

Right Before Our Eyes

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I Luma Tonu o o Tatou Mata

Saunia e Elder Ronald A. Rasband
O Le Korama a Aposetolo e Toasefululua

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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.

Ua tuputupu aʻe Le Ekalesia a Iesu Keriso o le Au Paia o Aso e Gata Ai i ona tagata auai ma aiga, misiona ma faifeautalai, falelotu ma malumalu.

Uso e ma tuafafine, ou te matuai faafetai lava i lo tatou faatasi ai. Matou te alolofa ia te outou; matou te faafetai mo outou, ma matou te lagona le faamanuiaina i a outou tatalo.

Na saunoa Peresitene Russell M. Nelson i le tatou konafesi na sei mavae atu: “Pe o tatou vaai ea i mea o loo tutupu tonu i o tatou luma? Ou te tatalo ina ia tatou lē misia le mamalu o lenei taimi! O loo faanatinati moni e le Alii Lana galuega.”

Faanatinati Lana galuega. O le “faanatinati” o se upu e afaina. E fautuaina ai le minoi vave, saoasaoa, ma faapea foi le topetope. I le tuputupu aʻe o le Ekalesia ma le fuafuaga a Keriso, ua faapea ona tupu ai le faanatinati. Ma o i tatou uma o se vaega o lea mea.

Ia Aperila 1834, i Katelani, Ohaio, sa faapotopoto ai e le Perofeta o Iosefa Samita i latou uma na umia le perisitua i se tamaʻi faleaoga, pe a ma le 14 futu (4.3 m) faatafafa. E mafai ona ofi na faleaoga se tele i totonu o le nofoaga autu mo konafesi, ae i ai lava isi avanoa. Na saunoa ai Iosefa Samita, “Ua na o ni nai Perisitua o loo outou vaai atu i ai iinei i lenei po, ae o lenei Ekalesia o le a faatumulia ai Amerika i Matu ma Saute—o le a faatumulia ai le lalolagi.”

Ua faataunuuina lena valoaga “i luma tonu o o tatou mata.” Ua tuputupu aʻe Le Ekalesia a Iesu Keriso o le Au Paia o Aso e Gata Ai i ona tagata auai ma aiga, misiona ma faifeautalai, falelotu, ma malumalu, ma i le lesitala i a tatou seminare, inisitituti, ma iunivesite i le salafa atoa o le lalolagi.

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 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

Tatou te faafetai i lo tatou i ai i le lalolagi i se taimi ua faateleina ai le Ekalesia i fuainumera ma faatosinaga, ae o le mea aupito taua, i loto ma olaga o ona tagata auai. Ua ta’ua i tatou o soo o Iesu Keriso. Tatou te faasoa atu a tatou molimau e uiga ia te Ia, Lana Ekalesia, Ona ala, ma Lana ala o le feagaiga. O i tatou o Lona nuu, ma o Ia o lo tatou Faaola.

Ou te maofa i le mea ua ta’ua e Peresitene Nelson o le “mamalu o lenei taimi” ma faailoa atu le agaga faafetai loloto i le Alii mo Lana galuega. Ou te faamalosia atu ia i tatou ia tutu maua luga o ni Ona soo, molimau vaaitino i le faataunuuga o le valoaga i aso anamua ma aso nei.

E i ai le au faitio o e o loo alalaga mai, “Faauta o iinei!” ma “Faauta o iina!” e pei lava ona sa latou faia i taimi o le Perofeta o Iosefa Samita. E ui i lea, o i latou ma o le a avea na o ni vaefaa-matalaga i lenei galuega mamalu. Manatua upu a Iosefa Samita: “E leai se lima palapala e mafai ona taofia le galuega mai le agai atu i luma; e mafai ona matamataita sauaga, ... ae o le a agai pea i luma ma le le fefe le upumoni a le Atua, e viia, ma tutoatasi, seia oo atu i konetineti uma, ma asia itulagi uma, faatumulia ai atunuu uma, ma lagona e taliga uma, seia oo ina faataunuaina faamoemoega o le Atua, ma fetalai mai ai le Ieova Silisili ua mae’a le galuega.”

I o’u tofiga i lenei tausaga, ua ou molimauina ai le “faanatinatia [e le Alii] o Lana galuega. Ua fausia e le Ekalesia ia malumalu i se televave e le’i i ai muamua, ua tuu atu ai i le toatele o au paia se avanoa e tapuai ai i le maota o le Alii. Lona lua, ua aumaia e le galuega faafeautalai ni fuainumera matātī’a i le lafu a le Leoleo Mamoe Lelei, o Iesu Keriso lea. Ma lona tolu, o aoga a le Ekalesia i le tele o auala eseese o se tulaga maua luga fou i le aoaoina o latou o e “saili i lenei Iesu.”

O le asō, ua i ai i le Ekalesia malumalu e 367 i tulaga eseese o loo mamauina, fausiaina, pe ua faagaioia. Ma o le a le faamoemoega? O le tali o loo folafolaina mai i luga o malumalu taitasi: “E Paia i le Alii.” O malumalu ua matala ai le auala i faamanuiaga aupito maua luga o loo i ai a le Tama oi le Lagi mo i tatou taitoatasi. Uso e ma tuafafine, ua tatou faanatinatia lo tatou paia a o tatou ola agavaa mo le malumalu, a o tatou tapuai i totonu o le maota o le Alii, ma a o tatou osi feagaiga ma le Atua mo i tatou lava ma e fai ma sui o o tatou augatuaa o i le isi itu o le veli.

Na saunoa Peresitene Nelson: “O sauaga a le fili ua matuā faateleina na’ua le saosaoa, le

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.

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

malolosi ma le eseese. O le manaomia ona tatou i ai i le malumalu e le aunoa ua matuā sili ona manaomia i le taimi nei. Ou te aioi atu ia te outou ia tagai ma le agaga tatalo pe o faapefea ona faaalu lou taimi.” I totonu o Lona maota, e mafai ona tatou lagona ai le mafutaga paia a le Alii ma le filemu faalelagi.

O le tausaga ua tuanai atu, sa faamanuiaina ai a’u e pulefaamalumalu i le faapaiaga o le Malumalu o Mendoza Atenitina. I la’u savali, sa ou ta’ua ai le valoaga a Elder Melvin J. Ballard i le 1926 e faapea, o le galuega a le Alii o le a tuputupu a’e malie mo se taimi i Amerika i Saute, “e pei lava o le tupu malie ae o se oak mai se akone. O le a e maena ae i se aso e tasi,” ae e faitau afe o le a auai i le Ekalesia ma o le a avea ai atunuu i Amerika i Saute ma “se malosia i le Ekalesia.” Ua ou vaaia le faataunuaina o lena valoaga i luma tonu o o’u mata.

O Mendoza, sa o se tamai akone, ua avea nei ma se oak malosia. O lena tuputupu a’e ua tupu faafia i le salafa o konetineti ma motu o le moana.

Ua tatou vaaia le faanatinatiina e le Alii o Lana galuega i misiona. I le 2024, e 80,000 faifeautalai sa auauna atu i misiona e 450. O le tolusefulu ono o na misiona o ni misiona fou. O le tausaga ua tuanai atu, na aumaia ai e le galuega faaifeautalai le silia ma le 300,000 o tagata fou i totonu o le Ekalesia. E sili atu nai lo o fuainumera, o le agaga o le faapotopotoina ua aumaia ai agaga ia Iesu Keriso ma Lana talalelei.

Ou te mafaufau i Aposetolo o Polika Iaga ma Heber C. Kimball, o e i le 1839 na o atu ai o ni faifeautalai i Motu o Peretania. Sa gasegase i la’ua; sa la tuua o la aiga na mama’i ma pagatia. Ae ui i lea, na tulioso lena toalua i totonu o se taavale solofanua, ma a o la iloa atu pea i latou na pele ia i la’ua, sa fai atu Heber, “Ta tutu i luga ma faalototele atu ia i latou.” Sa taumafai ma le faigata le toalua e tutu i luga ma alalaga atu, “Hurei, hurei mo Isaraelu.”

Sa ou vaaia lena naunautai e tasi mo le galuega a le Alii i Lima, Peru, ina ua ou feiloai i faifeautalai mai le nofoaga autu e aoao ai faifeautalai ma misiona i Lima. Oka sea vaaiga! Sa ou vaaia le faanatinatiina i luma tonu o o’u mata. Ua fitu nei misiona i le aai o Lima lava ia.

I le faaiuga o le matou feiloaiga, sa faia e faifeautalai se faate’i faapitoa mo a’u. Sa latou tutulai ma alalaga, “Hurei mo Isaraelu.” O le a le galo lava ia te a’u lena taimi; maimau pe ana

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.”

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 seminar-

outou i ai uma iina. I luma tonu o o’u mata sa i ai faifeautalai o e na faataatia ese “mea o lenei lalolagi” ina ia auauna atu i le Alii ma fesoasoani e faanatinati Lona afio mai.

Ua tatou vaaia le faanatinatiina e le Alii o avanoa faaleaoaoga mo o tatou tagata, faapea foi ma tagata e le auai i le tatou faatuatuaga, i le lalolagi atoa. O se tasi o mea e tumatila ai i tatou o se Ekalesia o la tatou faamamafa i aoaoga. Na poloai mai le Alii i aso popofou o le Toefuataiga ina ia “saili i le aoao e faapea foi i le suesue ma le faatuatua.” O loo tupu lena mea i aso nei, ma ua alagata ai se “hurei” leotele.

O le taimi nei ua silia i le 800,000 tagata aoga i le lalolagi atoa ua lesitalaina i le seminare ma le inisitituti, o le fuainumera aupito maua luga lea i le talafaasolopito o le Ekalesia. E faapotopoto a tatou talavou i ni auala eseese, mai vasega i le taeao po, i le aoauli, ma le afiafi i luga o le initoneti, ma i suesuega e fai i le fale. O i latou o se autau malolosi ma amiotonu, e maua mai le malosiaga mai le tasi ma le isi a o latou aoao e uiga ia Iesu Keriso, mulimuli, ma molimau atu e uiga ia te Ia o le Alo o le Atua.

O le tautoulu ua mavae atu, sa ou lauga ai i se faigalotu i se nofoaga sa tumu i tagata aoga seminare ma le inisitituti ma o latou matua i le Iunivesite o Iuta. Na tele se mea na ta’u mai e lo latou auai ai e uiga i lo latou mananao e iloa ma mulimuli ia Iesu Keriso. Sa manino lava la’u savali i na tagata aoga: Tuu atu se taimi tutusa i le Alii. Sa ou fautuaina i latou ia faapaleni a latou suesuega ma aoaoga moni, ma maua luga atu, o se suesuega lea e uiga i le “Alo soifua o le Atua.”

O lena lava foi la’u talosaga i tagata uma i le aso: O a lava mea o loo i lau lisi o mea e fai, ia tuu se taimi tutusa, ae le o se taimi avanoa, i le Alii i suesuega faaletagata lava ia o tusitusiga paia, suesuega faaleaiga o le Sau, Mulimuli Mai ia te A’u, tatalo, valaauga o le Ekalesia, aai ma feinu i le faamanatuga, tapuai i le malumalu, ma mafau fau loloto i mea a le Atua. Ua fetalai mai lo tatou Alii ma le Faaola, “Ia outou faa’oa’o ia te au, ... ona maua lea e outou o le malologa mo outou aga- ga.” Talitonu i Lana fetalaiaga. Ma tuu atu se taimi tutusa ia te Ia.

Na saunoa Peresitene Nelson: “Ou te aioi atu ia te outou ia faamuamua le Atua i lou olaga. Avatu ia te Ia se vaega talafeagai o lou taimi. A e faia, ia matau le mea e tupu i lou malosiaga lelei faaleagaga.”

Ua tatou vaaia le tuputupu a’e o lena malo-

ies, 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 attacks. 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

siaga i seminare, inisitituti, ma iunivesite a le Ekalesia. I totonu o nei siosiomaga, e faamuamua lava le Alii. E tatau foi la ona faamuamua o Ia i olaga o i tatou taitoatasi.

O le isi itu ua faaalua ai le tuputupu a’e faateleina o aoga a le Ekalesia o le BYU-Pathway Worldwide. I le salafa o le lalolagi, ua toeitiiti oo i le 75,000 le au lesitala ma o loo faaauau pea le televave o le tuputupu a’e. O le toatele lava o tagata o le ekalesia, ma e silia ma le tasi vae tolu o loo i Aferika. O le Pathway, e faataua uma lava i le mauaina o aoga. O le faamae’aina o le kosi o lona uiga o le maua o se galuega, ma o le maua o se galuega o lona uiga o se olaga lelei atu mo aiga ma avanoa e tele atu e auauna ai i le Alii.

A o matou feiloai ma taitai o siteki i Uganda, sa ou iloa ai na lesitala le au peresitene uma o le siteki i le BYU-Pathway. O le tele o lo tatou saunia faaletino ma faaleagaga, o le tele foi lea o le mafai ona tatou taofia o osofaiga taulamalama a le fili. Manatua upu a Peteru, “O le tiapolo lea, o loo fealualuai o ia e pei o se leona tagi, ua saili se tasi e ‘aina e ia.”

Ua ou vaai i le ogatotonu o tala fiafia e uiga i le talalelei, o loo i ai i latou o e o tauivi, o e o loo luitauina faatuatua, masalosalo, ma fesili ia e foliga mai e leai ni tali. Uso e ma tuafafine, o Iesu Keriso o le tali lea. Amata ia te Ia. Vaavaai mo Lona aao i lou olaga. Faalogo ia te Ia. “Aua le atuavale o outou loto,” na Ia fetalai atu ai i Ona itula faai i Ona soo a o lumanai Ketesemane, a o lei amoina Lona satauro e ui atu i auala o Ierusalem, a o lumanai Kolokota, lea sa Ia faamae’aina ai Lana taulaga togioa—i le mea e na o Ia lava, le Alo e Toatasi na Fanaua o le Atua, na mafai ona faia.

Ia iloa e malamalama o Ia. Na Ia tauaveina i Ona lava luga a tatou agasala uma, measese, faanoanoaga, ma aso sili ona leaga, ina ia mafai ona tatou toe mafuta faatasi i le faavavau ma lo tatou Tama o i le Lagi. Sa Ia fetalai, “Vaai mai ia te a’u i mafauauga uma; aua le masalosalo, aua le fefe.” O le faatuatua ia Iesu Keriso e mafai ona siitia a’e oe i lugama faamalolo ai lou agaga ua faamanualia. Faatuatua ia te Ia ma o le a e faanatinatia lou toe-foi atu “i aao o Lona alofa.”

Ou te toe faamamafa atu le saunoaga a le tatou perofeta soifua: “O tatou vaai ea i mea o loo tutupui luma tonu o o outou mata? Ou te tatalo ina ia tatou lē misia le mamalu o lena taimi! Ua faanatinati e le Alii Lana galuega.” Talosia i le avea ai o i tatou ma soo o o tatou aso ia alalaga atu,

of our Lord and Savior. In the name of Jesus
Christ, amen.

“Hurei mo Isaraelu,” a o tatou sauniuni mo le
toefoi mai o lo tatou Alii ma le Faaola. I le suafa
o Iesu Keriso, amene.