



The Witness

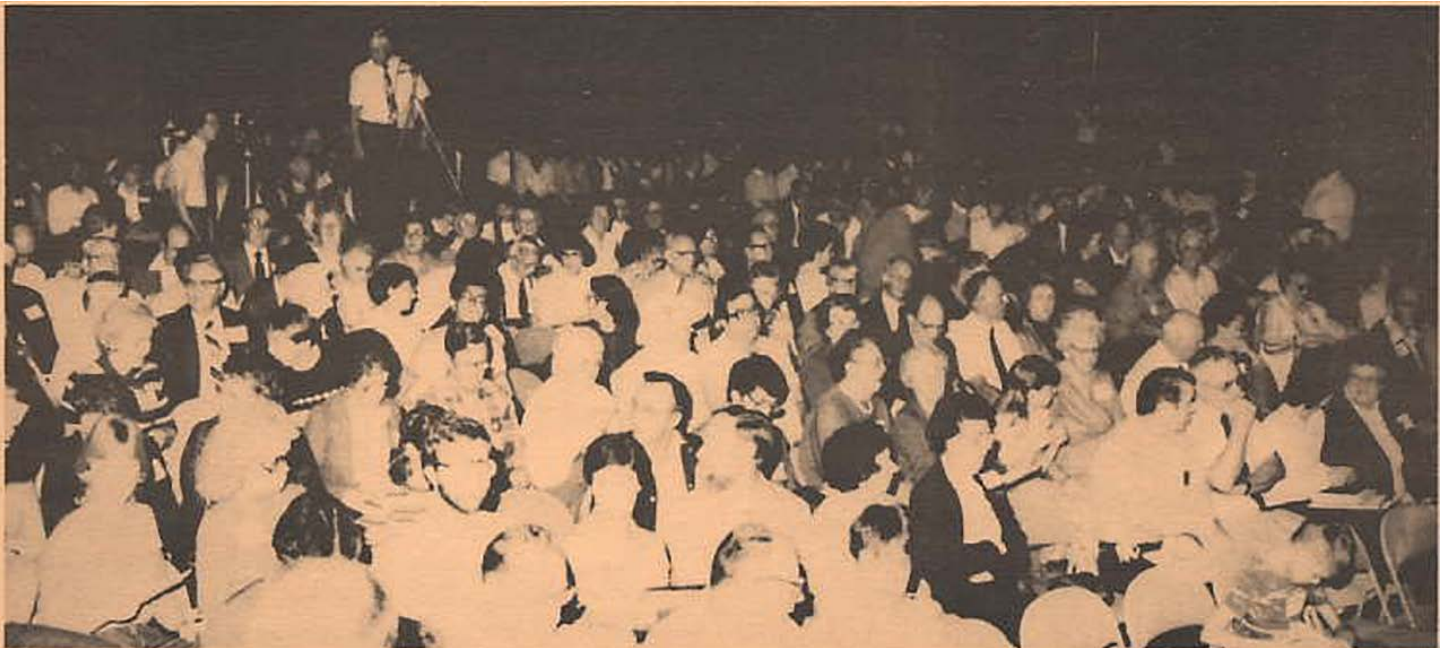
Newsletter Of The Foundation For Research On Ancient America

JANUARY 1986 • NEWSLETTER NO. 52

BOOK OF MORMON DAY DRAWS 1200

OVERFLOW AUDIENCE FROM 13 STATES AND 3 COUNTRIES
CROWD RLDS AUDITORIUM

by Julie Gatrost



People gathered early and stayed all day.

From Seattle to Tallahassee, from Canada to Mexico, people came to "Spend a Day with the Book of Mormon," an all day conference held October 12 at the RLDS Auditorium. The event, sponsored by the Foundation for Research on Ancient America, had as its theme the BOOK OF MORMON. Conference visitors began gathering as early as 7:00 A.M. in the lower assembly room of the Auditorium, and came from at least 13 states and 3 countries. It was estimated that 1200 people attended the meeting. There was standing room only.

Thelona Stevens, FRAA president, extended greetings to the Conference. Elder John Davies presided over the meetings. Presentations varied from archaeological research and insights into Book of Mormon scriptures to a dramatic characterization by Theo Boyd. Participants were treated to insightful research into the Book of Mormon by speakers Shirley Heater, Ray Treat, Roy Weldon, and Thoric Cederstrom; and heard inspiring testimonies in the lives of

such ministers as Lee Abramson, Tommy Thomas, and Henry Schaefer. The evening program featured the Sionita children's choir under the direction of Diana Anderson. Their exuberance in singing scriptures set to music was an inspiration to their listeners. This was followed by a live performance of the Book of Mormon drama, "To Be a Witness." Under the direction of Theo Boyd, the actors and actresses of all ages rendered an excellent portrayal of those who lived in the era of the coming of Christ to the Nephites.

Throughout the day, various expressions marked the faces of the audience. Seriousness prevailed as Ray Treat presented new evidences of the Book of Mormon's divinity, and urged each person to grow in study and knowledge. Loving expressions appeared as Patriarch Henry Schaefer recounted his experience of speaking to a women's group comprised of non-members. As he told of his love for "Joseph's land" and the Book of Mormon, he received a

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THE CHRIST AND THE BOOK OF MORMON

LEE ABRAMSON

Summarized by Carol Turner

MORNING LECTURE:

Many years ago when we took our young sons to church to be baptized, the minister stated that except for baptism, our two sons would go to hell. This burdened me and prompted me to study and pray. Years later I found the answer in Moroni 8.

This same minister also told the congregation at Easter that he forgave them of their sins. This also burdened me as I didn't feel that any man could be entrusted with my judgment.

The answers to perplexing questions can be found with the Christ of the Book of Mormon.

When confronting other ministers who suggest that the Book of Mormon is simply plagiarism of the Bible, point out that a Christ who cared for those in Palestine and taught them, also cared for others and brought them the same message.

The Book of Mormon III Nephi 8 provides answers for the problem that confronts us today concerning communion. It offers valuable information about life after death. But the real test of the Book of Mormon is whether the words of Christ can become incarnate in us.

The Book of Mormon answers the question of "other sheep". This was important to me as my grandmother was a Yakima Indian. I could go and share with these people of their origin. And I discovered sayings and teachings from Indians which gave evidence of the influence of Christ's teaching when he was here among their ancestors.

The loss of the Book of Mormon would leave me bereft of valuable teachings and the rich fellowship of the saints.

The New Testament of the Bible and the New Testament of the Book of Mormon provide us with a standard by which we can live. The hope of the gospel radiates through the book.

The Book of Mormon is a "how to" book. 1 Nephi 4:38-39 tells us how to never perish. Alma 16:219 tells us how to pray; Alma 16:151 teaches us the power of faith and how to exercise it. Alma 17:70 tells us how to live close to the Lord.

If anyone has hope for the Christian world today, it is us. If anyone can speak of a God of revelation who speaks today and is consistent, it is those who believe in the Book of Mormon. The greatest security we have is found in His gospel and His holy word, the Book of Mormon.



Seventy Lee Abramson

EVENING TESTIMONY:

In about 1968 I was on the Navajo reservation in Arizona. At Old Cedar Mesa I visited with church members in their hogan. Ten years later I returned to ordain several men. Brother Claw had a vision that I would come to ordain him, and the Spirit filled the hogan at his ordination.

Another friend in South Dakota, Louie Sitting Crow, a deacon, requested prayers for his wife who was ill. The Spirit of the Lord entered that home and ministered to his wife. Later when I returned and learned of his wife's death, I wondered what I would say to him. He said, "Ever since you were here my wife rested in peace. She never suffered again because the Spirit of peace rested here." Then he handed me a gift of an old history book. He couldn't read or write but had kept this book which was given to him by a teacher. When I opened the book there was a picture

with a caption that said here's a barbaric savage. I left a Book of Mormon with him.

Henry Three Legs invited us to northern South Dakota to share our message. Out in the rain were the Indians waiting for our arrival. They had prepared a home for us and wouldn't enter until we arrived. They ran out of food for the first meal. They didn't mind that it would be eight days until they could get food. Henry Three Legs said it was o.k. and it gave them a chance to fast and pray.

I left them and came to Independence. As I passed the Auditorium I saw one of the First Presidency. I asked if it would be o.k. if we baptized a whole tribe of Indians. He said that we can't do that as evangelism is one person at a time. We didn't baptize those people and that tribe hasn't been ministered to again.

I mention these native Americans because the Book of Mormon tells of covenants yet to come to pass concerning these people.

Doctrine & Covenants 1:2 c,d,e; 2:6 a,b,c,d,e; 3:10,11,12 speak to this. If we as a people remember the God of this land, Jesus Christ, we will be a part of fulfilling the covenants to the people of this land. These covenants shall be fulfilled!

Read III Nephi 10:1-3 and Ether 6:4-8; Zechariah 2; Isaiah 29 and remember that you are a part of prophetic history with a divine commission. We need to bring these

THE ROLE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE BOOK OF MORMON

SHIRLEY HEATER

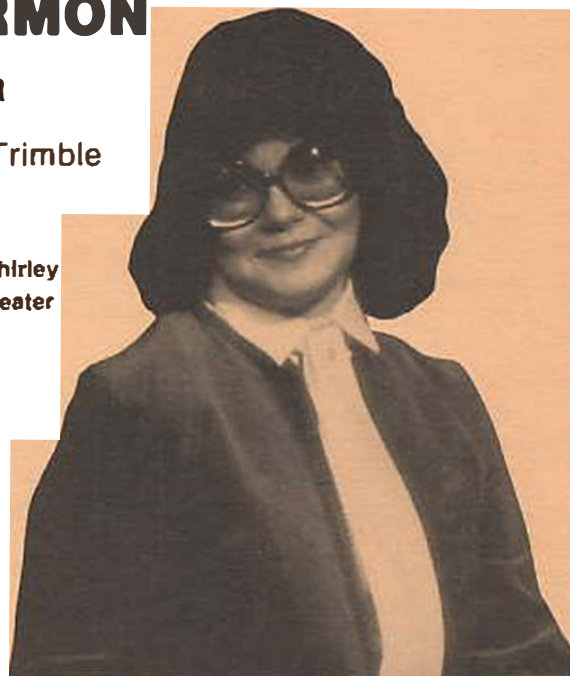
Summarized by Brenda Trimble

Shirley Heater, archaeologist and ardent Book of Mormon believer, gave the opening lecture at "A Day with the Book of Mormon". Her topic, *The Role of Archaeology in the Book of Mormon*, was chosen to try to bring the testimony of archaeology into perspective with the spiritual testimony of the Book of Mormon. "Archaeology," she stated, "provides a rich, tangible record of the material culture to support and complement the written record."

She noted that Biblical archaeology provides a pattern for appreciation of Book of Mormon archaeology. Discoveries made in recent years in the Bible lands match up precisely with the Biblical narratives, thus adding credibility to the scriptures and enhancing the stories. With this support, the most important message of the Bible, that Christ rose from the dead, is also strengthened. This message is also the message of the Book of Mormon. We have seen what archaeology has done for the Bible, and we can look forward to what it will do for the Book of Mormon.

God has hidden and preserved most of what remains of the ancient Book of Mormon evidences for these last days. Only about ten percent of these remains have been excavated to date, but the Lord is greatly hastening the discoveries. Some examples of discoveries made in recent years are: 1) the chronological time line which compares the Book of Mormon culture history with Mesoamerican history, 2) archaeological discoveries such as the evidence of warfare as suggested by the earthwork fortifications at Bacan and Tikal (Alma 21 & 22), and the emblem glyph at Yaxchilan which when translated reads as Muluc, and suggests the location of a Book of Mormon city. 3) the discovery of barley in the new world. Only recently realized is the fact that barley is only a part of a network of old world food sources brought by Book of Mormon people.

Shirley Heater



We should not overemphasize the role of archaeology, but neither should we downplay its importance. It can make a difference in what one believes about the teachings in the record if you truly believe the people, places, and events are actual. All things whether temporal or spiritual are considered spiritual by God (D&C 28:9). Archaeology is the temporal revelation of the Book of Mormon.

Archaeology as the temporal revelation of the Book of Mormon is just one of three lines of evidence that we have in support of the book. There are 1) external evidences — Mesoamerican archaeology that gives the message of real people and events, 2) internal evidences — linguistics such as chiasms and wordprints that authenticate the message, and 3) mysteries — that which is unknown until it is revealed by God to the believer.

What does the book say? The testimony of all three lines of evidences is that there is more to come. A great day of spiritual outpouring is soon to come forth.



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warm reception. Later many surrounded him to ask questions. Shirley Heater caused laughter to ripple through the audience when she noticed a slide she was discussing was inverted. She remarked "The Lord is literally turning archaeology upside-down!"

A native Indian organization, GA-O-YA-DE-O-G, added color to the day with their elaborate display in the corridor. Another exhibit of art work on Book of Mormon themes which had been done by elementary children helped to emphasize the interest of all ages in this marvelous book.

Adding to the physical enjoyment of the day was the delicious lunch served by the Laurel Club ladies. Their refreshment counter with cool juices and drinks was also

appreciated.

One of the most memorable sights was of young mothers who brought young children and babies, and allowed them to crawl at their feet while they listened from doorways and aisles. Surely the Lord was pleased with these handmaidens. One other scene stands out in memory. It occurred when Tommy Thomas was opening his talk and quoted a scripture from III Nephi. Looking over the huge crowd, I saw row after row of men and women, young people and old, quietly reaching for their scriptures which they had brought along. It caused me to think the Spirit of God must be here, moving in the hearts of these people who love the Book of Mormon.



ARCHAEOLOGY UPDATE: CLOSER AND CLOSER

ROY WELDON

Summarized by Mike Lundquist

"Archaeological Update: Closer and Closer" was the title of a lecture given by Roy Weldon recently at the RLDS Auditorium. This event was part of the Spend a Day with the Book of Mormon program announced by the FRAA. Accompanying Brother Weldon's talk were slides of many historical and archaeological sites which have been discovered in the Western Hemisphere. Many of the more recent findings of various scientists, archaeologists and theologians were also brought forth. These lent support of the truth and validity of holy scripture of the New World.

Brother Weldon began his discussion with comments concerning the language of the ancient Americans. He pointed out that evidence suggests that Nahuatl which was spoken by peoples of Mesoamerica comes from the root word Nephi and dates to about 500 BC. Nahuatl is the oldest of all ancient American languages and various dialects sprang from this early language. Our speaker pointed to one researcher who indicated that the meaning of the word Nahuatl means "one who has authority" and was given to "a chosen people who were able to speak for the gods." Brother Weldon mentioned that Nahuatl was spoken over the greater part of the Aztec empire and that both the Mayan people and the Nahuatl language referred to the featured serpent god as Quetzalcoatl.

The slides presented to the enthusiastic audience depicted fine examples of important archaeological sites. We were told that the various ruins fell into two categories: ruins that had been discovered and ruins still covered due to vegetation and debris that have yet to be researched. An author by the name of Peterson writes that "the entire budget of Mexico would briefly suffice for proper excavation of the one hundred known major ruins, to say nothing of the thousands of minor sites. Another quote mentions that "the relationship of uncovered ruins to covered ruins is like a drop in the bucket".



Patriarch Roy E. Weldon

Brother Weldon stressed the need to develop a greater understanding between the Bible and the Book of Mormon. He feels that we are now to the countdown of time and that the prophecies of the scriptures must be considered together. By doing so it will become evident on the part of all people including scientists and archaeologists that the Book of Mormon is in harmony with the Holy Scriptures. It will also indicate to the world that the city of Zion will not be located in the Old World at Jerusalem but that its location will be found in the New World.

As archaeologists continue to search for ancient secrets to once great cultures of Mesoamerica the truthfulness of the angel message given through Joseph Smith, Jr. will be made known. It then becomes our duty as believers of the Book of Mormon to apply the message in our lives as witness to its divinity.



From North, South, East, and West They Came



Evaline Mlesnikoff, Alberta, Canada and Tom Holik, Independence, Missouri.



Brenda Evans, Talahassee, Florida, and Dick Harrison, Seattle, Washington.

THE CHALLENGE OF THE BOOK OF MORMON

T. EVAN THOMAS

Summarized by Ruth Brandon



Seventy Tommy Thomas visits with conference guests.

In his opening statements brother Thomas spoke about the use of word prints which has become a science, used in many areas of our society. He explained that his interest in them was relative to the authorship of the writings in the Book of Mormon. He also stated that the word print of the Book of Mormon left no room for doubt that it was translated in the manner in which the Lord had given. The Lord caused the records to be written. He kept the records, and he gave the power when they were to come forth. He also gave the power by which they were to be translated. "Joseph Smith, Jr. made no apologies, for that which came to him was the language of Christ." There is a language of Christ that is written in the New Testament of the Bible, and also the New Testament of the Book of Mormon. It is written through the revelations that have come to us through the martyr, Joseph Smith, Jr.

Brother Thomas bore his testimony of the Book of Mormon. "I am thrilled with the word of the Lord that is in the Book of Mormon, and I am delighted in the plainness of the language. The Lord gave this message in a manner that all could understand. I feel that it is a wondrous testimony, but I also feel that our people are lax in making it a part of their lives. We should study the Book of Mormon with the intent of becoming closer to our Lord and Savior. The book tells us not to wrest the scriptures. They are for our growth and development in becoming a peculiar people. It is not popular to cry repentance, but that's what the Book of Mormon cries to us. It tells us there is a power of repentance

because there is an atonement. Without the atonement of the life of the Son of God there would be no power called mercy, which is the power that makes repentance a principle of the gospel. At the reunion for Blue Valley Stake a term was used, 'After the manner which the Lord gives,' and that's the manner which we ought to live by. The Book of Mormon will keep us in the path with the rod of iron."

Brother Thomas quoted from First Nephi, chapter three. He stated that it is important for us to read that which the Lord has given us. "It should be understandable throughout all the ages who the Lamb of God is because in the beginning with Adam was the similitude established." He said there is no record that our Lord was offended by being called the Lamb of God, and we ought to be concerned about being His sheep. In the great restoring of the Lord's church there came a ministry through the priesthood which He established according to His eternal law which was from the beginning, through the channels that He designated. The third chapter of First Nephi tells of Nephi's experience with an angel. Because of the many important doctrinal issues related in this experience we need to read this scripture carefully.

Brother Thomas said that we will one day have a printing of the word print of the prophets of the Book of Mormon. He closed with these words, "Zion will be the great ensign of hope to a whole world, and we have been called into that work. To that end may we labor together by the power of the Spirit, and the ministry of angels."



EXPERIENCES OF A PATRIARCH

HENRY SCHAEFER

Summarized by Betty Behnke



**Patriarch
Henry Schaefer
lunches with
Julie and
Michael
Gatrast.**

"I deem it a privilege to be asked to speak on the Book of Mormon, which I lovingly call the stick of Joseph. People are often more willing to listen than when I call it the Book of Mormon. When I am asked to speak at a funeral, I often use the scripture from the Book of Mormon on life after death. I have been told many times the scripture reading was just beautiful, where can I find that?

On one occasion, I was asked to speak at a Business Womens Luncheon on the subject, "What America means to me." I took for granted that these women were members of our Women's Department. I found out differently. But I went right ahead with what I had planned. I told them that I belonged to the greatest movement on the face of the earth which believes that God has spoken again in these latter days, and has again restored and established "His Church". We consider this Joseph's Land, which is especially chosen to be an ensign to the world. Only in America could such a thing happen because of the freedom of speech and liberty and justice for all. We have not yet worked hard enough at it to again establish God's kingdom upon the earth, but we believe it wholeheartedly, because we believe in His promises. After the luncheon I was asked many pertinent questions and I had again the opportunity to testify and clarify what they had heard.

When I visited behind the Iron Curtain, I was stopped by two soldiers with guns in their hands. I was carrying the three books with me. I was told, 'You have broken the law.' I asked, 'Why?' 'You are carrying printed material.' I answered, 'I gladly give you these books.' They answered, 'We don't want your junk.' But they did soften a little and I said, 'You must be acquainted with the Bible?' They were. 'But what is this?' referring to the Book of Mormon. I told them that it is the second witness to the Bible. I gave them

the scriptures in Psalms where it says, 'Truth shall speak out of the earth' which refers to this hook. As much as possible I told them the origin of the Book of Mormon. Again this proved to me that the Lord will bless you in the most difficult situations.

I have always been grateful that I was born of Godly parents who loved the scriptures. They were read often. In fact, that's when I realized that the Lutheran Church to which we belonged did not live up to the true teaching of Christ. Then I started looking for the true church of Jesus Christ. Not long ago I was invited to speak at a Ministerial Alliance Meeting. I was introduced to six ministers, each one with their title. They wanted to address me as Reverend Schaefer, but I stopped them and said we do not practice that in our church. Just call me Henry — that is my name. I was told before that they would like to interrupt me at any time, if they so desired. I spoke for one and a half hours. They never interrupted. I spoke of present day revelation and as the Lord spoke to the people in Palestine, so did he speak to the people in ancient America. He would not have been a just God if he hadn't. God is a loving God and is unchangeable. I also told them of my experience behind the Iron Curtain. At the end of the meeting one Minister said, 'If we would have known all this before we would have invited the public.'

In closing, if you would be put in a position that you could only have one of our three books, which one would you choose? I have no question in my mind. I would choose the Book of Mormon because of its purity of language, its plainness of speech. It's message and records were particularly meant for our day. Brothers and Sisters, speak of what is written and you will always be blessed."



THE BOOK OF MORMON: OUR BEST KEPT SECRET

RAY TREAT

Summarized by Venna M. Johnson

The Lord used the rain forest or jungle to hide the land of the Book of Mormon for many years in Tikal. One of the main topics in Mesoamerican archaeology is known as the Mayan Collapse. What happened to this civilization is unknown. We have some insight that comes through faith in the Book of Mormon about southern Mayan lowlands; the heartland of Zarahemla, and the surrounding area. The Lord caused the Lamanites to move out between A.D. 700-900, so that the jungle thickly grew making it difficult for the archaeologists to do research. Therefore, the timing of the coming forth of many archaeological discoveries in connection with the Book of Mormon was delayed until the Lord willed it. The Lord's timing is perfect. Now is the time He is beginning to move.

The Book of Mormon is our best kept secret. It is a mystery that has been hidden within our hearts by faith to be shared only as the Spirit directs as explained in Alma 9:15 and the following verses. The world has been fighting against it for years, but soon the Lord is going to unveil the Book of Mormon. He will reintroduce it to the world in great power. He is asking us to prepare for that time.

The Lord knew what was going to happen to the House of Israel at the time He called Abraham. About the same time He started the Book of Mormon into motion with the Brother of Jared and his followers. The Book of Mormon will be at the very heart of the restoration of the House of Israel. We are privileged to see this begin to unfold before our eyes.

"The learning of the Jews" (1 Nephi 1:1) is a key to understanding the Book of Mormon. We need to pay extremely close attention to this because in reality the Lord is showing us that the Book of Mormon is the key to the future of every person living on the earth. At the present time there are more people living than have lived and died since the coming of Christ 2000 years ago. It is not a coincidence that we have more than four billion people on the earth today. The timing for the Book of Mormon to be reintroduced is right so these people can be benefited.

Beginning in 1979-1985 the Lord has given twelve discoveries about the Book of Mormon. There will be more. This is a process which is ongoing from the Lord. That which the Lord is beginning to do for the Book of Mormon goes far beyond anything we have imagined thus far. It is literally in the center of all that the Lord is going to do from now until the beginning of the millennium. We need to tell others about the exciting things that have been happening with the Book of Mormon. Among these discoveries we now know that some of the Chinese are Book of Mormon people. There is Jaredite information written into the Chinese language which had begun to be formulated at the same time the Jaredites left the Great Tower in 2400 or 2500 B.C.



Ray Treat, Archaeologist

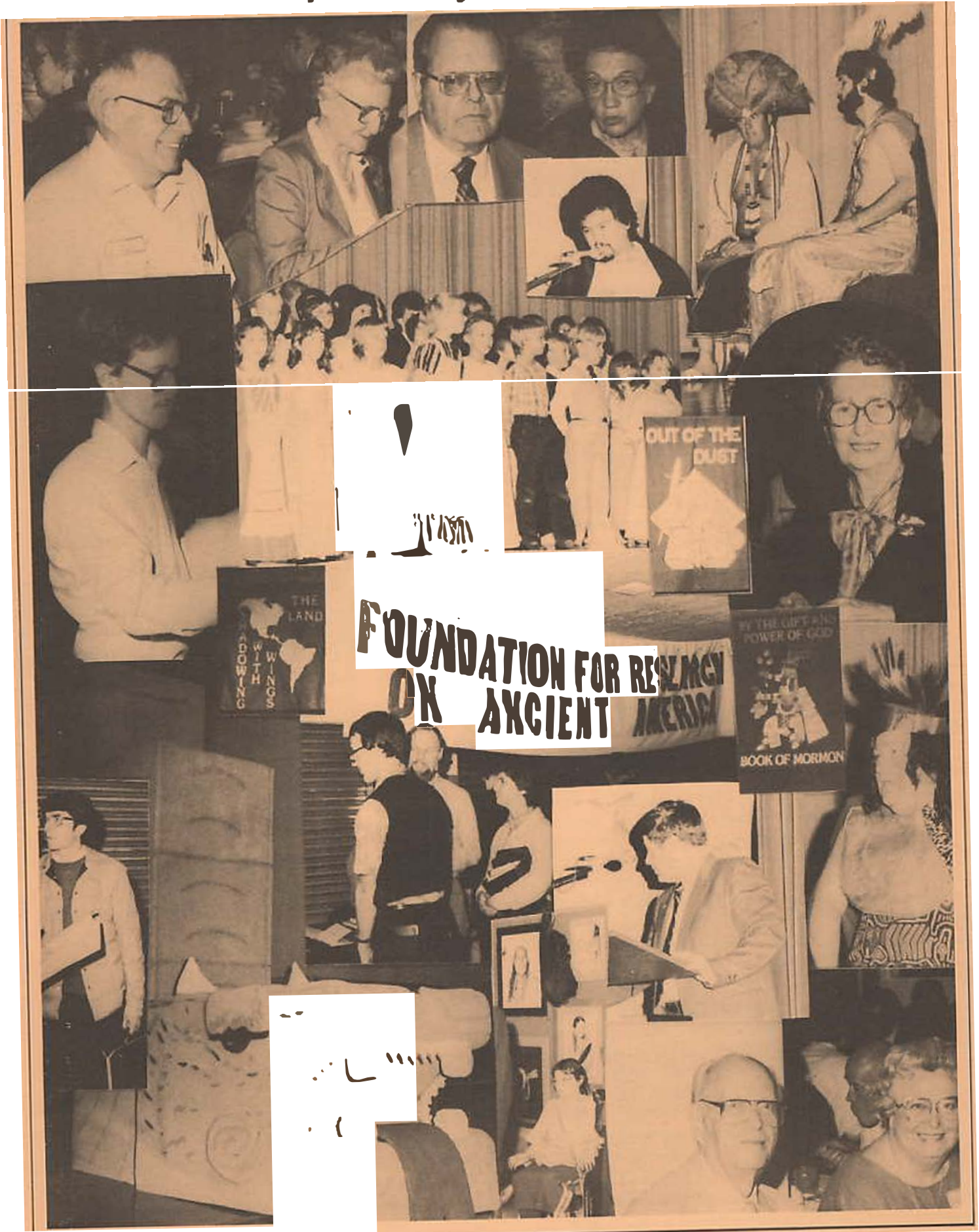
Chiastic writing, which was used extensively by the ancient Hebrew, is a key that will assist you in your scripture study. Scriptural thoughts will unfold to you which may not have occurred if you were not aware of the chiastic pattern. There is a chiasm in the first two verses of 1 Nephi 1:1,2:

- A "... yea, having had a great *knowledge* of the goodness and the mysteries of God,
- B "therefore I make a *record* of my proceedings in my days;
- C "yea, I make a record in the *language* of my father,
- D "which consists of the *learning* of the Jews
- C1 "and the *language* of the Egyptians.
- B1 "And I know that the *record* which I make is true;
- A1 "and I make it according to my *knowledge*."

The chiasm here consists of A B C with D being the center or most important point. The C1, B1 and A1 are an exact mirror image. This shows us that the learning of the Jews is one of the keys to the understanding of the Book of Mormon. The First Book of Nephi employs the chiastic pattern. An awareness of the chiastic style is an important tool for your missionary tool kit to be used whenever the Lord calls you.

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Memories of "Spend A Day With The Book of Mormon"



Book of Mormon Enthusiasts Are All Ages



THE CACAXTLA MURALS

THORIC CEDERSTROM

Summarized by Paul Davis

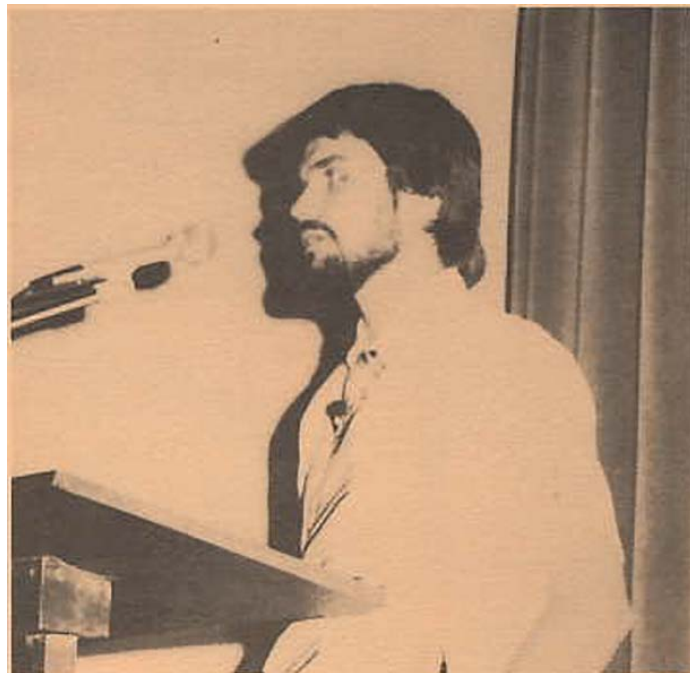
A presentation on "The Cacaxtla Murals" given by Thoric Cederstrom reflected the speaker's foundations, both in theory and practice, in Mesoamerican archaeological studies.

Cacaxtla was a strategically located city both defensively and for trade purposes, within the Teotihuacan empire. Looters or robbers had uncovered several murals in 1975 at Cacaxtla, which have since been recovered by the National Institute of History and Anthropology of Mexico. The murals have shed new light on the region and the inhabitants of that early civilization.

The murals found in the highlands of Mexico have definite Mayan cultural distinctions. These people were previously thought to have only inhabited lowland areas.

Fred Weddle's slides, taken when the murals were freshly uncovered, were shown by Brother Thoric. He stated that the actual murals are now in grave danger, having been exposed to the elements since their discovery ten years ago.

The murals reveal graphic battle scenes between red-skinned Quetzal warriors and black Jaguar warriors. The Teotihuacan empire had apparently begun to decline around A.D. 500, as greed, accumulation of wealth, and the rise in class distinctions had crept in. It is presumed that the priests and followers of the Quetzalcoatl religion had been overthrown by those who trusted in their own physical strength and military power in ruling—thus leading to the decadence of the society.



Thoric Cederstrom, archaeologist from Puebla, Mexico.

By continuing to study these archaeological findings, as well as the living "preserved peoples" of Mesoamerica, Thoric feels we can learn hidden treasures of knowledge concerning how to live together in Zion, the kingdom of God, which as he said "is what this is all about."



THE BOOK OF MORMON: OUR BEST KEPT SECRET

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A Hebraism is a literal translation into English words, parts of speech, and language peculiarities. Even with a long familiarity with Hebraisms there has been new evidence which has come forth recently.

Explanations were made about: the Hebrew usage of the word "and"; why the Lord's Prayer is different in the Inspired Version and the Book of Mormon; the importance of "yerach" which means moon or month in the Hebrew lunar calendar. This has significance to us because of the seven month calendar with the seven feasts instituted by the Lord.

Hebrew poetry is the latest and one of the most exciting topics seen in 155 years. Why? Poetry makes studying easier when the words are put in the original form. The flow of words is better. We know that the first three Books of Nephi were in poet iform.

The purpose principle was discussed showing what is in the Book of Mormon is there for a purpose, whether it is of a spiritual nature, geography or history.

One of the strongest evidences that we are living in the last days is the explosion of scientific information in every field. The Book of Mormon is related to many of these advances. The Lord is expanding knowledge.

Two of the most important verses in the Book of Mormon are found in Alma 14:103,104. Do read them. We all have Book of Mormon work to do. The Lord has reserved many things for us. For everyone of the people who are living on the earth today who claim to believe in the Book of Mormon there are 10,000 who do not. The Book of Mormon tells us there is one captain for every 10,000. That simple statistic alone will demonstrate to you that you have some witnessing to do!



EXCERPTS FROM A PORTRAYAL OF MORMON

BY THEO BOYD

Summarized By Donna Weddle

Elder Theo Boyd in costume as Mormon.

When I was a lad and had but ten years, the old prophet Ammoron came to me. He said that he had watched me. He had seen that I was a sober child and quick to observe. He said that he would place upon me a responsibility. He explained that he was a keeper of the ancient records He would that I should learn the old manner of writing that I might record those things that I saw and heard for thus are our records kept from generation to generation.

He said that when I had twenty and four years I should go to the Hill Shim and there I should obtain all of those records which he had hidden up, that I might know of the history of our people and that I might write and preserve those things for generations unborn.

I accepted the responsibility but before that day was to come when I was to go to the Hill Shim, my father took the family from the land northward in which we lived back down to Zarahemla because there was division in the land.

After the coming of the Son of God we had been one people — one people lived according to the laws of God for nearly 300 years. But then pride, greed entered once more into the hearts of men. Some began to lift themselves above their brethren. For 300 years there had been no Nephites and no Lamanites, no Jacobites, or Zoramites. There were no "ites" of any kind; but we were all one people.

But when men lifted themselves up in pride, some began to set themselves above their brethren. There began to be those who called themselves Nephites and those who called themselves Lamanites

And when I had but 16 years, I went out in defense of my people to fight against the Lamanites. And because I was large in stature and cunning in the ways of war, I was chosen to be a leader of the armies of the Nephites. I led the armies of the Nephites to victory blessed by God. But the armies of the Nephites did not give glory unto God. They glorified in their own strength. And behold, a continual scene of warfare and bloodshed has been before my eyes since I have been of sufficient age to behold the ways of man

I determined I would not just write those things that I saw and heard but I would write a record of all the things that had transpired since our fathers left the land of Jerusalem. I would make an abridgement of all the records, and put them in one book that perhaps those who read it might know the goodness and mercy of God. I would write such a book! A book which would tell of the coming of the Son of God — of those days of light, and the new star which blazed in the heavens at the time of his birth in the land of our forefathers. And those days of darkness and destruction when light was taken from the world at the time of his crucifixion.

And I would write of his coming to this land of promise to preach to his other sheep — to show them the wounds in his hands and in his feet and in his side. How he knelt on



the ground and wept when he blessed the children. The children were encircled about with fire and angels ministered to them And thus did three generations pass away in righteousness, for in that third generation they lived on the testimony of their fathers. But in the next generation there were those who had no testimony of their own to pass on, and it was then that greed entered into the hearts of men. It was then there began to be Nephites and Lamanites in the land

I had been a soldier for more than thirty years — all of my adult life, and I said, "No more!" I spent twenty years in crying repentance. Twenty years I spent in studying the ancient records and preparing that book which should bear witness to all of the name of Jesus Christ

And then, after twenty years, I agreed to take up sword and breastplate in defense of my people. Why? Not because I could save them. Not because I could preserve them, for they had brought destruction upon themselves, having turned from the ways of God. Why did I agree to go into battle? Perhaps it was an old man's pride

And now we are twenty and four who await the last battle tomorrow. But I have sent my son away. Not to preserve the life of my son, but to preserve the book which I have made. I have hidden up all the records which I have obtained from the Hill Shim here in the Hill Cumorah. But I have sent my son to go far, far from Cumorah that he might hide up those things that I have written — that they might come forth at some future generation to call them to repentance and call them to a knowledge of the Son of God. For this is my testimony that I know that Jesus is the Christ and I know he lives! I know he lives!



LETTERS

I wish to write and thank all of you of the Foundation for Research on Ancient America for planning and carrying out so successfully the special day, "Spend a Day with the Book of Mormon."

As a mother of two pre-schoolers, I rarely get the quality of ministry provided this last Saturday, as the care of my children takes from me my full attention at worship services and scripture study classes. I take my children with me so they can learn to love the Lord, but they are not old enough to remain completely still during a service. Hence, I appreciated the excellent microphone and slide services, as I did not have to miss what was being said. I am also very glad the services were taped, as I have many relatives that wanted to attend but could not because of their distance from Independence.

I hope to be able to attend your meetings as well as to continue reading the great testimonies in your newsletters.

Please pass the word on to all who worked so hard to provide a beautiful day of ministry. Missouri

Thanks for 'The Witness. I used some of the material in my sermon Sunday.

Colorado

I am so happy I found out about this organization that is promoting the study and research on the Book of Mormon. Iowa

We have heard such good reports from your Spend a Day with the Book of Mormon. May God Bless you in your continued efforts to advance the cause of this ancient scripture. Texas

I took off work for a week so I could come and help with the preparations for the Book of Mormon Day. I was so very excited about this project! Washington

I attended the recent gathering of A DAY WITH THE BOOK OF MORMON at the Auditorium. Being still a rather new member of the RLDS church (5 years), I was very much excited about the new things found to correlate with the Book of Mormon.

I was a wandering person; no other church affiliation could persuade me, but I always felt I needed to find something, but what? When I married my husband, an RLDS member, it took me eight years to ask about the church and its beliefs. Since I did, I have felt on fire with enthusiasm. The Book of Mormon is extremely important to me.

I pray that your organization will continue successfully and speedily. Missouri

It is very satisfying to see the good work FRAA is doing and I want to support it in any way possible. I was sorry to be unable to attend the "Book of Mormon" day that you conducted. Was pleased to hear of the large attendance. Believers in the Restoration hold the Book of Mormon in high regard. I hope you will continue your work with all the zeal you can muster. Missouri

I will enjoy very much the address book on "Book of Mormon Lands." Your program held on October 12 this year looked so interesting, that I will have to plan in the future to attend!

I am planning to make 1986 a year of devoted study in the Book of Mormon. Being a member of FRAA and receiving your bulletins will enrich the year — and certainly enhance the excitement and enjoyment of Book of Mormon studies. May the Lord's richest blessings always abide with you. Utah

You had an excellent program the 12th of October. I am looking forward to the next one. I have spread the word here in the district. Keep up the Lord's work. Great things are ahead! Oklahoma

TAPES OF BOOK OF MORMON DAY

A set of four audio tapes of the Spend a Day with the Book of Mormon is now available. The price is \$10.00. Send mail orders to FRAA, 410 North Pleasant, Independence, Missouri 64050. Please add \$1.50 for postage and handling.

Anyone living in the area may make arrangements to pick up the tapes at our mutual convenience.

Phone Orders: (816) 252-8356.

VCR TAPES

VCR tapes of the October 12 Book of Mormon Day will be available in the near future. If you are interested and want details, please write to:

FRAA
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Independence, Mo. 64050

130 Years of Ministry



Patrlarchs Roy E. Weldon and Henry Schaefer have a combined years of priesthood service totaling over a century!

New Friendships Made - Old Friendships Renewed



Top Left: Kent Roberson greets an unidentified friend.

Top Right: Longtime friends Lee Abramson and Anne Scott enjoy a moment of reunion.



Bottom Left: Bob Fagold, presiding elder at Oklahoma City meets Michael Galrost, FRAA director from Kansas City.

ORDER FORM

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By Thelona D. Stevens

\$1.00—AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF MORMON
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Set 1 "In the Beginning"
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October 12, 1985

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a Wonder - Weldon
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-DeLong
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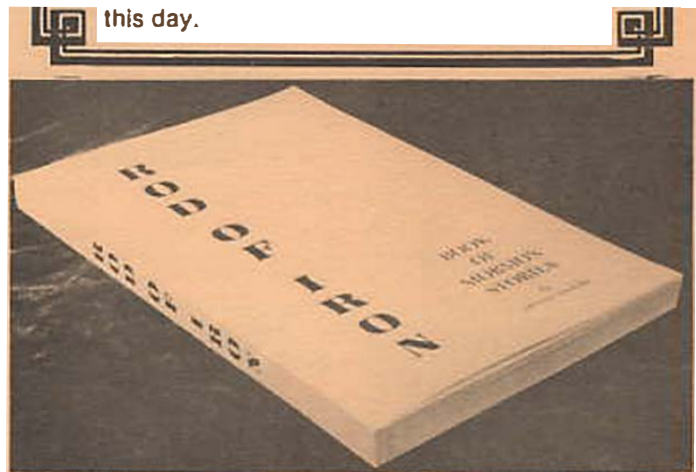
AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF MORMON

\$1.00

AN INTRODUCTION
TO THE
BOOK OF MORMON



Contains Book of Mormon background material found in the Introductory Readings of the Book of Mormon Studies by Thelona D. Stevens. By popular demand this material has been available as a separate 30 page booklet. An excellent missionary tool. Tells how the Book of Mormon was written and how it came into our hands in this day.



ROD OF IRON, a chronological recounting of 50 Book of Mormon stories with 18 illustrations, is now available. It has been written by Donna Weddle for the youth of the church.

SLIDE/TAPE SETS

\$15.00 per set

Approximately 60 slides per set with accompanying script, and tape indicating audible slide changes. For use in classes, priesthood or women's meetings, cottage meetings, or any gathering in which a focus for discussion is needed.

SET 1: "In the Beginning" starts with the creation and ends with Noah.

SET 2: "The Jaredite Journey" starts with Noah and follows the Jaredite migration to the New World and the subsequent development of a civilization.

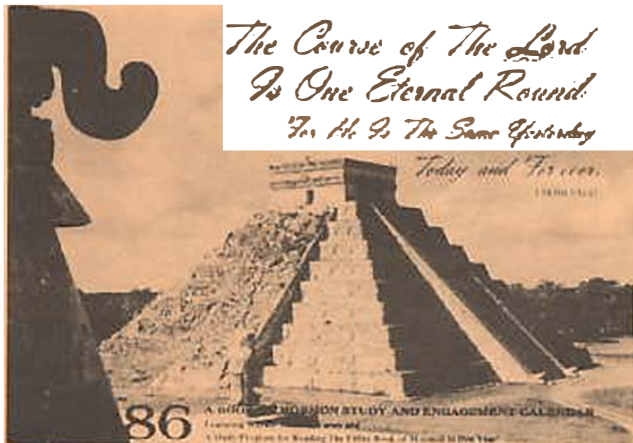
SET 3: "The Nephite Migration" starts with the prophet Jeremiah, and traces the journey of the Nephites to the Promised Land.

Scripts have been written by T. Evan Thomas, with photography by Fred Weddle.

Book of Mormon Calendar Available

FRAA is still receiving orders for an exciting new project recently completed. A 1986 calendar for your personal engagements, which also includes a daily Book of Mormon study program.

Each month, beautiful 8½"x11" color pictures of Book of Mormon lands will captivate and enhance your understanding of "other sheep" made alive by their faith in Jesus Christ.



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START THE NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT AND JOIN IN THE WORK

1985 saw many exciting projects completed by FRAA, such as a beautiful Book of Mormon Calendar, and of course the all day Book of Mormon day held October 12, at the Auditorium, but 1986 promises even more. In addition to its newsletter, "The Witness," which emphasizes Book of Mormon study and research articles, the Foundation assists in archaeological research in Mexico, and in publishing Book of Mormon books and pamphlets. Soon, video tapes will be offered of a variety of speakers and subjects. Why not begin 1986 with us, and help share the exciting news of the Book of Mormon? BECOME A MEMBER OF THE FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH ON ANCIENT AMERICA.



A Free Book of Mormon Lands Address Book

With Each Membership Contribution



FRAA 1986 Membership Registration

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ABOUT THE FOUNDATION . .

HISTORY

THE FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH ON ANCIENT AMERICA was begun in 1952 as a research committee on the Book of Mormon, by the First Presidency of the RLDS church. In 1966, members of the RLDS church organized it as a not-for-profit corporation in order that research and the advancement of the Book of Mormon could continue, through private support and contributions. It is not an official organization of the church.

OFFICERS:

President: Thelona D. Stevens
Vice-President: Roy E. Weldon
Secretary: Virginia Brown
Treasurer: Donna Weddle

PUBLICATION OF NEWSLETTER:

Quarterly

DISTRIBUTION:

Fifty States
Eleven foreign countries

MEMBERSHIP IN THE FOUNDATION:

Open to all persons
Supported by volunteer contributions

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Frederick O. Weddle

LINE DRAWINGS:

Scott Nixon

MAILING ADDRESSES:

CORRESPONDENCE:



Volunteer Brenda Tremble gives registration assistance to Dorothy and Fred Kemp of Denver, Colorado.

The Christ and The Book of Mormon

(Continued from Page 2)

covenants to native Americans.

Before my conversion to this church I had the opportunity to become a protestant minister. After much prayer, one night in vision, Jesus showed me His church. He answered my questions and showed me things I needed to do in my life.

I stand here to testify that my testimony is true and this work is true. Our calling comes through sainthood and God has asked us to live up to the covenant we made in baptism. We must go forth with the message that we have of Jesus Christ, the son of the living God.



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The annual meeting for the Foundation for Research on Ancient America will be held in the sanctuary of the Stone Church at two thirty on January 5. Neil Steede, from Cardenas, Tabasco in Mexico, will be our guest speaker. Plan to attend!

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