

“Draw Near unto Me”

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« 'A ha'afātata mai iā'u nei »

Nā te peresideni Henry B. Eyring
Tauturu piti i roto i te Peresidenirā Mātāmua

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Jesus Christ loves each of us. He offers us the opportunity to draw closer to Him.

My dear brothers and sisters, it is a joy for me to be with you in this general conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This is His Church. We are gathered in buildings and homes all over the world in His name.

We take His name upon us when we enter His kingdom by covenant. He is the resurrected and glorified Son of God. We are mortals, subject to sin and death. Yet, in His love for each of us, the Savior invites us to come closer to Him.

Here is His invitation to us: “Draw near unto me and I will draw near unto you; seek me diligently and ye shall find me; ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.”

There are times we feel close to the Savior Jesus Christ. And yet, sometimes during our mortal trials, we feel some distance from Him and wish for an assurance that He knows what is in our hearts and loves us as individuals.

The Savior's invitation includes the way to feel that assurance. Draw near Him by always remembering Him. Seek Him diligently through scripture study. Ask through heartfelt prayer to Heavenly Father to feel closer to His Beloved Son.

There is a simple way to think about it. It is what you would do if you were separated for a

'Ua here Iesu Mesia ia tātou tāta'itahi. 'Ua pūpū mai 'oia ia tātou i te rāvē'a nō te ha'afātata atu iāna.

Tō'u mau taeā'e ē mau tuahine, e 'oā'oa rahi nō'u 'ia fa'atae atu i tō'u here ia 'outou i roto i teie 'āmuira'a rahi a Te 'Ēkālesia a Iesu Mesia i te Feiā Mo'a i te mau Mahana Hope'a nei. Nāna teie 'Ēkālesia. Tē putuputu nei tātou i roto i te mau fare ē te mau 'utuāfare nā te ao tāto'a nei i tōna i'oa.

E rave tātou i tōna i'oa i ni'a iho ia tātou 'ia tomo ana'e tātou i roto i tōna bāsileia nā roto i te fafaura'a. 'O 'oia te Tamaiti ti'afa'ahou ē te fa'ahanahanahia nā te Atua. E tāata tāhuti tātou, e nehenehe tātou e hara ē e pohe. Teie rā, nō tōna here ia tātou tāta'itahi, tē tītau manihini nei te Fatu ia tātou 'ia ha'afātata atu iāna.

Teie tāna parau : « 'A ha'afātata mai iā'u nei, e ha'afātata atu ia vau ia 'outou na ; 'a imi itoito noa mai iā'u nei ē e 'ite mai ho'i 'outou iā'u, 'a ani mai, ē e fa'ari'i ia 'outou ; 'a pātōtō mai ē e 'iritihia atu ia ia 'outou na ».

E taime iho ā e 'ite tatou' ē, 'ua fātata roa tātou i te Fa'aora 'o Iesu Mesia. Terā rā, tē 'ite ato'a nei tātou i te tahi āteara'a i roto i tō tātou orara'a tāhuti nei ē tē hina'aro nei tātou 'ia ha'apāpū ē, 'ua 'ite 'oia ia tātou ē 'ua here 'oia ia tātou tāta'itahi.

Tē vai ra i roto i te tītau-manihini-ra'a a te Fa'aora te rāvē'a nō te 'ite i taua ha'apāpūra'a ra. 'A ha'afātata atu iāna nā roto i te ha'amana'o-noa-ra'a iāna. 'A 'imi itoito iāna nā roto i te tai'ora'a i pāpā'ira'a mo'a. 'A ani nā roto i te pure mā te 'āau tae i te Metua i te ao ra, 'ia tupu te ha'afātatarā'a i tāna Tamā'iti here.

Tē vai ra hōē rāvē'a 'ōhie nō te feruri i te reira. 'O te 'ohipa ia tā 'outou e rave mai te mea ē 'ua

time from dear friends. You would find a way to communicate with them, you would cherish any message you received from them, and you would do all you could to help them.

The more that happened, the longer it lasted, the deeper the bond of affection would be strengthened, and you would feel yourself drawing ever nearer. If much time passed without the cherished communication and the opportunity to help one another, the bond would weaken.

Jesus Christ loves each of us. He offers that opportunity to draw closer to Him. As with a loving friend, you will do it in much the same way, by communicating through prayer to Heavenly Father in the name of Jesus Christ, listening for cherished guidance from the Holy Ghost, and then serving others for the Savior cheerfully. Soon you would feel that blessing of drawing nearer to Him.

In my youth, I experienced the joy of coming closer to the Savior—and of His coming closer to me—through simple acts of obedience to the commandments. When I was young, the sacrament was offered during an evening meeting. I can still remember one specific night, more than 75 years ago, when it was dark and cold outside. I remember a feeling of light and warmth as I realized that I had kept the commandment to gather with the Saints to partake of the sacrament, covenanting with our Heavenly Father to always remember His Son and keep His commandments.

At the end of the meeting that night, we sang the hymn “Abide with Me; ’Tis Eventide,” with the memorable words “O Savior, stay this night with me.”

These words brought an overwhelming sense of the Spirit to me, even as a young boy. I felt the Savior’s love and closeness that evening through the comfort of the Holy Ghost.

Years later I wanted to rekindle the same feeling of the Savior’s love and the closeness I had felt to the Lord during that sacrament meeting in my youth. So I kept another simple commandment: I searched the scriptures.

In the book of Luke, I read of the third day after His Crucifixion and burial, when faithful servants had come, out of love for the Savior, to

fa’ata’a-’e-hia ’outou i te mau hoa rahi. E ’imi ’outou i te rāve’a nō te paraparau ia rātou, e māuruu-ru ’outou i te mau poro’i ato’a tā ’outou e fa’ari’i mai roto mai ia rātou ’e e rave ’outou i te mau mea ato’a e nehenehe e rave nō te tauturu ia rātou.

Rahi noa atu te ’ohipa e tupu, te roa noa atu te vairā’a o te reira, pūai noa atu te tāairā’a o te here, ’e e ’ite ’outou ē, te ha’afātata atu ra ’outou. Mai te peu e rahi roa te taime ’aita e paraparaurā’a, ’aita e fa’aro’ora’a ’e ’aita e raverā’a i te hōē mea nō te tahi ’e te tahi, e paruparu ia te tāamura’a.

’Ua here Iesu Mesia ia tātou tāta’itahi. ’Ua pūpū mai ’oia ia tātou i teie rāve’a nō te ha’afātata atu iāna. Mai te hōē hoa here, e rave ’outou i te reira ma te paraparaurā’a nā roto i te pure i te Metua i te ao ra nā roto i te i’oa o Iesu Mesia, ma te fa’aro’o i te arata’irā’a here a te Vārua Maita’i, ’e te tāvinirā’a ma te ’oa’oa ia vetahi ē nōna. E’ita e maoro, e ’ite ’outou i taua ha’amaita’irā’a ra nō te ha’afātata atu ā iāna.

I tō’u ’āpīra’a, ’ua ’ite au i te ’oa’oa o te ha’afātatarā’a i pīha’i iho i te Fa’aora ’e tōna ha’afātatarā’a mai iā’u nā roto i te mau ’ohipa ri’i ha’iha’i o te ha’apa’ora’a i te mau fa’auera’a. I tō’u ’āpīra’a, ’ua hōro’ahia te ’oro’a mo’a i roto i te hōē purera’a i te ahiahi. Tē ha’amana’o noa nei ā vau i te hōē pō tā’a ē, ’ua hau i te 75 matahiti i teienei, e mea pōiri roa ’e te to’eto’e i rāpae. Tē ha’amana’o nei au i te hōē mana’o māramarama ’e te māhanahana i tō’u ’itera’a ē, ’ua ha’apa’o vau i te fa’auera’a ’ia putuputu ’e te feiā mo’a nō te ’amu i te ’oro’a, ma te fafau i tō tātou Metua i te Ao ra ’ia ha’amana’o tāmau noa i tāna Tamaiti ’e ’ia ha’apa’o i tāna mau fa’auera’a.

I te hope’a o te purera’a i taua ’āru’i ra, ’ua hīmene mātou i te hīmene ra « E iā’u nei e te Fatu », ’e teie mau parau e ’ore e mo’e, « ’Ei iā’u nei ’e te Fatu, terā mai nei te pō »

’Ua fa’atupu teie mau parau i te mana’o pūai o te Varua i roto iā’u, inaha ho’i, e tamaiti ’āpī noa ā vau. ’Ua ’ite au i te here ’e te fātata ’o te Fa’aora i taua ahiahi ra nā roto i te tāmahānahana a te Vārua Maita’i.

Tau matahiti i muri mai, ’ua hina’aro vau e fa’aiho fa’ahou mai ā i te reira mau mana’o o te here o te fa’aora ’e te fātata iāna tā’u i ’ite i roto i taua purera’a ’oro’a ra, i roto i tō’u ’āpīra’a. Nō reira, ’ua ha’apa’o vau i te tahi atu fa’auera’a ’ohie ’e ’ua tai’o vau i te mau pāpā’irā’a mo’a.

I roto i te buka a Luka, ’ua tai’o vau nō ni’a i te toru o te mahana i muri a’e i tōna fa’atātauro-ra’ahia ’e te hunara’ahia, ’a haere mai ai te mau tā-

anoint His body. When they arrived, they found the stone rolled away from the tomb and saw that His body was not there.

Two angels stood by and asked why they were afraid:

“Why seek ye the living among the dead?

“He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,

“Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.”

That evening at dusk, two disciples walked from Jerusalem on the road to Emmaus, and the resurrected Lord appeared to them and walked with them.

The book of Luke allows us to walk with them that evening:

“And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.

“But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.

“And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?

“And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?”

They told Him of their sadness that Jesus had died when they had trusted He would be the Redeemer of Israel.

There must have been affection in the risen Lord's voice as He spoke to these two sorrowful and mourning disciples.

As I continued to read, there came these words that warmed my heart, just as I had felt when I was a little boy:

“And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.

“But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.”

The Savior accepted that night the invitation to enter the house of His disciples. He sat at meat with them. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened, and

vini ha'apa'ō maita'i, ma te here rahi nō te Fa'aora, nō te fa'atāhinu i tōna tino. I tō rātou taera'a mai, 'ua 'ite atu ra rātou ē, 'ua tura'i-ē-hia te 'ōfa'i i te mēnema, 'e 'aita ato'a tōna tino i reira.

Tē ti'a ra e piti nā melahi i reira 'e 'ua ani maira e aha rātou i mata'u ai :

« E aha 'outou i 'imi ai i tei ora i te vairā'a o te pohe ?

« 'Aore 'oia i 'ō nei, 'ua ti'a ia i ni'a ; 'a ha'ama-na'ō i tāna i parau mai ia 'outou iāna i pārahi i Galilea ra,

« 'A na 'ō mai ai ra ē, e tu'uhia te Tamaiti a te ta'ata nei i te rima o te feiā rave hara, e fa'asātau-rohia, 'e e ti'afa'ahou 'ia tae i te ru'i toru ra ».

I taua ahiahi ra, e piti nā pipi nā Ierusalem mai te haere nā ni'a i te purumu nō Emausa, 'ua fā maira te Mesia ti'afa'ahou ia rāua 'e haere atu ra nā muri iho ia rāua.

Tē fāri'i nei te buka a Luka 'ia haere tātou nā muri iho ia rātou i taua ahiahi ra :

« E te paraparau noa ra rāua, 'e tē feruri noa ra rāua rāua iho, 'ua ta'ati ato'a maira Iesu ia rāua, haere ato'a atu ra rātou.

« 'Ua fa'a'orehia rā te 'ite i tō rāua mata, 'aita atu ra rāua i 'ite iāna.

« 'Ua parau maira 'oia ia rāua, e aha tena na parau tā 'ōrua i paraparau noa na ma te mata huru 'oto ?

« 'Ua parau atu ra te hō'e o rāua ra iāna 'o Keleopa te i'oa, nā 'ō atu ra, 'O 'oe ana'e na paha te ta'ata 'ē i Ierusalem nei 'aore i 'ite i te mau mea i tupu i reira i teie nei pu'e mahana? »

'Ua fa'a'ite atu ra rāua i tō rāua pe'a'pe'a i te mea ē, 'ua pohe Iesu i te taima ho'i 'a ti'aturi ai rātou ē, e riro 'oia 'ei tāra'hara nō 'Iserā'ela.

E mea pāpū ē, e reo here tō te Fatu ti'a fa'ahou 'a paraparau atu ai 'oia i teie nā pipi pe'a'pe'a e te oto ho'i.

'A tāmau noa ai au i te tai'ō, 'ua tae mai teie mau parau iā'u tei tāma'ahanahana i tō'u 'ā'au, mai tā'u i 'ite i tō'u tamari'i-ri'i-ra'a:

« E fātata maira ia raua taua 'oire haerehia e rāua ra, 'ua fa'ahua haere roa 'oia.

« Tāpe'a atu ra rāua iāna, nā 'ō atu ra, e fa'aea na tātou, 'ua huru ahiahi ho'i, 'ua mure te mahana. Haere atu ra 'oia i roto e pārahi ato'a rātou. »

'Ua fāri'i te Fa'aora i taua pō ra i te anira'a manihini 'ia tomo i roto i te fare o tāna nā pipi. 'Ua tāma'a 'oia 'e 'o rāua ato'a ra. 'Ua rave 'oia i te faraoa, ha'amaita'i ihora i te reira, vāvāhi ihora, 'e

they knew Him. Then He vanished out of their sight.

Luke recorded for us the feelings of those blessed disciples: “And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?”

The two disciples then rushed back to Jerusalem to tell the eleven Apostles what had happened. As they were sharing their experience, the Savior appeared again.

He stood in the midst of them and “saith unto them, Peace be unto you.” He then reviewed the prophecies of His mission to atone for the sins of all His Father’s children and to break the bands of death.

“And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

“And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

“And ye are witnesses of these things.”

Just as His beloved disciples, every child of Heavenly Father who has chosen to enter through the gate of baptism is under covenant to be a witness of the Savior and to care for those in need throughout our mortal lives. This commitment was made plain for us by the great Book of Mormon prophet Alma centuries ago at the Waters of Mormon:

“As ye are desirous to come into the fold of God, and to be called his people, and are willing to bear one another’s burdens, that they may be light;

“Yea, and are willing to mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort, and to stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places ... , even until death, that ye may be redeemed of God, ... that ye may have eternal life.”

As you are faithful to these promises, you will find that the Lord keeps His promise to be one with you in your service, making your burdens light. You will come to know the Savior, and in time you will come to be like Him and “be perfected in him.” By helping others for the

hōrō’a atu ra ia rāua ra. ’Ua ’ara’ara tō rāua mata ’e ite atu ra iāna. ’E i muri iho, mo’e atu ra ’oia.

’Ua pāpā’i ’o Luka nō tātou i te mau mana’o o taua mau pipi ha’amaitaihia ra : « ’Ua parau ihora rāua rāua iho, e ’ere, e hoa, i ’ana’anatae tō tāua ’ā’au iāna i paraparau mai ia tāua i te arati’a ra, ’a fa’a’ite mai ai ia tāua i te aurā’a i te mau parau i pāpāihia ra ? »

’Ua ho’i ’oi’oi atu ra nā pipi e piti i Ieruselema nō te fa’a’ite i nā ’ahuru ma hō’e ’apōsetolo i te ’ohipa i tupu. A fa’a’ite ai rāua i tō rāua ’iterā’a, ’ua fā fa’ahou maira te Fa’aora.

’Ua ti’a ’oia i rotopū ia rātou ’e « nā ’ō maira, ’Ia ora nā outou ».’Ua hi’o fa’ahou a’era ’oia i te mau parau tohu nō tāna misiōni nō te mau hara a te mau tamari’i tā’āto’a a tōna Metua ’e ’ia ’ōfati i te tāpe’a o te pohe.

« ’Ua nā ’ō maira ’oia ia rātou, i nā reirahia taua parau ra i te pāpā’i, ’e ’ia nā reirahia tō te Mesia pohe e ti’a ai, ’e ’ia ti’a fa’ahou mai te pohe mai i te ru’i toru :

« e ia poro-haere-hia te tatarahapa e te faaorerāa i te hara i to’na ra i’oa, na Ieruselema’tu nei ā, e ati noa’e te mau fenua atoa e tia’i.

« E teie nei, ’ei ’ite ’outou i teie nei mau parau ».

Mai tāna mau pipi here, te mau tamari’i ato’a a tō tātou Metua i te Ao ra ’o tei ma’iti i te tomo nā roto i te ’ūputa ’o te bāpetizora’a, ’ua fafau ia rātou ’ia riro ’ei ’ite nō te Fa’aora ’e ’ia ha’apa’o i te feiā e hina’aro i te tauturu i roto i tō rātou orara’a i te pae tino. ’Ua fa’a’ite mai ’o Alama, te peropheta nō te Buka a Moromona, i teie fafaura’a ia tātou i te mau pape nō Moromona e rave rahi tenetere i ma’iri a’e nei :

« Nō te mea ’ua hina’aro ’outou ’ia ō i te ’āua ’o te Atua, ’e ’ia parauhia i tōna ra mau tā’ata, ’e ’ua hina’aro ’outou ’ia tauturu te tahi i te tahi i te hōpoi i ta’ ’outou mau hōpoi’a, ’ia māmā te reira ;

« ’Oia ia, ’ua au ’ia ’outou ’ia ’oto, ’a ’oto ai te feiā ’oto ra ; ’oia ia, ’e ’ia ha’amāhanahana ia rātou i tei au ’ia ha’amāhanahanahia ra, ’e ’ia ti’a ’ei ’ite o te Atua i te mau mahana ato’a, ’e i te mau mea ato’a, ’e i roto i te mau vāhi ato’a tā ’outou e pārahi ra [...] ’e ’ia tae noa atu i te pohera’a [...] ’ia noa’a te ora mure ’ore ia ’outou ».

Mai te mea e ha’apa’o maita’i ’outou i teie mau parau fafau, e ’ite ’outou ē, e ha’apa’o te Fatu i tāna parau fafau ’ia riro ’ei hō’e ’e ’o ’outou i roto i tā ’outou ’ohipa, ma te ha’amāmā i tā ’outou hōpoi’a. E ’ite ’outou iāna, ’e a muri a’e, e riro ’outou mai iāna te huru ’e e « maitai roa outou iāna ».Nā

Savior, you will find that you are drawing nearer to Him.

Many of you have loved ones who are wandering off the path to eternal life. You wonder what more you can do to bring them back. You can depend on the Lord to draw closer to them as you serve Him in faith.

You may remember the Lord's promise to Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon when they were away from their families on His errands: "My friends Sidney and Joseph, your families are well; they are in mine hands, and I will do with them as seemeth me good; for in me there is all power."

As you bind up the wounds of those in need, the Lord's power will sustain you. His arms will be outstretched with yours to succor and bless the children of our Heavenly Father.

Every covenant servant of Jesus Christ will receive His direction from the Spirit as they bless and serve others for Him. Then they will feel the Savior's love and find joy in being drawn closer to Him.

I am a witness of the Resurrection of the Lord as surely as if I had been there with the two disciples in the house on Emmaus road. I know that He lives.

This is His true Church—the Church of Jesus Christ. We will, on the Day of Judgment, stand before the Savior, face to face. It will be a time of great joy for those, in this life, who have drawn close to Him in His service and can eagerly anticipate to hear His words: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

I testify as a witness of the risen Savior and our Redeemer, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

roto i te tauturura'a ia vetahi 'e e 'ite 'outou ē, tē ha'afātata ra 'outou iāna.

E rave rahi 'outou tē vai nei te mau tā'ata tā 'outou i here 'o tē 'ōvere haere nei nā rāpae i te 'ē'a o te ora mure 'ore. Tē uiui nei 'outou ē, e aha atu ā te ti'a iā'u 'ia rave nō te fa'aho'i mai ia rātou. E nehenehe 'outou e turu'i i ni'a i te Fatu nō te ha'afātata atu ia rātou 'a tāvini ai o'utou iāna ma te fa'aro'o.

Tē ha'amana'o ra 'outou i te fafaura'a a te Fatu ia Iosepha Semita 'e ia Sidney Rigdon, i te taimē tei te ātea 'ē rāua i tō rāua 'utuāfare nō te rave i tāna 'ohipa : « 'O tā'u na hoa ra 'o Sidene 'e 'o Iosepha, tē ora maita'i nei tō 'ōrua na 'utuāfare ; tei roto rātou i tō'u pue rima, 'e nā'u ia e ha'apa'o ia rātou mai te au i te mana'o i roto iā'u nei ; nō te mea tei roto iā'u nei te mana ato'a ».

Mai te mea ē, e tāpo'i 'outou i te mau pēpē 'o te feiā veve, e pāturu te mana 'o te Fatu ia 'outou. E fa'atorohia tōna nā rima 'e tō 'outou nō te fa'aora 'e nō te ha'amaita'i i te mau tamari'i a tō tātou Metua i te Ao ra.

Te mau tāvini ato'a 'o tei fafau ia Iesu Mesia, e fa'ari'i rātou i tāna arata'ira'a 'a ha'amaita'i ai 'e 'a tāvini ai rātou ia vetahi 'ē nōna. 'Ei reira rātou e fāri'i ai i tōna here, 'e i te 'oa'oa i te ha'afātata ra atu iāna.

E 'ite au nō te Ti'afa'ahoura'a o te Fatu mai te huru ē, tei reira vau i te ahiahi i piha'i iho i nā pipi to'opiti i roto i te fare i ni'a i te 'ē'a nō Emausa. 'Ua 'ite au ē, tē ora nei 'oia.

Teie te 'Ēkālesia mau, te 'Ēkālesia a Iesu Mesia. 'Ia tae i te mahana ha'avāra'a, e ti'a atu tātou i mua i te Fa'aora, mata 'e mata. E riro ia 'ei taimē 'oa'oa rahi nō te feiā, i roto i teie orara'a, tei ha'afātata atu iāna i roto i tāna 'ohipa, 'e 'o tē nehenehe e ti'a'i ma te fa'a'oroma'i 'ia fa'aro'o i teie mau parau : « 'Ua ti'a roa e teie nei tāvini maita'i 'e te ha'avare ore ».

Tē fa'a'ite pāpū nei au 'ei 'ite nō te Fa'aora 'e te Tāra'ehara ti'afa'ahou, nā roto i te i'oa o Iesu Mesia ra, 'āmene.