mother was raised in a broken home and also suffered from hunger and the hardships of World War II. At times she even had to resort to eating tulip bulbs. Due to her father's actions and his subsequent divorce from her mother, it was sometimes difficult for her to see Heavenly Father as a loving Father.

My parents met at a Church activity and shortly after decided to get married and sealed in the Bern Switzerland Temple. Waiting at the railway station, having spent the last of their little savings for the trip to the temple, they wondered how they would make ends meet but were confident that it would all work out. And it did!

They started to raise their family from a very humble single attic-room apartment in the heart of Amsterdam. After several years of washing their clothes by hand, they had finally saved up enough money to purchase a washing machine. Just before they would make the purchase, the bishop visited them, asking for a contribution to build the meetinghouse in Amsterdam. They decided to give all they had saved for the washing machine and continued to do the laundry by hand.

As a family we went through some hardships, just like any other family. These have only made us stronger and have deepened our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, just like when Alma was sharing his story with his son Helaman, where he told him that he had been "supported under trials and troubles of every kind" because he had put his trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

How did two people who experienced so many trials in their younger years become the very best parents I could ever wish for? The answer is simple: they fully embraced the gospel and live by their covenants to this very day!

After more than 65 years of marriage, my

Kirken, i Herrens fold hver dag, har. Deres historier har ikke meget at gøre med okser og vogne, men de har den samme virkning på fremtidige generationer.

De tog imod evangeliet og blev døbt, da de var unge voksne. Begge mine forældre havde en svær barndom. Min far voksede op på øen Java i Indonesien. Under Anden Verdenskrig blev han under tvang adskilt fra sin familie og sat i en koncentrationslejr, hvor han led ubeskrivelige trængsler i en ung alder.

Min mor voksede op i et opløst hjem og led også trængsler som følge af sult og Anden Verdenskrig. Til tider måtte hun endda ty til at spise tulipanløg. På grund af hendes fars handlinger, og hans efterfølgende skilsmisse fra hendes mor, var det sommetider svært for hende at se vor himmelske Fader som en kærlig Fader.

Mine forældre mødtes til en kirkeaktivitet og besluttede kort tid efter at blive gift og besejlet i templet i Bern i Schweiz. De havde brugt det sidste af deres lille opsparing på turen til templet, og da de ventede på banegården, spekulerede de på, hvordan de skulle få enderne til at mødes. Men de var overbeviste om, at det hele nok skulle ordne sig. Og det gjorde det!

De stiftede familie i en meget ydmyg etværelses kvistlejlighed i hjertet af Amsterdam. Efter flere år, hvor de vaskede deres tøj i hånden, havde de endelig fået sparet nok penge sammen til at købe en vaskemaskine. Lige inden de skulle foretage købet, besøgte biskoppen dem og bad om et bidrag til at opføre kirkebygningen i Amsterdam. De besluttede sig for at give alt, hvad de havde sparet sammen til vaskemaskinen, og fortsatte med at vaske tøj i hånden.

Som familie gik vi igennem nogle trængsler, ligesom enhver anden familie. Disse har kun gjort os stærkere og har øget vores tro på Herren Jesus Kristus. Akkurat som da Alma fortalte sin søn Helaman sin historie, hvor han fortalte ham, at han var blevet »støttet under prøvelser og problemer af enhver art,« fordi han havde sat sin lid til Herren Jesus Kristus.

Hvordan blev to mennesker, der oplevede så mange prøvelser i deres yngre år, de allerbedste forældre, jeg overhovedet kunne ønske mig? Svaret er enkelt: De tog evangeliet helt og holdent til sig og efterlever fortsat deres pagter den dag i dag!

Efter mere end 65 års ægteskab gik min mor

mother, who suffered from Alzheimer's disease, passed away in February. My father, at the age of 92 and still living at home, visited her as often as he could until she passed away. Some time ago he mentioned to my younger siblings that the dreadful experiences in the camp in Indonesia during World War II had prepared him to patiently care for his wife for so many years as she fell ill and deteriorated from this horrible disease and also for the fateful day he had to entrust her primary care to others and could not be by her side anymore. Their motto has been and still is to "Just carry on," having a perfect hope in Christ to be raised up at the last day and to dwell with Him in glory forever.

Their faith and testimonies are a driving strength for the generations that have come after them.

In the village where my wife grew up, her parents, who were good churchgoing people, embraced the gospel as a young married couple with my wife as their two-year-old daughter and only child at that time. Their decision to become members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints had a great impact on their lives as they were shunned by the villagers and by their family. It took many years, loving notes to family members, and service to the community before they were finally accepted.

On one occasion when my wife's father was serving as a bishop, he was falsely accused of something and was immediately released. My mother-in-law was so hurt that she asked her husband if they should continue to go to church. He answered that they of course would continue to go to church since this is not the church of men, but this is the Church of Jesus Christ.

It took some time before the truth came to light and apologies were made. What could have been their breaking point just added to their strength and conviction.

Why is it that some of us take for granted the faith and testimonies of our parents who through all their hardships have remained faithful? Do we think that they do not have a clear understanding of things? They were not and are not deceived! They just have had too many experiences with the Spirit and can say with the Prophet Joseph, "I knew it, ... and I could not deny it."

bort i februar; hun led af Alzheimers. Min far, der er 92 år og stadig bor i sit eget hjem, besøgte hende så ofte, han kunne, indtil hun gik bort. For nogen tid siden nævnte han for mine yngre søskende, at de forfærdelige oplevelser i koncentrationslejren i Indonesien under Anden Verdenskrig havde forberedt ham til tålmodigt at tage sig af sin hustru i alle de mange år, hun var syg, og hendes tilstand blev forværret af denne forfærdelige sygdom. De forberedte ham også på den skæbnesvangre dag, hvor han måtte betroe hendes primære pleje til andre og ikke længere kunne være ved hendes side. Deres motto har altid været og er det stadig: »Bare fortsæt« med at have et fuldkomment håb i Kristus om at blive oprejst på den yderste dag og bo hos ham i herlighed for evigt.

Deres tro og vidnesbyrd er en drivkraft og styrke for de generationer, der er kommet efter dem.

Min hustrus forældre tog imod evangeliet i den landsby, hvor hun voksede op. De var gode mennesker og kirkegængere og tilsluttede sig Kirken som ungt ægtepar med deres toårige datter, min hustru, som var deres eneste barn på det tidspunkt. Deres beslutning om at blive medlemmer af Jesu Kristi Kirke af Sidste Dages Hellige havde stor indflydelse på deres liv, eftersom de blev udstødt af landsbyboerne og af deres familie. Det tog mange år, krævede mange kærlige beskeder til familiemedlemmer og megen tjeneste i lokalsamfundet, før de endelig blev accepteret.

På et tidspunkt, hvor min hustrus far tjente som biskop, blev der fremsat en falsk anklage mod ham, og han blev øjeblikkeligt afløst. Min svigermor blev så såret, at hun spurgte sin mand, om de skulle fortsætte med at gå i kirke. Han svarede, at de selvfølgelig ville fortsætte med at gå i kirke, da dette ikke er menneskers kirke, men Jesu Kristi kirke.

Det tog nogen tid, før sandheden kom frem i lyset, og der blev undskyldt. Det, der kunne være blevet bristepunktet, øgede blot deres styrke og overbevisning.

Hvordan kan det være, at nogle af os tager vores forældres tro og vidnesbyrd for givet, forældre der er forblevet trofaste gennem alle deres trængsler? Tror vi, at de mangler en klar forståelse af tingene? At de hverken blev eller bliver svigtet? At de har bare haft for mange oplevelser med Ånden og som profeten Joseph kan sige: »Jeg vidste det ... og jeg kunne ikke fornægte det?«

Don't you love the song about the army of Helaman, found in the Children's Songbook?

We have been born, as Nephi of old,
To goodly parents who love the Lord.
We have been taught, and we understand,
That we must do as the Lord commands.

Even when this might not be the case, as my mother experienced as a child, you can become one of those "goodly parents who love the Lord" and provide a righteous example to others.

Do we feel that this is absolutely true when we sing it? Do you feel that you are "as the army of Helaman" and that you "will be the Lord's missionaries to bring the world his truth"? I have felt it on so many occasions while singing this song in several FSY settings and other youth gatherings.

Or what do we feel when we sing the hymn "True to the Faith"?

Shall the youth of Zion falter
In defending truth and right?
While the enemy assaileth,
Shall we shrink or shun the fight? No!

True to the faith that our parents have cherished.

To those of the rising generation wherever you are and in whatever situation you may find yourself, please learn and receive strength from the faith and testimonies of those who came before you. It will help you understand that in order to gain or grow a testimony, sacrifices will have to be made and that "sacrifice brings forth the blessings of heaven."

Thinking about a sacrifice that will truly bless your life, please consider and pray about the invitation of our beloved prophet, President Russell M. Nelson, when he asked "everyworthy, able young man to prepare for and serve a mission. For Latter-day Saint young men, missionary service is a priesthood responsibility. ...

"For ... young and able sisters, a mission is also a powerful, but optional, opportunity."

You could be called as a service or a teaching missionary. Both types of missionaries contribute to the same goal of bringing souls to Christ, each in their own unique and powerful way.

In both types of service, you will show the Lord you love Him and that you want to get to know Him better. Remember, "for how knoweth

Elsker I ikke også sangen om Helamans krigere, som findes i Børnenes sangbog? Den engelske tekst lyder:

Vi der, som profeten Nefi, er født
af agtværdige forældre, som elsker Herren.
Vi har lært, og vi forstår,
at vi må lyde Herrens bud.

Selv når dette ikke er tilfældet, som min mor oplevede det som barn, kan I blive en af disse »agtværdige forældre, som elsker Herren« og være et retskaffent eksempel for andre.

Føler vi, at det er helt sandt, når vi synger den sang? Føler I, at I er »som Helamans hær«, og at I vil »være Herrens missionærer for at bringe verden hans ord«? Jeg har følt det ved så mange lejligheder, når jeg har sunget denne sang i adskillige FSY-sammenhænge og ved andre ungdomsmøder.

Eller hvad føler vi, når vi synger salmen »Skal vi svigte vore pagter«?

Skal vi svigte vore pagter,
som er gjort med himlens Gud?
Da han hørte vore bønner
og af Babel drog os ud? Nej!
Mer nu end før vil vi kæmpe og stride.

Jer i den opvoksende generation beder jeg om, at uanset hvor I er, og hvilken situation I end befinder jer i, at lære af dem, der kom før jer og modtage styrke fra deres tro og vidnesbyrd. Det vil hjælpe jer til at forstå, at for at få eller udvikle et vidnesbyrd, må der ydes ofre, og at »ofre frembringer himlens velsignelser.«

Mens I tænker over et offer, der virkelig vil velsigne jer, så overvej og bed om opfordringen fra vores elskede profet, præsident Russell M. Nelson, da han bad »alleværdige unge mænd, der er i stand dertil, om at forberede sig til og tage på mission. For sidste dages hellige unge mænd er det et præstedømmeansvar at tjene som missionær ...

For ... unge søstre, der er i stand til det, er en mission også en stærk, men valgfri mulighed.«

I kan blive kaldet som tjenestemissionær eller undervisende missionær. Begge slags missionærer bidrager til det samme mål om at føre sjæle til Kristus, på hver deres egen unikke og kraftfulde måde.

I begge former for tjeneste viser I Herren, at I elsker ham, og at I ønsker at lære ham bedre at kende. Husk: »For hvorledes kender en mand

a man the master whom he has not served, and who is a stranger unto him, and is far from the thoughts and intents of his heart?”

All of us, whether we are the first generation in the gospel or the fifth, should ask ourselves, What stories of faith, strength, and celestial commitment will I pass on to the next generation?

Let us all continue in our efforts to get to know our Savior, Jesus Christ, better and to make Him the center of our lives. He is the rock upon which we must build so that when times become difficult, we will be able to stand firm.

Let us be “true to the faith that our parents have cherished, true to truth for which martyrs have perished, to God’s command, soul, heart, and hand, faithful and true we will ever stand.” In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

den herre, som han ikke har tjent, og som er fremmed for ham og er langt borte fra hans hjerter tanker og hensigter?»

Uanset om vi er den første generation i evangeliet eller den femte, bør vi alle spørge os selv om, hvilke historier om tro, styrke og himmelsk forpligtelse vi giver videre til den næste generation.

Lad os alle fortsætte vores bestræbelser på at lære vor Frelser, Jesus Kristus, bedre at kende og gøre ham til midtpunktet i vores liv. Han er den klippe, som vi må bygge på, så vi, når svære tider kommer, vil være i stand til at stå fast.

Lad os være »faste i den tro, som vores forældre ikke svigtede; tro mod den sandhed, for hvilken martyrerne ofrede sig; om end vi må lide, kæmpe os frem og opnå et hjem hos Gud til evig tid.« I Jesu Kristi navn. Amen.