

True to the Faith That Our Parents Have Cherished

By Elder Hans T. Boom
Of the Seventy

Kweli kwa Imani Ambayo Wazazi Wetu Wameitunza

Na Mzee Hans T. Boom
Wa Sabini

April 2025 general conference

Please learn and receive strength from the faith and testimonies of those who came before you.

Tafadhali jifunze na upokee nguvu kutoka kwa imani na ushuhuda wa wale waliokuja kabla yako.

While I was visiting the Nashville Tennessee Temple for a temple review, I was privileged to do a walk-through as part of this assignment, reviewing this beautiful house of the Lord. I was especially impressed with the painting of Mary Wanlass called Carry On hanging on the wall in the office of the matron.

This is the story behind the painting:

“In Missouri in 1862, the 14-year-old Mary Wanlass promised her dying stepmother that she would see to it that her disabled father [and her four much younger siblings would all make] it to the Valley of the Great Salt Lake. ... Mary drove the oxen and milk cows that pulled the wagon, in which her father [was bedridden, and] she cared for her ... siblings. After each day’s journey, she fed the family by foraging edible plants, flowers, and berries. Her only compass was the instruction she had received to keep traveling west ‘until the clouds become mountains.’

“They reached [the] Utah Valley in September, having traveled all spring and summer. Her father died not long after the family settled in Utah County, where Mary later married and raised her [own] family.”

This is an amazing story of the faith and strength of a 14-year-old young woman that can help each one of us today to “just carry on.”

“Just carry on”—or freely translated in my native Dutch language, *Gewoon doorgaan*—is

Nikiwa natembelea Hekalu la Nashville Tennessee kwa ajili ya ukaguzi wa hekalu, nilipata fursa ya kutembezwa ndani kama sehemu ya kazi hii, nilikagua nyumba hii nzuri ya Bwana. Nilivutiwa sana hasa na picha ya Mary Wanlass inayoitwa Carry On iliyotundikwa ukutani katika ofisi ya matroni.

Hii ni hadithi inayohusiana na picha:

“Huko Missouri katika mwaka 1862 Mary Wanlass mwenye umri wa miaka 14 alimwahidi mama yake wa kambo aliyekaribia kufa kwamba angeona kwamba baba yake mlemavu [na ndugu zake wanne wadogo wote watafika] kwenye Bonde la Great Salt Lake. ... Mary aliendesha maksai na ng’ombe wa maziwa ambao walivuta mkokoteni, ambapo baba yake [alikuwa amelazwa, na] aliwatunza ndugu ... zake. Baada ya safari ya kila siku, alilisha familia kwa kuchuna mimea ya chakula, maua, na matunda. Dira yake pekee ilikuwa ni maelekezo aliyokuwa ameyapokea ya kuendelea kusafiri magharibi ‘hadi mawingu kuwa milima.’

“Walifika Utah Valley mwezi Septemba, baada ya kusafiri majira yote ya kuchipua na majira ya joto. Baba yake alifariki muda mfupi baada ya familia hiyo kuishi katika Kaunti ya Utah, ambapo Mary baadaye aliolewa na kulea familia yake [mwenyewe].

Hii ni hadithi ya kushangaza ya imani na nguvu ya msichana wa miaka 14 ambaye anaweza kumsaidia kila mmoja wetu leo “endelea tu.”

“Endelea tu,”—au kwa kutafsiriwa kijuujuu katika lugha yangu ya asili ya Kiholanzi, *Gewoon*

also my mom and dad's lifelong slogan.

My parents and in-laws are the pioneers in our family. They have crossed their own "plains," just like all those who are coming into the Church, the Lord's fold, every day. Their stories have little to do with oxen and wagons but have the same effect on future generations.

They embraced the gospel and were baptized in their young adult years. Both my parents had a difficult childhood. My father grew up on the island of Java in Indonesia. During World War II, he was forcefully separated from his family and interned in a concentration camp, where he suffered unspeakable hardships at a young age.

My mother was raised in a broken home and also suffered from hunger and the hardships of World War II. At times she even had to resort to eating tulip bulbs. Due to her father's actions and his subsequent divorce from her mother, it was sometimes difficult for her to see Heavenly Father as a loving Father.

My parents met at a Church activity and shortly after decided to get married and sealed in the Bern Switzerland Temple. Waiting at the railway station, having spent the last of their little savings for the trip to the temple, they wondered how they would make ends meet but were confident that it would all work out. And it did!

They started to raise their family from a very humble single attic-room apartment in the heart of Amsterdam. After several years of washing their clothes by hand, they had finally saved up enough money to purchase a washing machine. Just before they would make the purchase, the bishop visited them, asking for a contribution to build the meetinghouse in Amsterdam. They decided to give all they had saved for the washing machine and continued to do the laundry by hand.

As a family we went through some hardships, just like any other family. These have only made us stronger and have deepened our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, just like when Alma was sharing his story with his son Helaman, where he told him that he had been "supported under trials and troubles of every kind" because he had put his trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

doorgaan—pia ni kauli mbiu ya maisha ya mama na baba yangu.

Wazazi na wakwe zangu ni waanzilishi katika familia yetu. Wamevuka "mawanda" yao wenyewe, kama wale wote wanaokuja katika Kanisa, zizi la Bwana, kila siku. Hadithi zao hazihusiani na ng'ombe na mikokoteni lakini zina athari sawa kwa vizazi vijavyo.

Walikumbatia injili na walibitizwa wakati wa miaka yao ya ujana. Wazazi wangu wote wawili walikuwa na wakati mgumu utotoni. Baba yangu alikulia katika kisiwa cha Java katika Indonesia. Wakati wa Vita Kuu ya Pili ya Dunia, alitenganishwa kwa nguvu na familia yake na akatupwa korokoroni katika kambi ya mateso, ambapo alipata shida zisizoelezeka katika umri mdogo.

Mama yangu alilelewa katika nyumba iliyovunjika na pia aliteseka kutokana na njaa na ugumu wa Vita vya Pili vya Dunia. Wakati mwingine hata alilazimika kutumia kula tunguu la tulipu. Kwa sababu ya matendo ya baba yake na talaka yake ya baadaye kwa mama yake, waka-ti mwingine ilikuwa vigumu kwake kumwona Baba wa Mbinguni kama Baba mwenye upendo.

Wazazi wangu walikutana katika shughuli za Kanisa na baadaye kuamua kuoana na kuunganishwa katika Hekalu la Bern Switzerland. Wakisubiri katika kituo cha reli, baada ya kutumia akiba yao ndogo ya mwisho kwa safari ya hekalu, walishangaa jinsi wangefikia mwisho lakini walikuwa na uhakika kwamba yote yatakuwa sawa. Na ndivyo ilivyokuwa!

Walianza kulea familia yao kwenye nyumba ya kimaskini sana fleti ya chumba kimoja cha darini katikati ya Amsterdam. Baada ya miaka kadhaa ya kufua nguo zao kwa mkono, hatimaye walikuwa wamehifadhi pesa za kutosha kununua mashine ya kufulia. Kabla tu ya kununua, askofu aliwatembelea, akiomba mchango wa ujenzi wa nyumba ya mkutano huko Amsterdam. Waliamua kutoa yote waliyokuwa wamehifadhi kwa ajili ya mashine ya kufulia na kuendelea kufua kwa mkono.

Kama familia tulipitia baadhi ya magumu, kama tu familia nyingine yo yote. Haya yametufanya kuwa na nguvu na yameimarisha imani yetu katika Bwana Yesu Kristo, kama vile wakati Alma alipokuwa akishiriki hadithi yake na mwanawe Helamani, ambapo alimwambia kwamba alikuwa amesaidiwa katika majaribu na shida za kila aina kwa sababu alikuwa ameweka imani yake kwa Bwana Yesu Kristo.

How did two people who experienced so many trials in their younger years become the very best parents I could ever wish for? The answer is simple: they fully embraced the gospel and live by their covenants to this very day!

After more than 65 years of marriage, my mother, who suffered from Alzheimer's disease, passed away in February. My father, at the age of 92 and still living at home, visited her as often as he could until she passed away. Some time ago he mentioned to my younger siblings that the dreadful experiences in the camp in Indonesia during World War II had prepared him to patiently care for his wife for so many years as she fell ill and deteriorated from this horrible disease and also for the fateful day he had to entrust her primary care to others and could not be by her side anymore. Their motto has been and still is to "Just carry on," having a perfect hope in Christ to be raised up at the last day and to dwell with Him in glory forever.

Their faith and testimonies are a driving strength for the generations that have come after them.

In the village where my wife grew up, her parents, who were good churchgoing people, embraced the gospel as a young married couple with my wife as their two-year-old daughter and only child at that time. Their decision to become members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints had a great impact on their lives as they were shunned by the villagers and by their family. It took many years, loving notes to family members, and service to the community before they were finally accepted.

On one occasion when my wife's father was serving as a bishop, he was falsely accused of something and was immediately released. My mother-in-law was so hurt that she asked her husband if they should continue to go to church. He answered that they of course would continue to go to church since this is not the church of men, but this is the Church of Jesus Christ.

It took some time before the truth came to light and apologies were made. What could have been their breaking point just added to their strength and conviction.

Ni kwa jinsi gani watu wawili ambao waliopata majaribu mengi katika miaka yao ya ujana walikuwa wazazi bora zaidi ambao ningeweza kutamani? Jibu ni rahisi: walikumbatia injili kikamilifu na kuishi kwa maagano yao hadi leo hii!

Baada ya zaidi ya miaka 65 ya ndoa, mama yangu, ambaye aliugua ugonjwa wa Alzheimer, alifariki mwezi Februari. Baba yangu, akiwa umri wa miaka 92 na bado anaishi nyumbani, alimtembelea mara nyingi kadiri awezavyo hadi alipofariki. Wakati fulani uliopita aliwaambia ndugu zangu wadogo kwamba uzoefu wa kutisha katika kambi ya Indonesia wakati wa Vita vya Pili vya Dunia ulikuwa umemwandaa kumtunza mke wake kwa uvumilivu kwa miaka mingi hivi kwani aliugua na kudhoofika kutokana na ugonjwa huu wa kutisha na pia kwa siku ya kutisha ilibidi akabidhi huduma yake ya msingi kwa wengine na hakuweza kuwa kando yake tena. Kauli mbiu yao imekuwa na bado ni "Kuendelea tu," kuwa na tumaini kamili katika Kristo kuinuliwa katika siku ya mwisho na kukaa pamoja Naye katika utukufu milele na milele.

Imani yao na shuhuda zao ni nguvu ya kuendelea kwa vizazi ambavyo vimekuja baada yao.

Katika kijiji ambacho mke wangu alikulia, wazazi wake, ambao walikuwa watu wazuri wa kanisa, walikumbatia injili kama wanandoa vijana waliooana wakati mke wangu akiwa binti yao wa miaka miwili na mtoto pekee wakati huo. Uamuzi wao wa kuwa waumini wa Kanisa la Yesu Kristo la Watakatifu wa Siku za Mwisho ulikuwa na athari kubwa katika maisha yao kwani walitengwa na wanakijiji na hata familia zao. Ilichukua miaka mingi, barua za upendo kwa wanafamilia, na huduma kwa jamii kabla ya hatimaye kukubaliwa.

Katika tukio moja wakati baba wa mke wangu alikuwa akihudumu kama askofu, alishtakiwa kwa uwongo kwa kitu fulani na mara moja alipumzishwa. Mama mkwe wangu aliumia sana kiasi kwamba alimwambia mume wake ikiwa wanapaswa kuendelea kwenda kanisani. Alijibu kwamba bila shaka wataendelea kwenda kanisani kwa kuwa hili sio kanisa la wanadamu, lakini hili ni Kanisa la Yesu Kristo.

Ilichukua muda mrefu kabla ya ukweli kujulikana na msamaha uliombwa. Kile kilichopaswa kuwavunja moyo kikaja kuongeza nguvu na kusadiki kwao.

Why is it that some of us take for granted the faith and testimonies of our parents who through all their hardships have remained faithful? Do we think that they do not have a clear understanding of things? They were not and are not deceived! They just have had too many experiences with the Spirit and can say with the Prophet Joseph, “I knew it, ... and I could not deny it.”

Don't you love the song about the army of Helaman, found in the Children's Songbook?

We have been born, as Nephi of old,
To goodly parents who love the Lord.
We have been taught, and we understand,
That we must do as the Lord commands.

Even when this might not be the case, as my mother experienced as a child, you can become one of those “goodly parents who love the Lord” and provide a righteous example to others.

Do we feel that this is absolutely true when we sing it? Do you feel that you are “as the army of Helaman” and that you “will be the Lord's missionaries to bring the world his truth”? I have felt it on so many occasions while singing this song in several FSY settings and other youth gatherings.

Or what do we feel when we sing the hymn “True to the Faith”?

Shall the youth of Zion falter
In defending truth and right?
While the enemy assaileth,
Shall we shrink or shun the fight? No!

True to the faith that our parents have cherished.

To those of the rising generation wherever you are and in whatever situation you may find yourself, please learn and receive strength from the faith and testimonies of those who came before you. It will help you understand that in order to gain or grow a testimony, sacrifices will have to be made and that “sacrifice brings forth the blessings of heaven.”

Thinking about a sacrifice that will truly bless your life, please consider and pray about the invitation of our beloved prophet, President Russell M. Nelson, when he asked “everyworthy, able young man to prepare for and serve a mission. For Latter-day Saint young men, missionary service is a priesthood responsibility. ...

“For ... young and able sisters, a mission is

Kwa nini baadhi yetu tunachukulia kawaida tu imani na shuhuda za wazazi wetu ambao kupitia taabu zao zote wamebaki waaminifu? Je, tunafikiria kwamba hawana uelewa kamili wa vitu? Hawakudanganywa na hawajadanganywa! Wamekuwa na uzoefu mwingi sana na Roho na wanaweza kusema pamoja na Nabii Joseph, “Nilijua, ... na sikuweza kukanusha.”

Je, hupendi wimbo kuhusu jeshi la Helamani, unaopatikana katika Kitabu cha Nyimbo za Watoto?

Tulizaliwa kama Nefi wa Zama
Wazazi wema wampendao Bwana.
Tumefunzwa na twaelewa
Tunatenda Bwana anavyoamuru.

Hata wakati hii inaweza kutokuwa hivyo, kama mama yangu alivyopitia akiwa mtoto, unaweza kuwa mmoja wa wale “wazazi wazuri ambao wanampenda Bwana” na kutoa mfano mzuri kwa wengine.

Je, tunahisi kwamba hii ni kweli kabisa wakati tunaimba? Je, unahisi kwamba wewe ni “kama jeshi la Helamani” na kwamba “mtakuwa wamisionari wa Bwana kuuleta ulimwengu kwenye ukweli Wake”? Nimehisi mara nyingi wakati nikiimba wimbo huu katika mazingira kadhaa ya KNV na mikusanyiko mingine ya vijana.

Au tunahisi vipi wakati tunapoimba wimbo “Tupo Waaminifu wa Imani”?

Je, vijana wa Sayuni watafifia
Katika kulinda ukweli na haki?
Wakati adui anaua,
Je, tutaona haya au kukimbia vita? Hapana!
Tupo waaminifu kwa imani ya wazazi wetu.

Kwa wale wa kizazi kinachoinuka popote ulipo na katika hali yoyote unayoweza kujikuta, tafadhali jifunze na upokee nguvu kutoka kwa imani na ushuhuda wa wale ambao waliokuja kabla yako. Itakusaidia kuelewa kwamba ili kupata au kukuza ushuhuda, dhabihu zitalazimika kufanywa na kwamba “dhabihu hutuletea baraka za mbinguni.”

Kufikiria juu ya dhabihu ambayo itabariki maisha yako, tafadhali fikiria na kuomba kuhusu mwaliko wa nabii wetu mpendwa, Rais Russell M. Nelson, alipoomba “kilakijana anayestahili, mwenye uwezo ajiandae na kutumikia misheni. Kwa wavulana Watakatifu wa Siku za Mwisho, huduma ya ummissionari ni jukumu la kikuhani.

...

“Kwa ... ninyi akina dada wenye uwezo,

also a powerful, but optional, opportunity.”

You could be called as a service or a teaching missionary. Both types of missionaries contribute to the same goal of bringing souls to Christ, each in their own unique and powerful way.

In both types of service, you will show the Lord you love Him and that you want to get to know Him better. Remember, “for how knoweth a man the master whom he has not served, and who is a stranger unto him, and is far from the thoughts and intents of his heart?”

All of us, whether we are the first generation in the gospel or the fifth, should ask ourselves, What stories of faith, strength, and celestial commitment will I pass on to the next generation?

Let us all continue in our efforts to get to know our Savior, Jesus Christ, better and to make Him the center of our lives. He is the rock upon which we must build so that when times become difficult, we will be able to stand firm.

Let us be “true to the faith that our parents have cherished, true to truth for which martyrs have perished, to God’s command, soul, heart, and hand, faithful and true we will ever stand.” In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

misheni pia ni kitu chenye nguvu, lakini ni, fursa, ya hiari.”

Unaweza kuitwa kama mmisionari wa huduma au wa kufundisha. Aina zote mbili za wamisionari huchangia lengo moja la kuleta nafsi kwa Kristo, kila mmoja kwa njia yake ya kipekee na yenye nguvu.

Katika aina zote mbili za huduma, utamwonyesha Bwana unampenda Yeye na kwamba unataka kumjua Yeye vizuri zaidi. Kumbuka, “kwani ni vipi mtu atamjua yule bwana ambaye hajamtumikia, na aliye mgeni kwake, na yuko mbali katika mawazo na nia za moyo wake?”

Sisi sote, iwe sisi ni kizazi cha kwanza katika injili au cha tano, tunapaswa kujiuliza, Ni hadithi gani za imani, nguvu, na kujitolea kwa selestia nitakazopitisha kwa kizazi kijacho?

Hebu sote tuendeleo katika juhudi zetu za kumjua Mwokozi wetu, Yesu Kristo, vizuri na kumfanya Yeye kuwa kitovu cha maisha yetu. Yeye ndiye mwamba ambao lazima tujenge ili wakati nyakati zitakapokuwa ngumu, tutaweza kusimama imara.

Hebu tuwe “wakweli kwa imani ambayo wazazi wetu wameitunza, kweli kwa ukweli ambao mashahidi wameangamia, kwa amri ya Mungu, roho, moyo, na mkono, waaminifu na wa kweli tutasimama milele.” Katika jina la Yesu Kristo, amina.