

Thou Art the Christ

By Sister Amy A. Wright

First Counselor in the Primary General Presidency

O Oe o le Keriso

Saunia e Sister Amy A. Wright

Fesoasoani Muamua i le Au Peresitene Aoao o le Peraimeri

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We want our children to believe in Jesus Christ, belong to Jesus Christ and His Church through covenant, and strive to become like Jesus Christ.

When our son Eli was in fourth grade, his class set up a mock government where he was elected by his peers to serve as class judge. One day a sitting judge from the Utah Second District Court visited, put his official robes on Eli, and then administered an oath of office for their class. This ignited in Eli's young, impressionable soul a passion for studying law and the Lawgiver Himself, Jesus Christ.

After years of diligent effort, Eli received an invitation for an interview with one of his top choices for law school. He pronounced, "Mom, I was asked 10 questions. The final question was, 'Where do you derive your moral compass?' I stated that throughout history humankind has derived systems of morality by patterning their lives from archetypes. The archetype of morality I strive to pattern my life from is that of Jesus Christ. I stated if all of humanity abided by the teachings of Jesus Christ in the Sermon on the Mount, the world would be a better, more peaceful place." Then the interview ended, and he thought to himself, "There go my childhood dreams. No one in secular academia wants to hear about Jesus Christ."

Two weeks later, Eli was admitted with a scholarship. Before committing, we visited the campus. The law school looked like a castle and was set high on a hill overlooking a beautiful lake. Remarkably, as we walked through the mag-

Tatou te mananao i a tatou fanau ia talitonu ia Iesu Keriso, avea ma ni ō o Iesu Keriso ma Lana Ekalesia e ala i feagaiga, ma finafinau ia avea faapei o Iesu Keriso.

Ina ua i le vasega fa lo ma atalii o Eli, sa faa-tuina e lana vasega se faigamalo faafoliga, lea na filifilia ai o ia e ana uo e avea ma faamasino o le vasega. I se tasi aso, sa asiasi atu ai se faamasino moni mai le Faamasinoga o le Itumalo Lona Lua a Iuta, ma tuu ana toniga faafaamasino i luga o Eli, ona faatautaia lea o se faatautoga o le tofi mo la latou vasega. O lea mea na faamumūina ai ia Eli laitiiti se faanaunauga e suesue i le tulafono, ma le Faitulafono Lava Ia, o Iesu Keriso.

I le mavae ai o tausaga o ni taumafaiga filiga, sa maua ai e Eli se valaaulia mo se faatalanoaga i se tasi o ana filifiliga pito i luga mo le aoga faaloia. Sa ia fai mai, "Mama, e 10 fesili na fai mai ia te au. O le fesili faaiu o le, 'O fea e faapogai ai le tapasa o lou tamali'iaga?' Sa ou ta'ua e faapea, i le talafaasolopito atoa sa faapogai ai e le tagata soifua faiga o le tamali'iaga e ala i le mamanuina o o latou olaga mai olaga o isi. O le faataitaiga o le tamali'iaga ua ou taumafai e mamanu mai ai lo'u olaga o Iesu Keriso. Sa ou fai atu afai e ola tagata uma i aoaoga a Iesu Keriso i le Lauga i luga o le Mauga, o le a sili ona lelei ma toafilemu le lalolagi." Ona uma ai lea o le faatalanoaga, ma sa ia mafaufau ifo ia te ia lava, "Ia ua uma ai foi a'u miti faatamaitiiti. E leai se tasi o le poto salalau e manao e faalogo e uiga ia Iesu Keriso.

Lua vaiaso mulimuli ane, ae taliaina ai Eli ma sa maua se sikolasipi. A o le'i tuuto atu i ai, sa matou asiasi i le lotoa. Sa foliga mai le aoga faaloia o se maota tele ma sa tu i luga o se mau-puepue e iloa atu ai se vaituloto matagofie. O se

nificent library and stately corridors, we found on banners and carved in stone attributes from the Sermon on the Mount.

The Sermon on the Mount is decisively the most noteworthy discourse ever delivered, pioneering in its teachings. No other sermon can help us better understand the character of Jesus Christ, His divine attributes, and our ultimate purpose to become like Him.

Lifelong discipleship of Jesus Christ begins in our homes—and in Primary as early as 18 months of age. We want our children to believe in Jesus Christ, belong to Jesus Christ and His Church through covenant, and strive to become like Jesus Christ.

Believe in Jesus Christ

First, believe in Jesus Christ.

After the bread of life sermon, “many of [the Lord’s] disciples” found it hard to accept His teachings and doctrine, and they “went back, and walked no more with him.” Jesus then turned to the Twelve and asked a heart-wrenching question: “Will ye also go away?”

Peter responded:

“Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

“... We believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.”

As Peter demonstrated, belief is “to have faith in someone or to accept something as true.” And for our faith to lead to salvation, it must be centered in the Lord Jesus Christ. “We ... exercise faith in [Jesus] Christ when we have an assurance that He exists, [an understanding] of His [true] character [and nature], and a knowledge that we are striving to live according to His will.”

Our beloved prophet, President Russell M. Nelson, declared, “Faith in Jesus Christ is the foundation of all belief and the conduit of divine power.”

How can we help children strengthen their belief in Jesus Christ and access His divine power? We need to look no further than to our Savior Himself.

“[The Lord] spake unto the people, saying:

“Behold, I am Jesus Christ. ...

mea ofoofogia, a o matou savavali e ui atu i le faletusi maoae ma alasavali malualii, sa matou vaaia ai i luga o fu’a ma ma’a o loo vaneina ai uiga paia mai le Lauga i luga o le Mauga.

O le Lauga i luga o le Maugao le lauga ua mautinoa lava e aupito sili ona maoa’e ua fofogaina, na faataimua i ana aoaoga. E leai se isi lauga e mafai ona fesoasoani tatou te malamalama lelei ai i le tamalii o Iesu Keriso, Ona uiga paia, ma lo tatou faamoemoega laualuga e avea faapei o Ia.

O le avea ai ma soo o Iesu Keriso i le olaga atoa e amata i o tatou aiga—ma i le Peraimeri i le vave o le 18 masina le matua. Tatou te mananao i a tatou fanau iatalitonuia Iesu Keriso, avea ma ni ōo Iesu Keriso ma Lana Ekalesia e ala i feagaiga, ma finafinau ia aveafaapei o Iesu Keriso.

Talitonu ia Iesu Keriso

Muamua, talitonu ia Iesu Keriso.

Ina ua mae’a le lauga i le areto o le ola, o “isi soo e toatele [o le Alii]” ua faigata ona taliaina Ana aoaoga ma le aoaoga faavae, ma sa latou “o ese ... i tua, a e lei toe feoai i latou ma ia.” Ona faliu atu lea o Iesu i le Toasefululua ma fai atu se fesili faaootia-loto, “Pe tou te fia o ese foi?”

Sa tali atu Peteru:

“Le Alii e, a matou o ea ia te ai? O ia te oe upu o le ola e faavavau.

“... Ua matou talitonu, ma ua matou iloa o oe o le Keriso, o le Alo o le Atua soifua.”

E pei ona faaalua e Peteru, o le talitonuga o le “faatuatua lea i se tasi pe taliaina se mea faapea e moni.” Ma ina ia mafai ona taitai atu e lo tatou faatuatua i le faaolataga, e tatau ona totonu-galemu i le Alii o Iesu Keriso. “Tatou te faaalua le faatuatua ia [Iesu] Keriso, pe a tatou maua le faamautinoaga o loo i ai o Ia, [o se malamalama] i Lona uiga ma le [natura moni], ma se iloa o loo tatou finafinau e ola e tusa ai ma Lona finagalo.”

Na tautino mai e lo tatou perofeta pele, o Peresitene Russell M. Nelson, “O le faatuatua ia Iesu Keriso o le faavae lea o talitonuga uma ma le alātafe o le mana faalelagi.”

E mafai faapefea ona tatou fesoasoani i fanau e faamalolosia lo latou talitonuga ia Iesu Keriso ma maua ai Lona mana paia? E le toe manaomia ona tatou toe sailia se isi mea nai lo tatou Faaola lava Ia.

“[Na fetalai mai le Alii] i tagata ma faapea mai:

“Faauta, o Au o Iesu Keriso, ...

“Arise and come forth. ...

“... The multitude went forth, and thrust their hands into his side, and did feel the prints of the nails in his hands and in his feet; and this they did do, going forth one by one ... and did see with their eyes and did feel with their hands, and did know of a surety and did bear record, that it was he.”

I invite you to ponder what this can look like in the life of young children. Do they heartestimonies of Jesus Christ and His gospel? Do they see reverential, worshipful images of His ministry and godhood? Do they feel and recognize the Holy Ghost testifying of His reality and divinity? Do they know of His message and mission?

Belong to Jesus Christ and His Church

Second, belong to Jesus Christ and His Church.

King Benjamin’s people experienced a mighty change of heart and by covenant dedicated their lives to doing God’s will. Because of the covenant they made with God and Jesus Christ, they were “called the children of Christ, his sons, and his daughters.” As members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, we have a covenantal responsibility to build His kingdom and prepare for His return.

How can we help children make and keep sacred covenants? In the Come, Follow Me manual, in appendix A and B, we find conversation starters and lessons that will empower families and support teachers and leaders in their sacred responsibility to prepare children for a lifetime on God’s covenant path.

Become like Jesus Christ

Third, become like Jesus Christ.

In the Book of Mormon, the Savior admonished His newly called disciples to emulate Him as closely as possible: “What manner of men ought ye to be? Verily I say unto you, even as I am.”

How can we help baptized and confirmed children fulfill their covenantal responsibility to gather themselves and others unto Jesus Christ? Lifelong discipleship requires us to “be ... doers of the word, and not hearers only.”

“Tutulai ma o mai. ...

“... Ma sa oo ina o atu le motu o tagata i luma, ma tuu atu o latou lima i lona itu, ma latou tagotago i tulaga o fao i ona lima ma ona vae; ma sa latou faia lenei mea, i le o atu i luma taitoatasi ... avaaia o latou mata matago atuma o latou lima, mailo amautinoa ai mamolimau ai, o ia lava lea.”

Ou te valaaulia outou e mafaufau loloto pe faape’i foliga o lenei mea i le olaga o fanau iti. Pe latou tefaalogo i molimau ia Iesu Keriso ma Lana talalelei? Pe latou tevaaii ata migao, faaletapuaiga o Lana misiona ma Lona tulaga faaleatua? Pe latou telagonaina iloa le Agaga Paia o molimau atu i Lona moni ma le paia? Pe latou teiloae uiga i Lana savali ma le misiona?

Avea Ma Ni Ō o Iesu Keriso ma Lana Ekalesia

Lua, avea ma ni ō o Iesu Keriso ma Lana Ekalesia.

Na oo le nuu o le Tupu o Peniamina i se liuga tele o le lotosa latou tuuto atu e ala i feagaiga o latou ola e faia le finagalo o le Atua. Ona o le feagaiga sa o latou osia ma le Atua ma Iesu Keriso, o lea sa “ta ua ai [i latou] o le fanau a Keriso, o ona atalii, ma ona afafine.” I le aveai ma tagata o Le Ekalesia a Iesu Keriso o le Au Paia o Aso e Gata Ai, ua i ai so tatou tiutetauave faalefeagaiga e fau Lona malo ma saunia mo Lona toefoi mai.

E mafai faapefea ona tatou fesoasoani i fanau ia faia ma tausia feagaiga paia? I le tusi lesona o le Sau, Mulimuli Mai ia te A’ui le faaopoopoga A ma le E, tatou te maua ai talanoaga faaosofia ma lesona o le faamamanaina ai aiga ma lagolago ai faiaoga ma taitai i o latou tulaga faatausimea paia, e tapena ai fanau mo se olaga atoa i luga o le ala o feagaiga.

Avea e faapei o Iesu Keriso

Tolu, aveai e faapei o Iesu Keriso.

I le Tusi a Mamona, na apoapoai ai e le Faaola Ona soo faatoa valaauina ina ia faataitai atu ia te Ia i le mea e mafai ai: “O a ituaiga o tagata e tataua ona outou i ai? E moni ou te fai atu ia te outou, e pei lava o au nei.”

E mafai faapefea ona tatou fesoasoani i tamaiti ua papatisoina ma faamauiina ia faataunuu o latou tiutetauave faalefeagaiga e faapotopoto i latou lava ma isi ia Iesu Keriso? O le aveai ma soo i le olaga atoa e manaomia ai i tatou ina “ia aveai

When extending invitations to the Lord's youngest disciples, please take every opportunity to lead them, guide them, walk beside them, and help them find the Way. Counsel with these precious little ones as they prepare to teach, testify, pray, or serve so they are confident and experience joy in fulfilling their responsibilities. Seek inspired ways to help them come to know this is their Church and they have a vital role to play in preparing for the Savior's return.

As Jesus Christ becomes the focus of our lives, what we desire, and how we desire it, is forever altered. Conversion changes everything! It changes our nature "that we have no more disposition to do evil, but to do good continually." It changes how we spend our time, our resources; what we read, watch, listen to, and share. It even changes how we respond in a distinguished, academic, career-on-the-line interview.

We need to infuse the Light of Jesus Christ into every corner of our lives. If we are not testifying to the veracity of His premortal godhood, His divine mission, and His prison-bursting Resurrection in our homes and in every single meeting of this Church, then our messages of love, service, honesty, humility, gratitude, and compassion can become nothing more than a jaunty pep talk of thoughtful living. Without Jesus Christ there is no power to change, no purpose to aspire to, and no reconciliation of the travails of life. If we become casual in our discipleship of Jesus Christ, it could be catastrophic for our children.

When we tell our children we love them, are we also telling them that their Father in Heaven and Savior Jesus Christ love them? Our love may comfort and inspire, but Their love can sanctify, exalt, and heal.

This Jesus should not be a fictional Jesus, or a simplistic Jesus, or a bodiless Jesus, or a casual Jesus, or an unknown Jesus, but a glorified, omnipotent, resurrected, exalted, worshipful, powerful Only Begotten Son of God, who is mighty to save. And as a young child in the Philippines compellingly

ma ē anaana i le upu ae le na o le faalogo i ai."

Pe a tuuina atu valaaulia i soo aupito iti o le Alii, faamolemole ia faaoga avanoa uma e taitai ai i latou, taiala i latou, savavali i o latou autafa, ma fesoasoani ia latou maua le Ala. Faufautua i nei fanau iti faapelepele a o latou tapenapena e aoao atu, molimau atu, tatalo, pe auauna atuina ia latou talitonu mautinoa ma iloa le olioli i le faataunuaina o o latou tiutetauave. Saili auala musuia e fesoasoani ai ia i latou ia latou iloa o la latou Ekalesia lenei, ma ua ia i latou se matafaioi taua e faatino i le saunia mo le toefoi mai o le Faaola.

A o avea Iesu Keriso ma taulaiga o o tatou olaga, e faavavau lava ona fesuisuia'i mea tatou te mananao ai, ma le ala tatou te mananao ai i ai. O le liua e suia ai mea uma! E suia ai lo tatou natura "ua le toe i ai so tatou manao e fai mea leaga, ae ia faia mea lelei e le aunoa." E suia ai le ala tatou te faaaluina ai o tatou taimi, o a tatou punaoa; o mea tatou te faitauina, matamata ai, faalogologo i ai, ma faasoa. E suia ai foi le ala tatou te tali atu ai i se faatalanoaga maoa'e, faaakatemia, ma galuega faalematatā.

E manaomia ona tatou faasusulu atu le Malamalama o Iesu Keriso tulimanu uma o o tatou olaga. Afai tatou te le molimau atu i le moni o Lona tulaga faaleatua i le muai olaga, o Lana misiona paia, ma Lona Toetu ua talaia ai falepui-pui o le oti, i o tatou fale ma i sauniga taitasi o lenei Ekalesia, ona avea lea o a tatou savali o le alofa, auaunaga, faamaoni, lotomauualalo, lotofaafetai, ma le agaalofo ua na o se talanoaga uuna'i o le ola magafagafa ae lē o i ai se mana. A aunoa ma Iesu Keriso e leai se mana e suia ai, leai se faamoemoega e faananau i ai, ma leai se toe-faaleleiga o lape o le olaga. Afai tatou te faatalalei lo tatou tulaga faalesoo o Iesu Keriso, e ono avea o se malapagā mo a tatou fanau.

A tatou fai atu ia tatou fanau tatou te alolofa ia i latou, pe o tatou ta'uina atu foi ia i latou e alolofa lo latou Tama o i le Lagi ma le Faaola o Iesu Keriso ia i latou? O lo tatou alofa e ono faamafanafana ma musuia ai, ae o lo La'u alofa e mafai ona faapaiaina ai, faaeaina, ma faamaloloina ai.

O lenei Iesu e le tataua ona avea o se Iesu faatalafatu, po o se Iesu e leai ni faigata, po o se Iesu e leai se tino, po o se Iesu faasamasamanoa, po o se Iesu e lē mailoa, ae o se Alo e Toatasi o le Atua, e mamalu, e silafia mea uma, ua toetu, ua faaeaina, e tapuai i ai, e mamana, o lē silisiliese e lavea'iina. Ma

testified to me one day, “We are worth saving!”
In the sacred and holy name of Him “whom God
hath set forth to be [the great] propitiation,” Jesus
Christ, amen.

e faapei ona ta’utino malosi mai e se tamaitiiti i
le Atua Filipaina ia te au i se tasi aso, “Ua agavaa i
tatou mo le laveaiina!” I le suafa paia ma le suafa
mamalu o Ia “o lē ua tuuina mai e le Atua e fai
ma faapalepale [silisili],”o Iesu Keriso, amene.