



# THE WITNESS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION BY THE BOOK OF MORMON FOUNDATION

Number 121 ■ Winter 2006



*He is wrapped in swaddling clothes, and is lying in a manger.*

Huge Palace Yields Evidence of Maya Collapse	<b>3</b>
Have You Booked Your Cruise?	<b>5</b>
Book of Mormon Day for Kids	<b>8</b>
I Witness Kids	<b>10</b>



## From The Board ...

**For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (2 Nephi 9:66 RLDS) [2 Nephi 19:6 LDS]**

**H**ow beautiful are the words of the prophets that unite our thoughts on the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior. He forever remains the only hope for the world and his life reflects the perfect example of the fullness of the gospel. He is the word made flesh.

Today, we dwell in the midst of nations who yearn for answers to problems reaching far beyond human understanding. Our hearts cry out as we see how easily the Prince of Peace is set aside for the proud, complex and frail solutions of men.

We trust this past year has brought you the richest of blessings that only come from he who came as a babe in a manger, and with praise and thanksgiving trust you are filled with the peace and joy of knowing him. We also pray your new year will overflow with blessings as you always remember the source from whence they come.

He who was a babe in the manger extends to us, the promise of things that eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither has entered into the hearts of men. A promise of eternal life which cannot be purchased by wealth or acquired by social standing, but simply inherited by all who will hearken unto his voice. This is God's plain message to the world through Christ Jesus. We celebrate this greatest gift with you.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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Published quarterly by

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# HUGE PALACE YIELDS EVIDENCE OF MAYA COLLAPSE

Glenn A. Scott

**A** long-ignored Maya site is revealing evidence that it was once a huge palace. This site, called Cancuèn, Palace of the Serpents, is located on the east bank of the Rio de Pasión, deep in the Guatemalan rain forest. It is being excavated by archaeologist Arthur Demarest of Vanderbilt University.

Austrian explorer Teobert Maler discovered this site in 1905. Sylvanus Morley mapped it in 1915. Then, in 1967, a team from Harvard University mapped a part of it but never returned. Both scientists and looters considered it too small and unimportant to be worth their attention.

It was not until 1996 that Arthur Demarest became interested in it because of an ancient inscription discovered at an important site called Dos Pilas, which told of the marriage of “king three” of Dos Pilas to a royal lady from Cancuèn.

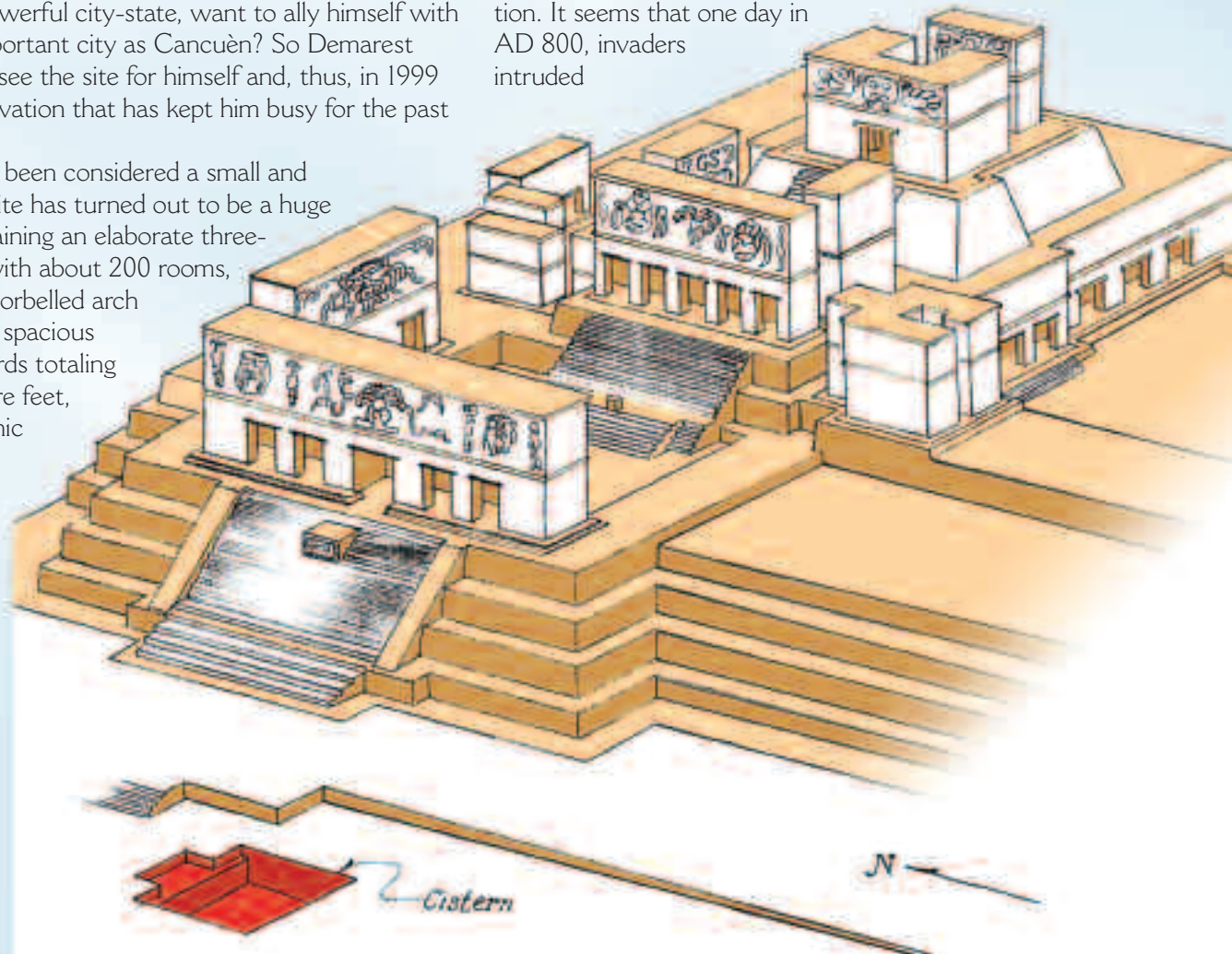
Why, he wondered, would the king of Dos Pilas, the capitol of a powerful city-state, want to ally himself with such an unimportant city as Cancuèn? So Demarest decided to go see the site for himself and, thus, in 1999 began an excavation that has kept him busy for the past seven years.

What had been considered a small and unimportant site has turned out to be a huge complex containing an elaborate three-story palace with about 200 rooms, 20-foot-high corbelled arch ceilings and 11 spacious stone courtyards totaling 270,000 square feet, plus hieroglyphic stairways and hundreds of

large sculptures of kings and deities. The surrounding city, five square miles, contained homes, workshops, a port on the Pasión River, and a marketplace that attracted traders from as far away as Tikal, 85 miles to the north. This lost city was established in AD 656 by the powerful city-state of Calakmul as an outpost to control trade moving up and down the Pasión River. A century later, it had become an independent power.

What was unique about Cancuèn was that it had no large pyramid, nor temple, nor fortified defenses. What it did have was a disproportionately huge palace constructed between AD 760 and 770. It seems that its rulers rather than become involved in regional warfare preferred to form alliances with whatever was the major power at the time.

However, this jungle Utopia was not to last. Demarest has found remarkable evidence there relating to the collapse of Maya civilization. It seems that one day in AD 800, invaders intruded



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## Huge Palace

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Cancuèn and sacked this wealthy city. What shocked Demarest was the ferocity of the invaders who massacred the entire royal family, including King Kan Maax and all the women and children, dumping their bodies still wearing full regalia into a nearby cistern.

In April 2005, Demarest and Guatemalan Tomas Barrientos found the remains of 34 individuals in the cistern adjoining the royal palace. The remains of 16 others were found in two other locations. It seems that the invaders wanted to end the dynastic line that had ruled Cancuèn for 144 years.

Demarest calls this “one of the signal events in the early stages of the collapse of Maya civilization,” and that warfare which had started around AD 750 was a major factor in the collapse of Maya cities in the west, along the north/south trade route which followed the Pasión River. Two other cities in the same area, Dos Pilas and Aguateca, were also destroyed in AD 761 and 810, respectively.

The Maya had a long history of warfare for purposes of taking prisoners and tribute from the conquered. However, these events marked a new trend which was more destructive. The invaders did not take Cancuèn for tribute or prisoners, nor did they identify themselves by erecting carved stelae to celebrate their victory, as was a common custom in the past. Demarest suspects the invaders’ motive was to

wipe out a rival who had controlled trade along the Pasión River valley route.

Formerly, there had been agreements among the powerful cities such as Tikal and Calakmul that allowed trade routes to remain open despite intercity warfare. However, those agreements began to unravel around AD 750. Demarest says, “I think that, at this point, warfare begins to spiral out of control, and just accelerates until the entire west disintegrates, and city after city is gradually abandoned.”

Demarest intends to spend another five years at Cancuèn. He believes it would require another 15 years to uncover the entire royal palace. He has enlisted the local people in a project going well beyond excavation to make them “stakeholders” in a much larger project, including sustainable agricultural and economic development. They will act as custodians of their ancient heritage. There are no roads to Cancuèn, so the nearby village of La Unión operates a boat service to ferry visitors to Cancuèn. The local Q’eqchi Maya manage the archaeological park, which offers a visitor center, inn, campground and guide services. The profits go to pay for a water system, school improvements and medical supplies. Demarest has been awarded the National Order of Cultural Patrimony by the government of Guatemala.

References:

American Archaeology. Fall 2006 pp 26-32

Glyph Notes. Nov./Dec. 2000 pp 1-2

## 2007 Book of Mormon Foundation Internship

**Applications are now being accepted for the 2007 Book of Mormon Foundation Internship. Applications are available online at [www.bmfinternship.org](http://www.bmfinternship.org). You may also request an application by email at [bmfinternship@yahoo.com](mailto:bmfinternship@yahoo.com) or call the Foundation, 816-461-3722.**

**The application deadline is February 3rd and interviews will take place on February 10, 2007. Applicants need to be 19-24 years old, at least one year out of high school and have an interest in learning about The Book of Mormon.**

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# Have You Booked Your Cruise?

by Sue Manning

**I**n this day when events seem totally out of control, we have access to the Master's Plan; a plan so flawless, our willing participation can propel us into a perfect eternal relationship with our Creator. The scriptures tell us about those who chose to follow the Master's Plan. When asked to participate will we say, "Here am I, send me?" We are now presented with the same question. Will we choose to unconditionally obey God's command and accept his plan or will endless debates cause us to lose the opportunity to participate at all? Which plan will we choose? Consider the Jaredites and the journey set before them. Look closely at the challenges they faced and decide if your answer would be, "Here am I, send me."

The confusion, fear and emotional trauma at the great tower must have been unfathomable. Only faith in God could have sustained the Jaredites during this tumultuous time. Jared asked his brother to go to the Lord and request that the language of their families and friends not be confounded and that he send them to a safe place. His brother came back with the assurance their language would not be confounded and had news of an upcoming voyage to a promised land. In our day, we conjure up pictures of a cruise liner offering endless buffets of food, beautifully decorated staterooms, non-stop entertainment and exotic ports of call. "Here am I, send me," would be a quick answer for such a trip. Imagine the disappointment when the cruise ship was actually a small wooden vessel, eight of them to be exact, as long as a tree, with no lights, no deck, no buffets, and shared with animals. I am sure my enthusiasm would wane, and I'd be less apt to sign up for this voyage.

Ether 1:43 (RLDS) [Ether 2:16 LDS] reads, "And the Lord said, Go to work and build, after the manner of barges which ye have hitherto built."

Being from a coastal town in Florida, I have seen all kinds of boats and barges, and I believe this passage actually describes God's version of a submarine, a wooden submarine. I usually don't tend to be claustrophobic, but I have experienced the feeling while touring

a World War II submarine anchored in Mobile Bay. It would be hard to live in those cramped quarters for months at a time, not to mention sharing those quarters with animals. My response would change to "Here am I, searching desperately for someone you can send."

And also we shall perish, for in them we can not breathe, save it is the air which is in them; therefore we shall perish. And the Lord said unto the Brother of Jared, Behold, thou shalt make a hole in the top thereof, and also in the bottom thereof; and when thou shalt suffer for air, thou shalt unstop the hole thereof, and receive air. (Ether 1:49-50 RLDS) [Ether 2:19-20 LDS]

My experience with every seagoing vessel is a hole on top is not going to pose too much of a problem. However, a hole in the bottom could be the beginning of the end. It makes me wonder how long it took the Jaredite passengers to realize that the hole in the bottom may sometimes be on top because the submarine would roll in the water. I could see myself considering that life back at the tower wasn't so bad after all.

In answer to the query concerning crossing the great water in darkness, God asks,

... What will ye that I should do that ye may have light in your vessels? For behold, ye can not have windows, for they will be dashed in pieces;



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# Cruise

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... for behold, ye shall be as a whale in the midst of the sea; for the mountain waves shall dash upon you. ... what will ye that I prepare for you, that ye may have light when ye are swallowed up in the depths of the sea?" (Ether 1:55-56, 59 RLDS) [Ether 2:23 and 2:25 LDS]

Florida is very flat, so I have enjoyed the rolling hills of Missouri. Some hills, considered small by locals, seem like mountains to me. What is a mountain to God? A mountain wave, as described by God himself in Ether 1:56, must be unbelievably massive. The Weather Channel has given us enough exposure to nature's fury in and around the sea that I'd feel compelled to question the Lord concerning his definition of mountain-sized waves. My definition would include tsunamis. That's enough information to encourage me to hang around for the next ride. "Here I am, Lord, but don't wait on me."

... Go to and gather together thy flocks, both male and female, of every kind; ... And they did also lay snares and catch fowls of the air, and they did also prepare a vessel, in which they did carry with them the fish of the waters; And they did also carry with them deseret, which, by interpretation is a honey bee; and thus they did carry with them swarms of bees... (Ether 1:16 & 23, 24 RLDS) [Ether 1:41, 2:2 and 2:3 LDS]

Ether tells us that not only were Jared, his brother, their families and their friends' families allowed to go to the Promised Land, they were commanded to take some of their flocks, birds, fish and honeybees. My next question would be, "With whom or what would I be sharing my vessel?" My family, who is quiet, always respectful of each other, neat and clean, and can entertain themselves for hours, would make wonderful shipmates for the first few hours. And I really love animals — from a distance. I am not an expert on animals, but I have been to the zoo and would be hard-pressed to choose an animal to accompany me on this voyage. They all have unique talents and abilities to deal with, not to mention the daily

upkeep. When upset, the camel can spit stomach fluids as far as 40 feet. But how upset would a camel become enclosed in a wooden vessel, like a whale in the midst of the sea while mountain waves dashed upon it? If my

cabin mate was a camel, I would request the length of my vessel be more than 40 feet.

Then there are the honeybees. Honeybees are not naturally aggressive. Bees would be much easier to keep than sheep or cows and less demanding to clean up after, although the word "swarm" is a little frightening. I'd suggest keeping it to the male and female rule for the flocks. Bees tend to mind their own business, plus honey

would be available during the trip, but they sting. I imagine a swarm of bees could become somewhat agitated while being tossed around in the depths of the sea. Surely the animals could ride alone and take care of themselves. They seem to do well in the wild with no help. "Here am I, Lord, but I don't think I qualify. You need a zookeeper."

There is also the issue of provisions. As the Lord guided them in assembling the food and water needed for every man, woman, child and animal, the large amount collected gave the travelers a clue as to how long the voyage was to last. I could deal with a month's worth maybe, but once I saw it was a year's worth, I believe I'd jump ship. I'd question God, Jared, his brother and all other participants. I'd want to know of alternate plans and would wonder what the folks were doing back at the tower. I'd like to think I would say, "Here am I, send me," if I were facing the same voyage as the Jaredites. But I can't say that I would. So why did the Jaredites go on this voyage? How did they do it? During the preparation, they had to see the possibilities of what lay ahead. They signed up anyway and spent 344 days on the sea and under the sea in small wooden vessels in anticipation of a promised land.

Ether 3:11 (RLDS) [Ether 6:9 LDS] says, "And they did sing praises unto the Lord; yea, the Brother of Jared did sing praises unto the Lord, and he did thank and praise the Lord all the day long; and when the night came, they did not cease to praise the Lord."



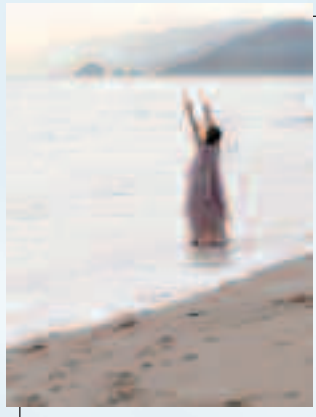
Nephi, after being bound by his brothers for four days with his wrists and ankles swollen and sore, had the same reaction as the Jaredites. “Nevertheless, I did look unto my God, and I did praise him all the day long; and I did not murmur against the Lord because of mine afflictions.” (1 Nephi 5:199 RLDS) [1 Nephi 18:16 LDS]

When the Lamanites came to slay the people of Anti-Nephi-Lehi, they killed 1,005 of them with no resistance. The Anti-Nephi-Lehis . . . “would lie down and perish, and praised God even in the very act of perishing under the sword . . . (Alma 14:51 RLDS) [Alma 24:23 LDS]

The Book of Mormon teaches us how praise can be the fertilizer that grows our faith so we can participate and do what is expected of us even in the face of adversity. God isn't vain. He doesn't need to hear our praises to make *himself* feel good. When we practice praising God, we begin to believe just how great and powerful he really is. When we believe he is great and powerful, we begin to believe he can do anything. Our faith grows.

Ammon teaches us about praise in his exhortation in Alma:

“Blessed be the name of our God; let us sing to his praise, yea, let us give thanks to his holy name, for he doth work righteousness for ever. Yea, I know that I am nothing; as to my strength, I am weak; therefore I will not boast of myself, but I will boast of my God; for in his strength I can do all things; yea, behold, many mighty miracles we have wrought in this land, for which we will praise his name for ever. Behold, who can glory too much in the Lord? Yea, who can say too much of his great power, and of his mercy, and of his long suffering



towards the children of men? Behold I say unto you, I can not say the smallest part which I feel.” (Alma 14:88, 92 and 97 RLDS) [Alma 26:8, 12 and 16 LDS]

Psalms 100 tells us we enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise. Just like entering into a city of old to visit a king, we first must go through the gates of that city and then into the courts of the king's palace to see him. The Jaredites knew this simple idea and put it to work in their lives. Instead of questioning God, imagining possible disasters, or complaining and looking at the negative, they left their fate in the hands of their Creator and entered into his presence by praising him “all the day long.” Surely they must have implemented this strategy long before they embarked to have the faith to board those small wooden vessels.

And when they had set their feet upon the shores of the promised land, they bowed themselves down upon the face of the land, and did humble themselves before the Lord, and did shed tears of joy before the Lord, because of the multitude of his tender mercies over them. (Ether 3:14 RLDS) [Ether 6:12 LDS]

As we consider the possibilities of what lies before us in this tumultuous world, let us choose the perfect Master Plan that will land us on the shores of the promised kingdom. Let us praise our Heavenly Father, who has laid before us a plan that will carry us into his presence. Through thanksgiving and praise, let us first enter into the gates of the city and ultimately into his courts, that we may have the faith to say, “Here am I, Lord, send me.”

## The Book of Mormon Winter Retreat

**When: January 26–28, 2007**

**Ages: 18–24**

**Where: Odessa Hills Campground**

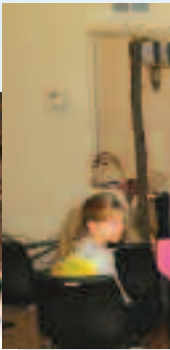
**For more information contact David or Kathy Gilmore at 816-229-2550 or Linda Guin at The Book of Mormon Foundation 816-461-3722.**

**Registration forms are available at your congregation.**



# BOOK OF MORMON

My favorite thing about Book of Mormon Day for kids was the Potter. He had many good stories. He also had many good visuals for all of us. I also liked the backpacks we got to decorate and take home.  
— Lauren Keller



At the Book of Mormon Day we did a lot of things. We saw a potter, we did music, we made crafts and learned a lot of things in class. Book of Mormon day is a very fun day for kids to not only learn about God but to make new friends and just have a great time. I had a great time and you will too.

Lexi Kroesen






# ON DAY for Kids



I like NEPTI'S Bowdarrow TAE Best  
I got to pull the bow  
BY Mitchell Lee Evans



# I WITNESS Kids

## Annie Learns About Thanksgiving



by Alicia Sindt

**Annie smelled the pumpkin pie** before her eyes opened. Grandma's house was filled with good smells. Spicy pumpkin pie, steamy homemade rolls, tart cranberry; and best of all was the smell of the turkey baking.

Annie swung her feet over the side of the bed and grabbed her robe. She had spent the night with Grandma and Grandpa Netter to help with the Thanksgiving meal. It smelled like Grandma had cooked everything without her.

**Annie sped down the steps and into the kitchen.** There was Grandma and Grandpa sitting at the table with their bowls of oatmeal. Next to Grandma was Annie's bowl and glass of milk. Grandma looked at her and smiled. "Don't worry Annie. There's still plenty of baking to do for our Thanksgiving. You haven't missed much."

Annie wasn't sure. "I smell the pumpkin pie and the turkey."

"Don't fret," Grandma reassured her. "We still have mashed potatoes, stuffing, sweet potatoes, corn, . . . goodness; we have so much left to do. I'd never get it all done by noon if my big helper wasn't here. Now sit here at your place while Grandpa says the blessing."

Annie looked at Grandpa. He was grinning at her and Grandma. Something was pleasing him today. Annie sat at her place and bowed her head.

Grandpa prayed, and Annie thought about Thanksgiving. When Grandpa said, "Amen," she took

a sip of milk and a deep breath of turkey and said, "I'm sure glad the Pilgrims decided to thank God for their harvest. I like all the foods of Thanksgiving."

"Yes, after their first hard winter they felt blessed indeed. Grandpa said, "What have they taught you about Thanksgiving in school?"

"Well, my teacher read us stories about how the Pilgrims wanted to worship God in their own way. They couldn't do that in England so they came to America." Annie spooned brown sugar over her oatmeal and stirred it in.

"You know, Annie, in The Book of Mormon, we can read about a vision God gave to Nephi which showed that the Pilgrims would come to this land," Grandpa said.

"Now Grandpa, I don't think The Book of Mormon says Pilgrim anywhere in it." Annie retorted. She took a big bite of oatmeal.

"No, it doesn't say Pilgrim or Plymouth Rock." Grandpa swallowed some milk. "But it does talk about Christopher Columbus and the Pilgrims, if you know what to look for."

"I think you'll have to show me that," Annie answered as she scraped up the last of the oatmeal.

Grandpa was smiling from ear to ear, "It will be my pleasure, just as soon as we clear these dishes for Grandma."

Grandma was smiling too. "You two run along, and I'll get these. Show her those verses."

Annie and Grandpa went into the living room to Grandpa's big chair. She snuggled onto his lap, and he opened his scriptures to 1 Nephi. Grandpa read, "And I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles, who was separated from the seed of my brethren by the many waters; and I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and wrought upon the man; and he went forth upon the many waters, even unto the seed of my brethren, who were in the promised land. And it came to pass that I beheld the Spirit of God that it wrought upon other Gentiles; and they went forth out of captivity, upon the many waters. And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles who had gone forth out of captivity did humble themselves before the Lord, and the power of the Lord was with them;" (1 Nephi 3:147-148 and 3:152 RLDS) [1 Nephi 13:12-13 and 13:16 LDS]

Annie's forehead wrinkled. "Who is that talking about?"



"Well, it is Nephi speaking. Nephi is seeing a vision of the Lord, and in that vision, he sees a Gentile man who comes across the waters to this land, the land where Nephi's grandchildren will be. From the description, it sounds like it is Christopher Columbus." Grandpa answered.

"But it doesn't say it was Christopher Columbus," Annie was still puzzled.

"No, very often in prophecy it doesn't say exact names. The Lord will give us descriptions to figure out."

"How are we supposed to figure them out?" Annie asked.

"The Lord wants us to pray and ask. But sometimes the Spirit of the Lord will quicken our minds to understand," Grandpa explained.

"What do you mean by 'quicken our minds'?" Annie asked again.

"The Lord has placed a spirit in all of us. That spirit can listen to the Holy Spirit for understanding. Praying certainly helps the understanding. But sometimes the understanding comes even before you pray about it. When you are baptized and confirmed, you receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, which is an even better help to the understanding of these things," Grandpa continued.

**Annie thought a little while longer.**

"So because Columbus was a Gentile and he came on the water to this land and found the grandchildren of Nephi, it makes him sound a lot like the man in the prophecy right?"

"Yes, that's right." Grandpa answered.

"So how do you know about the Pilgrims?" Annie questioned.

"Because the scriptures say the Spirit of God wrought upon many Gentiles, and they came to this land. It also says that they humbled themselves when they were here and the power of the Lord was with them. History tells us the Pilgrims did escape from religious tyranny when they came to this land, and we know the Lord was with them, or they could not have survived. They certainly humbled themselves before the Lord. Thanksgiving is about humility. It is recognizing that all that you have come because the Lord blessed you, not because you were strong and worked hard." Grandpa was looking at Annie to see if she understood.

"I think I understand how The Book of Mormon is telling Nephi about Christopher Columbus and the Pilgrims. I sure didn't think it could have told about them, but I think you are right." Annie spoke slowly.

"Annie, the Lord wants you to understand his words. Right now, you think it might be right, but there is a way to know that it is right." Grandpa was

still watching her closely.

"I can know if it is right if I pray." Annie said.

"Yes you can," Grandpa answered. "And there is no time like right now when we are talking about it, to pray."

Grandma came into the room, and they all knelt together and asked the Lord for his understanding of the verses. When they finished, Annie's face cleared. "I do think you are right, Grandpa! The Pilgrims and Christopher Columbus do fit all the verses.

Grandpa gave her a hug. Grandma said, "If we are going to get this feast ready we better get started baking now." Annie and Grandma turned and walked into the kitchen.

Grandpa was still on his knees. He continued to pray, "Lord, thank you for little Annie. Help us to teach her of you and your ways. Help your scriptures to come alive in her heart and soul. Please keep her in your paths. In Jesus' Name, Amen."





# A CALL TO REPENTANCE

by Kathy Keller

**Times sure had changed.** In the land of Zarahemla, the Nephites had once lived righteously. Now, because many Lamanites had come to know the Lord, there were more Lamanite believers than Nephite believers. Many Nephites had become proud and self-centered. They were forgetting God. The Nephites had begun to congratulate themselves for that which they had instead of thanking God for their blessings.

Samuel, a Lamanite, worried about the people of Zarahemla. He believed he should go and preach to the people so they might repent of their sins and again choose God.

**Zarahemla was a beautiful fortress city** with a high wall that surrounded it for protection. Samuel passed through the city gates early one morning following a farmer's small wagon piled high with fresh vegetables. The roads were filled with people and animals heading for market. Samuel stepped carefully along the roads until he found a shady spot on a busy street and began speaking to the people. He told them of God's love for them and prophesied of the destruction of their people if they did not repent. Samuel said they must confess their sins and turn away from them. He called them to live a life of caring for others, worshipping God and thanking him for all the blessings he had given them. A few Nephites stopped to listen.

"What do you mean 'repent of my sin'? Who are you to tell me I'm sinful? I suppose you're Mr. Perfect, right?" a young Nephite jeered at Samuel.

Another Nephite yelled, "What do you know? You're nothing but a Lamanite. I know about God. He won't destroy us. Get out of here!"

**A rotten piece of fruit thumped Samuel in the back of the head,** and the crowd became more threatening. It was time to move on. Samuel saw an opening in the crowd, squeezed through and disappeared in the busy market place. Soon he found another place to talk to the people, but most Nephites either ignored him or became angry at him.

It was not long before Samuel was the talk of the city. The people grew angrier and angrier with him. He often had to escape quickly as people yelled insults and showered him with rotting garbage. One day as Samuel tried to speak to the people, the crowd became furious and began throwing rocks. They chased Samuel right outside the city gates.

Well Lord, Samuel thought as he headed back to his land, I really tried. I'm sorry more people didn't want to hear

your truth. Even after all the people of Zarahemla had done to him, Samuel still cared about them. He knelt in prayer before God.

"Oh Lord, you who are almighty and holy, I ask that you have mercy upon this people, that they might turn from their sin and come back to you." Samuel felt God's spirit come over him saying, "I will have mercy on this people. I will again add your voice to that of my servant Nephi, to call this people to repentance that they might not be destroyed. Return to them and prophesy to this people the things that I place on your heart."

**Go back? thought Samuel.** He remembered all that had happened in the last few days. He had been threatened, yelled at, made fun of, pelted with garbage and finally, the people had tried to kill him. Then he remembered the words of Nephi, the son of Lehi, who had written, "... If God had commanded me to do all things, I could do them." (1 Nephi 5:157 RLDS) [1 Nephi 17:50 LDS]

Samuel thought, God isn't even asking me to do all things, just this one thing. He turned around and headed back to the city.

When Samuel again arrived at Zarahemla, he met the fierce guard by the city gate. "What are you doing back here?" he growled. "Do you want us to kill you this time? Leave and don't come back!" The guard barred the way and wouldn't let Samuel through the gate.

**Samuel turned away dejectedly.** He knew what God wanted him to do and knew that God would provide a way. He just didn't know what that way was.

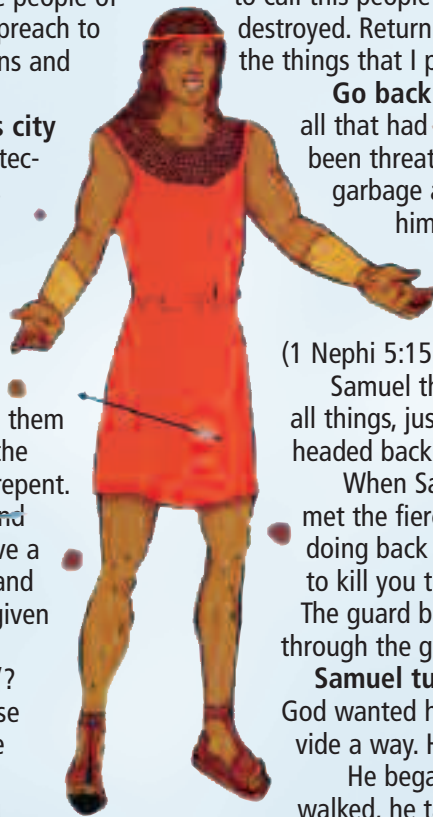
He began to walk around the city. While he walked, he talked to God and tried to think of a way to get into the city. The walls kept him from getting in and none of the guards would let him through the city gates. If he could just get over the wall . . .

That's it! Samuel thought. I don't need to get over the wall, just on top of the wall! From there everyone can see and hear me. It will be like King Benjamin on his high tower. Now, how to get on top of the wall?

Samuel continued to look for a way to climb the wall as he walked around the city. There it was! A creeping shrub was trying to make its way up the wall, too. It had grown almost to the top. Samuel prayed that God would make it strong enough for him to climb.

**At last Samuel was at the top of the wall.** It was the perfect spot. He could see the market place and a large courtyard. Hundreds of people were before him.

"People of Zarahemla," he cried, "I am Samuel, a



Lamanite, whom God has sent to call you to repentance. Turn away from your sin and return to the God who has made you!" Samuel pleaded with the people to believe on the Lord, repent of their sins and be baptized.

He told them the angel message that Christ would be born in just five years. He told of marvelous signs to come that they might know of his birth. He told of the signs that would tell of his death. He prophesied of their destruction if they did not change their ways; but few listened to his words. Some became thoughtful and really listened to what Samuel said. They knew in their hearts that he was right, and the Holy Spirit bore witness of the truth of Samuel's words to them. So they searched out Nephi, who was also calling people to repentance in Zarahemla, and they joined the small group of people who followed God's laws. God blessed those who followed him by showing them many miracles and blessings.

However, most of the people hardened their hearts against Samuel's words, and Satan stirred up their anger against him. They tried to stop his preaching by shooting arrows at him but God was protecting him. When none of the arrows could hit him, their anger exploded. They ran to the wall to seize him.

As the mob scrambled to climb the wall, God's spirit spoke to him, "You are released from your task, Samuel. Your work here is done. The words you spoke will stand as a testimony against those who have hardened their hearts and rejected my words."

Samuel jumped down from the wall and lost himself in the crowd along the busy road. As he returned to his home, he grieved for the people who would not repent. Then the words of the angel again came to mind and his heart rejoiced. Only five more years and Christ would be born!

# WALLS OF ZARAHEMLA



To discover what is written on the stones in this wall of letters, begin at the arrow and skip every other letter. As you land on a letter, write it on the blanks below. You must go around the wall twice to get the complete message.

W	A	O	N	F	D	T	Y	H	E	E	S	C	H	O	A	M	L	I	L	N
D																				H
O																				G
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S	M	E	E	H	Y	T	T	T	A	S	H	I	T	R	S	H	D	C	R	S

ANSWER: AND YE SHALL HEAR MY WORDS THAT YE MIGHT KNOW OF THE COMING OF JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF GOD.



# Who Loves Jesus?



Illustrator Melinda Cunningham

The Saints have worshipped Jesus through all ages. See if you can find Joseph & Emma Smith; The Pilgrims; Indians; Cowboy; Grandma; Caroler; Turtle; Mouse; Drummer Boy; Glove; Lamb; Staff; Star.



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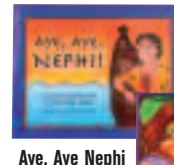
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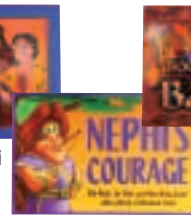
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