

# “By This All Will Know That You Are My Disciples”

By Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf  
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

## “Izany no ahafantaran’ny olona rehetra fa mpianatro hianareo”

Nataon’ny Loholona Dieter F. Uchtdorf  
Ao amin’ny Kôlejin’ny Apôstôly Roambinifolo

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*Our love for God and His children is a powerful testimony to the world that this is truly the Savior’s Church.*

Many years ago Sister Uchtdorf and I were traveling through southern Germany. It was just before Easter, and we invited a good friend, who was not a member of the Church, to join us in our Sunday worship service. We loved this dear friend, so it was normal and natural to share with her how we felt about the Savior and His Church and to invite her to come and see! She accepted the invitation and joined us at the meetings of a nearby branch.

If you have ever brought a friend to church for the first time, you can probably relate to the way I felt that Sunday morning. I wanted everything to go perfectly. Our friend was a highly educated, spiritual person. I earnestly hoped the meetings of this branch would make a good impression on her and represent the Church well.

The branch met in some rented rooms on the second floor of a grocery store. To get there, we had to take the stairs at the back of the building, passing the strong aromas from goods stored there.

As the sacrament meeting began, I thought about my friend experiencing this for the first time, and I couldn’t help but notice things that

*Ny fitiavantsika an’ Andriamanitra sy ireo zanany dia fijoroana ho vavolombelona tena matanjaka ho an’izao tontolo izao fa ity marina tokoa no Fiangonan’ny Mpamonjy.*

Taona maro lasa izay no nandeha tany Alemana atsimo izaho sy Rahavavy Uchtdorf. Andro nialoha ny Paska tamin’izay ary nanasa ny namanay akaiky iray izahay, izay tsy mpikamban’ny Fiangonana, mba ho avy hanatrika ny fivoriana alahady miaraka aminay. Tena tianay io namanay io ka toa nandeha ho azy sy mora taminay ery ny nizara taminy izay tsapanay momba ny Mpamonjy sy ny Fiangonany ary ny nanasa azy mba ho avy hizaha sy hahita! Nanaiky ny fanasanay izy ary tonga niaraka taminay nana-trika ireo fivoriana tao amin’ny sampana iray tsy lavitra.

Raha efa nitondra namana iray ho any am-piangonana ianao ka fotoana voalohany ho azy izany dia mety ho takatrao ny zavatra tsapako tamin’io alahady maraina io. Tiako hoe tonga lafatra avokoa ny zava-drehetra. Olona nandia fianarana ambony io namanay io, ary liana amin’ireo zavatra ara-panahy izy. Tena nanantena mafy aho fa hampihetsi-po azy ireo fivoriana tao amin’io sampana io ary hanome endrika tsara ny Fiangonana.

Nanofa efitrano tao amin’ny rihana voalohan’ny fivarotana enta-madinika iray izay ilay sampana mba hanatanterahana ireo fivoriana. Mila miakatra ny tohatra ao ambadikin’ny trano mba hahatongavana any, mandalo fofona mahery vaika avoakan’ireo entana izay tehirizina ao.

Rehefa iny nanomboka iny ny fivoriana fanasan’ny Tompo dia nieritreritra ilay namana aho izay sambany vao miaina izany, ka tsy

made me cringe a little. The singing, for example, didn't exactly sound like the Tabernacle Choir. Restless, noisy children could be heard during the sacrament. The speakers did their best, but they were not skilled at public speaking. I sat uncomfortably through the meeting, hoping that maybe Sunday School would be better.

It wasn't.

All morning I worried about what our friend must think of this church we had taken her to.

Afterward, as we drove home, I turned to talk to our friend. I wanted to explain that this was just one small branch and it didn't really represent the Church as a whole. But before I could say a word, she spoke up.

"That was beautiful," she said.

I was speechless.

She continued, "I'm so impressed with how people treat each other in your church. They all seem to come from different backgrounds, and yet it's clear that they genuinely love each other. This is what I imagine Christ wanted His Church to be like."

Well, I quickly repented of my judgmental attitude. I had wanted picture-perfect meetings to impress my friend. But what the members of this branch had achieved was a heart-perfect spirit of love, kindness, patience, and compassion.

## That Faith Might Increase in the Earth

My dear brothers and sisters, my dear friends, I love The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It is the Savior's true and living Church, and it teaches the restored fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ. His priesthood power and authority reside here. Jesus Christ leads this Church personally, through servants He has called and authorized, and by a living prophet, even President Russell M. Nelson. The Savior has given the Latter-day Saints a unique mission to

tanako nefa fa nahatsikaritra zavatra maromaro izay nampikentrona kely ahy aho. Ny hira ohatra dia tsy nitovy loatra tamin'ny fihiran'ny Ambo-arampeon'ny Tabernakely. Ankizy mitabataba tsy ankijanona no re nandritra ny fanasan'ny Tompo. Niezaka mafy ireo mpandray fitenenana saingy tsy havanana loatra tamin'ny firesahana imasom-bahoaka izy ireo. Tsy dia nahazo aina loatra aho raha nipetraka nandritra ny fivoriana manontolo, ka nanantena kosa hoe ho tsaratsara kokoa angamba ny Sekoly Alahady.

Indrisy.

Niahiahy fatratra ny amin'ny mety ho eritretr'ily namanay momba ity fiangonana nitondranay azy ity aho nandritra ny maraina manontolo.

Taorian'izay, rehefa niverina nody izahay dia nitodika niresaka tamin'ily namanay aho. Nohazavaiko taminy fa sampana kely iray fotsiny iny natrehany iny ka tsy dia naneho loatra ny Fiangonana iray manontolo. Fa nialoha ny hanohizako ny teniko, dia namaly ahy izy.

"Nahafinaritra ilay izy," hoy izy.

Tsy nahaloha-peo aho.

Mbola notohizany hoe, "tena nampihetsi-po ahy ny fomba fifampitondran'ny olona tsirairay ao amin'ny fiangonanareo. Toa samy hafa avokoa ny fiavian'izy ireo, kanefa hita mazava fa tena mifankatia marina tokoa ny tsirairay. Torak'izany mihitsy no nieritreretako ny hoe Fiangonana irian'i Kristy."

Nibebaka haingana aho ny amin'ny toetrako nitsaratsara. Fivoriana tonga lafatra no nalaiko sary tao an-tsaiko mba hampihetsi-po ilay namako. Fa ny zavatra vitan'ny mpikambana tao amin'io sampana io dia fanehoana tonga lafatra sy an-kitsim-po ny fanahin'ny fitiavana, hatsaram-panahy, faharetana ary fangorahana.

## Mba ho afaka hitombo eto an-tany anie ny finoana

Ry rahalahy sy ranabavy malalako isany, ry namana malala isany, tiako Ny Fiangonan'i Jesoa Kristy ho an'ny Olomasin'ny Andro Farany. Fiangonana marina sy velona an'ny Mpamonjy ity, ary mampianatra ny fahafenoan'ny filazantsaran'i Jesoa Kristy naverina tamin'ny laoniny. Mitoetra ato ny hery sy fahefan'ny fisoronany. Mitarika manokana ity Fiangonana ity i Jesoa Kristy, amin'ny alalan'ireo mpanompo izay nantsoiny sy nomeny lalana, ary amin'ny alalan'ny mpaminany

gather God's children and prepare the world for the Savior's Second Coming. I bear my witness that all of this is true.

But it's important to remember that when most people experience the Church of Jesus Christ for the first time, they aren't thinking about priesthood authority or ordinances or the gathering of Israel. What they're likely to notice, above all else, is how they feel when they're with us and how we treat each other.

"Love one another," Jesus said. "By this all will know that you are My disciples." Very often, a person's first testimony of Jesus Christ comes when he or she feels love among disciples of Jesus Christ.

The Savior declared that He restored His Church so "that faith ... might increase in the earth." Therefore, when people visit our Church meetings, the Savior wants them to leave with stronger faith in Him! The love our friends feel among us will lift them closer to Jesus Christ! That is our simple goal every time we gather.

Anyone who is seeking greater faith in Christ or a closer connection to Heavenly Father should feel right at home in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Inviting them to our meetings can be as normal and as natural as inviting them into our homes.

## The Ideal and the Real

Now, I realize that I'm describing the ideal. And in this mortal life, we rarely get to experience the ideal. And "until the perfect day," there will always be a gap between the ideal and the real. So, what should we do when the Church doesn't feel like the perfect day? When, for whatever reason, our ward doesn't yet nurture perfect faith or love? Or when it feels that we don't fit in?

velona, dia ny Filoha Russell M. Nelson. No-men'ny Mpamonjy iraka miavaka ny Olomasin'ny Andro Farany hanangona ny zanak' Andriamanitra sy hanomana izao tontolo izao amin'ny Fiavian'ny Mpamonjy fanindroany. Mijoro vavolombelona aho fa marina avokoa ireo.

Zava-dehibe anefa ny mahatsiaro fa ny ankamaroan'ny olona izay vao sambany no manatrika ny Fiangonan'i Jesoa Kristy dia tsy hieritreritra momba ny fahefan'ny fisoronana na ny ôrdônansy na ny fanangonana an'i Isiraely. Fa ny mety ho tsikaritr'izy ireo kosa, ambonin'ny zava-drehetra, dia ny zavatra tsapany rehefa miaraka amintsika izy ireo sy ny fifampitondrantsika samy isika.

"Mifankatiava ianareo," hoy Jesoa. "Izany no ahafantaran'ny olona rehetra fa mpianatro hianareo." Matetika loatra ny fijoroana ho vavolombelonavoalohany ananan'ny olona iray momba an'i Jesoa Kristy dia avy amin'ny fahatsapany fitiavana eo anivon'ireompanara-diaan'i Jesoa Kristy.

Nanambara ny Mpamonjy fa naveriny tamin'ny laoniny ny Fiangonany mba "ho afaka hitombo eto an-tany ... ny finoana." Noho izany, rehefa tonga mitsidika ny fivoriana'ny Fiangonantsika ny olona dia tian'ny Mpamonjy ny hahazoan'izy ireo finoana matanjaka kokoa momba Azy rehefa tapitra ny fivoriana! Ny fitiavana tsapan'ny namantsika eo anivontsika dia hisintona azy ireo hanakaiky kokoa an'i Jesoa Kristy! Izany no tanjona tsotra apetratsika isaky ny mivory isika.

N'iza n'iza mikatsaka finoana lehibe kokoa an'i Jesoa Kristy na fifandraisana akaiky kokoa amin'ny Ray any An-danitra dia tokony hahatsapa ho toy ny ao an-tranony rehefa tonga ato amin' Ny Fiangonan'i Jesoa Kristy ho an'ny Olomasin'ny Andro Farany. Afaka ny ho toy ny zavatra mahazatra sy voajanahary toy ny fanasantsika azy ireo ho any an-tranontsika ny fanasantsika azy ireo koa hanatrika ny fivoriantika.

## Ny idealy sy ny tena izy

Tsapako izao fa milazalaza ny toe-javatra idealy aho. Eto amin'ity fiainana an-tany ity anefa isika dia mahalana no tena miaina ny idealy. Ary "mandra-pitataovovonan'ny andro" dia hisy foana ny elanelana hampisaraka ny idealy sy ny tena izy. Inona ary izany no tokony ataontsika rehefa toatsytonga lafatra toy ny hazavan'ny andro amin'ny mitataovovonana ny any am-piangonana? Rehefatsy mampihatra ilay finoana na fitiavana tonga lafatra ny paroasy misy

One thing we should not do is give up on the ideal!

The title page of the Book of Mormon includes this important caution: “If there are faults,” it says, “they are the mistakes of men; wherefore, condemn not the things of God.”

Can a book—or a church or a person—have “faults” and “mistakes” and still be the work of God?

My answer is a resounding yes!

So, while we hold ourselves to the Lord’s high standards, let’s also be patient with one another. We are each a work in progress, and we all rely on the Savior for any progress we make. That’s true for us as individuals, and it’s true for the kingdom of God on earth.

The Lord invites us not just to join His kingdom but also to be anxiously engaged in building it. God envisions a people who are “of one heart and one mind.” And to be of one heart, we must seek pure hearts, and that requires a mighty change of heart.

But that doesn’t mean changing my heart to align with yours. Nor does it mean changing your heart to align with mine. It means that we all change our hearts to align with the Savior.

If we are not there yet, remember: with the Lord’s help, nothing is impossible.

## Fit and Belonging

And if you ever feel like you don’t quite fit in, please know that you are not alone. Haven’t we all been in life situations when we felt like the stranger in the room? I have experienced this more than once. When I was 11 years old, my family was forced to leave our home and move to an unfamiliar region. Everything was different from what I was used to. And my accent made

antsika, noho ny antony samihafa? Na rehefa mahatsapa fa ho tsy mety amintsika ny any?

Zavatra iray izay tsy tokony ataontsika dia ny milavo lefona ny amin’ ilay idealy!

Misy izao fampitandremana izao ao amin’ ny pejina-dohatenin’ ny Bokin’ i Môrmôna: “Raha misy hadisoana” hoy ilay izy, “dia hadisoan’ ny olona izany; noho izany dia aza maniny ny zavatra Andriamanitra.”

Afaka ny mbola ho asan’ Andriamanitra ihany ve ny boky iray, na ny fiangonana iray na ny olona iray, izay misy “hadisoana”?

Eny ary tena Eny no valiny!

Noho izany, eo am-pitandreman-tsika fatratra ny fenitra ambony takian’ ny Tompo, dia aoka isika hanam-paharetana ihany koa amin’ isika samy isika. Mbola samy eo an-dalam-pizorana amin’ ny fahatanterahana ny tsirairay avy amintsika, ary samy miantehitra avokoa amin’ ny Mpamonjy isika rehetra mba ho afaka ny hivoatra. Marina izany ho an’ ny tsirairay avy amintsika, ary marina ihany koa izany ho an’ ny fanjakan’ Andriamanitra ety an-tany.

Tsy vitan’ ny hoe manasa antsika fotsiny ny Tompo ny mbahidirantsika ao amin’ ny fanjakany fa ny mba hirotsahantsika an-tsehatra tanteraka amin’ ny fananganana izany ihany koa. Mian-drandra vahoaka iray izay “iray fo sy iray saina” Andriamanitra. Mila manana foma dia mangarahaisika mba ho azo lazaina hoe iray fo, ary izany dia mitaky fiovam-po goavana.

Tsy midika anefa izany hoe mila manova ny ao am-poko mba hifanaraka amin’ ny anareo aho. Ary tsy midika izany hoe mila manova ny ao am-ponareo ianareo mba hifanaraka amin’ ny ahy. Ny dikan’ izany dia hoe mila samy manova ny ao am-pontsika isika rehetra mba hifanaraka amin’ ny Mpamonjy.

Raha mbola tsy tanteratsika izany dia tsarovy fa afaka mahavita ny zava-drehetra isika miaraka amin’ ny fanampian’ ny Tompo.

## Fahametezana sy fananana anjara toerana

Ary raha sendra mahatsapa ho tsy mitovy amin’ ny hafa ianao dia fantaro fa tsy irery ianao akory. Moa va tsy efa niaina toe-javatra toy izany avokoa isika teo amin’ ny fiainana, mahatsapa ho toy ny mpivahiny ao anaty efitra iray? Efa niainako imbetsaka izany. Fony aho 11 taona dia voatery tsy maintsy nandao ny trano fonenanay ny fianakaviako ary nifindra tany amin’ ny faritra

it clear to the other children that I was different from what they were used to. At a time when I desperately needed friendship and belonging, I felt lonely and displaced.

Here on earth, most of the differences we notice—the differences some of us use to categorize each other—have to do with earthly things: physical appearance, nationality, language, clothing, customs, and so on. But “God does not view things the way people do. People look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

From His perspective, there is one category that comes before all others: child of God. And we all fit perfectly in this one.

It’s natural to want to be around people who look, talk, act, and think like we do. There is a place for that.

But in the Savior’s Church, we gather all of God’s children who are willing to be gathered and who seek the truth. It is not our physical appearance, our political views, our culture, or our ethnicity that brings us together. It is not our common background that unites us. It is our common objective, our love for God and love for our neighbor, our commitment to Jesus Christ and His restored gospel. We are “one in Christ.”

The unity we seek is not to have everyone stand in the same place; it is to have everyone face in the same direction—toward Jesus Christ. We are one not because of where we’ve been but where we are striving to go, not because of who we are but who we seek to become.

That is what Christ’s true Church is all about.

## One Body

If you love God, if you want to know Him

tsy nahazatra iray. Hafa be tamin’izay efa nahazatra ahy ny zava-drehetra tany. Nanampy trotraka izany ny fomba fiteniko teo anatrehan’ireo ankizy hafa satria dia tsy nitovy tamin’ny fomba fiteny mahazatraazy ireony ahy. Tamin’ny fotoana izay tena nilako mafy namana sy ny fananako ny anjara toerako dia nahatsiaro manirery sy very aho.

Ny ankamaroan’ny fahasamihafana voatsikaritsika eto an-tany, ireo fahasamihafana izay ampiasain’ny olona sasany amintsika mba hanasokajiana ny tsirairay, dia mahakasika ireo zavatra hita eto an-tany: ny endrika ivelany, firazanana, fomba fiteny, fomba fiakanjo, fomba fanao, sy ny sisa. Saingy tsy mba mitovy amin’ny an’olombelona ny fomba fijerin’ Andriamanitra. Ny olona mijery ny eo ivelany, fa ny Tompo kosa mijery ny ao am-po.”

Araka ny fomba fijeriny dia misy sokajy iray izay mialoha ny hafa rehetra: zanak’ Andriamanitra. Ary samy tafiditra ao anatin’izany avokoa isika rehetra.

Tsy hafahafa akory ny faniriana hiaraka amin’ireo olona izay mitovy endrika amintsika, miresaka mitovy amintsika, mitovy fihetsika amintsika, ary mitovy fomba fisainana amintsika. Misy toerana ho an’izany.

Saingy ato amin’ny Fiangonan’ny Mpamonjy kosa dia angonintsika ny zanak’ Andriamanitra rehetra izay vonona ny hangonina sy mikatsaka ny fahamarinana. Tsy ny endritsika ivelany na ny firehantsika ara-pôlitika na ny kolontsaintsika na ny firazanantsika akory no mampitambatra antsika. Tsy ny tantara iombonantsika no mampiray antsika. Fa ny tanjona iraisana ananantsika kosa, ny fitiavantsika an’ Andriamanitra sy ny mpiara-belona amintsika, ny fanolorantenantsika ho an’i Jesoa Kristy sy ny filazantsarany naverina tamin’ny laoniny. “Iray ihany ... ao amin’i Kristy” isika.

Ny firaisan-kina izay katsahintsika dia tsy ny fampijoroana ny rehetra eo amin’ny toerana iray mitovy; fa ny mampitovy ny fijerin’ny tsirairay avy kosa, hitodika any amin’i Jesoa Kristy. Iray isika, tsy noho ireo zavatra nolalovantsika, fa noho ny lalana izay mbola ezahantsika haleha, tsy noho ny maha isika antsika fa noho ilay olona izay katsahintsika hahatongavana.

Izany no tena antom-pisian’ny Fiangonana marin’i Kristy.

## Iray vatana

Raha tia an’ Andriamanitra ianao, raha

better by following His Son, then you belong here. If you're earnestly seeking to keep the Savior's commandments—even though you're not perfect at it yet—then you are a perfect fit for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

And what if you're different from people around you? That doesn't make you a misfit—it makes you a needed part of the body of Christ. All are needed in the body of Christ. The ears perceive things that the eyes never could. The feet do things that the hands would be ineffective at.

That doesn't mean your job is to change everyone to be like yourself. But it does mean that you have something important to contribute—and that you have something important to learn!

## One Voice

In every session of general conference, we're blessed with inspiring music from talented choirs. As you listen, you might notice that the singers don't all sing the same notes. Sometimes one section carries the melody, sometimes another. But they all contribute to the beautiful sound, and they're completely unified. Each choir member has the same central goal: to praise God and lift our hearts to Him. Each must have his or her mind and heart fixed on the same divine purpose. And when that happens, they truly become one voice.

If you are not yet a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, we invite you to join us as we rejoice in the Savior's "song of redeeming love." We need you. We love you. The Church will be better with your efforts to serve the Lord and His children.

If you have already shown, through baptism, through making covenants with God, your desire to "come into the fold of God, and to be called

tianao ny hahafantatra Azy tsara kokoa amin'ny alalan'ny fanarahana ilay Zanakalahiny, dia manana anjara toerana ato ianao izay. Raha mikatsaka marina tokoa ny hitandrina ireo didin'ny Mpamonjy ianao, na dia mbola tsy tonga lafatra aza amin'ny fanaovana izany, dia tena mety aminao tsara Ny Fiangonan'i Jesoa Kristy ho an'ny Olomasin'ny Andro Farany.

Ary ahoana raha tsy mitovy amin'ireo olona manodidina anao ianao? Tsy midika izany fa tsy ilaina ianao, fa mahatonga anao ho rantsana ilaina iray ao amin'ny vatan'i Kristy izany. Ilaina avokoa ny rehetra ao amin'ny vatan'i Kristy. Mahatsapa zavatra ny sofina izay tsy ho tsapan'ny maso mihitsy. Misy zavatra ataon'ny tongotra izay tsy ho vitan'ny tanana mihitsy.

Tsy midika izany fa ny asanao dia ny hanova ny olona tsirairay mba ho tonga tahaka anao. Fa ny tena dikany dia hoe misy zava-dehibe izay andraisanao anjara, ary misy zava-dehibe hianaranao!

## Iray feo

Isaky ny fivorian'ny fihaonambe maneran-tany tsirairay avy dia fitahiana ho antsika ny mahe-no hira mankahery avy amin'ireo amboaram-peo manan-talenta. Rehefa mihaino ianao dia mety hahatsikaritra fa tsy mihira naoty tokana avokoa ny mpihira tsirairay avy. Indraindray dia sampana iray no manana anjara hanao ny feo voalohany, ary indraindray dia sampana hafa. Saingy mandray anjara hanome ilay feo kanto avokoa ny rehetra, ary tena miray hina tanteraka izy ireo. Tanjona tokana no samy ananan'ny mpikambana tsirairay ao amin'ny amboaram-peo: dia ny midera an' Andriamanitra sy mampiravoravo ny fontsika ao Aminy. Mila mampifantoka ny sainy sy ny fony amin'izany tanjona masina iombonana izany ny tsirairay avy. Ary rehefa mitranga izany dia tena lasa iray feo tokoa izy ireo.

Raha mbola tsy mpikambana ato amin' Ny Fiangonan'i Jesoa Kristy ho an'ny Olomasin'ny Andro Farany ianao dia manasa anao izahay hiditra satria dia mifaly ao amin'ny "hiran'ny fitiavana manavotra" izay atolotry ny Mpamonjy izahay. Mila anao izahay. Tianay ianao. Ho tsaratsara kokoa ny Fiangonana raha miaraka amin'ny ezaka hataonao amin'ny fanompoana ny Tompo sy ireo zanany.

Raha toa ka efa nasehonao tamin'ny alalan'ny batisa, tamin'ny alalan'ny fanaovana fanekempihavanana amin' Andriamanitra, ny fanirianao

his people,”thank you for being part of this great and divine work and for helping to make the Church of Jesus Christ what the Savior wants it to be.

As I learned from my friend in Germany, our love for God and His children is a powerful testimony to the world that this is truly the Savior’s Church.

May God bless us to patiently but diligently seek to live up to the ideals our Savior, Redeemer, and Master has set for us—so all will know that we are His disciples. In the sacred name of Jesus Christ, amen.

“ho tonga ao amin’ny valan’ Andriamanitra sy hantsoina hoe vahoakany,”dia misaotra anao mandray anjara amin’ity asa lehibe sy masina ity sy ny fanampiana ny Fiangonan’i Jesoa Kristy ho lasa ilay karazana Fiangonana iriany.

Araka ny zavatra nianarako tamin’ity nama-ko tany Alemana, ny fitiavantsika an’ Andriamanitra sy ireo zanany dia fijoroana ho vavolombelona mahery vaika ho an’izao tontolo izao fa ity marina no Fiangonan’ny Mpamonjy.

Hitahy antsika anie Andriamanitra ny mba hikatsahantsika amim-paharetana kanefa amim-pahazotoana ny hahatratra ireo idealy napetraky ny Mpamonjy sy Mpanavotra antsika ary Tompontsika, mba hahafantaran’ny olona rehetra fa mpianany isika. Amin’ny anarana masin’i Jesoa Kristy, amena.