

Our Heavenly Guidance System

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Tō tātou rāvē'a arata'i i te ao ra

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Nō te Hitu 'Ahuru

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As we focus our lives on Jesus Christ, we will find our way home, enduring to the end and rejoicing to the end.

Jesus Christ changed my life when I was baptized at the age of 26 in my beloved Frutillar, Chile. At that time, my job took me across the ocean, rivers, and lakes of the beautiful Chilean Patagonia. After my baptism, I saw my work and my life in a new and different way, recognizing that truly “all things denote there is a God.”

In nature, salmon are born in the source of the rivers. At some point in their lives, they need to swim downriver to reach the ocean, where they find the nourishment and conditions necessary for their development.

But the ocean is also a dangerous place where predators lurk and where fishers try to catch the salmon with flashy hooks that imitate food but do not nourish them. If the salmon can survive these threats, they will be ready to use their powerful guidance system to return upriver to the same place where they were born, facing new and some familiar challenges. Scientists have studied their migratory behavior for years and have discovered that they use a type of magnetic map, similar to GPS, to guide them to their final destination with incredible precision.

'A fa'atumu ai tātou i tō tātou orara'a i ni'a ia Iesu Mesia, e 'itehia mai ia tātou te 'ēa nō te ho'ira'a, ma te tāpe'a-māite-ra'a e tae noa atu i te hōpe'a 'e ma te 'oa'oa e tae noa atu i te hōpe'a.

'Ua tau i Iesu Mesia i tō'u orara'a i te taime 'a bāpetizohia ai au i te 26ra'a o tō'u matahiti, i roto i tō'u Frutillar here, i Tīreni. I taua tau ra, 'ua arata'i tā'u 'ohipa iā'u 'ia rātere nā te moana, te mau 'ānāvai 'e te mau tairoto o te tuha'a fenua mou'a nehenehe i Tīreni. I muri mai i tō'u bāpetizora'a, 'ua hi'o vau i tā'u 'ohipa 'e tō'u orara'a nā roto i te hōē huru 'āpī 'e te ta'a 'ē, ma te māuruuru mau ē « tē fa'a'ite nei te mau mea atō'a ē tē vai nei te hōē Atua ».

I roto te nātura, e fānauhia te tāmāno i roto i te vaipuna o te mau 'ānāvai. I te hōē taime o tō rātou orara'a, e ti'a ia rātou e 'au ma te pou nā roto i te 'ōpape e tae atu ai i te moana, i reira rātou e 'ite mai ai te mā'a 'e te mau rāvē'a e tītauhia nō tō rātou tupurā'a.

Terā rā 'ua riro atō'a te moana 'ei vāhi ataata, i reira te mau 'a'aiaora e ori haere ai 'e i reira te feiā tā'i'a e tāmāta ai i te haru mai i te tāmāno i te mau matau 'ana'ana, e au ra i te mā'a 'aita rā e fa'aamu ia rātou. Mai te mea e ora mai te mau tāmāno i teie mau ha'amata'urā'a, 'ua ineine 'ia rātou i te fa'a'ohipa i tā rātou rāvē'a pūai o te arata'i nō te pa'i'uma i te 'ānāvai e tae roa i te vāhi 'a fānauhia ai rātou, ma te 'aro i te mau tāmatarā'a 'āpī 'e tei mātauhia. 'Ua 'imi te mau 'aivāna'a i te tere o te mau tāmāno mai te hōē vāhi i te tahi atu vāhi e rave rahi matahiti, 'e 'ua 'itehia mai i te mau 'aivāna'a ē tē fa'a'ohipa nei rātou i te hōē hōho'a fenua au'ume [magnetique], e au ra mai te GPS, nō te arata'i ia rātou i tō rātou tāpaera'a hōpe'a ma te hōē ha'apāpūra'a fa'ahia mau.

We can all return one day to the heavenly home from where we came. And like the salmon, we have our own magnetic map, or Light of Christ, to guide us there. Jesus taught His disciples, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

As we focus our lives on Jesus Christ, we will find our way home, enduring to the end and rejoicing to the end. President Russell M. Nelson taught that “the joy we feel has little to do with the circumstances of our lives and everything to do with the focus of our lives.”

Our Divine Nature and Destiny

From the family proclamation, we read that “each [of us] is a beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly parents, and, as such, each has a divine nature and destiny. ... In the premortal realm, spirit sons and daughters knew and worshipped God as their Eternal Father and accepted His plan by which His children could obtain a physical body and gain earthly experience to progress toward perfection and ultimately realize their divine destiny as heirs of eternal life.”

Before His birth in mortality, Jesus Christ appeared to Moses and spoke to him on behalf of the Father. He told Moses He had a great work for him to do. During that meeting, the Lord called him “my son” several times.

After that experience, Satan came tempting him, saying, “Moses, son of man, worship me.”

Moses responded to the temptation by remembering his divine nature, saying, “Who art thou? For behold, I am a son of God.” The truth freed Moses from an attack by the adversary.

Brothers and sisters, the hooks of mortality are real. They are often enticing, but they seek only one target: to pull us out of the course of living waters that lead to the Father and eternal life.

E nehenehe tātou pāto'a i te hōē mahana e ho'i i tō tātou nohora'a i te ao ra, te vāhi nō reira mai tātou. 'E mai te tāmāno, tē vai nei tā tātou iho hōho'a fenua au'ume 'aore rā te māmarama o te Mesia, nō te arata'i ia tātou i'ō. 'Ua ha'api'i Iesu i tāna mau pipi, « 'o vau te 'ēa, te parau mau 'e te ora, 'aore roa e tāata e tae i te Metua ra, mao-ri rā 'ei iā'u ».

'A fa'atumu ai tātou i tō tātou orara'a i ni'a ia Iesu Mesia, e 'itehia mai ia tātou te 'ēa nō te ho'ira'a, ma te tāpē'a-māite-ra'a e tae noa atu i te hōpē'a 'e ma te 'oāoa e tae noa atu i te hōpē'a. 'Ua ha'api'i te peresideni Nelson ē, « te 'oāoa tā tātou e putapū nei, 'aore re'a nō te mau mea e tupu nei i roto i tō tātou orara'a 'e pauroa rā ma te fa'atumu-hia i ni'a i tō tātou orara'a ».

Tō tātou nātura 'e tō tātou hope'a hana-hana

I roto i te poro'i nō te 'utuāfare, tē tai'ō nei tātou « 'ua riro tātou tāta'itahi 'ei tamaiti 'e 'ei tamāhine vārua herehia e nā metua i te ra'i ra, 'e nō reira, e huru 'e e hope'a hanahana tō tātou tāta'itahi [...] I roto i te ao nā mua a'e, 'ua 'ite 'e 'ua ha'amori na ho'i te mau tamaiti 'e te mau tamāhine vārua i te Atua tō rātou Metua Mure 'Ore, 'e 'ua fa'ari'i i tāna fa'anahora'a e ti'a ai i tāna mau tamari'i 'ia roa'a i te hōē tino i'ō 'e te ivi, 'e 'ia roa'a ho'i te 'itera'a rau i te tahuti nei nō te haerera'a i mua e tae atu ai i te maita'i-roa-ra'a, 'e ia fa'atupu ho'i i tō rātou hope'a hanahana 'ei mau tāata 'āi'a nō te ora mure 'ore ».

Hou tōna fānaura'ahia mai i te tino nei, 'ua fā atu Iesu Mesia ia Mose 'e 'ua paraparau iāna nā ni'a i te i'oa o te Metua. 'Ua parau 'oia ia Mose e 'ohipa rahi tāna [Mose] e rave fa'aoti. I roto i tō rāua fārereira'a, 'ua pi'i te Fatu iāna « tā'u tamaiti » e rave rahi taime.

I muri a'e i teie 'ohipa i tupu, 'ua haere mai Sātane e fa'ahema iāna, ma te parau, « e Mose, te tamaiti a te tāata nei, 'a ha'amori mai iā'u ».

'Ua pāhono atu Mose i te fa'ahemara'a ma te ha'amanāo i tōna nātura hanahana, nā 'ō atu ra, « o vai 'oe ? Inaha ho'i, e tamaiti ho'i au nā te Atua ».'Ua fa'aora te parau mau ia Mose i te 'arora'a a te 'enemi.

Te mau taeae 'e te mau tuahine, e mea mau te mau here pata o te tahuti nei. Pinepine e mea fa'ahia'ai, terā rā e fa'atano noa te reira i te hōē noa fā : nō te huti ia tātou i rāpae i te 'ēa nō te mau pape ora 'o tē arata'i atu i te Metua 'e i te ora

I know how real the hooks of mortality can be. One Sunday, as a new convert, I was teaching a priesthood class when an unsettling conversation arose. I struggled to finish my lesson. I took offense and felt that I was the victim. Without saying a word, I headed for the exit with the idea that I would not return to church for a while.

At that very moment, a concerned priesthood holder stood in front of me. He lovingly invited me to focus on Christ and not on the situation we had experienced in class. As I looked back on the experience with him, he shared with me that he heard a voice tell him, “Go after him; he is important to me.”

My dear friends, we are all important to Him. President Nelson taught that “because of our covenant with God, He will never tire in His efforts to help us, and we will never exhaust His merciful patience with us.” Our divine nature and covenant relationship with God entitle us to receive divine help.

The Need of Nourishment

Just as salmon need to be nourished in the ocean to grow, we also need to nourish ourselves spiritually to avoid dying of spiritual malnutrition. Prayer, the scriptures, the temple, and our regular attendance at Sunday meetings are vital in our spiritual menu.

In November 1956, Ricardo García entered the waters of baptism in Chile, becoming the first member of the Church in my country. Just one day before he died, he declared before his family and friends, “Many years ago, missionaries invited me to be happy along with my family. I am a happy man. Tell everyone in Chile the gospel is happiness.”

After having been nourished with the gospel of Jesus Christ, Ricardo dedicated his entire life to serving God and his neighbor with love. His example of discipleship has blessed generations, including me. The Prophet Joseph Smith taught that “a man filled with the love of God, is not

mure 'ore.

'Ua 'ite au e nāhea te mau here pata o te tahuti nei e riro ai e mea mau. I te hōē sābati, e melo fa'afāriu 'āpī vau i reira ra, tē ha'api'i ra vau i te hōē piha autahu'ara'a, 'a tupu ai te hōē 'āparau-ra'a huehue. 'Aita i nehenehe iā'u e fa'āoti i tā'u ha'api'ira'a. 'Ua fa'ā'ino'ino te reira iā'u 'e e au ra i roto iā'u 'o vau te tāata hape. Ma te fa'ahiti 'ore i te hōē parau, 'ua haere atu vau nā te 'ōpani ma te mana'o ē, e'ita vau e ho'i fa'ahou mai i te fare purera'a nō te tahi mā'a taime.

I taua iho taime ra, 'ua ti'a mai te hōē tae'ae o te autahu'ara'a ma te mana'o pe'ape'a i mua iā'u. 'Ua ani mai 'oia iā'u ma te aroha 'ia fa'atumu iā'u i nī'a i te Mesia, 'eiaha rā i nī'a i te 'ohipa i tupu i roto i te piha ha'api'ira'a. 'A feruri fa'ahou ai i teie 'ohipa i tupu 'e teie tae'ae, 'ua fa'ā'ite mai 'oia iā'u ē 'ua fa'aro'o 'oia i te hōē reo i te paraura'a iāna, « 'a haere e ti'i iāna ; e mea faufa'a roa 'oia nō'u ».

E au mau hoa here, e mea faufa'a roa tātoupā'āto'anōna. 'Ua ha'api'i te peresideni Nelson ē, « maoti tā tātou fafaurā'a i te Atua, e'ita roa 'oia e rohirohi i roto i tāna mau tauto'ora'a nō te tauturu ia tātou, 'e e'ita roa atu tātou e ha'amāu'a noa i tōna aroha fa'āoroma'i nō tātou ». Tō tātou nātura hanahana 'e tā tātou aura'a o te fafaurā'a 'e te Atua, e hōro'a ia tātou te ti'ara'a 'ia fa'ari'i i te tauturu hanahana.

Te hina'aro 'ia fa'a'amuhia

Mai te tāmano e hina'aro 'ia fa'a'amuhia i roto i te moana nō te tupu rahi, e ti'a ato'a ia tātou 'ia fa'a'amuhia i te pae vārua, 'ia 'ore tātou e pohe i te mā'a 'ore i te pae vārua. Te pure, te mau pā-pa'ira'a mo'a, te hiero 'e tā tātou haerera'a tāmau i te purera'a i te sābati e mea faufa'a roa nō tā tātou tāma'ara'a pae vārua.

I te 'āva'e Novema matahiti 1956, 'ua tomo mai Ricardo Garcia i roto i te pape nō te bāpeti-zora'a i Tīreni, i te rirora'a 'ei melo mātāmua nō te 'Ēkālesia i tō'u fenua. Te mahana hou 'oia 'a pohe ai, 'ua parau 'oia i mua i tōna 'utuāfare 'e te mau ho'a, « e rave rahi matahiti i teienei, 'ua 'ani mai te mau misiōnare iā'u 'ia 'o'aoa 'e tō'u 'utuāfare. E tāata 'o'aoa vau. 'A parau i te mau tāata ato'a nō Tīreni e mea 'o'aoa te 'evanelia ».

I muri a'e i te fa'a'amura'ahia 'e te 'evanelia a Iesu Mesia, 'ua hōro'a Ricardo i te tā'ato'ara'a o tōna orara'a nō te tāvini i te Atua 'e tōna tāata tupu ma te here. Tōna hīora'a 'ei pipi 'ua ha'amaita'i i te mau u'i, 'oia ato'a 'o vau nei. 'Ua ha'api'i te peropheta Iosepha Semita ē « te hōē tāata tei 'i i

content with blessing his family alone, but ranges through the whole world, anxious to bless the whole human race.”

Return to Our Heavenly Home

Deep inside each of us is a desire to return to our heavenly home, and Jesus Christ is our heavenly guidance system. He is the way. His atoning sacrifice makes it possible for us to make sacred covenants with God. Once we make covenants, we will at times find ourselves swimming against the current. Danger, disappointment, temptation, and affliction will test our faith and spiritual strength. Ask for help. Jesus Christ understands and is always eager to share our burdens.

Remember that He is known as “a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.” The Savior taught, “In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” His atoning sacrifice allows our sins to be forgiven to the point that He no longer remembers them.

We may not totally forget our sins as part of our mortal learning so we will remember not to repeat them. Instead, we will remember Him as we take the sacrament at church every Sunday. This ordinance is an essential part of worship and spiritual development. Joy comes when we understand that this is not just another day. “The sabbath was made for man” with the intention of giving us rest from the world and renewing our body and spirit.

We also remember Him when we go to the temple—the house of the Lord. Temples give us a deeper knowledge of Jesus Christ as the center of the covenant that leads us to eternal life, “the greatest of ... the gifts of God.”

Attending the temple has given me comfort and great hope about our eternal destiny. I have experienced heavenly connections with people on both sides of the veil. I’ve seen healing miracles in the lives of my young children, two of whom live with unseen illnesses that require daily care for the rest of this life.

Our family rejoices as we share about the

te aroha o te Atua, e’ita ’oia e māuruuru noa i te ha’amaita’i i tōna iho ’utuāfare, e haere rā nā te ao ato’a nei, ma te hina’aro rahi e ha’amaita’i te tāta tāāto’a ».

Te ho’ira’a i tō tātou fare i te ao ra

I roto i te hōhonura’a ia tātou tāta’itahi, tē vai ra hōē hina’aro e ho’i atu i tō tātou nohoro’a i te ao ra, e ’ō Iesu Mesia tō tātou rāve’a arata’i. O oia te ’ē a. ’Ua fa’ati’a tāna tusia tāraēhara ia tātou ’ia rave i te mau fafaura’a mo’a e te Atua. I te taime ’a rave ai tātou i te mau fafaura’a, e ’ite tātou ia tātou iho i te ’aura’a ma te fa’au i te ’ōpape. E tu’u te ’ati, te ’ino’ino, te fa’ahemara’a e te ’āueue rahi i tō tātou fa’aro’o e tō tātou pūai pae vārua ia tāma-tahia. ’A ani i te tauturu. ’Ua māramarama Iesu Mesia e ’ua ineine noa ’oia i te tauturu ’ia ’amo i tā tātou hōpoi’a.

’A ha’amana’o ’ua mātauhia ’oia mai te « hōē tāata ’oto e tei mātaro i te māuiui ».’Ua ha’api’i te Fa’aora, « e pohe tō ’outou i teie nei ao : E fa’aitoi-to rā, ’ua riro te rē o teie nei ao iā’u ».E fa’ati’a tāna tusia tāraēhara i te fa’āorerā’a i tā tātou mau hara, e tae roa e ’ore ’oia e ha’amana’o fa’ahou.

E’ita e mo’e hope roa ia tātou tā tātou mau hara ’ei tuha’a nō tā tātou ha’api’ira’a i te tahuti nei, e ha’amana’o rā tātou e ’eiaha tātou e nā reira fa’ahou. Maoti ra, e ha’amana’o tātou iāna ’ia rave tātou i te ’ōro’a mo’a i te fare purera’a i te mau sābati ato’a. ’Ua riro teie ’ōro’a ’ei tuha’a faufā roa nō te ha’amorirā’a e te tupurā’a pae vārua. E tae mai te ’oa’oa ’ia māramarama anāe tātou ē, e ’ere te reira i te hōē mahana mai te tahi atu. « I ha’apa’ohia te sābati nō te tāata », ma te mana’o e hōro’a ia tātou i te fa’aeaeara’a i teie nei ao e te fa’āpīra’a i tō tātou tino e tō tātou vārua.

E ha’amana’o ato’a tātou iāna ’ia haere anāe tātou i te hiero—te fare o te Fatu. E fa’ati’a te mau hiero ia tātou ’ia mātau maita’i a’e ia Iesu Mesia mai te pū o te fafaura’a, ’ō tē ’arata’i ia tātou i te ora mure ’ore, « te hōro’a rahi roa a’e a te Atua ».

Te haere-tāmau-ra’a i te hiero, ’ua hōro’a mai iā’u te tāmahana e te tīa’i rahi nō tō tātou hope’a mure ’ore. ’Ua ora na vau i te mau natira’a i te ao ra e te mau tāata i nā pae e piti o te pāruru. ’Ua riro vau ’ei ’ite nō te mau temeio o te fa’aorara’a i roto i te orara’a o tā’u mau tamari’i ’āpi, e piti ’ō te mamae nei i te mau mā’i ’ite-’ore-hia ’ō tē tītauhia te aupurura’a tāmahana nō te toe’a o tō rāua orara’a.

Tē ’oa’oa nei tō mātou ’utuāfare ’ia fa’āite anāe

plan of happiness. My children's faces light up when they hear that, thanks to Jesus Christ, their "afflictions shall be but a small moment." We love our children deeply, and we know that someday, as President Jeffrey R. Holland taught, they "will stand before us glorified and grand, breathtakingly perfect in body and mind." Our covenants bring us closer to God to the point of making the impossible possible, filling every space of darkness and doubt with light and peace.

Thanks to Jesus Christ, there are hope and well-founded reasons to continue loving, praying, and supporting those we care about.

I know He lives. He knows us and He loves us. He is the way, the truth, and the life of the world.

I invite all of us today to center our lives on Jesus Christ and His teachings. Doing so will help us avoid biting the hooks of temptation, offense, and self-pity. We will stand as temples—holy, firm, and constant. We will weather the storms, and we will make it home, enduring to the end and rejoicing to the end. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

mātou i te fa'anahora'a nō te 'oa'oa. E 'ana'ana te hōhō'a mata o tā'u mau tamari'i 'ia fa'aro'o ana'e rātou ē, maoti Iesu Mesia, « e vai poto noa mai tō [rātou] fifi 'e tō [rātou] mau 'ati ». 'Ua here hōhonu roa māua i tā māua mau tamari'i, 'e 'ua 'ite māua ē i te hōē mahana, mai tā te peresideni Jeffrey R. Holland i ha'api'i, e « ti'a mai rātou i mua ia tātou ma te hanahana 'e te fa'ahiahia, ma te tino 'e te ferurira'a maita'i roa 'aita i 'itehia a'enei ». E ha'afātata atu tā tātou mau fafaura'a i te Atua ma te fa'ariro i te hōē 'ohipa pāpū 'ore 'ei mea pāpū, ma te fa'a'i i te vāhi vata ato'a o te pōiri 'e o te fea'a i te māmarama 'e i te hau.

Maoti Iesu Mesia, tē vai ra te ti'a'ira'a 'e te mau mana'o niuhia 'ia tāmāu noa i te here, te pure 'e te turu i te feiā tā tātou e poihere nei.

'Ua 'ite au tē ora nei oia. 'Ua mātau maita'i 'oia ia tātou 'e 'ua here 'oia ia tātou. 'O 'oia te 'ēa, te parau mau, 'e te ora o te ao ato'a nei.

Tē ani nei au ia tātou pā'ato'a i teie mahana 'ia fa'atumu i tō tātou orara'a i ni'a ia Iesu Mesia 'e tāna mau ha'api'ira'a. E tauturu te reira ia tātou 'ia 'ape i te here pata o te fa'ahemara'a, te 'ino'inora'a 'e te aroharara'a ia tātou iho. E ti'a tātou mai te mau hiero—te mo'a, te 'eta'eta 'e te tāmāu. E 'aroti'a tātou i te mau vero, 'e e ho'i atu tātou i te fare, ma te tāpe'a e tae noa atu i te hōpe'a 'e 'e 'oa'oa e tae noa atu i te hōpe'a. I te i'oa o Iesu Mesia, 'āmene.