



THE WITNESS

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I WITNESS Kids



The Book of Mormon Foundation maintains a website at www.bomf.org, where you can view past issues of The Witness, articles, information regarding our Internship program, and other news and links concerning The Book of Mormon. We are pleased to announce a new addition to the website focusing on the children. Click on [I Witness Kids](#) in the menu on the left side of our homepage. You will find a fun place for kids with games, stories, puzzles, and links for children that will reinforce their knowledge of The Book of Mormon and provide a useful resource for parents and youth leaders. We hope you visit us often to see what is new!

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Don't Shoot The Messenger

by Marlin Guin

You have probably heard the phrase: "Don't shoot the messenger." It's usually the last thing said by someone who has experienced rejection of the message they have delivered.

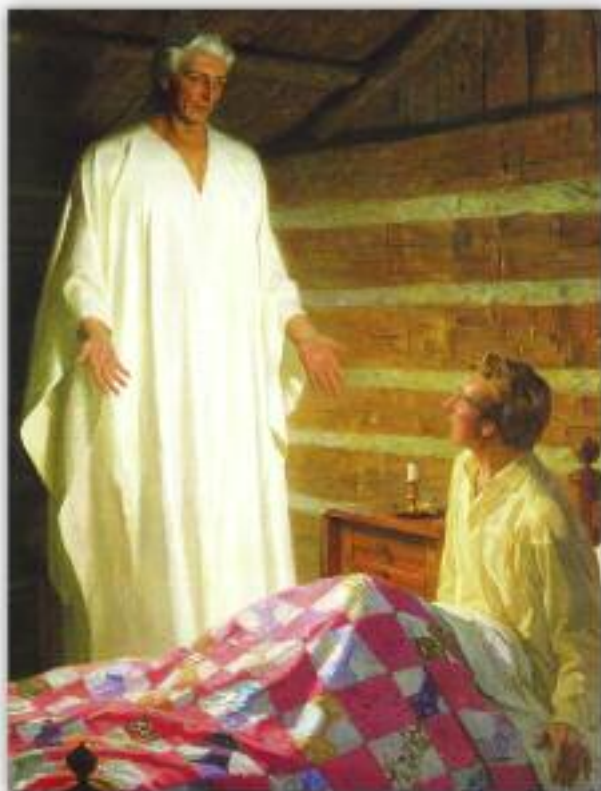
I recently attended a meeting at work where a visitor came to present a solution for a problem. He clearly stated what was to be accomplished, how it should be done and who was to participate in the process. Some in attendance accepted the plan with enthusiasm. Others seemed very complacent and skeptical. Still others murmured and complained. It was easy to see those who were complacent, murmured and complained would ignore the message and continue to do things their own way. They bragged their solution was the best way to get the job done. Finally, after experiencing intense opposition, the presenter said: "Don't shoot the messenger!"

On September 21, 1823, the Lord sent a heavenly messenger to a young boy named Joseph Smith. His name was Moroni (D&C 26:2a) and he carried a message from God. It included what the Lord wanted his people to accept and accomplish for the latter day work. The account is found in RLDS Church History Vol.1, pg. 12-14, and begins with his appearance and introduction. For clarity, Church History references are brown.

While I was thus in the act of calling upon God, I discovered a light appearing in the room which continued to increase until the room was lighter than at noonday, when immediately a personage appeared at my bedside standing in the air for his feet did not touch the floor.

He had on a loose robe of the most exquisite whiteness. It was a whiteness beyond anything earthly I have ever seen; nor do I believe that any earthly thing could be made to appear so exceedingly white and brilliant; his hands were naked and his arms also a little above the wrist. So also were his feet naked, as were his legs a little above the ankles. His head and neck were also bare. I could discover that he had no other clothing on but this robe, as it was open so that I could see into his bosom. Not only was his robe exceedingly white but his whole person was glorious beyond description, and his countenance truly like lightning. The room was exceedingly light, but not so very bright as immediately around his person.

When I first looked upon him I was afraid, but the fear soon left me. He called me by name, and said unto me that he was a messenger sent from the presence of God to me, and that his name was Moroni (D&C 26:2a). That God had a work for me to do, and that my name should be had for good and evil, among all nations, kindreds, and tongues; or that it should be both good and evil spoken of among all people.



*"Moroni Appears to Joseph Smith in His Room" by Tom Lovell
© by Intellectual Reserve, Inc.*

The scriptural quotations given by Moroni carry great significance for the latter day work. They were important enough for the Lord to send a heavenly messenger to deliver them. Not just any messenger, but the last prophet to write on the plates. Therefore, it is essential for us to consider the content of the message. Ignoring it would be our version of "shooting the messenger." When these quotations are closely evaluated, we see the Lord giving specific direction to those who are willing to receive The Book of Mormon. The instructions given help nurture our understanding, as it did Joseph Smith, to the purpose of the church for this dispensation and the contribution The Book of Mormon brings for its fulfillment. Let's consider some further detail concerning his message even though much more could be written on the subject.

He said there was a book deposited written upon gold plates, giving an account of the former inhabitants of this continent, and the source from whence they sprang. He also said that the fullness of the everlasting gospel was contained in it, as delivered by the Savior to the ancient inhabitants.

The Book of Mormon contains the fullness of the gospel as delivered by Jesus Christ. What a powerful and authoritative declaration of content and purpose! The exact phrase "fullness of the gospel" is used in the scriptures about six times. We also find declarative phrases defining its simple principles. This should remove the veil of confusion created by the many interpretations of the gospel of Jesus Christ. In several places, Jesus uses definitive phrases such as "this is my doctrine," "this is my gospel," and "the only doctrine which is in me." How incredibly simple! Jesus said there should be no contention over points of his doctrine, yet this contention continues in the world and among the saints. Why is this so? How many doctrines are there? How many gospels are there? The scriptures emphatically tell us there is only one sent from God. The Book of Mormon provides clarity to this truth through its plain and simple witness of the doctrine of Christ.



An example of this reality came to me some time ago as I was catching up on some personal reading. In doing so, I came across the following statement: "the true restoration doctrines of the church." At first glance, this seemed reasonable and yet there was something about it that sounded off-center with the scriptures. Suddenly, it came to me! It was the word "doctrines" in the plural sense. The scriptures use the word "doctrines" about 11 times and, in each instance, the context is not pleasing to the Lord. Where does this idea of plural doctrines come from? Perhaps it comes by adding all our traditions to the doctrine of Christ. Maybe it's because we elevate church history to the same level as the scriptures and include it with the doctrine of Christ. We have all heard people quote church history as if it were scripture. Perhaps it's because we worship the church and make it the doctrine of Christ. Maybe it comes from priesthood setting ourselves up to be a light unto the world and thus making ourselves the doctrine of Christ. Yet still, maybe it's presenting our personal views to be the doctrine of Christ in order to prove our viewpoint. Could it be some or all of these things causing this contention and confusion? Whatever the reasons, the Lord commands that contention over doctrine cease, as described in 3 Nephi:

"And there shall be no disputations among you, as there hath hitherto been; neither shall there be disputations among you concerning the points of my doctrine, as there hath hitherto been; For verily, verily I say unto you, He that hath the spirit of contention, is not of me, but is of the devil, who is the father of contention, and he stirreth up the hearts of men to contend with anger one with another."
(3 Nephi 5:29-30) [3 Nephi 11:28 LDS]

Jesus also said in (3 Nephi 12:22 RLDS) [3 Nephi 27:10 LDS]: "And if it so be that the church is built upon my gospel, then will the Father shew forth his own works in it." The doctrine of Christ was given to accomplish the Lord's single desire for all people. That is, to save all who will hearken unto his voice. The principles for eternal life come only through Jesus Christ and are easily found in the scriptures in such places as the life of Jesus Christ, Hebrews 6 IV/KJV, (2 Nephi 13 RLDS) [2 Nephi 31 LDS], (3 Nephi 5,12 RLDS) [3 Nephi 11,26 LDS] and D&C 3,16 to list just a few. He is the gospel. It is his doctrine. I encourage you to make a personal study of the scriptures concerning these plain and simple principles.

Like all scripture, The Book of Mormon was given to manifest Jesus Christ to the world. Moroni was sent to give instructions on what, who and how this was to be accomplished for our time. His appearance as a divine messenger was not for Joseph Smith alone, but to all who receive a divine conviction of this great and marvelous work. Therefore, the message is for all who will listen and respond. Let's consider some of Moroni's quotes from the Old Testament.

...he first quoted part of the third chapter of Malachi; and he quoted also the fourth or last chapter of the same prophecy though with a little variation from the way it reads in our Bibles.

Instead of quoting the first verse as it reads in our books he quoted it thus, *“For behold the day cometh that shall burn as an oven, and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly shall burn as stubble, for they that cometh shall burn them saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.”* And again he quoted the fifth verse thus, *“Behold I will reveal unto you the priesthood by the hand of Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.”* He also quoted the next verse differently, *“And he shall plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers, and the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers; if it were not so the whole earth would be utterly wasted at his coming.”*

Jesus insured the words of Malachi were included in the records as he walked among the inhabitants of this continent. The first verse in Malachi tells us clearly to whom these verses were given. It says: *“The burden of the word of the Lord to Israel by Malachi.”* Later verses in Malachi 2:1 IV/KJV read: *“And now, O ye priests, this commandment is for you.”*

Malachi is speaking to the House of Israel and particularly to the priesthood. Moroni quotes these verses to associate them with The Book of Mormon and the purpose of the church. It is a reference concerning the promise of God to restore the House of Israel in the latter days. Nephi summarizes it as follows:

*And after our seed is scattered, the Lord God will proceed to do a marvelous work among the Gentiles, which shall be of great worth unto our seed; Wherefore, it is likened unto their being nourished by the Gentiles, and being carried in their arms, and upon their shoulders. And it shall also be of worth unto the Gentiles: And not only unto the Gentiles, but unto all the house of Israel, unto the making known of the covenants of the Father of heaven unto Abraham, saying, In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. And I would, my brethren, that ye should know that all the kindreds of the earth can not be blessed unless he shall make bare his arm in the eyes of the nations. Wherefore, the Lord God will proceed to make bare his arm in the eyes of all the nations, in bringing about his covenants and his gospel, unto those who are of the house of Israel. Wherefore, he will bring them again out of captivity, and they shall be gathered together to the lands of their inheritance; And they shall be brought out of obscurity, and out of darkness; And they shall know that the Lord is their Savior and their Redeemer, the mighty one of Israel. (1 Nephi 7:17-25 RLDS)
[1 Nephi 22:8-12 LDS]*

The promises being referenced are those mentioned several times in The Book of Mormon. They are found in such places as the Parable of the Olive Tree (Jacob 3 RLDS) [Jacob 4 LDS], most every chapter following a significant quote of Isaiah (1 Nephi 4,7,11,12 RLDS) [1 Nephi 15,10,25,28 LDS] and also in the prophecies of Jesus Christ (3 Nephi 7,9,10) [3 Nephi 15,19,21 LDS]. Many prophetic references in The Book of Mormon speak about Jesus Christ and the restoring of Israel. This is the reason the words of Malachi are brought to Joseph Smith.

Moroni also gives us a glimpse into the coming of another heavenly messenger. Elijah the prophet will reveal the priesthood. It was quoted with a little variation from the scriptural text. The important word in this phrase is “reveal.” The Lord knew the most divisive issue in our time would be recognizing and accepting the authority of priesthood. This certainly has proven to be true. It is easy to witness this problem as we listen to discussions and read published material among the people. It is a consuming subject among the saints. I believe all would agree the authority of priesthood has already been restored, but there is now great debate on whose authority will be accepted. I’m looking forward to the removal of this contention. Moroni told us Elijah would come to reveal the priesthood. I believe an additional “revealing” is yet before us and has future application beyond what we have already experienced in our history. I wonder how surprised we will be with the message. Will we “shoot the messenger?”

Moroni also quotes Malachi differently in which the Lord will “plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers, and the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers.” This is a direct reference to restoring Israel. It is a covenant the Lord made with them to which he has been working for centuries to fulfill. We know this is true by reading such scriptures as:

And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God; And he shall go before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. (Luke 1:16-17 IV/KJV)

And at that day shall the remnant of our seed know that they are of the house of Israel, and that they are the covenant people of the Lord; And then shall they know and come to the knowledge of their forefathers, and also to the knowledge of the gospel of their Redeemer, which was ministered unto their fathers by him; Wherefore, they shall come to the knowledge of their Redeemer, and the very points of his doctrine, that they may know how to come unto him and be saved. (1 Nephi 4:17-19) [1 Nephi 15:14 LDS]

Moroni then quoted the 11th chapter of Isaiah, saying that it was about to be fulfilled. I want to quote only a specific prophecy in Isaiah 11 that Moroni said was about to be fulfilled. It reads:

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. (Isaiah 11:11 IV/KJV)



We have witnessed this prophecy being fulfilled for many generations since the coming forth of The Book of Mormon. The nation of Israel has been established and they now gather in great numbers from the four corners of the earth. This fulfillment continues and will move forward until completed. Sooner or later, they will come to a knowledge of the true Messiah and his gospel. Also, many of the saints, who are grafted in and have become the spiritual House of Israel, now gather to the New Jerusalem. The seed of Lehi is coming among us from the overflowing Hispanic migration from our southern border. The seed of Lehi found among the Native Americans will also be heard more fully in

the future. Other branches of the House of Israel probably already reside in America through the influx of people from many nations of the earth. In the midst of all these prophetic fulfillments, we are challenged by a serious question. Who will take the gospel of Jesus Christ to the House of Israel and honor the Lord's covenants to them? Moroni quoted scriptures that said it was about to be fulfilled.

He quoted also the third chapter of Acts, twenty-second and twenty-third verses precisely as they stand in our New Testament. He said that the prophet was Christ, but the day had not yet come when they who would not hear His voice should be cut off from among the people, but soon would come.

The prophet Nephi prophesied there will a great division among the people (2 Nephi 12:90 RLDS) [2 Nephi 30:10 LDS]. Moroni said this soon would come. Perhaps these are those who are now "shooting the messenger" by ignoring or rejecting the message. Jesus also said in (3 Nephi 7:34 RLDS) [3 Nephi 16:10 LDS] that the people of our day would sin against his gospel and reject the fullness of the gospel. Moroni made reference to this condition by quoting Acts 3:22-23. I believe this prophecy ultimately includes both those inside and outside the church who will not hear his voice and respond. It is a clear message of warning.

He then quoted the second chapter of Joel from the twenty-eighth to the last verse. He also said that this was not yet fulfilled but was soon to be.

I've selected some verses from Joel 2:28-32 IV/KJV.

And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream

dreams, your young men shall see visions; And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit. And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered; for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.

There is a key word in this scripture that is often overlooked for a complete understanding of the reason it was quoted by Moroni. The word is "afterward." Afterward means to follow something that has already occurred. This outpouring of the Spirit of God, along with great signs and wonders, will be manifested after a specific prophetic sign is fulfilled. What is this sign? The answer is found in the previous verses of the same chapter.

And I will restore to you ... And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God, and none else; and my people shall never be ashamed. (Joel 2:25-27 IV/KJV)

It is the restoration of the House of Israel that will usher in this great spiritual outpouring with signs and wonders. Nephi describes these events as: "Wherefore, the Lord God will proceed to make bare his arm in the eyes of all the nations, in bringing about his covenants and his gospel, unto those who are of the house of Israel" (1 Nephi 7:22 RLDS) [1 Nephi 22:11 LDS]. Moroni was telling Joseph Smith to be actively engaged in the purpose for which The Book of Mormon was given. The message was also for those who share this vision.

Moroni further stated the fullness of the Gentiles was soon to come in.

Much more needs to be written about this quote. I refer you to D&C 45, (1 Nephi 3:198-200 RLDS) [1 Nephi 3:13:42 LDS] and (3 Nephi 7,9,10 RLDS) [3 Nephi 15,19,21 LDS] for further study on the subject. It only scratches the surface. I believe our limited understanding of this quote has hindered our ability to effectively connect the relationship between The Book of Mormon and the purpose of the church. The coming forth of The Book of Mormon was the sign that the fullness of the Gentiles was soon to come in. That means it is close to the end. We are living in this dispensation called the "fullness of the Gentiles." The scriptures also call it the "times of the Gentiles." The Lord restored his work to prophetically close the times of the Gentiles and begin restoring the House of Israel for the last time. In doing so, he will keep his covenants to the seed of Abraham. The Lord told Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and latter day Israel that "in thee shall the families of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 12:2 IV, Genesis 12:3 KJV). The church was established to implement this promise. It is summarized in D&C 83:1b which states:

yea, the word of the Lord concerning his church, established in the last days or the restoration of his people, as he has spoken by the mouth of his prophets, and for the gathering of his Saints to stand upon Mount Zion, which shall be the city New Jerusalem;

There were many other quotes and explanations in this experience. Moroni quoted many other passages of Scripture and offered many explanations which cannot be mentioned here.

I believe they further testify of the mission for which Moroni was sent and the purpose for the coming forth of The Book of Mormon.

Moroni was preparing the way as foretold by the prophets. His purpose was to quote scripture and provide explanation supporting the relationship between The Book of Mormon and the prophetic calling of the church. Those who desire to find a common vision of the work will discover it within the context of this relationship. A messenger of the Lord has declared it. It has not changed. Will we "shoot the messenger?"

2007 Internship Testimonies

And now behold, I ask of you, my brethren of the church, Have ye spiritually been born of God? Have ye received His image in your own countenances?

(Alma 3:27, 28 RLDS)
[Alma 5:14 LDS]

Carolyn & Josh

God calls us to witness to everyone we come in contact with through our words, our deeds and our countenances. This is something we stress in the Internship and try to put into practice, especially when we travel. We make our witness a matter of prayer and fasting before we leave.

Every year, a flight attendant, waitress or someone else we meet will comment on the positive, helpful attitude of the young people traveling with us. This year was no exception. However, the response went a step further this year on the first leg of our trip from Kansas City to Dallas.

Our flight attendant, Carolyn, was very nice and helpful as we settled into our seats and prepared for take-off. When it was brought to her attention that we had two first-time flyers with us, Jacob and Elizabeth, she got a sparkle in her eye and asked me if I had a camera. I retrieved my camera from the backpack, switched seats with Nannette and prepared to catch Carolyn in action. She really seemed to enjoy teasing them and bringing them their "wings" and a captain's hat for Jacob. During the short flight, she came by often to chat and to see if Jacob was remembering everything she was telling him - how to buckle his seat belt, how to use the restroom, where the oxygen was located, etc. We had a lot of fun.

As the plane landed, Carolyn handed Julie a folded napkin. When Julie handed it to me I thought, "What is this?" I started unfolding the napkin as I glanced at Julie for some indication of what this was about when I saw the note written by Carolyn. She was asking for our prayers for her son, Josh. I looked back toward the galley where Carolyn was standing talking on her cell phone, tears running down her cheeks.



MAY I ask you to keep my son, Josh, in your thoughts & prayers this week. He had cancer last year & is trying to cope with some decisions in life right now. He turned 17 and is having a hard time right now with God. Thank you and God Bless You All! Have Fun! Good Luck Carolyn

It touched us all so deeply to see how the Lord had helped us witness to this wonderful lady right at the beginning of our trip. We prayed for Carolyn and Josh every day for the rest of the Internship and invited family and friends to join us. We leave them in the hands of God and know how much he loves them and how much he loves us and wants us to serve Him by serving others. Every day, our witness of His love can make a difference to someone in this needy world.



Ammon Thomas

After meeting and sharing with several former interns, I became deeply interested in The Book of Mormon Foundation's program. I looked into it and, after prayer, I decided to apply. I was accepted, which is a testimony in and of itself, but shortly thereafter I realized I would need time away from my job. I calculated the time required and added more time for a family reunion in Oregon, and the total came to just over two months.

Without going into too many details of my job, I am currently the only remaining employee in my department, which used to be seven strong. Additionally, we were fast approaching a major deadline that would make or break the project. However, I needed time off and, sooner or later, I was going to have to ask for it. The first time I tried, my entire family fasted with me, and I arrived just in time to see the supervisor leave for the day. However, on the second try, he listened to my request and said, "Sure, no problem; just type up an e-mail so we have a paper trail." His response was far better than I could have ever expected, and it shows how the Lord will facilitate our desires to serve Him.



Jacob DeWitt

My testimony is about the blessing I received even before the Internship began. When I found out I was required to read The Book of Mormon before the Internship started, I was a little worried. I had never been much of a reader. However, I knew if God allowed me to make it into the Internship, I should have faith He would help me in my reading of The Book of Mormon.

Right away, I began to read to prepare myself for the six weeks of the Internship that was to come. Then, I found myself doing something I had never done before when reading! I was reading faster. Even more important, I was enjoying it. I've been able to move on to other books as well. It is as if my reading comprehension and enjoyment lay dormant in me all my life.



Now I feel as if the Lord has opened up a whole part of my mind, and I know He wants me to use that gift for His work.

I never thought I would enjoy reading, but God has different and better plans. Through Christ, I believe I can do anything He wants me to do.



Matt Fleming

While in Belize, the interns held a youth retreat. Many of us were asked to teach or assist in teaching one of the youth classes. I was asked to teach the junior-senior high class with Ammon. We had been preparing for the class for several weeks and had already taught it at a reunion

before we left for Belize. The reunion class lasted two hours, and we had plenty of material and activities to fill the time. The retreat class was only one hour.

As we taught the class, I began to notice we were almost finished with the material we had prepared, but we still had 30 minutes left. This was a complete surprise to me. I was running out of things to share. Once I had nothing more to share, I realized what was wrong. I had been sharing what I thought was important for those youth, but the Lord had something different He wanted for them. When I submitted to letting Him lead, He began to bring the thoughts. Ammon would share until he ran out of things to say, and then I would share, and so on until the class was over.

It was really humbling for me to be speechless and have to wait patiently for the words again and again. It taught me about trust. Even though we prayed for guidance as we prepared, the Lord wanted us to trust Him even more as we stood in front of His children.



Brianne Mundy

While in Belize, Patty and I were responsible for teaching one of the children's classes at the youth retreat for the Corozal saints. We had three 8 to 11 year-olds, and we talked about the people of Ammon. We shared how they made a covenant with God and buried their swords, promising

never to fight again. We wanted to bring this to life for them so, during the activity, each person was given two swords. On one of the swords, we wrote something we were going to promise God or give up in our lives. Then we went out behind the church, found some rocks and rebar, dug a hole and buried our swords. They seemed to really enjoy that activity. They decorated the second sword and took it home, so when they looked at it, they would remember what they wrote on the sword they buried.

That evening, we came back for a worship service. They had a song service beforehand, and I really wanted to sing as well.

The only problem was that there were only a few Spanish hymnals. During one of the songs, I saw some movement out of the corner of my eye. It was the two boys from my class talking with some other boys. I smiled at them and turned back around. The next thing I knew, one of the boys brought me the hymnal they were using.

I knew the Lord had touched the three children in my class, even if they didn't understand everything I tried to teach them. They saw that I cared for them and, in turn, they showed that they cared for me by allowing me to use one of the very few hymnals.



Gayle Shepard

During our trip to Belize, we all received many testimonies. The one I would like to share showed to me that, even in our fears and uncertainty, the Lord can use us to do His work. At the youth retreat in Belize, Elizabeth and I were supposed to teach the children who are eight years old and younger. Even though Belize is an English-speaking country, many of the children do not learn English until they start school.

Therefore, many of the children in our class would only speak Spanish. I wasn't concerned because Elizabeth had taken quite a few years of Spanish. Unfortunately, on the morning of the retreat, Elizabeth was very sick. Twenty minutes before we had to leave, I found out that she wouldn't be able to go, so I would have to teach the class myself. I was pretty nervous because I didn't know any Spanish. I began praying so I could do His will with the children.

As usual, the Lord blessed me beyond what I could have imagined. I was able to lead the class, and we all had so much fun. I learned that there are some things that cross all language barriers – and that is the love of God. While I didn't always know what they were saying, and I'm sure they didn't always understand me, I was still able to show them love. It was one of the best experiences in my life to be able to interact with the children. They were always smiling and laughing. They even taught me a little Spanish.

To me, this was a powerful testimony that even though we may think we don't have the skills or just aren't good enough, the Lord can fill in our weaknesses and make us strong to share the gospel.



Sarah McLean

During our trip to Belize, we had the opportunity to participate in a couple of work days at Escuela Secundaria Tecnica Mexico, a high school near Corozal. We were going to be digging post holes and pouring a cement floor for a picnic area.

We had been told that the temperatures would be in the high 90s and, with the humidity, it would feel like it was over 100 degrees.

I was a little nervous because I hadn't done that kind of labor in that kind of heat. As we traveled to the school that morning, I sat in the air-conditioned van trying to soak up as much cold as I possibly could. We said a prayer about the heat and for safety during the day.

When we arrived at the work site for digging post holes, we saw it was an open field with no shade. I began to pray that no one would get heat stroke. Hours went by as we worked, the temperature and sun rising steadily. We were all hot and sweaty, but still continued to work without fatigue. Just when the heat really began to feel unbearable, a cloud would come directly over us, blocking the sun. Praise the Lord! He even sent a few minor showers and a breeze to cool us off. By the end of the day, we had accomplished more than we thought we could at the beginning of the day. We were tired, but everyone was safe.

I said a prayer of thanks to God for sending the clouds, breeze and showers to us when we really needed them. The Lord does bless us when we call on His name.



Jeremy Stephenson

A preface to my testimony goes back to the first week of the Internship. We spent a day at Tucker Institute working on outdoor physical challenges in team building exercises. We had challenges we needed to overcome in order to accomplish our goal in each exercise. One of the

challenges we had was to use plastic pipes, each with a hole or two and different shaped cutouts at the ends to move a golf ball from one spot to another. All of us had to line up with our piece of pipe and keep the ball moving to the end into a bucket. We were standing on wooden beams in the shape of a U several feet off the ground, and the bucket at the end was on the ground. This was exceptionally hard because we were all doing it our own way, and the ball kept falling through a hole or cutaway at the end of one pipe or the beginning of another. We were told that the pipes were our testimonies, and the golf balls were souls we were trying to witness to. We lost six of the seven souls before



we stopped, said a prayer, and made a plan the entire team could follow. Only when we did this were we able to accomplish our goal.

In Belize, our work project was building a fence. When we began our work, we were each working separately, digging our own fence post holes. We were not making much progress. So, after lunch that day, we remembered our experience at Tucker and were able to devise a plan for the team to work together. We had several people working on each hole – two digging, one cleaning the mud off the post hole digger. One person was always digging, and one was resting while the mud was cleaned off the digger. That afternoon, we did the same amount of post holes in half the time.

This is a testimony to me of what can be accomplished in the church if we would stop doing things on our own and work together, as God has set in motion from the foundation of the church.



Mark Bendorf

This is a testimony of how the Lord can use us to bless others. On the first Friday of our trip to Belize, we went to a Mayan ruin called Altun Ha and also to the Baboon Sanctuary. On the way back to our guest house, we happened upon a man with his truck on the side of the road. It was decided that we would go back and help the gentleman. We soon pulled up, and 21 people piled out of the vans, which was more than intimidating to the distressed motorist.

We soon found out that his tire had come off the truck, leaving his truck on the ground. This made it impossible for him to put a jack under it and put his spare on. We then went to work. We had eight guys that like to lift things, so we man-handled the truck into the air while a jack was positioned under it. After jacking up the truck and placing the spare in its necessary spot, we said our goodbyes to this fellow American and went on our way.

There was no way he could have lifted his truck off the ground on his own, let alone drive it anywhere. I am glad someone listened to that still small voice so we were able to witness to him with our willingness to help. I pray that he will continue to remember the deed and help those who are also in need of a helpful hand.



Patty Welch

I had been told the Internship would change my life. I'd heard so many testimonies of people who had been in it. I knew of the great and marvelous ways in which the Lord had moved in their lives. However, I was not prepared for the change that would take place in me during this six-week period.

The week right before the Internship started, I attended a Christian conference held by a couple who have coauthored many of my favorite





books. Throughout that week, many questions arose in my mind concerning the truth of the gospel, the validity of Joseph Smith as a prophet and The Book of Mormon being the inspired word of God. My questions quickly turned to doubts and, as I returned home the Friday before the Internship started, I was convinced I had been deceived all my life. Sadly, I started the Internship determined not to give in and believe what I'd been taught as a child in the church. I was so willing to walk away and turn my back on it all because I truly believed what I learned at the conference.

Slowly and gradually, our faithful Lord began softening my heart. It was so slow, in fact, that I didn't even realize it at first. After a couple of weeks, I found myself getting caught up in the classes and not silently challenging every word the teachers spoke, as I had at first. By our fifth week, when we went on our trip to Belize, I had even forgotten some of the questions I'd had. One evening on the trip, one of the girls reminded me of the struggles I'd had at first. It was then I saw the changes taking place.



When we stood at the top of a pyramid at Lamanai, I knew I was standing in a place where Book of Mormon people had stood. When we walked through the jungle, I wondered if Christ had walked in that place. As we interacted with the people there, I was reminded that they were most likely of Lamanite descent. The more I pondered these things, the stronger the reality became. I could not deny this! I couldn't fight against it anymore. The scales were removed from my eyes, and I could see the truth.

Before our trip to Belize, I had been making plans to move to Colorado to work alongside the couple that held the Christian conference. I already had moving dates figured out, possible jobs and even roommates. Flying home from Belize, though, I made a decision. I knew if I went to Colorado, I would be lost to the church. I still believe God could use me there, but I firmly believe that He has an even greater plan than I realize. By the time I got home that night, I knew I would not be moving to Colorado after all.

One of our songs in the Internship this year was "I Have Found the Glorious Gospel." This hymn has become especially precious to me. Now I can sing with all the energy of my soul, "In joyful song, my spirit doth accord since the precious angel message came to me!"



Nannette Wiskur

I received a wonderful blessing during the Internship, which confirmed how mighty prayer can be. As we began the six weeks, I noticed the glands in my throat were swollen and sore. I tried to ignore this and thought it would just disappear on its own. However, one week before

we were scheduled to fly to Belize, I started feeling really sick. I was dizzy and nauseous. I had no energy and felt extremely tired. I had some blood drawn and asked the elders to administer to me.

Then, three days before the trip, my suspicions were confirmed as I received word I had tested positive for mononucleosis. Many people thought, "Well, she certainly won't be going on that trip." I knew differently. I knew God could make me well enough to travel. So, we prayed – my friends prayed, my family prayed, my church prayed, the interns prayed. I have never heard of anyone having mono for less than four to six weeks. So when I started feeling really good, I knew God was blessing me! Things like this cannot happen without the Lord, and I am so thankful for the blessing of healing I received.



Elizabeth Kellinger

I have often heard that the safest place to be is in the "will of God." I know now that is entirely true. Every year, when the Internship starts, there is an interview process, and then the committee prays about who should be selected for the program. This year, there are 11 interns, and we each have our own testimony that the Internship was where the Lord wanted us to be this summer. We spent the first four weeks in classes and getting to know each other, and we went to Belize the fifth week.

While in Belize, we were blessed so abundantly. God's protection was always evident and, even though there were times when I normally would have been afraid – like the time our boat broke down in a crocodile-infested river – I never once had an inkling of fear. The protection God gave us in our work, site-seeing and even the food we ate, made it so we were able to focus on our ministry. That just proved to me that yes, the safest place to be is in the "will of the Lord."

SANTA-CALI-GON DAYS

Sharing the Book of Mormon with the Multitude

by Kelli Pedersen

Our mission was clear when we began preparation for our booth at Santa-Cali-Gon Days one year ago. At that time, we did not know how the Lord would bless our endeavor to share The Book of Mormon with the visitors of Santa-Cali-Gon, but we did know that He would. This experience became one of faith, as we trusted Him to smooth out the bumps for His glory. Almost before we could take a breath, testimonies were beginning to line up.



Procuring a space at the festival requires more than just a phone call. There were, of course, many logistical sides to this goal, but getting just the right location was very important, especially for our objectives. After much thought, we asked for a spot on the north-east corner of the Court House. "This would be a perfect location to offer water and chat with the festival goers as they entered the hub of the intersection," we thought. Our hopes were diminished when we were told that this spot was torn up due to construction, and we would have to choose a different side of the Square altogether. It was not long before we discovered the very spot we desired was indeed open and for our use! We would see how amazing this blessing truly was many months later during the festival.



Labor Day weekend was approaching, and we still had much to do. Our goal was to have at least three volunteers at the booth for three different shifts each day. We needed 25 or 30 people to make this venture a success. Two weeks before the festival began, we only had half of our desired number, but God sent youthful saints to us in our time of need. By the end of the festival, we had 29 volunteers who had exercised their witness and shared The Book of Mormon with those at Santa-Cali-Gon Days!



As we stepped out of the boat and were bold in proclaiming The Book of Mormon, we were able to share the message of the book and that it is a second witness of the gospel. It sometimes seemed that we were lacking an out-

let to speak with those who entered our booth. During these times, we lifted each other up in prayer and watched the Lord work. One such encounter stands out because of the





keen interest from the family we were speaking with. Two of our numbers were conversing with a mother who had many questions for us. She was well-educated in the doctrine of the Bible, but had limited experience with The Book of Mormon. As we conversed, the very purpose of us being at the festival was reflected in one of her questions to us. "Who is Jesus Christ to you?" she asked us. How exciting to answer such a simple yet life-altering question! With joy, we proclaimed that He was the son of God and the savior of the world; the only way in which we could enter the presence of the Father! She had a surprised grin on her face. "Amen!" she said. "Amen!"

An hour later, she stopped by again and requested two Books of Mormon; one for her and one for her husband. Another hour went by, and again she returned to our booth, this time with her husband. They were anxious to learn more about our beliefs. As they left our booth for the final time, we were reminded that neither our words nor any proof of The Book of Mormon we can offer will convert a soul. Conversion of souls comes by the power of the Lord's Spirit. While we remember this, let us all take up the mission of praying for that family, that the Lord will bring them to knowledge of the truth.



Our time at the festival has come to a close. We may never know what happened to the 78 Books of Mormon which we gave away. We may never see one of those with whom we spoke again. We do know God allowed for this opportunity and guided us from the very beginning until the very end. He had a purpose for us being at that place, and He does see each of those books that were given away. The word has been planted. By His spirit will it to grow. By the grace of God will souls be converted. This is our prayer. Please join us in that prayer, in remembering how important the gospel is to our world and the great commission which has been issued for us to spread it with all of our hearts!



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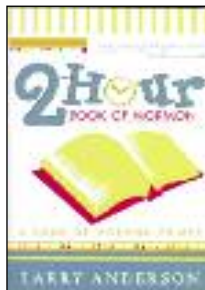
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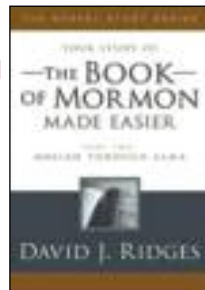
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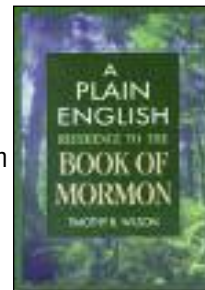


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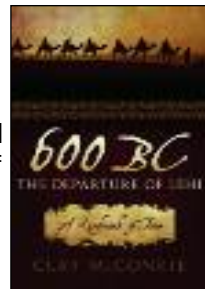
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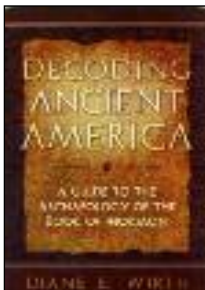


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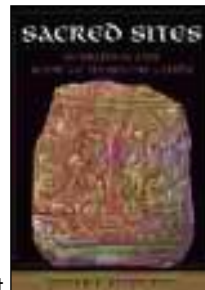
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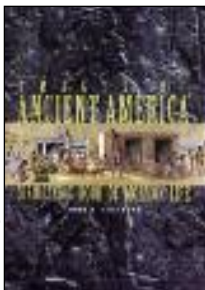


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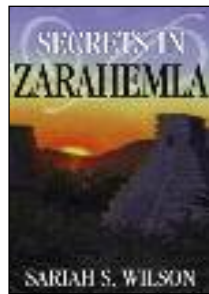
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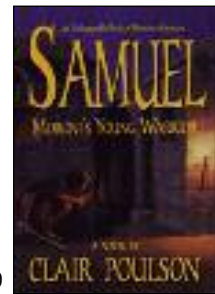


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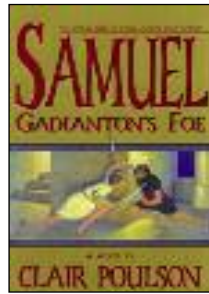


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