



# The Witness

Newsletter Of The Foundation For Research On Ancient America

JULY, 1988

NEWSLETTER NO. 62

## TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO

by Alicia Sindt



*"Pray in your families unto the Father." Dr. Bruce Stayton and his wife, Kathy, are diligent in heeding this commandment. Jonathan, Isaac, Elizabeth and Jeremy already understand the purpose of prayer and its need.*

"And again, inasmuch as parents have children in Zion, or in any of her stakes which are organized, that teach them not to understand the doctrine of repentance; faith in Christ the Son of the living God; and of baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of the hands when eight years old, *the sin be upon the head of the parents* [italics added]. . . and they shall also teach their children to pray, and to walk uprightly before the Lord" (Doctrine and Covenants 68:4a,c).

There is no responsibility greater than parenthood. Although our children are agents unto themselves to choose God or not, it is our responsibility to teach them the right way.

But how do we teach our children the gospel?

Where do we start? The purpose of this article is to offer suggestions on following the commandment in the Doctrine and Covenants.

The hardest and the easiest place to start is on our knees. If we begin by asking the Lord's direction, he will lead us in the ways that will work best for our families.

The Book of Mormon (I Nephi 1:65) promises that the Lord never gives a commandment without providing the means to obey it. God will fulfill that promise to each of us.

While we are praying about how to start, we should include our children. Jesus says, "Pray in your families unto the Father, always in my name, that your wives and your children may be blessed" (III Nephi 8:52). *(continued on page 2)*

**TRAIN UP A CHILD** (continued from page 1)

There is something special about kneeling and praying as a family. Even small children can be taught to fold their hands and pray. Prayers should be short and simple, so that children can understand.

The Scriptures warn against vain repetitions. Parents can guide children to pray over their daily concerns. Each prayer can be fresh and new, not a memorized poem.

Teaching the gospel and teaching a child to walk uprightly go hand in hand. It is difficult to obey commandments when we are ignorant of them.

There are several ways to teach the gospel in our homes. What is needed is commitment to study and perseverance to continue to search for the method that works best for *your* family.

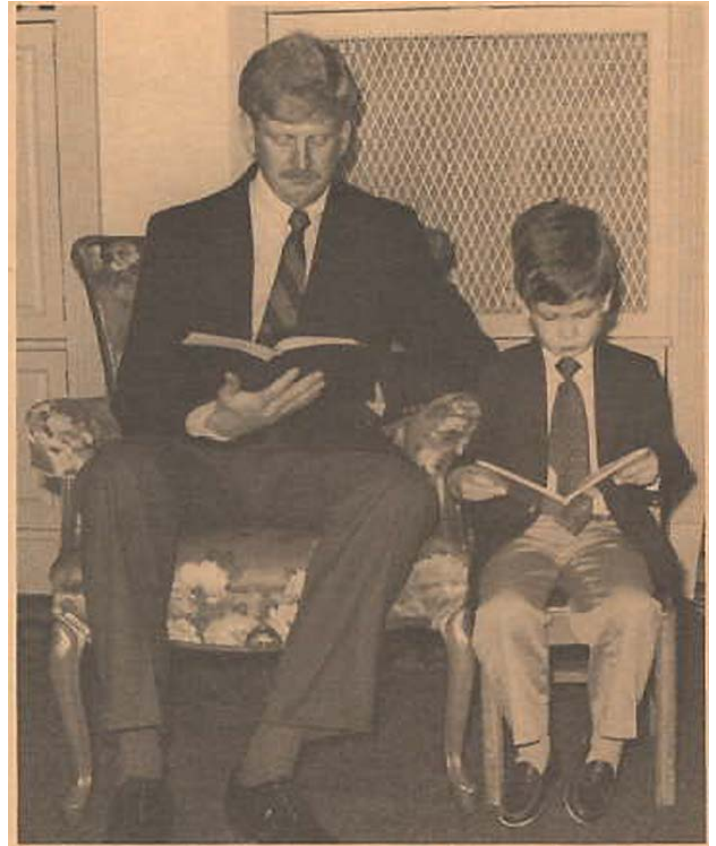
First, decide on a time. Some families study each morning or evening. Some reserve special nights of the week. You must decide when everyone can be there *and* be attentive. Starting with a subject in which your children are interested will help your efforts to succeed.

Second, decide on your method. In addition to reading the Scriptures, some families have strong testimonies from reading church books. Examples are *The Call at Evening*, *The Autobiography of J. J. Cornish*, and *Little Fella*. Some families read church periodicals, looking up references and discussing articles. Some use lessons from old Sunday School quarterlies, preferring formal study. Others take a topic of interest and research it thoroughly. Parents with very young children can use toys to demonstrate Scripture stories. Driving time can be used to learn hymns. Many testimonies involve how a hymn learned as a child strengthened an adult in a time of need.

The list of possibilities is endless. Remember to keep a wary eye for bored children,—they will not learn anything. Variety will help to hold interest. Study about Far West, then visit Far West. Children remember objects, places, and testimonies best of all. What they feel, see, or witness for themselves lasts far longer than any story from a book.

Regardless of your choice of presentation some time must be reserved for actually reading the Scriptures. No story, article or book can replace the Word of God. The Lord has told us, "And whoso treasureth up my words, shall not be deceived" (Matt. 24:39). Even very young children will listen to a verse or two.

There are some whose early childhood memories include reading Scriptures together. They did not understand the words at first, but they did understand the importance of the words. With time, comprehension of the Scriptures followed. Remember you are helping to lay the foundation upon which your child's spiritual life will be founded. It is the rod of iron that will guide them through their darkest hours.



*Children are great imitators. Jim Gamble follows the example of his father Mark, who is reading the Scripture on a Sunday afternoon.*

Even if our prayer and study are diligent, if our lives do not reflect the Scriptures, then we will fail. Children are great imitators. Children of saints living the saintly life are more likely to choose that life for themselves. When we respect God's commandments, our children learn to respect them also. By our example our children learn how to translate words into actions.

When we humble ourselves, calling on God daily, standing steadfastly in the faith, then we can expect the words of King Benjamin to be verified in our lives.

And behold, I say unto you, that if ye do this, ye shall always rejoice, and be filled with the love of God, and always retain a remission of your sins;

And ye shall grow in the knowledge of the glory of him that created you . . .

And ye shall not suffer your children, that they go hungry, or naked;

Neither will ye suffer that they transgress the laws of God, and fight and quarrel one with another, and serve the devil . . .

But ye will teach them to walk in the ways of truth and soberness; ye will teach them to love one another, and serve one another.

—Mosiah 2:22-27





## EXCERPTS FROM INSTITUTE OF MAYA STUDIES NEWSLETTER

February 17, 1988, Volume 17, No. 2

Editor: Michael West

"In 1980 a major cave painting site was discovered in the jungles of Guatemala. Now called Naj Tunich, this cave ranks as one of the most important prehispanic archaeological cave sites in the New World. Paintings from the cave offer superb examples of Classic Maya calligraphy dating to about A.D. 750. They include extensive hieroglyphic texts in addition to charming figures of ballplayers and Maya lords engaged in cave ceremony."

### "Tlalancaleca"

"A pre-Columbian site you will hear more about in the future! I recently visited the site called 'La Pedera' (quarry) near the town of Tlalancaleca (state of Puebla)... The authorities in the town of Tlalancaleca have moved into town a few stone artifacts, engraved stones, stone idols and a good number of ceramic pieces and set them up in a small building as a museum next to the town high school [sic]. . . . In the high school [sic] patio there is a very large engraved stone hollowed out like a huge bathtub (tina) weighing several tons."

### "Excavations Resume at Tiahuanaco"

"U.S. archaeologists are unearthing evidence that Bolivia's ancient enigmatic Tiahuanaco culture was a powerful empire that supported tens of thousands of

people in its central city and immediate suburbs.

"Excavations of the site on the swampy edge of Lake Titicaca is [sic] turning up an extensive network of terraced, stone-walled houses and courtyards dotted with tombs containing elaborate crafter ceramic bowls and figurines dating back more than one thousand years. . . . It's becoming clear, we're looking at massive population sites.

"These are the first major digs in Bolivia since the 1830's. The Tiahuanacos emerged shortly before the birth of Christ and their culture reached its zenith from A.D. 600-800 collapsing four hundred years later. Their influence extended north and west across Lake Titicaca well into Peru, east into the rain forests of the Amazon Basin and south into Chile and Argentina. . . . At points all around the lake and even great distances beyond, is evidence of the remnants of a network of raised fields which provide further confirmation of a concentrated population with wide-ranging political control.

"Excavations have shown that the fields divided by long irrigation canals were sophisticated and highly productive.

"Few details of Tiahuanacos life and religious practices are known because few modern excavations have been conducted since those of American Wendell Bennett in the mid 1930's."



Photo by Bea Luther

**Archaeological finds confirm that there was once a concentrated population around Lake Titicaca.**

# TANTALIZING GLIMPSES NOT SO FAINT WHISPERINGS

by Roy Weldon

## THE BERRIAN COLLECTION

Between the emergence of the Nephite Record in 1830 and the year 1900, the enemies of the Book of Mormon had a heyday before time and science caught up with the Book of Mormon claims.

In New York's Twenty-fourth Street Library is perhaps the largest collection of Mormon books and pamphlets extant. While en route to Brazil I had opportunity to spend several hours examining this collection. I counted 1,417 items listed in the library's Bulletin Volume 13, March 1909, which lists the Berrian Collection. It appears the majority are anti-Mormon. Perhaps the most famous would be M. T. Lamb's *The Golden Bible*.

Lamb considered that the Book of Mormon was discredited among other things because of its claim of elephants. In 1887 Lamb declared, "Facts are stubborn things and the simple testimony of past history already presented, buries the fabrications of the Book of Mormon beyond the possibility of a resurrection" (pp. 300-302).

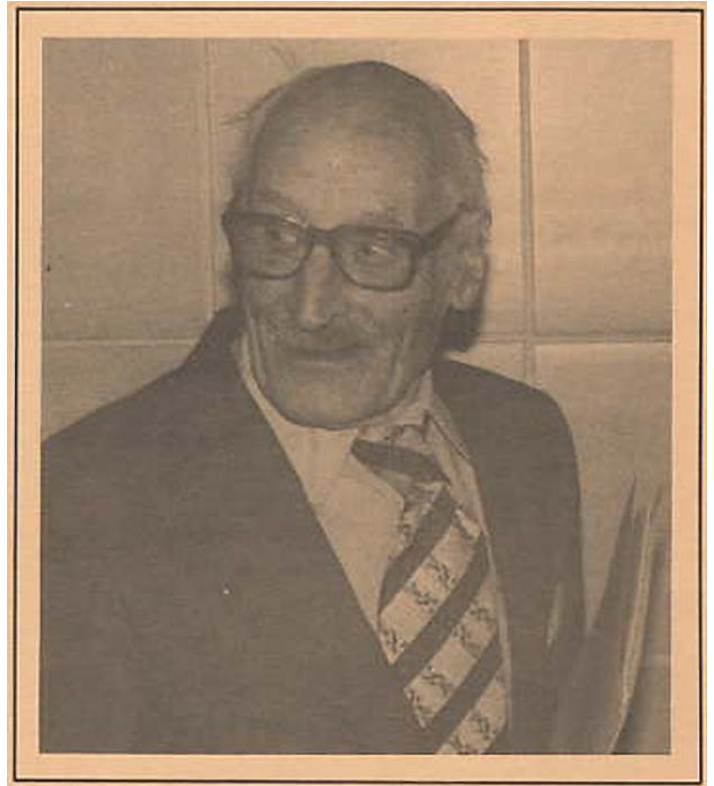
In the Berrian collection I counted twelve publications with the title *Mormonism Exposed* and five more with almost the same title. Titles like *Folly and Falsehood of the Golden Book* written by Matelda Davison in 1839 and *The Mormon Bible—A Fabrication and Stupendous Fraud* by E. T. Hall in 1899 are examples.

The early missionaries were at a loss for means to confront this massive assault on the Book of Mormon and Joseph Smith. We have already noted that the Lord came to the rescue of the young republic. Would he or did he come to the aid of the early missionaries?

### Bancroft and Prescott

Bancroft's five volumes of *Native Races* and Prescott's two volumes of *Conquest of Mexico* plowed into this mass of opposition like a bulldozer, providing the missionaries with the wherewithal to meet the opposition head-on. This also included the elephant episode.

Now the question arises as to whether or not the Lord was involved with Bancroft and Prescott? I present the following and let the reader judge for himself:



Hubert Howe Bancroft, famous American historian died today, March 5, 1918, at the age of 85 years. At the age of 40 Mr. Bancroft had never written a book nor, by his own statement made many years later, did he know how to write even the simplest manuscript. Finally in 1871, the passion to write so consumed Mr. Bancroft that he gave up the conduct of his business over to others and set himself in earnest to the task.

—*Kansas City Star*, March 8, 1918

I believe that Mr. Bancroft was inspired for this work.

—Synopsis of Bancroft's *Native Races* by J.W.A. Bailey, lifelong student of Bancroft's work

This classic written more than a century ago has yet to be surpassed. Though new facts have been uncovered through archaeological findings they seem to justify Prescott's conclusions, some of which must have been arrived at through inspired intuition.

—Victor W. Von Ragan writing in the Peru Prescott Preface

### Increasing Intuitive Sensitivities

Raymond C. Treat writes that "Without written records an archaeological site will retain only an estimated 2% of the life of the people who once lived there" (*Recent Book of Mormon Developments*, p. 7).

The Nephite Record says that when Korihor stood before Alma denying the existence of a creator, Alma reminded him of the movement of the heavenly bodies. "Sure it is the earth that moveth, and not the sun" (Helaman 4:62). Galileo constructed a telescope in A.D. 1571. The rotation of the earth was not positively proved until Bradley discovered the aberration of light in A.D. 1727 (*Chambers Encyclopedia*, Vol. 1, p. 728).

How or where did Alma get his positive proof nearly 2000 years earlier? A Maya archaeologist has a suggestion on the Maya calendar versus inspiration. Ann Aztell Morris says, "It was far more accurate, indeed, than the system under which the so-called Christian world operated until about a century ago, when the revised Gregorian Calendar was put into effect. Such a calendar was not invented in a week. Untold years of laborious calculation, coupled with inspired vision, must have been necessary to bring it to the finished state where we find our first date" (*Digging in Yucatan*, p. 41).

The native Maya book, *The Popul Vuh*, written in 1550 says of the forefathers, "They were endowed with intelligence" (p. 168). How much intelligence?

Constance Irwin in *Fair Gods and Stone Faces* writes, "Whatever stand one takes on early Meso-American cultures, certain aspects appear to be hardly thinkable. Take for instance their mathematical knowledge" (p. 109).

The Nephite prophet Jacob in the fifth century B.C. writes:

For because of faith and great anxiety, it truly had been made manifest unto us concerning our people, what things should happen unto them.

And we also had many revelations, and the spirit of much prophecy; wherefore, we knew of Christ and his kingdom, which should come.

—Jacob 1:5,6

Some three hundred years later Helaman writes:

But it came to pass that Nephi and Lehi, and many of their brethren . . . having many revelations daily, therefore they did preach unto the people.

—Helaman 4:29

Any book claiming to be an Israelite companion book to the Bible should be in harmony with the Bible prophets. Joseph Angus in *The Bible Handbook* of 1952 says, "The prophets uttered truths deeper than they knew."

C. M. Ward in "Christ for the Nations", January 1985 states:

No scientist, no research yet knows the method by which Joseph stored grain successfully in Egypt. Modern methods were not available to this marvelous statesman. God helped his friend to accomplish the impossible. Seven years of storage would be attacked by microorganisms, pests and rodents especially in a hot country like Egypt. God places His secrets with those who serve him.

### Through a Glass Darkly

The mists and uncertainties of both ancient America and future America are such as to call forth very candid expressions from responsible quarters. Concerning future America, Alexander Campbell declared, "New revelation or some new development of the revelation of God must be made before the hopes and expectations of all true Christians can be realized or Christianity save and reform the nations of the world" (*Christian System*, p. 250).

As if in response to Campbell, Thomas Stuart Ferguson says, "The facts on stone, bone, clay, and metal—now lying buried in Middle America and preserved for our time throughout many centuries can save the world" (*One Fold and One Shepherd*, p. 383).

Hiram Bingham, noted explorer and archaeologist, while reading ancient traditions of the Incas makes this observation:

To read this history gives you the queer feeling of reading the Book of Mormon. Certain of the kings remind you of Noah, Benjamin, and in one place a prophet is buried for teaching the people how to read. While I know the danger of identifying Book of Mormon people with definite personalities, these associations have more than a familiar feel.

—*The Lost City of the Incas*

It seems that the deeper the men of science dig in the ruins, the greater the uncertainties loom. Harold Sterling Gladwin in a 390 page book on American archaeology comments on Quetzalcoatl:

In fact, the proven presence of bearded men, as shown by carved stone and pottery figures . . . gives a quality of authenticity to the accounts of the historians which suggests that there may be an explanation for the origins of native civilizations entirely different from that which is at present in vogue.

—*Men Out of Asia*, (1947, p. 201).

Likewise, Constance Irwin, scholarly anthropologist, in her 340 page book, *Fair Gods and Stone Faces*, documents "The wildest fancies of today may then well become the common place orthodoxies of tomorrow" (1963, p. 243). She comments further, "Here we have a period of thirty-three years, tentatively 613 B.C. to 580 B.C. . . . In short, this was a period of sudden uncountable cultural impetus" (p. 115).





## A TESTIMONY

by Andy Gross

I want to share an experience I had last fall at the Book of Mormon Day, sponsored by the Foundation for Research on Ancient America. It is probably the greatest spiritual experience that has happened to me in my life. I have had a hard time discussing it, and even now just understand bits and pieces of it.

Pat Lowman, from Indiana, was presenting a monologue. The lady she was portraying was a Nephite at the time of Jesus' coming to this continent. She had a young son who all his life had not been able to walk—a boy ten, eleven, or twelve years old.

The monologue was based on III Nephi 8:6-10. This was when Christ was here visiting the people on this continent.

**And he said unto them, Behold, my bowels are filled with compassion towards you: Have ye any that are sick among you, bring them hither.**

**Have ye any that are lame, or blind, or halt, or maimed, or leprous, or that are withered, or that are deaf, or that are afflicted in any manner, bring them hither, and I will heal them, for I have compassion upon you.**

**My bowels are filled with mercy; for I perceive that ye desire that I should shew unto you what I have done unto your brethren at Jerusalem, for I see that your faith is sufficient, that I should heal you.**

**And it came to pass that when he had thus spoken, all the multitude, with one accord, did go forth, with their sick, and their afflicted, and their lame, and with their blind, and with their dumb, and with all they that were afflicted in any manner; and he did heal them every one as they were brought forth before him;**

**And they did all, both they who had been healed, and they who were whole, bow down at his feet, and did worship him;**

As I was sitting there, picturing the scene and events Pat was describing, I began to picture the multitude and the sick. In an instant I became oblivious to everything that was about me physically. I began to perceive that I was on a hill close to what was taking place. I saw Jesus sitting there with children around him and he was in the

process of healing them. I could not hear what he was saying to them, but I was observing his actions.

Then Jesus glanced at me and I did not hear any words, but I had an acute understanding that there are many of us today who stand in need of his healing because of the things which are happening, and we are afflicted in many different ways—physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

I do not know what your afflictions might be, or what is causing them—maybe this does not pertain to you. But the Lord is yearning for us to come to him, to bring our problems to him that he may heal us.

We have brought much of this upon ourselves because of our unwillingness to heed what has been given to us in the Scriptures—because we did not prepare ourselves and we are not waiting and watching and observing the things that are happening.

It was kind of a sad expression on his face, and yet one of urgency and love and compassion. In studying and trying to understand more, I came across this admonition:

**Behold, I say unto you, Were it not for the transgressions of my people, speaking concerning the church and not individuals, they might have been redeemed even now;**

**but, behold, they have not learned to be obedient to the things which I require at their hands, but are full of all manner of evil, and do not impart of their substance, as becometh Saints, to the poor and afflicted among them, and are not united according to the union required by the law of the celestial kingdom;**

**and Zion can not be built up unless it is by the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom, otherwise I can not receive her unto myself;**

**and my people must needs be chastened until they learn obedience, if it must needs be, by the things which they suffer.**

**Doctrine and Covenants 102:2**

It is my prayer that we all will come unto Christ and allow him to heal us and make us whole again.



# GARMENTS OFFER FRESH LOOK AT THE ANCIENT MAYA

by John Noble Wilford

*Editor's Note: The following is a condensation of an article from the New York Times, September 29, 1987, "Garments Offer Fresh Look at Ancient Maya" by John Noble Wilford. It was sent to the editorial staff of The Witness by Thomas W. Thatcher, Jr., Fair Haven, New Jersey.*

After fourteen years of research in Chiapas, Mexico, anthropologist Walter F. Morris, Jr. found that the geometrical motifs currently woven into Mayan garments are the same as those used hundreds of years before the Spanish conquest. This rich symbolism gives insights into a culture which has persisted for over 2000 years. It has been observed that the same motifs found in the Mayan weaving are also used in their sculpture, painting and pottery especially during the height of the civilization from A.D. 300 to A.D. 900.

The Maya civilization after having developed an advanced knowledge of astronomy, a hieroglyphic writing system, and an ability to build dramatic pyramids collapsed about 1000 years ago. Mr. Morris, a research associate of the Science Museum of Minnesota, discovered that many people were living in isolation in the highlands of Chiapas much as did their ancestors. He decided to attempt to understand the culture of the Maya, particularly through their weaving. Approximately four million Maya live in southern Mexico and Central America preserving songs, language, and ceremonies of their unique heritage.

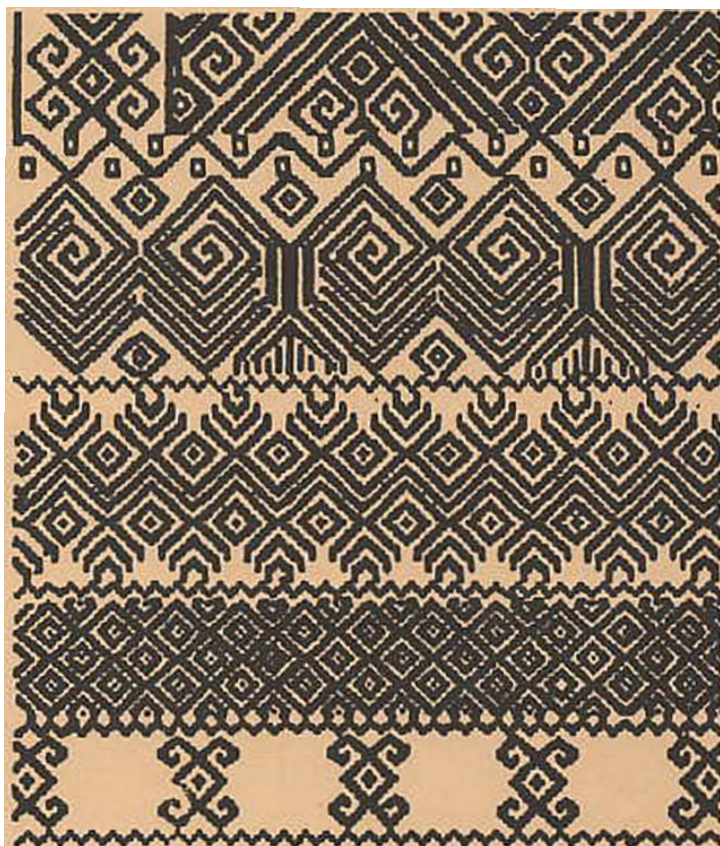
Christopher Jones, a specialist in Maya hieroglyphs at the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, has said there is a surprising resemblance of the Maya culture of today and that of pre-Columbians—this in spite of the overlap of the religious beliefs of Roman Catholicism.

In 1983 final research done in this area by Mr. Morris was made possible by the Mac Arthur Fellowship. He concentrated his attention on the community of Santa Maria Magdalinas Aldama in the Chiapas highlands. Fewer than twenty women knew how to weave traditional ceremonial garments in which the intricate designs are created by placing colored threads in the fabric as the weaving is being done on a particular type of loom that has been in use more than 2000 years.

The huipil, a ceremonial garment, consists of three pieces of cotton cloth. Two sleeve sections which are sewn to a diamond are the wings of a butterfly, a metaphor of the sun's movement and the transformation from day to night.

Other geometric symbols are that of a toad and the rain god. Although style and design vary in each Maya highland community, Mr. Morris has concluded that "the symbolic concepts have changed little during the last millennium."

## THE COSMOS IN A WEAVER'S CRAFT



*Symbols in a garment fragment from Magdalenas, a village of Chiapas, Mexico, reveal the weaver's place in the community and in the universe. The main pattern at the top is a combination of symbols for butterfly and sun. Beneath is a snake path. The second main line symbolizes the vulture which represents this weaver's community. This is followed by a row for flowers and one for stars. The bottom row is the weaver's signature, a toad's back.*





## VOLUNTEERS PREPARE LIBRARY

Sherrie Smith, formerly with the Kansas City Museum, is heading FRAA's new Research Library/Archives Department. She has enlisted approximately twenty volunteers to help with the many tasks that need to be done. Thousands of books, slides, manuscripts, etc. need to be categorized. Donations have been received from Roy Weldon, Charles Hield, Edna Easter, Brenda and Linda Trimble and many others. Work goes slowly as every effort is being made to carefully preserve these valuable collections. Some books date as early as 1787, 1808, and 1843.

On the right, Lynda Friend is examining one of these books. In the lower left, Ruth Brandon sorts pamphlets to be catalogued; Marilyn Kline vacuums the accumulation of the ages from priceless periodicals, and Elsie Trimble consults the file.



## A TESTIMONY

by Betty Behnke

I was born in Germany and, believing in the gathering to the Center Place, came to this country.

I have always loved children and had taught church school classes since I was quite young. I enjoyed learning the English language, but always had problems translating from one language to the other. It was very trying, and I so much wanted to teach children again.

One Sunday we had a visitor in our congregation from England, Brother Worth, a patriarch. He offered to give patriarchal blessings to those who desired them. I immediately made arrangements for mine.

This good brother had never seen me nor I him before then. I came with a special problem which I had not shared with anyone. The patriarch com-

mended me in the beginning of the prayer for presenting myself before the "throne of grace" with my problem. He said the Lord recognized that I stood in need. I was admonished to continue studying, to study harder than I had until then, but that He would do for me what I could not do for myself. The promise was given, "You shall feel the spirit of God resting upon you in a very real way and you will know enlightenment as you study the Word of God. You will also understand it far differently than you ever understood it. You will be guided and directed to do much good."

Very soon after this humbling experience, I was asked to teach. I began teaching primaries and juniors, not without effort, and I am still doing it.







# The Junior Witness

JULY, 1988 ISSUE 7

## THE NEPHITES AND THE LAMANITES

by Debbie Taylor

When Lehi and his people arrived in the promised land they were thankful to God for his mercies toward them in saving their lives. God saved them from the destruction of Jerusalem. Now if you remember the story, you know that some of those people were not righteous but were very wicked. Lehi's two oldest sons, Laman and Lemuel, hated and persecuted their younger brother Nephi. Their anger became great against Nephi. It increased in such a way that after they arrived in the promised land they forgot how God had saved their lives and all the blessings he had extended to their family. Soon after their father and mother, Lehi and Sariah, died they desired to kill their brother Nephi. They were jealous of Nephi and were very proud. Nephi tried to minister to his brothers but they would not listen to him any longer.

The Lord warned Nephi to depart from them and flee into the wilderness with his tents and possessions, and to take all who wanted to go. Nephi took his family, Zoram and Sam and their families, Jacob, Joseph, his sisters, and all who would go with him. All who would go were those who believed in the warnings and the revelations of God. They traveled away from those who persecuted them to a place the people named Nephi. The people who stayed with Laman and Lemuel were known as Lamanites. "And it came to pass that whosoever would not believe in the tradition of the Lamanites, but believed those records which were brought out of the land of Jerusalem, and also in the tradition of their fathers, which were correct, who believed in the commandments of God, and kept them, were called the Nephites, for the people of Nephi, from that time forth."<sup>1</sup>

The Lord told Nephi that if his brothers came to a point where they would not listen to him or the instructions of God they would be cut off



from the presence of the Lord. They would receive cursings instead of blessings from God. It came to pass that this prophecy was fulfilled. "And behold they were cut off from his presence. And he had caused the cursing to come upon them, yea, even a sore cursing, because of their iniquity. For behold, they had hardened their hearts against him, that they had become like unto a flint."<sup>2</sup>

God spoke to Nephi, saying, "Behold, the Lamanites have I cursed; and I will set a mark upon them, that they and their seed may be separated from thee and thy seed, from this time henceforth and for ever, except they repent of their wickedness and turn to me, that I may have mercy upon them. And again: I will set a mark upon him that mingleth his seed with thy brethren, that they may be cursed also. And again: I will set a mark upon him that fighteth against thee and thy seed. And again I say, He that departeth from thee, shall no more be called thy seed; and I will bless thee, etc., and whomsoever shall be called thy seed, henceforth and for ever."<sup>3</sup>

The Lord God caused a skin of blackness to come upon the Lamanites. "And the skins of the Lamanites were dark . . . which was a curse upon them because of their transgression and their rebellion against their brethren, who consisted of Nephi, Jacob, and Joseph, and Sam, who were just and holy men."<sup>4</sup>

Concerning the Lamanites, the Lord spoke, saying, "I will cause that they shall be loathsome unto thy people, save they shall repent of their iniquities. . . . And the Lord spake it, and it was done. And because of their cursing which was upon them, they did become an idle people, full of mischief and subtlety, and did seek in the wilderness for beasts of prey."<sup>5</sup>

(continued on page 2)

**THE NEPHITES AND THE LAMANITES (continued)**

At the separation of the Nephites and Lamanites, Nephi brought with him into the wilderness the plates of brass and also the ball, or compass, which the Lord had prepared for his father Lehi. He also brought the sword of Laban and after arriving at the place they called Nephi he used it as a pattern to make other swords for his people to defend themselves against the Lamanites. The Lamanites were a very wicked people; they hated Nephi and his people and were desirous to kill them.

Nephi taught his people to be industrious. They built buildings, worked in wood, iron, copper, brass, steel, gold, silver, and other precious ores. They built a temple similar to the temple of Solomon which is described in the Bible. The people wanted Nephi to be their king. Even though he thought it was not good for them to have a king he served them according to that which was in his power.

The Lord told Nephi that if his people would forget to keep the Lord's commandments that his brethren, the Lamanites, would afflict them in war and bloodshed. Also, in the future, if the Nephites became wicked and would not repent, the Lamanites would destroy them from off the face of the earth. Remember what happened to the Brother of Jared's people who lived on this promised land? The Lord gave them a commandment that "whoso should possess the land, should possess it unto the Lord, or they should be destroyed when they were ripened in iniquity."<sup>6</sup> Were they destroyed? Yes, they were,

and that commandment holds true to all people who live upon this land of promise, including us in our day.

Nephi's people were happy; they were hard workers and were diligent in keeping God's commandments. To keep his people in remembrance of their duties before God, Nephi consecrated his younger brothers, Jacob and Joseph, to be priests and teachers over the people of the land. During this time, Nephi kept records upon plates of ore that the Lord commanded him to make. He wrote upon two sets of plates. One set was for his people's history and upon the other set he recorded precious things of God. Nephi knew that the words he engraved upon his records were pleasing unto God and he taught them to his people.

Nephi wrote, "We did observe to keep the judgments, and the statutes, and the commandments of the Lord, in all things, according to the law of Moses. And the Lord was with us; and we did prosper exceedingly; for we did sow seed, and we did reap again in abundance. And we began to raise flocks, and herds, and animals of every kind."<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Alma 1:109	LAND	WAR	POURED
<sup>2</sup> Il Nephi 4:32-34	WORD	LORD	ROD
<sup>3</sup> Alma 1:113-116	DATES	PREV	MIND
<sup>4</sup> Alma 1:104	BELONG	MEN	(Page 4)
<sup>5</sup> Il Nephi 4:36, 38-39	STAND	SAME	POEM KEY
<sup>6</sup> Ether 4:22			
<sup>7</sup> Il Nephi 4:14-16			

# WORD SEARCH

Find the following words which are horizontal, vertical, diagonal, frontwards and backwards!

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| NEPHITES     | SWORD        |
| LAMANITES    | NEPHI        |
| BLESSING     | LAWS         |
| CURSE        | STRONG       |
| DARKNESS     | COMMANDMENTS |
| IRON ROD     | INDUSTRIOUS  |
| LORD         | FAITHFUL     |
| IDLE         | WOOD         |
| SEEDS        | ORES         |
| FLOCKS       | RECORDS      |
| BRASS PLATES | SCRIPTURE    |
| COMPASS      | HISTORY      |
| HERDS        | THE PROMISED |
|              | LAND         |

T H F C D Z Q S E T I H P E N R  
H C L A M A N I T E S I P C F Z  
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A B R A S S P L A T E S M P O D



# BECOME A PART OF HELAMAN'S TWO THOUSAND

Not many years ago, a determined lady made her way through the cold rain dragging mailbags to the loading ramp of the Independence post office. The bags contained the then fledgling Book of Mormon newsletter of the Foundation for Research on Ancient America. Thelona Stevens could only pray that her efforts would enlighten those who love the Book of Mormon and in them perhaps inspire a great response.

That day has arrived! Today hundreds of volunteers are regularly involved in promoting the Book of Mormon through the Foundation. In 1987 our 60,000 newsletters containing current archaeological research, study articles, and personal experiences were mailed to homes all over the world. In addition, the Foundation has produced Book of Mormon calendars, illustrated books for children, and video tapes, as well as Christmas cards with church historical scenes.

With the expanding role of FRAA in furthering the knowledge of the Book of Mormon are new challenges requiring new commitments. We need the help of all who desire to move out in faith to research new goals.

For example, in late 1987 the Foundation actively began establishing a library with a concentration of materials in archaeology and religion, especially as related to the Restoration and the Book of Mormon. Several thousand books, pamphlets, manuscripts and slides have been acquired and are now being indexed (see page 8). One day this could be the best library of

its kind in the Midwest. In addition, illustrated books of the history of the church and the Book of Mormon are now being colorized. They will soon be printed so young people will have a firm understanding of their heritage. Each year, 1000 missionary Books of Mormon are passed out free at the annual Book of Mormon Day to enable us to share with others.

As more people respond, new opportunities become available. Recently a small congregation in northern Nebraska contacted a Foundation member about some needed Books of Mormon. There was not sufficient money to give Books of Mormon to ten Indian children who were being baptized. Could the Foundation help? Within days, the needed books were sent along with calendars and storybooks of the Book of Mormon.

Contributions to the Foundation can make an impact and similar needs can be met, not just for ten children but for thousands—if we join together with a firm commitment to help.

Why not become a part of a new, special group of monthly contributors called Helaman's Two Thousand (Alma 24:74)? Simply fill out the "I Want to Become One of Helaman's Two Thousand" form below, telling us of your desire to be a part of this work. We also welcome your ideas for ways in which the Foundation can serve.

The opportunity to share the Book of Mormon is a special gift. Your commitment to respond may be your greatest blessing.

---

## I WANT TO BECOME ONE OF "HELAMAN'S TWO THOUSAND"

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE / PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently receiving *The Witness*?  Yes  No

Each month to help FRAA advance the knowledge of Jesus Christ and the Book of Mormon among the Lamanites, Jews, and Gentiles, I/we want to contribute

- |                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$       |

I cannot give a monthly contribution, but would like to give \$\_\_\_\_\_ at this time.

All contributions are tax deductible.

---

# SPEND A DAY WITH THE

Friendly Association With  
Book of Mormon  
Enthusiasts

CONFERENCE

"The Sealed Portion"

—Lyle Smith, chairman FRAA  
Archaeological Research Committee

"Promises to the Gentiles"

—Aleta Page, educator

"Excavations of El Miradar"

—Donald Forsight, archaeologist

"The Book of Mormon Speaks to Us Today"

—Henry Schaefer, patriarch

"Possible Weight of the Plates of the Book  
of Mormon"

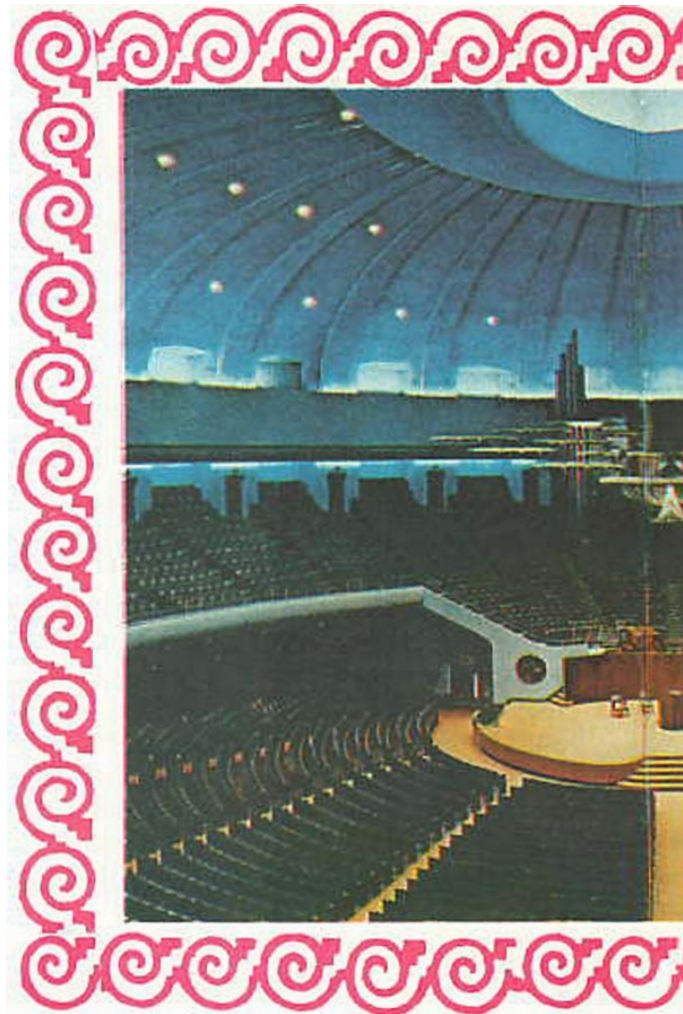
—B. Mildred Smith, lecturer

Dramatic Book of Mormon monologue,

—Richard Harrison, actor

There will be an archaeological film.

In the evening the Enoch Hill Drama Department will  
present "Journey to the Promised Land—the Story of  
Nephi" by Kim Morgan.



October

Conference Chamber  
Walnut and River,

SPONSOR

THE FOUNDATION FOR RE

Lectures

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Slides

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ANNUAL

# THE BOOK OF MORMON

CONFERENCE



Please save me \_\_\_\_\_ lunch tickets  
at \$5.50.

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: FRAA  
410 N. Pleasant  
Independence, MO 64055

The Laurel Club ladies will be  
serving a lunch, priced at \$5.50.

It will **not** be cafeteria style.

- Brisket*
- Au Gratin Potatoes*
- Sunshine Salad*
- Homemade Rolls*
- Cherry Pie*
- Beverage*

— **PROGRAM** —

- 8:00-8:45 **REGISTRATION (FREE)**
- 8:45-3:30 **VARIED PRESENTATIONS  
CONCERNING BOOK OF MORMON**
- 7:00 **BOOK OF MORMON DRAMA**

1, 1988

er RLDS Auditorium  
Independence, MO

ORED BY

## SEARCH ON ANCIENT AMERICA

onies

Drama

Music



*Foundation For Research  
On Ancient America*

April 1988

Hello!

As chairman of the Archaeological Research Committee for the Foundation For Research on Ancient America, I will be leading two Book of Mormon archaeological tours: one to Mexico, Nov. 25 - Dec. 3, 1988 \* (9 days); and the other to China, spring of 1989 (16 days), dates to be announced.

Mexico Mysteries - (Cost \$1,000)

This tour has two purposes:

- 1) to make the people of the Book of Mormon come alive and expand understanding of the people living there today that our ministry among them will move forward. I will share with you correlations between the Book of Mormon and the ruins we see in light of current linguistic and archaeological understanding.
- 2) to raise funds for the Foundation For Research on Ancient America that it may continue its invaluable outreach and research programs.

The following sites will be included: Mexico City and the Museum of Anthropology; Cuicuilco, round pyramid of Jaredite period; Cacaxtla's vivid-colored battle scene murals; Cholula, center for worship of the god Quetzalcoatl; Teotihuacan with the famous pyramids of the sun, moon, and Quetzalcoatl; Villahermosa's LaVenta Park with Olmec monuments and museum; and Palenque, perhaps the City Bountiful.

\*Alternate days - Dec. 26 - Jan. 3, 1989

China Caravan - (approximate cost \$3,000)

This adventurous visit to China has two purposes:

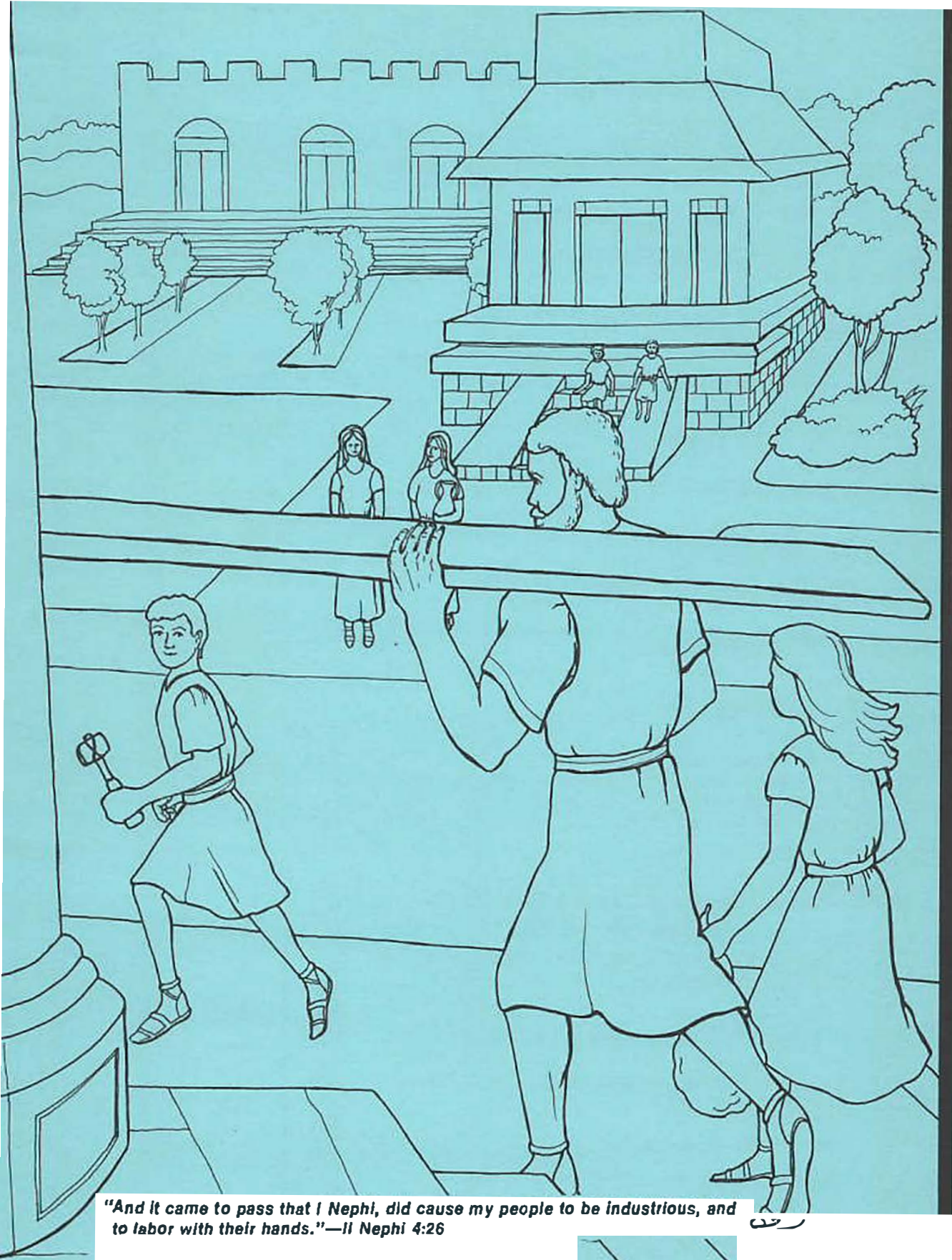
- 1) to gain an appreciation for the Chinese people and their ancient culture, and to explore their connection with the Jaredite people of the Book of Mormon in preparation for relating the restoration gospel to their millions of people. We will examine the correlation of the Chinese language with Christian concepts and the Chinese dragon with the Mesoamerican Quetzalcoatl.
- 2) to raise funds for the Foundation For Research on Ancient America that it may continue its invaluable outreach and research programs.

The following sites will be seen: Beijing, capital of China for over 700 years; Jinan, city with archaeological digs from the Shang dynasty and an excursion to Mt. Tai, holiest of Chinese mountains (perhaps where the Brother of Jared had his experience); Anyang with its many archaeological treasures; Xi'an, famous for its thousands of terra-cotta warriors and horses; Hangzhou, for its beauty; and Shanghai's Museum of Art and History, Antique Store and Carpet Factory.





**COLOR THIS PICTURE**



*"And it came to pass that I Nephi, did cause my people to be industrious, and to labor with their hands."—II Nephi 4:26*

**In this poem the fourth line usually rhymes with the second line.  
Fill in the blanks.**

The Lord warned a man named Nephi  
To leave his brothers far behind.  
He took some family and friends  
A people of one heart and \_\_\_\_\_.

They came to a place they named Nephi.  
Used Laban's sword as a pattern for more,  
For the Lamanites were a wicked people  
And delighted in bloodshed and \_\_\_\_\_.

They believed in the prophetic warnings  
And revelations of their great God.  
They were a diligent and faithful people  
Desiring to hold fast to the iron \_\_\_\_\_.

The people of Nephi were happy;  
They prospered in the land.  
They planted and reaped, raised flocks and herds,  
And for God's laws they did firmly \_\_\_\_\_.

A prophecy fulfilled - the Lamanites cut off  
From the presence of the Lord.  
They found when they turned from their God  
On them His blessings were not \_\_\_\_\_.

The people made Nephi their leader.  
They were industrious, faithful, and strong.  
They worked in wood, and precious ores.  
Their hearts to God did \_\_\_\_\_.

A cursing came upon those  
Who were Lamanites by name,  
Because of their iniquity  
They no longer were the \_\_\_\_\_.

The Lord gave a commandment to Nephi  
To keep records on two sets of plates;  
One of scripture and precious writings,  
And the other of history and \_\_\_\_\_.

God set a mark upon them.  
He brought a darkness on their skin.  
They rebelled against their brothers  
Who were just and holy \_\_\_\_\_.

To keep his people in remembrance  
Of their duties in serving their Lord,  
Nephi consecrated Jacob and Joseph  
To preach God's holy \_\_\_\_\_.

The Lamanite people were idle,  
Or lazy as some might say.  
Not planting seeds or tending flocks,  
Seeking in the wilderness for beasts of \_\_\_\_\_.

When we keep God's laws and statutes,  
And heed his holy command,  
We'll be greatly blessed beyond measure  
In this The Promised \_\_\_\_\_.

When Nephi departed from his brethren  
He took the brass plates, the compass, and sword  
To keep his friends and family  
Ever mindful to serve their \_\_\_\_\_.

**MEMORY VERSE**

"Inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments, ye shall prosper in the land."  
—II Nephi 3:8

If we prosper in the land we are doing well. God blesses us in all things (our church, our families, our homes, our gardens, our flocks) when we keep his commandments.

Jesus said, "If ye love me, \_\_\_\_\_"  
—John 14:15

WORD SEARCH KEY



## STUDY ALONG WITH...

Thelona  
Stevens



## “GATHERING IN ONE ALL THINGS”

### THE GATHERING OF JUDAH

This lesson begins where the lesson in the last issue of *The Witness* ended, with the fall and scattering of the Jews. The object of this lesson is to show that after Judah rejected God and his Son, the gospel was given to the Gentiles; God's warnings to the Gentiles; their rejection; and how God is to turn again to the Jews, according to his promises.

#### Covenants With God Cannot Be Taken Lightly

Making a covenant with God is a serious matter. Sinning after covenanting nullifies the covenant, unless there is repentance. Refusal to repent characterizes the wicked, and “the wicked remain as though there had been no redemption” (Alma 8:97).<sup>1</sup> The Jews made covenants with God and broke them. Being “stiff-necked” and unwilling to repent, their destruction and scattering were inevitable, but always God sought to save them.

And as one generation hath been destroyed among the Jews, because of iniquity, even so have they been destroyed from generation to generation, according to their iniquities; and never hath any of them been destroyed, save it were foretold them by the prophets of the Lord.

—II Nephi 11: 15-16

#### How Exacting Are God's Laws

From the days of Moses, Israel understood the exactness of God's laws. Caleb and Joshua were the only two individuals who qualified to enter the promised land of all who had come out of Egypt “twenty years old and upward” (Num. 14:22-30). Even Moses was not allowed to go in, although he was permitted to view it. He, too, had failed to

conform fully to God's commandments. He had taken honor unto himself in the desert of Zin (Num. 20:1-12; Deut. 32:51-52). God's laws are exacting, unchanging. He said,

I the Lord can not look upon sin with the least degree of allowance; nevertheless, he that repents and does the commandments of the Lord shall be forgiven; and he that repents not, from him shall be taken even the light which he has received, for my Spirit shall not always strive with man, saith the Lord of Hosts.

—D&C 1:5f-g

God warned Judah of dire consequences to them and their land if “at all” they or their children (God expected them to teach and control their children), should not keep the “commandments and statutes” which he had given them (I Kings 9:6-9).

God sent his Son Jesus Christ “unto his own, and his own received him not” (John 1:11). They chose Barabbas (a robber—John 18:40; a murderer—Luke 23:18-19) to be released instead of Jesus, whom they demanded be crucified. When Pilate sought to save Jesus, “all the people” shouted, “His blood come upon us and our children” (Matt. 27:23-27). Jesus sorrowfully foretold the woes which awaited them (Matt. 24:1-21). Having rejected God and his Son, there was nothing for the Jews but horrible destruction. (See the last issue of *The Witness* for some details.) For those who did not die, there was bondage, scattering, persecution.

#### The Scattering and Persecution

With their scattering among all nations, persecution awaited the Jews. The prophets had foretold that they would “become a hiss and a byword, and be hated among all nations” (I Nephi 5:252). The curse

(continued on next page)

of persecution followed them into nearly every haven where they took refuge. Knowing no homeland, they had no security. Most countries did not permit them to own land. Although they made significant contributions to many nations where they settled, in times of crisis they were unjustly treated, persecuted, rejected. Persecution continues even today in many areas, notably in the Soviet Union. There are indications that anti-Semitism is active, even increasing throughout the world. The Jews have no promise this will cease until the "times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (D&C 45:3f).

God still remembers his covenant with ancient Israel and awaits the time when Judah will accept Jesus Christ, so that the terms of his covenant with them can be fulfilled.

### The Gentiles

As stated, Jesus came first to the Jews. After their rejection, the gospel was to go to the Gentiles. Paul and Barnabas went to the Gentiles at God's command:

**It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you; but seeing ye have put it from you. . . .lo, we turn to the Gentiles, for so hath the Lord commanded us.**

—Acts 13:46-47

Since many scriptures involve the Gentiles, it is logical to identify and discuss them. One obvious definition is: Those of non-Jewish nationality. Yet, the first Biblical mention of Gentiles is in Genesis 10:3, long before Jews came into being.

The Old Testament concept of a Gentile was one who had not made his covenant with God. Jesus' definition was: "This he spake, signifying the scattering of Israel, and the desolation of the heathen, or in other words, the Gentiles" (Luke 23:32).

Jesus urged the Gentiles to "repent and come unto me . . . that they may be numbered among my people, O house of Israel" (III Nephi 9:92).

**And he inviteth them all to come unto him, and partake of his goodness; and he denieth none that come unto him, black and white, bond and free, male and female; and he remembereth the heathen, and all are alike unto God, both Jew and Gentile.**

—II Nephi 11:113-115

**As many of the Gentiles as will repent, are the covenant people of the Lord.**

—II Nephi 12:77

All who come unto Christ on his terms are of the seed of Abraham, either by lineage or by "adoption" (Gal. 3:29; 4:1-5).

For the sake of clarity and emphasis, we summarize by saying that the Scriptures reveal three types of Gentiles:

1. Unconverted Gentiles (heathens).
2. Converts to Christ, who are then no longer Gentiles (heathens), but are counted with the house of Israel.
3. Converted Gentiles who are Christ's, but the Scriptures call them Gentiles in order to identify them as of non-Jewish origin.

### The Gentiles—Blessings, Warnings

Nephi recorded his vision of the fall of his people, the Nephites (I Nephi 3:96-134), and foretold the rise of a mighty nation among the Gentiles upon this land (I Nephi 7:15). Toward the end of Nephite history, Mormon wrote that the Lord had "reserved their blessings" which the Nephites might have received, "for the Gentiles who shall possess the land" (Mn. 2:48). Nephi saw that the Lord prospered the Gentiles "who had gone forth out of captivity" because they "did humble themselves before the Lord, and the power of the Lord was with them" (I Nephi 3:151-152; II Nephi 7:17-20). A worthwhile book concerning the Pilgrims and other early day colonists upon this land is *The Light and the Glory*.<sup>2</sup>

Nephi prophesied that the Lord would "proceed to do a marvelous work" which would be of great worth "unto the Gentiles," and "unto all the house of Israel . . . making known of the covenants of the Father" (I Nephi 7:17-20). This was fulfilled with the coming forth of the Book of Mormon and the organization of the Church in 1830. Many Gentiles accepted the gospel, but the vast majority rejected it.

Nephi testified that "if the Gentiles repent, it shall be well with them" but "whoso repenteth not, must perish; therefore, wo, be unto the Gentiles, if it so be that they harden their hearts against the Lamb of God" (I Nephi 3:210-213). Jesus warned:

**At the day when the Gentiles shall sin against my gospel, and shall reject the fullness of my gospel, and shall be lifted up in the pride of their hearts above all nations . . . and shall be filled with all manner of lyings, and of deceits, and of mischiefs, and all manner of hypocrisy, and murders, and priestcrafts, and whoredoms, and of secret abominations; and if they shall do all these things, and shall reject the fullness of**



my gospel, behold, saith the Father, I will bring the fullness of my gospel from among them.

—III Nephi 7:34-35

Moroni's warning calls for serious contemplation and repentance on the part of those who occupy the "land of promise" which "the Lord God had pre-served for a righteous people" (Ether 1:29).

And now we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land. . . and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fullness of his wrath shall come upon them. . . . Wherefore he that doth possess it shall serve God, or shall be swept off; for it is the everlasting decree of God. . . . And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles, that ye may know the decrees of God, that ye may repent, and not continue in your iniquities until the fullness come, that ye may not bring down the fullness of the wrath of God upon you, as the inhabitants of the land have hitherto done.

—Ether 1:31-34

Jesus also warned,

Yea, wo be unto the Gentiles, except they repent, for it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Father, that I will cut off thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots, and I will cut off the cities of thy land, and throw down all thy strongholds.

—III Nephi 9:101

### The Converted Gentiles

In the latter days, God brought forth the gospel through the Gentiles (I Nephi 4:16). He "lifted his hand upon the Gentiles and set them up for a standard" (I Nephi 7:13). He offers them "greater things."

Come unto me, O ye Gentiles, and I will shew unto you the greater things, the knowledge which is hid up because of unbelief.

—Ether 1:109

Through the converted Gentiles, the gospel is to go to a "remnant" of the Nephites (I Nephi 4:16) and to the Jews when the Lord commands it (Church History).<sup>3</sup>

### Warnings to the Converted Gentiles

Even the converted Gentiles need to heed the warnings to repent. God did not spare the sinful Jews or the sinful Nephites. Failure to repent caused them

to be destroyed. God is merciful and long-suffering. He gave the same warning to his earliest covenant people, to the Nephites, and now to his people in the latter days: "My Spirit will not always strive with man" (Gen. 8:5; Ether 1:41; II Nephi 11:76; D&C 1:5g). Further, God said, "And when the Spirit ceaseth to strive with man, then cometh speedy destruction" (II Nephi 11:77).

Jesus warned specifically,

Wo unto him that spurneth at the doings of the Lord; yea, wo unto him that shall deny the Christ and his works; yea, wo unto him that shall deny the revelations of the Lord, and that shall say, The Lord no longer worketh by revelation, or by prophecy, or by gifts, or by tongues, or by healings, or by the power of the Holy Ghost.

—III Nephi 13:58-59

Mormon cried out,

O ye Gentiles, how can ye stand before the power of God, except ye shall repent and turn from your evil ways!

—Mn. 2:51

### The Times of the Gentiles

Latter-day revelation specifies that "a light shall break forth among them that sit in darkness, and it shall be the fullness of my gospel." This is "when the time of the Gentiles is come in" (D&C 45:4b). The same section mentions Jerusalem and the gathering, which is not to take place "until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (D&C 45:3f). This agrees with Luke 21:23, which says that "Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."

### The Return to Jerusalem

After the Gentiles' rejection of the gospel, it is to go back to the Jews. "The last shall be first, and the first last" (Matt. 20:15). Perhaps a first move toward the rehabilitation of Jerusalem was the blessing pronounced upon the Jews and their land in 1841. This was by Orson Hyde, a member of the Twelve at Nauvoo, who went to Jerusalem for that purpose. Read about his trip, and his prayer, in Church History.<sup>4</sup>

Jerusalem lay desolate for long centuries, dominated by the harsh Ottoman Turks. Great Britain wrested the land from the Turks in 1917, but during their thirty-year stay the British did little to improve

*(continued on next page)*

conditions. They withdrew, opening the way for the United Nations' declaration in May 1948, allowing the Jews to claim Jerusalem as a homeland, though there was not really freedom of immigration until after the war of 1967.

The Jews quickly repopulated the area and amazed the world by their ability to successfully defend themselves against the attacking Arabs. Their success can be attributed only to the providence of God, which the Jews themselves recognized.

Tens of thousands of returning Jews began transforming the barren land with phenomenal success, in spite of Arab opposition. They had to make the land productive, or perish. Great cities sprang into being, and progress in many fields was marked by rapid growth.

The Israeli government, set up by these determined Jews, has developed this tiny country into a force upon which world attention focuses, denoting its importance in world affairs. However, news reports of shocking inhumanity and cruelty to their enemies make it clear that there must be further suffering by the Jews before they will accept Christ and his teachings. Until this takes place, God's promises to them cannot be fulfilled. There can be no doubt that God has commenced his great work in behalf of the Jews, but clearly much history must transpire in Jerusalem before these promises can be realized.

Study all of Isaiah 48 and compare with 1 Nephi 6:6-29. Much of this seems to apply to the present situation in Jerusalem. For instance, Isaiah 48:1 speaks of "the house of Jacob, which are called by the name of Israel, and are come forth out of the waters of Judah, which swear by the name of the Lord, and make mention of the God of Israel, but not in truth, nor in righteousness." Verses 8 and 9 show that God knew they would "deal very treacherously," but he said, "For my name's sake will I defer mine anger . . . that I cut thee not off." Verse 22 reminds them, "There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked." Long centuries ago God instructed the Israelites, "The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace" (Ex. 14:14). To those currently fighting in Palestine, these things are either unknown or are ignored. They should give heed to the indications there is to be great tragedy in Jerusalem, and that those who survive will be believers in Christ, obedient to the Word of God.

Many quotations could be cited, but space permits only a few.

Apparently, there is to be yet another, a permanent, gathering back to Jerusalem by believers in Christ.

The time cometh, when the fullness of my gospel shall be preached unto them, and they shall believe in me, that I am Jesus Christ. . . and shall pray unto the Father in my name. . . Then will the Father gather them together again, and give unto them Jerusalem for the land of their inheritance.

—III Nephi 9:69,71

And when that day shall come, that they shall believe in Christ, and worship the Father in his name, with pure hearts, and clean hands, and look not forward any more for another Messiah, then, at that time, the day will come that . . . the Lord will set his hand again the second time to restore his people from their lost and fallen state.

—II Nephi 11:27-28

They shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn.

—Zech. 12:10

This will be a permanent ingathering:

I spake unto them concerning the restoration of the Jews, in the latter days . . . and after they were restored, that should no more be confounded, neither should they be scattered again.

—I Nephi 4:31,33

In that day shall the branch of the Lord be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely to them that are escaped of Israel. And it shall come to pass, they that are left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem.

—Isa. 4:1-2

And they also of the tribe of Judah, after their pain, shall be sanctified in holiness before the Lord to dwell in his presence day and night for ever and ever.

—D&C 108:6f

**Footnotes:**

<sup>1</sup> Scriptural references are to:

Book of Mormon (Independence, Missouri: Herald House, 1908).

Inspired Version (Independence, Missouri: Herald House, 1944).

Doctrine and Covenants (Independence, Missouri: Herald House, 1952).

<sup>2</sup> Peter Marshall and David Manuel, *The Light and the Glory* (Old Tappan, New Jersey: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1940).

<sup>3</sup> *History of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints*, Vol. 1 (Independence, Missouri: Herald House, 1896) p. 549.

<sup>4</sup> Vol. 2, pp. 552-556

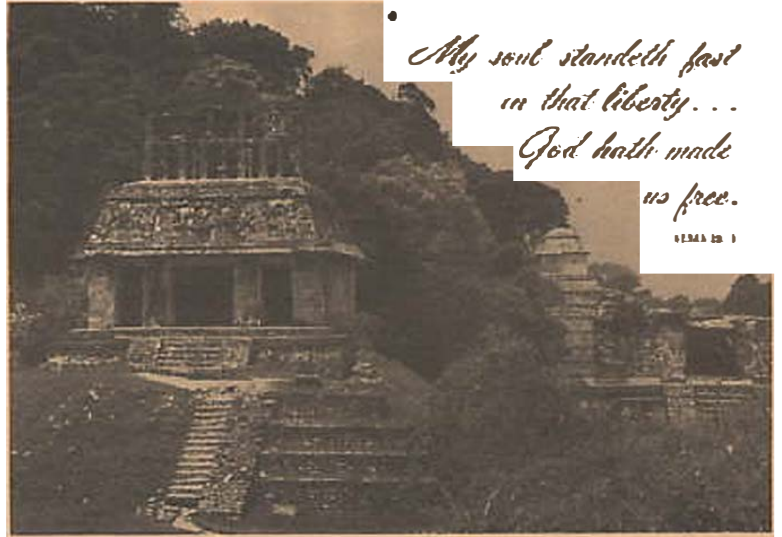




## ABOUT OUR 1988 BOOK OF MORMON CALENDAR

### July Picture: Temple of the Foliated Cross, Palenque, Mexico

The Temple of the Foliated Cross lies on a hillside which helps to sustain it. However, part has slid down and been destroyed. It faces the Palenque Temple of the Sun, and the panel which gives the building its name still remains in the shrine. A cross is decorated with foliage. It is supposed that this represents maize, a plant venerated by the Mayas. A priest is shown with upheld hands and gazing at a quetzal bird.



*My soul standeth fast  
in that liberty. . .  
God hath made  
us free.*

13MA 10 1



### August Picture: Altar "Q", Copan, Honduras

Altar "Q" is merely a very objective designation of one of the many structures in Copan, Honduras. It is one of the most interesting due to its sculptural beauty and its magnificent state of preservation. The dedication date is approximately A.D. 682. This commemorates the exact computation of the 365 day year. The astronomical event spread rapidly to other Mayan cities, which supports the theory that Copan was the intellectual capital and spiritual guide of the great Mayan civilization. Some restoration archaeologists have speculated that the figures might represent the four sons of Lehi.

### September Picture: Pyramid of the Niches, El Tajin, Mexico

The Pyramid of the Niches is built over an earlier structure. Its height is twenty-five meters. The monumental stairways are decorated with a meandering serpent. The structure is unique in that it contains uniform niches on all sides. There are 87 on each side, making 348. There are also 17 niches in the super structure on the top. This totals 365—the number of days in a year. This seems to support the statements in the Book of Mormon which indicate that the early inhabitants who peopled this continent were learned in astronomy.



*... of the Eternal  
Father and the  
Savior of  
the world.*

13MOR 10 1

## LETTERS

I can imagine the atmosphere in the Auditorium for your Day with the Book of Mormon! I share *The Witness* I receive with my sister and my daughter. We often discuss some of the articles when we meet at church. We especially enjoy Thelona Stevens' articles. My sincere thanks and may God bless you in your work.

—Australia

I am a member of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot). Whilst my wife and I were in Independence recently we came across some copies of *The Witness*. We brought some home to England and they were most enthusiastically received by our congregation here. My wife and I would like to receive it on a regular basis, if it would be possible to mail it to the United Kingdom. Could you advise me on the subscription for it? May I take this opportunity to congratulate you on such a faith building inspiring magazine. It is such a wonderful missionary tool.

—England

The Book of Mormon is a valuable second witness to the divinity of Jesus Christ and the universality of His gospel. Thank you all who publish *The Witness*—for such interesting articles and pictures. Although I probably will never go to see these things for myself, I know each piece of evidence builds our case for the Book of Mormon.

—Washington

We enjoy *The Witness* so much and feel it's one of the better things happening among church members today. Thank you for your dedicated efforts. May God bless you. We look forward to every issue.

—Wyoming

When I was twelve years old, I was introduced to the Book of Mormon, and the Spirit witnessed to me of the truth of it. I have drifted off the path at times and the same Spirit has brought me back. I thank God for the Book of Mormon and for the work of the FRAA. I will continue to give you some support. God bless you.

—Washington

I really appreciate *The Witness* and know that it is full of light and truth.

—California

Thank you for carrying on the work and research for the Book of Mormon. What would we be without the Book of Mormon?

—Nebraska

Thelona's lesson on the gathering of Israel is of interest to our class because of the present continuing conflict in Israel, and in connection with God's command for us to take the "new covenant" to the Jews and Indians, and Jacob's prophecy of the last "vineyard" effort. *The Witness* is a fine publication.

—Michigan

We enjoy the spiritual experiences and advancements in archaeology confirming the Book of Mormon. *The Witness* is much appreciated. We thank the Lord and pray for all who work to produce it.

—Ontario, Canada

I have enjoyed receiving *The Witness*. Every issue has so many beautiful things to learn. I especially liked the "Study Along With Thelona Stevens." I am hoping this year to be able to attend the Book of Mormon Day. I have a friend who wants to read this wonderful book, and I want to learn better how to share the truth with her, and others also. Thank you for the faithful work you are doing for the Lord.

—Missouri

Keep the Rod of Iron high in your banner, rely on God. These are not the arm of flesh.

—The Netherlands

I love *The Witness*. It is an important part of my life. Here is my contribution for *The Witness*. Soon I'll be able to send more. Thank all you officers for your hard work. We in Denver love you all.

—Colorado





# AND IT CAME TO PASS: UPDATE II

by Brenda and Linda Trimble



*It had come to pass  
(completed action)*



*And then it came to pass  
(ongoing action)*



*It shall come to pass  
(action yet to happen)*

Since 1985, developments in the decipherment of the Mayan hieroglyphs have proven to be instrumental in our understanding of the Book of Mormon. In 1985, a glyph was deciphered as **it came to pass**. Shortly thereafter, it was discovered that by adding other glyphs (prefixes and suffixes) to the main glyph, the tense of the phrase could be changed. To the present tense, **and then it came to pass**, now could be added the past tense, **it had come to pass**.

At the 1988 Maya Hieroglyphic Writing Workshop in Austin, Texas, the discovery of an additional glyph giving the future tense, **it will come to pass**, was presented. By examining the glyph from the phonetic standpoint, the discovery of the word **ut-om** was made. **Ut-om** is a Chol word

meaning "it will happen."

The discovery of the future tense of **it came to pass** provides us with the missing link in correlating these glyphs with the Book of Mormon. In the July 1987 issue of *The Witness*, examples of past and present tenses were used from the Book of Mormon. However, the Book of Mormon uses the phrase in the future tense as well. At that time, no example of this tense had been found in the glyphs. Now we have it!

Through the decipherment of these glyphs, we have come to realize the significance of the phrase. Rather than being an empty phrase, it is significant of time passage or action.



## YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

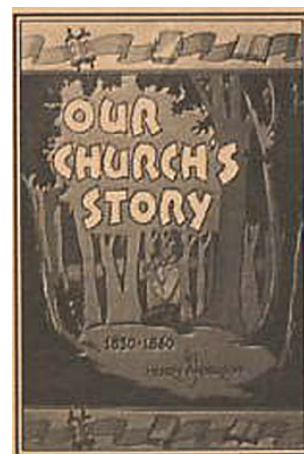
All of the workers for FRAA are volunteers doing the best job possible. Nevertheless, recently we had a computer mishap and our mailing list was lost. It is believed that currently all the names have been retrieved. However, we ask to be notified if you know of anyone who should be getting *The Witness* and does not receive this issue.

We also need to know when you move. Please send us your change of address, as we have to pay postage on all returned newsletters.

Thank you for helping.

## PUBLICATION STALLED

The Foundation for Research on Ancient America has been given permission to reprint the set of three Henry Anderson books on the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and **Our Church's Story** (1830-1860). The format is unusual and will hopefully be as popular with the young church people of today as it was with those of the 1940s.



The colorization of these books has been completed. We now wait for enough funds to do the actual printing. Any contributions will be appreciated.

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For the third year, we are going to give away 1000 Books of Mormon at the October conference. Response to this missionary effort has been outstanding, and many have already sent in contributions for the 1988 project. If you would like to help, send your donations to:

## ABOUT THE FOUNDATION...

### PURPOSE

The foundation for Research on Ancient America is a not-for-profit corporation comprised of individuals who desire to advance the knowledge of Jesus Christ and the Book of Mormon. Through instructional materials, archaeological research, testimonies and related projects members of FRAA seek to assist in bringing forth the light that is contained in the ancient scriptures of the Book of Mormon.

The Foundation for Research on Ancient America is not an official organization of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

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