Malagasy

Participate to Prepare for Christ's Return

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Mandray anjara ho fiomanana amin'ny fiverenan'i Kristy

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Ao amin'ny Fitopololahy

April 2025 general conference

Callings and other ways we embark in God's work uniquely prepare us to meet the Savior.

A few months ago, I was standing in a hall when Elder Neil L. Andersen walked by. I had just been called as a new General Authority. Likely sensing my feelings of inadequacy, he smiled and said, "Well, there looks like a man who has no idea what he is doing."

And I thought, "There is a true prophet and seer."

Elder Andersen then whispered, "Don't worry, Elder Shumway. It gets better—in five or six years."

Have you ever wondered why we are asked to do things in God's kingdom that feel beyond our reach? With life's demands, have you asked why we even need callings in the Church? Well, I have.

And I got an answer in general conference when President Russell M. Nelson said, "Now is the time for you and for me to prepare for the Second Coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ."When President Nelson said this, the Spirit taught me that as we participate in God's work, we prepare ourselves and others for Christ's return. The Lord's promise is compelling that callings, ministering, temple worship, following promptings, and other ways we embark in God's work uniquely prepare us to meet the Savior.

Ny antso sy ireo fomba hafa irotsahantsika hanao ny asan' Andriamanitra dia manomana antsika amin'ny fomba miavaka hihaona amin'ny Mpamonjy.

Volana vitsivitsy lasa izay dia nijoro tao amina efitrano fidirana iray aho raha nandalo ny Loholona Neil L. Andersen. Vao avy nantsoina ho Manampahefana Ambony vaovao aho. Toa ireny hoe tsapany ireny ny fahatsapako ny tsy fahaizako, nitsiky izy sady niteny hoe: "Ohatran'ny misy lehilahy iray tsy mahafantatra mihitsy ny zavatra ataony eto izany."

Dia hoy aho tany an-tsaiko hoe: "Io misy mpaminany sy mpahita tena izy."

Nobitsihan'ny Loholona Andersen aho avy eo hoe: "Aza matahotra ry Loholona Shumway. Fa mihatsara io afaka dimy na enina taona."

Mba efa nanontany tena ve ianareo hoe nahoana isika no angatahina hanao zavatra ao amin'ny fanjakan' Andriamanitra izay toa tsy ho vitantsika? Amin'izao fiainana mitaky zavatra betsaka izao, mba efa nanontany ve ianao hoe nahoana isika no mbola mila antso ihany ato am-piangonana? Izaho aloha efa nanontany e!

Nahazo valiny aho tamin'ny fihaonamben'ny Fiangonana farany teo rehefa nilaza ny Filoha Russell M. Nelson hoe: "Izao no fotoana ho anao sy ho ahy mba hiomanana amin'ny Fiaviana Fanindroany an'ny Tompo sy Mpamonjintsika, Jesoa Kristy."Rehefa niteny an'io ny Filoha Nelson dia nampianatra ahy ny Fanahy fa rehefa mandray anjara amin'ny asan' Andriamanitra isika dia miomana amin'ny fiverenan'i Kristy. Ny fampanantenan'ny Tompo dia maharesy lahatra fa ny antso, ny fanompoana, ny fitsaohana any amin'ny tempoly, ny fanarahana ireo bitsika ary

ireo fomba hafa irotsahantsika amin'ny asan' Andriamanitra dia manomana antsika amin'ny fomba miavaka hihaona amin'ny Mpamonjy.

God Is Pleased When We Engage in His Work

In "the majesty of this moment,"as God's kingdom expands and temples dot the earth, there is a growing need for willing souls to engage in God's work. Selflessly serving is the very essence of Christlike discipleship. But serving is rarely convenient. This is why I admire you covenant-keeping disciples, including our dear missionaries, who set aside your desires and challenges to serve God by serving His children. God "delights to honor [you for serving Him] in righteousness." He promises, "Great shall be [your] reward and eternal shall be [your] glory."When we say yes to serving, we are saying yes to Jesus Christ. And when we say yes to Christ, we are saying yes to the most abundant life possible.

I learned this lesson while working and studying chemical engineering in college. I was asked to be the activities planner for a singles ward. This was my nightmare calling. Still, I accepted, and at first it was drudgery. Then at one activity a beautiful girl was smitten by the way I served the ice cream. She returned three times, hoping to catch my attention. We fell in love, and she proposed to me just two weeks later. Well, maybe it wasn't quite that fast, and I was the one who proposed, but the truth is this: I shudder to think of missing out on Heidi had I said no to that calling.

Faly Andriamanitra rehefa manolo-tena hanao ny asany isika

Amin'"izao fotoana be voninahitra izao,"izay mampiroborobo ny fanjakan' Andriamanitra sy isian'ny tempoly manenika ny tany, dia mitombo ny filana fanahy mazoto hanolo-tena hanao ny asan' Andriamanitra. Ny fanompoana an-kitsimpo no tena fototry ny fanarahan-dia an'i Kristy. Mahalana anefa ny hoe mora ny manompo. Izany indrindra no mahatalanjona ahy aminareo ry mpanara-dia mpitandrina fanekempihavanana, tafiditra amin'izany ireo misionera malalantsika, izay mamela ny fanirianareo sy ny fanamby atrehinareo ka manompo an' Andriamanitra amin'ny alalan'ny fanompoana ireo zanany. "Finaritra ny hankalaza [anao amin'ny fanompoanao Azy] ao amin'ny fahamarinana" Andriamanitra. Nampanantena Izy fa "ho lehibe ny valisoa[nareo] ary ho mandrakizay ny voninahitra[reo]."Rehefa manaiky fanasana hanompo isika dia manaiky an'i Jesoa Kristy. Ary rehefa manaiky an'i Kristy isika, dia manaiky ilay fiainana miroborobo indrindra.

Nianatra izany aho fony niasa sy nianatra ho injeniera momba ny simia tany amin'ny oniversite. Nangatahina aho mba ho mpandrindra fiaraha-mientana tao amin'ny paroasin'ny tanora tokan-tena iray. Nofy ratsy tamiko io antso io. Nanaiky ihany anefa aho, ary tena nandreraka ilay izy tamin'ny voalohany. Nony avy eo anefa nandritra ny fiaraha-mientana iray izay dia nisy tovovavy iray tsara tarehy voasarika tamin'ny fomba nizarako ny gilasy. Niverina in-telo izy nanantena ny hisintona ny fahalianako. Nifankatia izahay ary nangata-bady ahy izy roa herinandro taty aoriana. Eny e, mety hoe tsy haingana be toy izany ilay izy, ary izaho no nangata-bady, fa ny marina dia tsy vitako ny mieritreritra hoe raha nandà io antso io aho dia tsy ho nahita an'i Heidi.

Our Participation Is Preparation for Christ's Return

We engage in God's work not because God needs us but because we need God and His mighty blessings. He promises, "For, behold, I will bless all those who labor in my vineyard with a mighty blessing."Let me share three principles

Ny fiomanantsika dia fiomanana amin'ny fiverenan'i Kristy

Manolo-tena amin'ny asan' Andriamanitra isika tsy hoe noho Andriamanitra mila antsika fa satria mila an' Andriamanitra sy ireo fitahiany isika. Mampanantena Izy hoe: "Fa indro, hotahiako amin'ny fitahiana lehibe ireo rehetra

that teach how our participation in God's work blesses and helps us prepare to meet the Savior.

izay miasa ao amin'ny tanimboliko."Mamelà ahy ianareo hizara fitsipika telo, izay mampianatra ny fomba entin'ny fandraisantsika anjara amin'ny asan' Andriamanitra, mitahy sy manampy antsika hiomana hihaona amin'Ny Mpamonjy.

First, as we participate, we progress toward "the measure of [our] creation."

Voalohany, rehefa mandray anjara amin'ny asan' Andriamanitra isika dia mivoatra mankany amin'ny "tanjona nahariana [antsika]."

We learn this pattern in the account of the Creation. After each day of labor, God acknowledged the progress made by saying, "It was good."He did not say the work was finished nor that it was perfect. But what He did say was that there was progress, and in God's eyes, that is good!

Ianarantsika io lamina io ao amin'ny tantaran'ny Fahariana. Taorian'ny andro tsirairay niasana, Andriamanitra dia niaiky ny fandrosoana vita tamin'ny filazana hoe "tsara izany."Tsy niteny Izy hoe vita na tonga lafatra ny asa. Saingy isan'andro dia nisy fandrosoana, ary amin'ny fijerin' Andriamanitra dia tsara izany!

Callings do not determine or validate a person's worth or worthiness. Rather, as we labor with God in whatever way He asks, we grow into the measure of our own creation.

Ny antso dia tsy mamaritra na manamarina ny lanjan'ny olona iray na ny fahamendrehany. Rehefa miara-miasa amin' Andriamanitra amin'izay fomba rehetra angatahiny antsika kosa isika dia mivoatra mankany amin'ny tanjona nahariana antsika.

God rejoices in our progress, and so should we, even when we still have work to do. At times we may lack the strength or the means to serve in a calling.Still, we can engage in the work and protect our testimonies through meaningful ways like prayer and scripture study. Our loving Heavenly Father does not condemn us when we are willing but unable to serve.

Faly amin'ny fandrosoantsika Andriamanitra, ary dia tokony hanao izany koa isika, na dia mbola manana asa tokony hatao aza isika. Misy fotoana isika mety tsy manana ny hery na ny enti-manana hanompoana amin'ny antso iray. Mbola afaka anefa isika mirotsaka amin'ny asa sy miaro ny fijoroana ho vavolombelona ananantsika amin'ny fomba mahery vaika toy ny vavaka sy ny fandalinana soratra masina. Tsy hanameloka antsika ny Raintsika any An-danitra be fitiavana raha toa ka mazoto hanompo isika kanefa tsy afaka hanatanteraka izany.

Second, serving elevates our homes and churches into holy places where we can practice covenant living.

Faharoa, ny fanompoana dia manandratra ny tokantranontsika sy ny fiangonantsika ho toerana masina izay ahafahantsika miaina ny fanekempihavanana.

For example, our covenant to always remember Christ is made individually, but this covenant is lived as we serve others.Callings surround us with opportunities to "bear … one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."When we serve because we love God and want to live our covenants, service that seems dutiful and draining becomes joyful and transformative.

Ohatra, ilay fanekempihavanana nataontsika mba hahatsiaro an'i Kristy mandrakariva dia ataon'ny isam-batan'olona, saingy rehefa manompo ny hafa isika vao miaina io fanekempihavanana io.Ny antso dia manome antsika fahafahana "hitondra … ny enta-mavesatry ny tsirairay, ka manatanteraka ny lalàn'i Kristy."Rehefa manompo isika noho ny fitiavantsika an' Andriamanitra sy maniry ny hiaina ireo fanekempihavanana nataontsika, dia lasa hafaliana sy mitondra fiovana ny fanompoana izay noraisina ho adidy sy nandreraka teo aloha.

Ordinances don't save us because they fulfill a heavenly checklist. Rather, when we live the covenants connected with these ordinances, we

Tsy manavotra antsika akory ireo ôrdônansy satria manatanteraka lisitra ana zavatra tokony hatao avy any an-danitra fotsiny ireny. Rehe-

become the kind of person who wants to be in God's presence. This understanding overcomes hesitations to serve or preferences not to serve. Our preparation to meet Jesus Christ accelerates when we stop asking what God will permit and start asking what God would prefer.

fa miaina ireo fanekempihavanana mifandray amin'ireo ôrdônansy ireo kosa isika dia lasa ilay karazan'olona te ho eo anatrehan' Andriamanitra. Io fahatakarana io dia mandresy ny fisalasalana hanompo na ny safidy tsy hanompo. Mihafaingana ny fiomanantsika hihaona amin'i Kristy rehefa mitsahatra manontany izay ho eken' Andriamanitra isika ka manomboka manontany izay tian' Andriamanitra kosa.

Third, participating in God's work helps us receive God's gift of grace and feel His greater love.

Fahatelo, ny fandraisana anjara amin'ny asan' Andriamanitra dia manampy antsika handray ny fanomezam-pahasoavana avy Aminy sy hahatsapa ny fitiavany lehibe.

We do not receive financial compensation for serving. Instead, scripture teaches that for our "labor [we are] to receive the grace of God, that [we] might wax strong in the Spirit, [have] the knowledge of God, [and] teach with power and authority from God."That is a very good trade!

Tsy mahazo tambiny ara-bola isika rehefa manompo. Mampianatra antsika kosa ny soratra masina fa noho "ny [asantsika], dia handray ny fahasoavan' Andriamanitra [isika] ka hihamatanjaka ara-panahy, manana ny fahalalana an' Andriamanitra [ary] mampianatra amin-kery sy ny fahefana avy amin' Andriamanitra."Takalo tena tsara izany!

Because of God's grace, our abilities or inabilities are not the principal basis for extending or accepting a calling. God does not expect perfect performance or exceptional talent to participate in His work. If so, Queen Esther would not have saved her nation, Peter would not have led the early Church, and Joseph Smith would not be the Prophet of the Restoration.

Noho ny fahasoavan' Andriamanitra dia tsy ny fahafahantsika na ny tsy fahafahantsika no fototry ny fanomezana na ny fanekentsika antso iray. Tsy mitaky fahaizana tonga lafatra na talenta miavaka Andriamanitra mba handraisana anjara amin'ny asany. Raha tsy izany dia tsy ho avotry ny Mpanjakavavy Estera ny fireneny, tsy ho nitarika ny Fiangonana tany am-boalohany i Petera, ary tsy ho mpaminanin'ny Famerenana amin'ny laoniny i Joseph Smith.

As we act in faith to do something beyond our abilities, our weakness is exposed. This is never comfortable, but it is necessary for us to "know that it is by [God's] grace … that we have power to do these things."

Rehefa mampihatra finoana isika mba hanaovana zavatra mihoatra ny fahafaha-manao ananantsika, dia hiseho ny fahalementsika. Tsy mampahazo aina velively izany, saingy ilaintsika ny "[hahalalana] fa noho ny fahasoavan[' Andriamanitra] … no ananantsika fahefana hanao ireny zavatra ireny."

We will fall many times as we engage in God's work. But in our effort, Jesus Christ catches us. He gradually lifts us to experience salvation from failure and fear and from feeling like we will never be enough.When we consecrate our meager but best effort, God magnifies it.When we sacrifice for Jesus Christ, He sanctifies us.This is the transformative power of God's grace. As we serve, we grow in grace until we are prepared to "be lifted up by the Father, to stand before [Jesus Christ]."

Ho lavo matetika isika rehefa manolo-tena amin'ny asan' Andriamanitra. Noho ny ezaka ataontsika anefa dia ho eo hatrany Jesoa Kristy hitaty antsika. Hampitsangana antsika tsikelikely Izy mba hananantsika traikefa momba ny famonjena noho ny tsy fahombiazana sy ny tahotra ary ny fahatsapana ho toy ny tsy hahavita azy mihitsy.Ampitomboin' Andriamanitra ny ezaka tsara vitantsika na dia kely monja aza.Amasininy isika rehefa manolo-tena ho an'i Jesoa Kristy.Izany no hery manova entin'ny fahasoavan' Andriamanitra. Rehefa manompo isika, dia mitombo ao amin'ny fahasoavan' Andriamanitra mandrapahavonona antsika ka "hanandratan'ny Ray

[antsika] hijoro eo anoloa[n'i Jesoa Kristy]."

Help Others Receive and Rejoice in the Gift of Callings

I do not know all the Savior will ask me when I stand before Him, but perhaps one question will be "Who did you bring with you?"- Callings are sacred gifts from a loving Heavenly Father to help bring others with us to Jesus Christ.So I invite leaders and each of us to more intentionally seek those without callings. Encourage and help them engage in God's work to help them prepare for Christ's return.

John was not active in the Church when his bishop visited and told him that the Lord had a work for him to do. He invited John to quit smoking. Although John had tried many times to stop, this time he felt an unseen power helping him.

Just three weeks later, the stake president visited John. He called him to serve in the bishopric. John was shocked. He told the stake president he had just quit smoking. If this meant he would have to abandon his tradition of attending professional football games on Sunday, well, that was just too much to ask. The stake president's inspired response was simple: "John, I am not asking you; the Lord is."

To which John replied, "Well, if that is the case, I will serve."

John told me that these sacrifices to serve were the spiritual turning points for him and for his family.

I wonder if we have a blind spot, failing to extend callings to individuals who, to our mortal view, appear unlikely or unworthy. Or we may be more concerned with a culture of performance than with the doctrine of progression, neglecting to see how the Savior increases capacity in the unlikely and the unproven by giving them opportunities to serve.

Manampy ny hafa handray sy hifaly ao amin'ny fanomezampahasoavan'ny antso

Tsy fantatro izay rehetra hanontanian'ny Mpamonjy ahy rehefa mijoro eo anatrehany aho, fa mety ho fanontaniana iray ny hoe: "Iza no nentinao niaraka taminao?"Ny antso dia fanomezam-pahasoavana masina avy amin'ny Ray any An-danitra be fitiavana mba hanampy amin'ny fitondrana ny hafa miaraka amintsika hanatona an'i Kristy.Koa manasa ny mpitarika aho sy ny tsirairay avy amintsika mba hikatsaka am-pavitrihana ireo izay tsy manana antso. Amporisiho sy ampio izy ireo mba hanolo-tena hanao ny asan' Andriamanitra satria manampy azy ireo hiomana amin'ny fiverenan'i Kristy izany.

Tsy navitrika tao am-piangonana i John raha namangy azy ny evekany ka nilaza taminy fa nanana asa hampanaovina azy ny Tompo. Nanasa an'i John mba hiala amin'ny fifohana sigara izy. Na dia efa niezaka imbetsaka aza i John mba hijanona dia nahatsapa hery tsy hita maso nanampy azy izy tamin'ity indray mitoraka ity.

Nitsidika an'i John ny filohan'ny tsatòka, telo herinandro taty aoriana. Niantso azy mba hanompo ao amin'ny episkôpà izy. Taitra i John. Nilaza tamin'ny filohan'ny tsatòka izy fa vao avy niala tamin'ny sigara. Raha toa izany ka midika ny tsy maintsy hijanonany amin' ny fanaony, izay manatrika lalao baolina kitra matihanina isak' alahady, dia toa fangatahana tafahoatra loatra izany. Tsotra ny valinteny nentanim-panahy nomen'ilay filohan'ny tsatòka: "John, tsy izaho no mangataka anao, fa ny Tompo."

Izay novalian'i John hoe: "Raha izany ary no izy dia hanompo aho."

Nilaza tamiko i John fa ireo fanoloran-tena ireo no kihon-dalana ara-panahy ho azy sy ny fianakaviany.

Manontany tena aho raha toa ka jambena isika indraindray ka tsy manome antso an'ireo olona izay, noho ny fijery maha olombelona dia toa heverintsika ho tsy mahay na tsy mendrika. Na mety mifantoka bebe kokoa ny amin'ny resaka fahaiza-manao isika fa tsy ny fotopampianaran'ny fivoarana, ka tsy mahita ny fomba fampitomboan'ny Mpamonjy ny fahafaha-manao ananan'ireo izay tsy mahavita sy ny tsy voamarina amin'ny alalan'ny fanomezana azy ireo ny fahafahana hanompo.

Elder David A. Bednar teaches the importance of the scriptural mandate to "letevery [woman and] manlearn[their] duty, and to act."Do we do this? When leaders and parents let others learn and act for themselves, they blossom and flourish.While the easier path may be to give faithful members a second calling, the more excellent way is to invite the unlikely to serve and let them learn and grow.

Ny Loholona David A. Bednar dia mampianatra ny maha zava-dehibe ilay didy ao amin'ny soratra masina hoe "aokany olona tsirairayhianatrany andraikiny ary hiasa."Manao izany ve isika? Rehefa mamela ny hafa hianatra sy hanao zavatra avy amin'ny tenany manokana ny mpitarika sy ny ray aman-dreny, dia mamony sy mamelana izy ireo.Mety ho fomba mora ny fanomezana antso faharoa ho an'ireo mpikambana mahatoky, fa ny fomba tena tsara dia ny fiantsoana ireo tsy dia atokisana loatra hanompo sy hianatra ary hivoatra.

If Christ were physically here, He would visit the sick, teach the Sunday School class, sit with the heartbroken young woman, and bless the children. He can do His own work.But He lives this principle of letting us act and learn, so He sends us in His place.

Raha teto mivantana i Kristy dia hamangy ny marary Izy, hampianatra ny kilasin'ny Sekoly Alahady, hipetraka miaraka amin'ireo zatovovavy torotoro fo, ary hitsodrano ireo ankizy. Vitany irery ny asany.Saingy miaina io fitsipiky ny famelana antsika hianatra io Izy, ka izay no hanirahany antsika ho eo amin'ny toerany.

With participation in God's work comes "the right, privilege, and responsibility to represent the Lord [Jesus Christ]."When we serve to magnify Christ and not ourselves,our service becomes joyful. When others leave our class, meeting, ministering visit, or activity remembering Christ more than they remember us, the work is energizing.

Miaraka amin'ny fandraisana anjara hanao ny asan' Andriamanitra "ny zo sy tombontsoa ary andraikitra mba hisolo tena ny Tompo."Rehefa manompo isika mba haneni-boninahitra an'i Kristy fa tsy ny tenantsika akory,dia lasa mitondra hafaliana ny fanompoana. Mampatanjaka ny asa rehefa ny hafa no mandao ny kilasy nampianarantsika, na ny fivoriantsika, na ny fitsidiham-panompoana, na ny fiaraha-mientana ataontsika, ka mahatsiaro bebe kokoa an'i Kristy noho ny fahatsiarovany antsika.

In earnestly seeking to represent the Savior, we become more like Him.That is the best preparation for the sacred moment when each of us will kneel and confess that Jesus is the Christ, which I witness that He is and that President Russell M. Nelson is His "voice … unto the ends of the earth" to help us "prepare … for that which is to come."In the sacred name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Rehefa mikatsaka marina tokoa ny hisolo-tena Ny Mpamonjy isika, dia lasa tahaka Azy bebe kokoa.Izany no fiomanana tsara indrindra ho an'ilay fotoana masina izay handohalihantsika tsirairay avy sy hanekentsika fa i Jesoa no Kristy, izay ijoroako ho vavolombelona fa Izy tokoa no Izy, ary ny Filoha Russell M. Nelson no "[feony izay] mandeha hatrany am-paran'ny tany" mba hanampiana antsika "[hiomana] … ho amin'izay ho avy."Amin'ny anarana masin'i Jesoa Kristy, amena.