

True to the Faith That Our Parents Have Cherished

By Elder Hans T. Boom
Of the Seventy

Tapat sa Pananampalatayang Pinahalagahan ng Ating mga Magulang

Ni Elder Hans T. Boom
Ng Pitumpu

April 2025 general conference

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

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.”

Mangyaring matuto at humugot ng lakas mula sa pananampalataya at patotoo ng mga nauna sa inyo.

Sa aking pagbisita sa Nashville Tennessee Temple para sa isang temple review, nagkaroon ako ng pribilehiyong malibot ito bilang bahagi ng aking assignment, kung saan sinuri ko ang napa-kagandang bahay na ito ng Panginoon. Talagang humanga ako sa ipinintang larawan ni Mary Wanlass na tinatawag na Carry On na nakasabit sa dingding ng opisina ng matron.

Ito ang kuwento sa likod ng ipinintang larawang iyon:

“Sa Missouri noong 1862, ang 14 na taong gulang na si Mary Wanlass ay nangako sa kanyang naghihingalong madrasta na titiyakin niya na ang kanyang nalumpong ama [at ang apat niyang nakababatang mga kapatid ay makararating] sa Lambak ng Great Salt Lake. ... Si Mary ang nagpatakbo sa mga baka na humihila sa bagon, kung saan naroon ang kanyang amang [nakaratay, at] inalagaan niya ang kanyang ... mga kapatid. Sa pagtatapos ng paglalakbay sa bawat araw, pinakain niya ang kanyang pamilya sa pamamagitan ng paghahanap ng mga halaman, bulaklak, at berry na maaaring kainin. Ang tanging gabay niya ay ang tagubilin na natanggap niya na magpatuloy na maglakbay pakanluran ‘hanggang sa ang mga ulap ay maging mga bundok.’

“Narating nila [ang] Lambak ng Utah noong Setyembre, matapos maglakbay sa buong tagsibol at tag-init. Ang kanyang ama ay namatay hindi nagtagal matapos makapanirahan ang pamilya sa Utah County, kung saan si Mary kalaunan ay nakapag-asawa at nagkaroon ng [sariling] pamilya.”

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 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.

Ito ay isang nakamamanghang kuwento ng pananampalataya at katatagan ng isang 14 na taong gulang na kabataang babae na makatutulong sa bawat isa sa atin ngayon na “magpatuloy lamang.”

Ang “Magpatuloy lamang”—o kapag isinalin sa aking katutubong wikang Dutch ay, *Gewoon doorgaan*—ay motto rin ng aking ama’t ina sa buong buhay nila.

Ang aking mga magulang at mga biyenan ay mga pioneer sa aming pamilya. Tinawid din nila ang kanilang sariling mga “kapatagan,” na tulad ng lahat ng mga sumasapi sa Simbahan, ang kawan ng Panginoon, sa araw-araw. Ang kanilang mga kuwento ay walang mga baka at mga bagon, ngunit may kaparehong epekto sa mga sumunod na henerasyon.

Tinanggap nila ang ebanghelyo at nabin-yagan noong sila ay mga young adult. Ang aking mga magulang ay parehong nakaranas ng kahirapan sa kanilang kabataan. Ang aking ama ay lumaki sa isla ng Java sa Indonesia. Noong Ikalawang Digmaang Pandaigdig, sapilitan siyang inihiwalay sa kanyang pamilya at inilagay sa isang concentration camp, kung saan siya nakaranas ng hindi maipaliwanag na paghihirap sa murang edad.

Ang aking ina ay lumaki sa isang hindi kumpletong pamilya at nakaranas din ng gutom at mga paghihirap na dulot ng Ikalawang Digmaang Pandaigdig. Kung minsan ay wala siyang magawa kundi kainin na lang ang maliliit na bulaklak ng tulip. Dahil sa mga ginawa ng kanyang ama at ang kasunod na pakikipagdiborsiyo nito sa kanyang ina, naging mahirap kung minsan para sa kanya na makita ang Ama sa Langit bilang isang mapagmahal na ama.

Ang aking mga magulang ay nagkakilala sa isang aktibidad sa Simbahan at hindi nagtagal ay nagpasiya silang magpakasal at mabuklod sa Bern Switzerland Temple. Habang naghihintay sa istasyon ng tren, at nagamit na ang lahat ng natitira sa kanilang maliit na ipon para sa pagpunta sa templo, inisip nila kung mapagkakasya pa nila ang kung anong meron sila pero tiwala sila na magiging maayos ang lahat. At nangyari nga iyon!

Sinimulan nila ang kanilang pamilya sa isang simple at maliit na apartment na may kuwarto sa attic sa gitna ng Amsterdam. Makalipas ang ilang taon ng manu-manong paglalaba, nakaipon sila sa wakas ng sapat na pera para makabili ng

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.

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

washing machine. Nang bibilhin na sana nila ito, bumisita sa kanila ang bishop, na humihingi ng kontribusyon para sa pagpapatayo ng meetinghouse sa Amsterdam. Nagpasiya sila na ibigay ang lahat ng naipon nila para sa washing machine at patuloy na manu-manong maglaba.

Bilang isang pamilya, kami rin ay dumanas ng ilang hamon tulad ng ibang pamilya. Ang mga ito ay nagpalakas sa amin at nagpalalim ng aming pananampalataya sa Panginoong Jesucristo, tulad noong ibinahagi ni Alma ang kanyang kuwento sa kanyang anak na si Helaman, kung saan sinabi niya na siya ay “tinulungan sa ilalim ng mga pagsubok at suliranin ng lahat ng uri” dahil nagtiwala siya sa Panginoong Jesucristo.

Paano naging pinakamabubuting magulang na pinapangarap ko ang dalawang taong nakaranas ng napakaraming hirap noong kanilang kabataan? Simple lamang ang sagot: lubos nilang tinanggap ang ebanghelyo at namuhay ayon sa kanilang mga tipan hanggang sa mga araw na ito!

Makalipas ang mahigit 65 taong pagsasama bilang mag-asawa, ang aking ina na nahirapan dahil sa Alzheimer’s disease, ay pumanaw nitong Pebrero. Ang aking ama, na edad 92 at nakatira pa rin sa bahay, ay palaging bumibisita kay Inay sa abot ng kanyang makakaya hanggang sa pagpanaw nito. Minsan ay nabanggit niya sa mas nakababata kong mga kapatid na ang mga kaila-kilabot na karanasan niya sa kampo sa Indonesia noong Ikalawang Digmaang Pandaigdig ay naghanda sa kanya para matiyagang maalagaan ang kanyang asawa sa loob ng napakaraming taon noong ito ay magkasakit at lubos na nanghina dahil sa teribleng karamdamang ito at pati na rin sa araw na kailangan niyang ipaubaya sa iba ang pangangalaga rito at hindi na niya ito makasama palagi. Ang kanilang motto ay nanatili pa ring “Magpatuloy lamang,” na may ganap na pag-asa kay Cristo na sa huling araw ay babangon silang muli at makakasama Siya sa kaluwaltatian magpakailanman.

Ang kanilang pananampalataya at patotoo ang nagbibigay ng lakas sa mga sumunod na henerasyon sa kanila.

Sa nayon kung saan lumaki ang aking asawa, ang kanyang mga magulang, na mabubuting tao na palaging nagsisimba, ay tinanggap ang ebanghelyo noong sila ay ilang taon pa lang na mag-asawa, at ang aking ina ay dalawang taong gulang pa lamang noon at nag-iisa pa lamang nilang anak. Ang kanilang desisyon na maging

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.

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

miyembro ng Ang Simbahan ni Jesucristo ng mga Banal sa mga Huling Araw ay nagkaroon ng malaking epekto sa kanilang buhay dahil nilayuan sila ng kanilang mga kapitbahay at ng kanilang pamilya. Nangailangan ng maraming taon, magigiliw na liham sa mga kapamilya, at paglilingkod sa komunidad bago sila muling tinanggap.

Minsan nga noong naglilingkod ang biyenan kong lalaki bilang bishop, siya ay pinaratangan na gumawa ng isang bagay at kaagad namang pinalaya. Lubhang nasaktan ang aking biyenang-babae kaya natanong niya sa kanyang asawa kung dapat pa ba silang magpatuloy sa pagsisimba. Sumagot ang kanyang asawa na dapat pa rin silang magpatuloy sa pagsisimba dahil hindi ito simbahan ng mga tao, kundi ito ay Simbahan ni Jesucristo.

Ilang panahon din ang lumipas bago lumbas ang katotohanan at may humingi ng tawad. Ang bagay na sisira sana sa kanila ay nakadagdag lamang sa kanilang lakas at pananalig.

Bakit may ilan sa atin na hindi pinahahagahan ang pananampalataya at patotoo ng ating mga magulang na nanatili pa ring tapat sa kabila ng lahat ng hirap na kanilang pinagdaanan? Sa palagay ba natin ay wala silang malinaw na pang-unawa sa mga bagay-bagay? Hindi at hindi sila nalinlang! Nagkaroon lamang sila ng napakaraming karanasan sa Espiritu at masasabi nila kasama si Propetang Joseph, "Ito'y alam ko, ... at ito'y hindi ko maipagkakaila."

Hindi ba gusto rin ninyo ang awitin tungkol sa hukbo ni Helaman na nasa Aklat ng mga Awit Pambata?

Tulad ni Nephi ay 'sinilang,
sa maka-Diyos na mga magulang.
Naturuan kami nang puspos;
Dapat sundin ang utos ng Diyos.

Kahit na hindi ito nangyari sa inyo, katulad ng naranasan ng aking ina noong kanyang kabataan, maaari kayong maging isa sa "maka-Diyos na mga magulang" at magbigay ng mabuting halimbawa sa iba.

Nadarama ba natin na ito ay totoo kapag inaawit natin iyon? Nadarama ba ninyo na kayo ay "tulad ng hukbo ni Helaman" at kayo ay "sa Diyos magsisilbing misyonero, Katotohana'y alay"? Nadama ko ito sa maraming okasyon habang inaawit ito sa ilang kaganapan sa FSY at iba pang mga pagtitipon ng mga kabataan.

O ano ang nadarama natin kapag inaawit

“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 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.

natin ang himnong “Tapat sa Pananampalataya”?

Kabataan ba ng Sion,
Tama’y ‘di ‘paglalaban?
Sa pagsugod ng kaaway,
Sila ba ay aatras? Hindi!
Sa katotohana’y may katapatan.

Sa mga bagong henerasyon, nasaang lugar man kayo at anuman ang inyong kalagayan ngayon, mangyaring matuto at humugot ng lakas mula sa pananampalataya at patotoo ng mga taong nauna sa inyo. Makatutulong na maunawaan ninyo na para magkaroon ng patotoo o mapalago ito, kailangang gumawa ng mga sakripisyo at na ang “biyaya’y bunga ng pagpapasakit.”

Habang iniisip ninyo ang isang sakripisyo na tunay na magpapala sa inyong buhay, mangyaring isaalang-alang at ipanalangin ang paanyaya ng ating mahal na propeta, si Pangulong Russell M. Nelson, nang hiniling niya sa “bawat-karapat-dapat at may kakayahang binatilyo na maghanda para sa at maglingkod sa misyon. Para sa mga lalaking Banal sa mga Huling araw, ang paglilingkod sa misyon ay isang responsibilidad ng priesthood. ...

“Para sa ... bata pa at may kakayahang mga sister, ang misyon ay isa ring maganda, ngunitopsiyonal, na oportunidad.”

Maaari kayong tawaging maglingkod bilang isang service o teaching missionary. Ang dalawang uri ng missionary na ito ay nag-aambag sa parehong layunin na magdala ng mga kaluluwa kay Cristo, sa kanilang natatangi at makapangyarihang paraan.

Sa dalawang uri ng paglilingkod na ito, maipapakita ninyo sa Panginoon na mahal ninyo Siya at nais ninyo na mas makilala pa Siya. Tandaan, “sapagkat paano makikilala ng isang tao ang panginoon na hindi niya pinaglingkuran, at kung sino ay dayuhan sa kanya, at malayo sa pag-iisip at mga hangarin ng kanyang puso?”

Tayo man ang una o ang panlimang henerasyon sa ebanghelyo, dapat nating lahat itanong sa ating sarili, Anong mga kuwento ng pananam-palataya, katatagan, at katapatang selestiyal ang ipapasa ko sa susunod na henerasyon?

Magpatuloy tayong lahat sa ating mga pag-sisikap na mas makilala ang ating Tagapagligtas na si Jesucristo, at gawin Siyang sentro ng ating buhay. Siya ang bato na dapat nating gawing saligan nang sa gayon kapag dumating ang mahihirap na panahon, mananatili pa rin tayong

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.

matatag na nakatayo.

Tayo ay “[maging tapat sa pananampalatayang pinahalagahan ng ating mga magulang], pananampalataya’y ipaglaban, utos ng Diyos ay [sundin]. Buong puso ang katapatan.” Sa pangalan ni Jesucristo, amen.