

Thou Art the Christ

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'O 'oe te Mesia

Nā te tuahine Amy A. Wright

Tauturu hōē i roto i te peresideniraā rahi o te Paraimere

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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

Tē hinaāro nei tātou i tā tātou mau tamari'i 'ia ti'aturi ia Iesu Mesia, 'ia riro rātou nō Iesu Mesia 'e nō tāna 'Ēkālēsia nā roto i te fafauaraā, 'e 'ia tūtava 'ia riro mai mai ia Iesu Mesia.

I te taime tei roto tā māua tamaiti 'o Eli i te piha ha'api'iraā fāito maha, 'ua fa'atupu tāna piha i te hōē fa'atereraā hau ha'avare, i reira 'oia i te mā'itira'ahia e tōna mau hoa o te piha 'ia riro 'ei ha'avā. I te hōē mahana, 'ua haere mai te hōē ha'avā mana nō te mataeina piti nō Utaha e fāre-rei ia rātou, 'ua fa'aōōmo ia Eli i tōna 'ahu ha'avā 'e 'ua fa'ahōreo atu i tāna piha. 'Ua fa'āra te reira i roto i te vaerua fa'ahia'ia 'āpi 'o Eli i te hōē hia'ai nō te ha'api'iraā i te pae o te ture 'e te 'Īriti ture iho 'o Iesu Mesia.

I muri mai e rave rahi matahiti nō te tau-toōraā tāmau, 'ua fa'ari'i Eli i te hōē aniraā nō te hōē uiuiraā 'e te hōē o tāna mau mā'itiraā nō te ha'api'iraā tōro'a o te ture. 'Ua parau 'oia, « māmā, 'ua uihia mai iā'u 10 uira'a ». Te uira'a hōpē'a 'oia hō'i, 'nō hea mai tō 'oe mana'o itoitō? 'Ua ha'apāpū atu vau ē, i te roara'a o te 'āamu, 'ua patu te tāata i te mau rāve'a nō te ha'apaōra'a ma te tarai i tō rātou orara'a i ni'a i te mau hōhō'a fāitoti'a. Te hōhō'a fāitoti'a o te ha'apaōra'a tā'u e tūtava nei e tārai i roto i tō'u orara'a, 'o terā ia tō Iesu Mesia. 'Ua ha'apāpū atu vau 'ahiri te tāata atō'a e fa'atura nei i te mau ha'api'ira'a ia Iesu Mesia, i roto i te Aōra'a i ni'a i te Mou'a, e riro te ao nei 'ei vāhi mā'ita'i aē 'e te hau ». I muri iho 'ua hope te uiuira'a, 'e 'ua parau 'oia iāna iho, « 'o te hōpē'ara'a ihoā ia o tō'u mau moemoeā tamari'i. 'Aita e tāata i roto i te ha'api'ira'a tuatoru ti'amā e hina'aro e fa'aro'o nō ni'a ia Iesu Mesia ».

Piti hepetoma i muri mai, 'ua fa'ari'ihia Eli i te fare ha'api'ira'a ma te hōē moni putē. Hou te

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 magnificent 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

fa’aōra’a, ’ua haere atu mātou e māta’ita’i i te fare ha’api’ira’a tōro’a. E au te fare ha’api’ira’a tōro’a o te ture i te hōē parenui ’ē tei ha’amauhia i ni’a i te hōē ’aivi, i ni’a aē i te hōē roto nehenehe. Ma te fa’ahiahia, ’a haere ai mātou nā roto i te piha vairā’a buka hanahana rahi ’ē te mau āroa nehenehe, ’ua ’ite atu mātou i ni’a i te mau reva ’ē te mau ’ōfa’i i nana’ohia te mau taife nō roto mai i te A’ora’a i ni’a i te Mou’a.

Te A’ora’a i ni’a i te Mou’a o te a’ora’a fa’ahiahia roa aē tei ’ore ā i fa’ahitiahihi a’enei, e pionie i roto i tāna mau ha’api’ira’a. ’Aita atu e a’ora’a e nehenehe e tauturu ia tātou ’ia hāro’aro’a maita’i aē i te nātura o Iesu Mesia, tōna mau huru hanahana, e tā tātou fā hōpē’a ’ia riro mai, mai iāna te huru.

Te rirora’a ’ei pipi nā Iesu i te roara’a o te orara’a, e ha’amata i roto i tō tātou ’utuāfare—’ē i roto i te Paraimere i te 18ra’a o te ’āvaē. Tē hina’aro nei tātou i tā tātou mau tamari’i ’iatu’atu-riia Iesu Mesia, ia rironō Iesu Mesia ’ē nō tāna ’Ēkālēsia nā roto i te fafaura’a, ’ē ’ia tūtava’ia riro maimai ia Iesu Mesia.

Ti’aturi ia Iesu Mesia

’A tahi, ti aturi ia Iesu Mesia.

I muri aē i te a’ora’a a nō te Pane ora, « rave rahi pipi [a te Fatu] » tei fifi ri’i i te fa’ari’i i tāna mau ha’api’ira’a ’ē tāna ha’api’ira’a tumu, ’ē « ’ua fa’aruē mai ra, ’ēaita i pe’e fa’ahou iāna » Huri atu ra Iesu i ni’a i te nā ’Ahuru ma Piti ’ē ui atu ra i te hōē uira’a pe’ape’a : « E haere ato’a ānei ’outou ? »

Pāhono mai ra Petero :

« E te Fatu, e haere ti’a mātou ’ia vai ra? tei ia ’oe ho’i te parau o te ora mure ’ore ra.

« ... ’Ua fa’aro’o a’enei ho’i mātou ’ē ’ua ’ite ho’i mātou ē ’o ’oe te Mesia, te Tamaiti a te Atua ora ra ».

Mai tei fa’aitēhia mai e Petero, te ti’aturi ’o te « roara’a te fa’aro’o i te hōē ta’ata ’aore rā te fa’ari’ira’a i te hōē mea ’ei parau mau ».’E nō te arata’i i tō tātou fa’aro’o i te fa’aorara’a, e ti’a i te reira ’ia fa’atumuhia i ni’a i te Fatu ia Iesu Mesia. « Tē fa’āhipa nei tātou i tō tātou fa’aro’o ia Iesu Mesia, ’ia pāpū anaē ia tātou ē tē vai mau nei ’oia, [te hōē hāro’aro’ara’a] nō tōna huru ’ē tōna [nātura mau], ’ē te hōē ’itera’a ē e tūtava tātou ’ia ora mai te au i tōna hina’aro ».

’Ua parau tō tātou peropheta here ’o te peresideni Nelson, « ’ua riro te fa’aro’o i te Fatu ia Iesu Mesia ’ei niu nō te mau ti’aturira’a ato’a ’ē te arata’i o te mana hanahana ».

Nāhea tātou ’ia tauturu i te mau tamari’i

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. ...

“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 admon-

'ia ha'apūai i tō rātou fa'aro'o ia Iesu Mesia 'e 'ia fa'ari'i i tōna mana hanahana ? 'Aita e tītauhia ia tātou 'ia 'imi ātea atu, i tō tātou noa Fa'aora iho.

'Ua parau [te Fatu] i te nūna'a, i te nā-ō-ra'a ē :

« Inaha, 'o vau nei 'o Iesu Mesia [...]

« 'A ti'a mai i ni'a, 'e 'a haere mai iā'u nei [...]

« ... E 'ua haere atu ra te mau ta'ata, 'ua tu'u atu ra i tō rātou rima i tōna 'ao'ao, 'e 'ua fāfā atu ra i te mau puta naero i tōna nā rima 'e tōna nā āvae ; 'e 'ua nā reira rātou, ma te haere tāta'itahi atu [...] 'e 'ua'iteatu tō rātou mata 'e 'uafāfāatu tō rātou rima, 'e 'ua'itepāpū roa rātou 'e 'uafa'āite pāpūho'i ē, 'o 'oia mau ».

Tē ani nei au ia 'outou 'ia feruri, e aha tā te reira e nehenehe e fa'ahōhō'a i roto i te orara'a o te mau tamari'i. Tē fa'aro'ora ānei rātou i te mau 'itera'a pāpū nō Iesu Mesia 'e nō tāna 'evanelia ? Tē itemata ra ānei rātou i te mau hōhō'a fa'atura 'e te ha'amorira'a o tāna misiōni 'e tōna Atuarā'a ? Tē putapūra ānei rātou 'e tē 'ite mau ra ānei rātou i te Vārua Maitā'i e fa'a'ite pāpū ra nō tōna vairā'a mau 'e tōna Atuarā'a ? Tē itera ānei rātou i tāna parau pōro'i 'e tāna misiōni ?

Nō Iesu Mesia rātou 'e nō tāna 'Ēkālesia

'A piti, nō Iesu Mesia rātou 'e nō tāna 'Ēkālesia

'Ua fa'ari'i i te nūna'a o te ari'i Beniamina i te hōē taurā'a rahi o te 'āu'e nā roto i te fafaurā'a 'ua ha'amo'a rātou i tō rātou orara'a nō te ha'apa'o i te hina'aro o te Atua. Nō te fafaurā'a tā rātou i rave 'e te Atua 'e Iesu Mesia, « i parauhia ai [rātou] e mau tamari'i nā te Mesia, 'oia ho'i tāna mau tamari'i tamāroa 'e tāna mau tamāhine ».'Ei melo nō Te 'Ēkālesia a Iesu Mesia i te Feiā Mo'a i te mau Mahana Hope'a nei, e hōpoi'a nā tātou nā roto i te fafaurā'a, 'ia patu i tōna bāsileia 'e 'ia fa'aineine i tōna ho'ira'a mai.

Nāhea tātou 'ia tauturu i te mau tamari'i 'ia rave 'e 'ia ha'apa'o i te mau fafaurā'a mo'a ? I roto te buka ha'api'ira'a Mai, pe'e mai i roto te parau hi'u A 'e B, e 'ite mai tātou te mau tumu parau nō te āparaurā'a 'e te mau ha'api'ira'a nō te ha'apūai i te mau 'ūtūāfare 'e nō te turu i te mau 'orometua 'e i te feiā fa'atere i roto i tā rātou ti'a'aurā'a mo'a, nō te fa'aineine i te mau tamari'i nō te hōē orara'a i ni'a i te 'ē'a o te fafaurā'a a te Atua.

Riro, mai ia Iesu Mesia te huru

'A toru, riro, mai ia Iesu Mesia te huru.

I roto i te Buka a Moromona, tē a'o nei te

ished 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.”

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.

Fa’aora i tāna mau pipi tei pi’i-’āpi-hia ’ia riro mai iāna ato’a te huru : « E aha tō ’outou huru e au ai ? Nō reira, e parau atu vau ia ’outou, mai tō’u nei ia ».

Nāhea tātou ’ia tauturu i te mau tamari’i tei bāpetizohia ’e tei ha’amauhia ’ia rave i tā rātou hōpoi’a o te fafaura’a, ’ia ha’aputuputu ia rātou iho ’e ia vetahi ’ē ia Iesu Mesia ra ? Te rirora’a ’ei pipi i te roara’a o te orara’a e tītauhia ia tātou ’ia « riro... ’ei feiā rave i te parau ’e ’eiaha ’ei feiā fa’aro’o noa ».

’Ia ani manihini ana’e ’outou i te mau pipi ’āpi a’e a te Fatu, ’a rave i te mau taime ato’a nō te fa’atere ia rātou, nō te arata’i ia rātou, nō te haere nā pīha’i iho ia rātou, ’e nō te tauturu ia rātou ’ia ’ite mai i te ’ēa.A a’o atu i teie mau tamari’i na’ina’i faufa’a rahi ’a fa’aineine ai rātou nō te ha’api’i, nō te fa’a’ite pāpū, nō te pure’aore rā nō te tāvini, ’ia tī’aturi rātou iho ’e ’ia putapū i te ’oa’oa ’a rave fa’aoti ai rātou i tā rātou mau hōpoi’a. ’A ’imi i te mau rāve’a fa’auru nō te tauturu ia rātou ’ia hāro’aro’a, teie tā rātou ’ēkālēsia ’e e tī’ara’a faufa’a roa tō rātou i roto i te fa’aineinera’a nō te ho’ira’a mai o te Fa’aora.

’A riro ai Iesu Mesia ’ei pū nō tō tātou orara’a, te mea tā tātou e hina’aro ’e te rāve’a e roa’a ai te reira. E fa’ataui te fa’afāriura’a i te mau mea ato’a ! E fa’ataui te reira i tō tātou nātura « i ’ore ai mātou i hina’aro fa’ahou ai i te rave i te ’ino, ’ia rave tāmau noa rā i te maita’i ». E fa’ataui te reira e nāhea tātou ’ia fa’a’ohipa i tō tātou tāime, tā tātou mau rāve’a, te mea tā tātou e tai’o, e hi’o, e fa’aro’o ’e e ’ōpere. E fa’ataui ato’a te reira e nāhea tātou ’ia pāhono i roto i te hō’e uiuira’a nō te tihepura’a nō te ha’api’ira’a tōro’a, te fare ha’api’ira’a teitei fa’ahiahia.

E tī’a ia tātou e pūhi i te māmarama o Iesu Mesia i roto i te mau poro ato’a o tō tātou orara’a. Mai te peu ’aita tātou e fa’a’ite pāpū i te parau mau o tōna Atuarā’a hou teie orara’a, nō tāna misiōni hanahana, ’e nō tōna tī’afa’ahoura’a ’o tei vāvahi i te mau fare tāpe’ara’a, i roto i tō tātou mau fare ’e tā tātou mau rurura’a ato’a a teie ’Ēkālēsia, e riro noa ia tā tātou mau parau poro’i o te here, te tāvinira’a, te ha’avare ’ore, te ha’ehā’a, te ’ā’au mehara ’e te aroha ’ei hō’e a’ora’a tāhitohito o te hō’e orara’a pāutuutu. ’Aita ana’e Iesu Mesia, ’aita ia e mana nō te taurā’a, ’aita e fā nō te tāpae atu, ’aita e fa’ahaurā’a i te mau tāfifira’a o te orara’a. Mai te peu e tau’a ’ore tātou i roto i tō tātou tī’ara’a pipi nā Iesu Mesia, e riro te reira ’ei ’ati rahi nō tā tātou mau tamari’i.

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 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.

’Ia parau ana’e tātou i tā tātou mau tamari’i ē
’ua here tātou ia rātou, tē parau ra ato’a ānei tātou
ē, ’ua here tō tātou Metua i te ao ra ’e tō tātou
Fa’aora o Iesu Mesia ia rātou ?E nehenehe tō
tātou here e tāmahanahana ’e e fa’auru, e nehene-
he rā tō Rāua here e ha’amo’a, e fa’ateitei, e e fa’aora.

’Eiaha teie Iesu ’ia riro ’ei Iesu ha’avare, aore
rā ’ei Iesu faufā’a ’ore, aore rā ’ei Iesu tino ’ore, aore
rā ’ei Iesu nō te tahi noa taime, aore rā ’ei Iesu
’itea-’ore-hia, terā rā ’o tei fa’ahanahanahia, te
manahope, tei ti’afa’ahou mai, tei fa’ateiteihia, tei
ha’amorihia, te mana rahi, ’ei Tamaiti fānautahi
nā te Atua, ’o teipūai nō te fa’aora. ’E mai te hōē
tamari’i ’āpī nō Philipino tei fa’a’ite pāpū mai iā’u
ma te rāve’a hahi ’ore i te hōē mahana, « e ti’a roa
tātou ’ia fa’aorahia ! » I te i’oa mo’a ’e te pōra’o ’ore
« ’o ’Oia [tei pūai] nō te fa’aora », ’o Iesu Mesia,
’āmene.