Malagasy

As a Little Child

By President Jeffrey R. Holland
Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Toy ny ankizy madinika

Nataon'ny Filoha Jeffrey R. Holland
Filoha mpisolo toerana an'ny Kôlejin'ny Apôstôly Roambinifolo

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I testify that babies and children and youth are images of the kingdom of God flourishing on earth in all of its strength and beauty.

Jesus began the last year of His mortal life by intensifying the training of His Apostles. If His message and His Church were to survive Him, more had to be pressed into the hearts of 12 very ordinary men who had known Him for scarcely 24 months.

One day Jesus witnessed an argument among the Twelve and later asked, "What was it that ye disputed among yourselves?"Apparently embarrassed, they "held their peace,"the record says. But this greatest of all teachers perceived the thoughts of their heartsand sensed the first blush of personal pride. So He "called a little child unto him, …

"And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

"Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

It should be noted that even before Christ's birth, King Benjamin's farewell sermon included this profound comment on a child's humility. It says, "The natural man is an enemy to God, … and will be, forever and ever, unless he … becometh a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, … humble, … full of love, … even as a child [re-

Mijoro ho vavolombelona aho fa endriky ny fanjakan' Andriamanitra miroborobo ety an-tany amin'ny heriny sy ny hatsaran-tarehiny rehetra ny zaza sy ny ankizy ary ny zatovo.

Natombok'i Jesoa tamin'ny fanamafisana ny fanofanana ireo apôstôliny ny taona farany niainany teto an-tany. Raha natao hitohy aorian'ny fahafatesany ny hafany sy ny Fiangonany dia mbola maro no tokony ho nampidirina tao am-pon'ireo lehilahy tsotra miisa 12 ireo, izay vao 24 volana monja no nahafantatra Azy.

Indray andro i Jesoa dia nahita fifandirana teo anivon'ny Roambinifolo lahy ka dia nanontany taorian'izay hoe: "Inona no niadianareo hevitra teny an-dalana?"Mazava ho azy fa menatra izy ireo dia "tsy nahateny"araky ny voarakitra. Kanefa fantatr'ity mpampianatra lehibe indrindra ity ny fisainan'ny fon'izy ireoary hitany ny famantarana ny avonavon'ny tena manokana. Noho izany dia "niantso zazakely anankiray hankeo aminy [Izy], …

"Ka nanao hoe: Lazaiko aminareo marina tokoa: Raha tsy miova hianareo ka tonga tahaka ny zazakely, dia tsy hiditra amin'ny fanjakan'ny lanitra mihitsy hianareo.

"Koa na zovy na zovy no hanetry tena tahaka ity zazakely ity, dia izy no ho lehibe indrindra amin'ny fanjakan'ny lanitra."

Tsara homarihina fa na dia talohan'ny nahaterahan'i Kristy aza dia nahitana io fanehoan-kevitra lalina momba ny fanetrentenan'ny zaza io ny toriteny fanaovam-beloma nataon'ny Mpanjaka Benjamina. Toy izao no voalaza ao: "Fa ny olona araka ny nofo dia fahavalon' Andriamanitra, … ary mbola ho toy izany mandrakizay mandrakizay raha tsy … tonga olomasina amin'ny

sponds] to his father."

Now, there are obviously some infantile inclinations wedon'tencourage. Twenty-five years ago, my then-three-year-old grandson bit his five-year-old sister on the arm. My son-in-law, caring for the children that night, frantically taught his daughter all the lessons on forgiveness he could think of, concluding that her little brother probably didn't even know what a bite on the arm felt like. That ill-conceived fatherly comment worked for about a minute, maybe a minute and a half, until there was a window-rattling cry from the children's bedroom, where my granddaughter calmly called out, "He does now."

So what is it that we are to see in the virtues of life's junior varsity? What was it that brought Christ Himself to tears in the most tender scene in the entire Book of Mormon? What was Jesus teaching when He called down heavenly fire and protective angels to surround those children, commanding the adults to "behold [their] little ones"?

We don't know what prompted all of that, but I have to think it had something to do with their purity and innocence, their inborn humility, and what itcouldbring to our lives if we retain it.

Why are our days of despair labeled by one as "vanity of vanities"?How is it that "vain imaginations and the pride of the children of men"are the words that characterize the great and spacious building, so spiritually dead in Lehi's vision? And the Zoramites, that group who prayed so self-servingly? Of them Alma said, "O God, they [pray] unto thee with their mouths, while they are puffed up … with the vain things of the world."

By contrast, is there anything sweeter, more

alalan'ny sorompanavotan'i Kristy Tompo, ary tonga tahaka ny ankizy, mankatò, …, manetry tena, …, feno fitiavana, … dia tahaka ny [fanalian'ny] zaza ny rainy."

Mazava ho azy fa misy ireo karazana fironan'ny zazakely izaytsyamporisihantsika foana. Dimy amby roapolo taona lasa izay dia nanaikitra ny tanan'ny anabaviny dimy taona ny zafikelinay lahy izay telo taona tamin'izany. Ilay vinantolahiko izay nikarakara an'ireo ankizy tamin'izany alina izany dia nampianatra tamim-pahatsorana ny zanany vavy izay lesona rehetra momba ny famindram-po tonga tao an-tsainy sady nofaranany tamin'ny hoe mety tsy nahalala akory angamba ilay zandry lahikeliny hoe manao ahoana izany kaikitra amin'ny tanana izany. Nandaitra tao anatin'ny iray minitra teo ho eo, na iray minitra sy sasany angamba izany fanamarihana tsy voaomana tsara nataona raim-pianakaviana izany, mandra-pisian'ny hiakiaka nampihovitra varavarankely re avy tao amin'ny efitrano fandrian'ny ankizy izay niantsoan'ilay zafikeliko vavy tamim-pitoniana hoe: "Fantany ilay izy izao."

Koa inona ary no zavatra tokony ho hitantsika eo amin'ny fiainan'ireo ankizy? Inona no nahatonga an'i Kristy mihitsy hilatsa-dranomaso ao amin'ilay tranga iray feno fitiavana indrindra ao amin'ny Bokin'i Môrmôna? Inona no nampianarin'i Jesoa rehefa nampidina afo avy an-danitra sy ireo anjely mpiambina Izy mba hanodidina ireo ankizy ireo, sady nandidy ny olon-dehibe mba "[hijery] ny madinik['izy ireo]"?

Tsy fantantsika ny zavatra izay nandrisika izany rehetra izany, fa mihevitra aho fa misy hidirany amin'ny fahadiovan'izy ireo sy ny tsy fananany tsiny, ny fanetrentenany hatrany am-bohoka, ary ny zavatra izaymetyhoentin'izany amin'ny fiainantsika raha raisintsika izany.

Nahoana ireo andro mahakivy antsika no misy miantso hoe "zava-poana dia zava-poana?"Nahoana ny "hevi-dravina sy ny fieboeboan'ny zanak'olombelona"no teny mamaritra ilay trano lehibe sy malalaka izay tena maty ara-panahy ao amin'ny fahitan'i Lehia? Ary ny Zôramita, ilay vondron'olona izay nivavaka tamin'ny fanompoana ny tenany? Hoy i Alma momba azy ireo hoe: "Indro, Andriamanitra ô, [mivavaka Aminao] amin'ny vavany [izy ireo], raha mbola mizihitra … amin'ny zava-poanan'izao tontolo izao izy."

Etsy andanin'izany, moa ve misy zavatra

pure, or more humble than a child at prayer? It is as if heaven is in the room. God and Christ are so real, but for others later on, the experience can become more superficial.

mamy kokoa, na madio kokoa, na feno fanetrentena kokoa mihoatra noho ny zaza iray eo am-pivavahana? Toy ireny hoe ao amin'ilay efitrano ireny ny lanitra. Tena misy Andriamanitra sy i Kristy, saingy ho an'ny hafa rehefa aty aoriana dia mety ho lasa zavatra manjavozavo izany traikefa izany.

As Elder Richard L. Evans quoted some 60 years ago: "Many of us profess to be Christians, yet we … do not take Him seriously. … We respect Him, but we don't follow Him. … We quote His sayings, but we don't live by them.""We admire Him, but we don't worship Him."

Araka ny nolazain'ny Loholona Richard L. Evans teo amin'ny 60 taona lasa teo izay hoe: "Maro amintsika no milaza ny tenantsika ho Kristiana, nefa isika … dia tsy manaraka antsakany sy andavany ny zavatra lazainy. … Manaja Azy isika, saingy tsy manaraka Azy. … Mampiasa ireo teny nambarany isika, saingy tsy miaina izany.""Talanjona Aminy isika, saingy tsy mitsaoka Azy."

How different life could be if the world esteemed Jesus above the level of a profane swearing streak from time to time.

Mety ho toy ny ahoana ny fiainana raha toa ka nanome lanja ambony an'i Jesoa mihoatra noho ny fanonontononam-poana tsindraindray ny anarany izao tontolo izao.

But children really do love Him, and that love can carry over into their other relationships in the playground of life. As a rule, even in their youngest years, children love so easily, they forgive so readily, they laugh so delightfully that even the coldest, hardest heart can melt.

Saingy tena tia Azy ny ankizy, ary izany fitiavana izany dia afaka miantraika amin'ny fifandraisana hafa misy eo amin'ny fainan'izy ireo. Amin'ny ankabeazany, na dia mbola kely aza ny zaza dia tena mora mitia izy ireo, tena mora mamela heloka izy ireo, ary mihomehy amin'ny endrika finaritra izy ireo, hany ka mambabo ny fo izay farany mangatsiaka sy mafy.

Well, the list goes on and on. Purity? Trust? Courage? Character?

Dia mitohy hatrany hatrany ny lisitra. Fahadiovana? Fatokiana? Herim-po? Toetra?

Come with me to view the humility before God demonstrated by one young, very dear friend of mine.

Andao hiaraka hijery amiko ny fanetrentena teo anoloan' Andriamanitra nasehon'ny tanora iray izay namako tena tiako.

On January 5, 2025—91 days ago—Easton Darrin Jolley had the Aaronic Priesthood conferred upon him and was ordained a deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Tamin'ny 5 janoary 2025, 91 andro lasa izay, dia nomena ny Fisoronana Aharôna i Easton Darrin Jolley ary notendrena ho diakona ato amin'Ny Fiangonan'i Jesoa Kristy ho an'ny Olomasin'ny Andro Farany.

Easton had longed to pass the sacrament of the Lord's Supper for as long as he could remember. But this sacred opportunity was accompanied by the stomach-wrenching fear that he would fail, that he would fall, that he would be teased or embarrass himself and his family.

Tena efa ela i Easton no naniry fatratra ny hizara ny Fanasan'ny Tompo. Fa io fahafahana masina io anefa dia narahana tahotra mamparary kibo ny tsy hahomby, na hianjera, na hihomehezan'ny olona, na hahamenatra ny tenany sy ny fianakaviany.

You see, Easton has a rare and very destructive illness, Ullrich congenital muscular dystrophy. It has progressively filled his young life with formidable challenges while shattering his hopes and dreams for the future. He will soon be in a wheelchair permanently. His family does not talk about what awaits him after that.

Hitanareo, manana aretina tsy dia fahita sy tena manimba antsoina hoe dystrophie congénitale musculaire d'Ullrich (aretina tsy fahita firy mampalemy ny hozatra mpahazo ny zazakely) i Easton." Nahatonga ny fiainany izay mbola tanora ho feno fanamby lehibe izany sady nandrava ny fanantenany sy ny nofinofiny momba ny hoavy. Tsy ho ela izy dia ho eo ambony seza misy

The Sunday after his ordination, Easton would pass the sacrament for the first time. And his privately held motivation was that he could present himself and these sacred emblems to his father, who was the bishop of the ward. In anticipating that task, he had begged and pled and wept and begged, extracting a guarantee that no one,no one, would try to help him. For many reasons, private to himself, he needed to do this alone and unaided.

After the priest had broken the bread and blessed it—an emblem representing the broken body of Christ—Easton, with his broken body, limped up to receive his tray. However, there were three sizable steps from the meetinghouse floor to the elevated stand. So, after receiving his tray, he stretched up as high as he could and placed his tray on the surface above the handrail. Then, sitting down on one of the higher steps, with both hands he pulled his right leg up onto the first step. Then he pulled his left leg onto the same step, and so on up until, arduously, he was at the summit of his personal three-step Mount Everest.

He then maneuvered himself to a structural post by which he could climb to a standing position. He made his way back to the tray. A few more steps and he stood in front of the bishop, his father, who, with tears drenching his eyes and flooding down his face, had to restrain himself from embracing this perfectly courageous and faithful son. And Easton, with relief and a broad smile consuming his face, might well have said, "I have glorified [my father and] have finished the work [he gave] me to do."

Faith, loyalty, purity, trust, honor, and, in the end, love for that father he so wished to please. These and a dozen other qualities makeusalso say, "Whosoever … shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

kodiarana foana amin'izay. Tsy miresaka momba izay miandry azy ao aorian'izany ny fianakaviany.

Ny alahady taorian'ny fanendrena azy, dia nizara Fanasan'ny Tompo voalohany indrindra i Easton. Ary ny zavatra nanosika azy manokana tany anatiny dia ny fahafahany miseho sy manolotra ireo famantarana masina ireo tamin-drainy, izay evekan'ilay paroasy. Talohan'ny hanatanterahana io andraikitra io dia niangavy sy nitalaho izy, ary nitomany sy nitalaho, naka antoka fa tsy hisy olona,na iza na izahanandrana hanampy azy. Noho ny antony maro, izay izy irery ihany no mahalala azy, dia nila nanao izany irery izy ary tsy nila fanampiana.

Rehefa avy namaky ny mofo sy nitsodrano izany ny mpisorona, izay famantarana maneho ny vatan'i Kristy torotoro, dia nandroso niaraka tamin'ny vatany tsy tomombana i Easton ka nandringa mba handray ny loviany. Nisy zana-tohatra telo lehibe anefa ny avy eo amin'ny gorodon'ilay efitrano fivoriana miakatra mankeo amin'ny lampihazo. Noho izany, rehefa nahazo ny loviany izy dia nanakatra faran'izay avo indrindra takany ary nametraka ny loviany teo amin'ilay fitazonana. Avy eo dia nipetraka teo amin'ny iray amin'ireo zana-tohatra ambony indrindra amin'ilay tohatra izy, dia nosintoniny tamin'ny tanany roa ny tongony havanana hiakatra ho eo amin'ny zana-tohatra voalohany. Avy eo dia nosintoniny ny tongony havia ho eo amin'izany zana-tohatra izany, dia toy izany hatrany mandra-pahatongany, tamim-pahasarotana, teo an-tampon'ilay tendrombohitra Everest ho azymanokana izay misy zana-tohatra telo.

Nihodina izy avy eo mandra-pahatongany teo amin'ny andry iray nahafahany nijoro. Niverina teo amin'ilay lovia izy. Dingana vitsivitsy monja sisa dia nijoro teo anoloan'ny eveka, dia ny rainy, izy, izay tsy maintsy nifehy ny tenany tsy hamihina io zanakalahy be herim-po sy mahatoky tanteraka io, niaraka tamin'ny ranomaso teny amin'ny masony ary nanaraka ny tavany. Ary i Easton, izay nahatsapa ho maivamaivana sy feno tsiky nameno ny tavany, dia mety ho niteny tsara hoe: "Izaho efa nankalaza [ny raiko ary] vitako ny asa nome[ny] Ahy hataoko."

Ny finoana, ny tsy fivadihana, ny fahadiovana, ny fatokiana, ny voninahitra, ary amin'ny farany, ny fitiavana an'ilay rainy izay tiany hampifaliana tokoa. Ireo sy ny toetra am-polony maro hafa no mahatongaantsikaihany koa hiteny hoe: "Na zovy na zovy no hanetry tena tahaka

Sisters and brothers and friends, at the top of the list of the most beautiful images I know are babies and children and youth as conscientious and priceless as those we have referred to today. I testify that they are images of the kingdom of God flourishing on earth in all of its strength and beauty.

In that same spirit of testimony, I bear witness that in his youth, Joseph Smith saw what he said he saw and conversed with those with whom he said he spoke. I testify that a humble and pure Russell M. Nelson is God's ordained and gifted prophet and seer. Coming from a lifetime of reading, I bear witness that the Book of Mormon is the most rewarding book I have ever read and the keystone of my little dwelling in a kingdom of many mansions. I bear witness that priesthood and prayer are restoring my life—Christ's priesthood and your prayers. I know all this to be true and bear witness of it in the name of the most loyal and humble of all God's sons—Alpha and Omega, the Great I Am, the crucified, the faithful witness—even the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

ity zazakely ity, dia izy no ho lehibe indrindra ao amin'ny fanjakan'ny lanitra."

Ranabavy sy rahalahy ary namana, ny voalohany indrindra amin'ny lisitr'ireo endri-javatra tsara indrindra fantatro dia ahitana zaza sy ankizy ary tanora izay misaina sy sarobidy tahaka ireo izay noresahintsika androany. Mijoro ho vavolombelona aho fa endriky ny fanjakan' Andriamanitra miroborobo ety an-tany amin'ny heriny sy ny hatsaran-tarehiny rehetra izy ireo.

Amin'ny fanahin'ny fijoroana ho vavolombelona momba izany, izaho dia mijoro ho vavolombelona fa nahita ny zavatra izay nolazainy fa hitany ary niresaka tamin'ireo izay nolazainy fa niresahany i Joseph Smith tamin'ny fahatanorany. Mijoro ho vavolombelona aho fa i Russell M. Nelson izay manetry tena sy madio dia mpaminany sy mpahita izay notendren' Andriamanitra sy nomeny fanomezam-pahasoavana. Avy amin'ny famakiana boky nataoko nandritra ny androm-piainako, izaho dia mijoro ho vavolombelona fa ny Bokin'i Môrmôna no boky mahafa-po indrindra novakiko hatrizay ary tena vato ifaharan'ny fitoerako kely ao amina fanjakana izay feno fitoerana. Mijoro ho vavolombelona aho fa mamerina amin'ny laoniny ny fiainako ny fisoronana sy ny vavaka—ny fisoronan'i Kristy sy ireo vavaka ataonareo. Fantatro fa marina izany rehetra izany ary ijoroako ho vavolombelona amin'ny anaran'Ilay faran'izay mahatoky sy feno fanetrentena indrindra amin'ireo Zanak' Andriamanitra rehetra—dia i Alfa sy Omega, ilay Izy Aho, ilay nombohina, ilay Vavolombelona mahatoky—dia ilay Tompo Jesoa Kristy, amena.