



# THE WITNESS

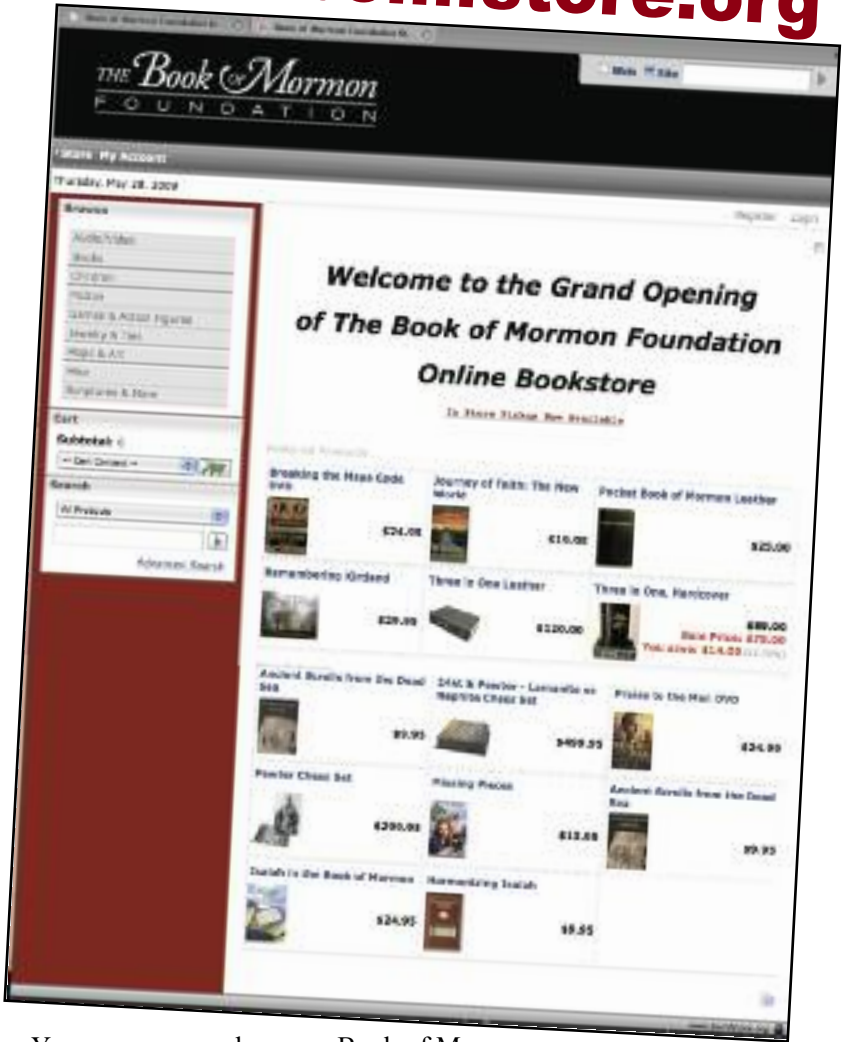
A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION BY THE BOOK OF MORMON FOUNDATION  
Number 130 ■ Summer 2009



BOOK OF MORMON  
BY KELLY HENNINGSEN

In Thy Search by Marlin Guin	3-9
It's Not the Price Which Determines by Dale Godfrey	10
Thank You; Meet The Book of Mormon Foundation	11-13
How The BoM Changed My Life by Elizabeth Postlethwait	14-15

Visit our new online store at [www.bomfstore.org](http://www.bomfstore.org)



- BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
- President Marlin Guin
  - Vice President Rich Rowland
  - Treasurer Eldon Anderson
  - Secretary Kathy Keller
  - Rebecca Cornish
  - Dale Godfrey
  - Don Newman
  - Kelli Pedersen

- EDITORIAL COMMITTEE**
- Editor Linda Guin
  - Dale Godfrey
  - Marlin Guin
  - Sue Manning
  - Cheryl Scofield

- Designer Jill McEnroe

You can now purchase our Book of Mormon resources online. Shop at your convenience 24/7. With the secure checkout, you can safely pay with your debit or credit card. We accept MasterCard, Visa, American Express or Discover through PayPal.

You can also browse the online store and then call us at **816-461-3722**. Linda and Sue will be happy to take your order and payment over the phone.

If you live in the Independence area, you can shop online and pick up your purchase at the store. At checkout, choose **"in store pickup"** as your shipping option. You'll see items online that we don't carry in-house.

**STORE HOURS:**  
**Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**  
**210 West White Oak • Independence, MO**

The Book of Mormon Foundation is a non profit corporation composed of individuals who desire to promote The Book of Mormon and its witness of Jesus Christ.

Through research, publications, seminars and related projects, members of The Book of Mormon Foundation seek to assist in bringing forth the light contained in The Book of Mormon.

A contribution to The Book of Mormon Foundation is tax deductible. Financial statements are available upon request.

Articles and the opin

# IN THY SEED

by Marlin Guin

After centuries of divine preparation and preservation, The Book of Mormon was published in March 1830 and formally presented to the world. Within its pages came an inspired witness of Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Savior of the world. The coming forth of this record proved quite stressful to the religious leaders of the day who insisted it carried no authoritative right to exist. Regardless of this intense opposition, the Lord worked mighty miracles and provided the way for The Book of Mormon and this great and marvelous work to take root, grow and bear good fruit among the people. Today, this same opposition continues, as the entrenched religious establishment fights to protect itself from the mighty movement of God, racing toward the ultimate climax of world events. We have come to understand these defining events will not rise up from the traditional Christian status quo, but instead will emerge as infallible proofs springing forth from the personal involvement of Jesus Christ in His work. We know this has already begun by connecting the reality of current events with the scriptural signs of the times that were prophesied to precede them. The hastening of these miraculous events will cause the darkness of our fear and doubt to flee as His covenant people are restored for the last time by the everlasting light of Jesus Christ. In the final analysis, nothing will prevent the fulfillment of God's word as we move toward a date with destiny when The Book of Mormon will burst forth into the light of world recognition. The greatest days of the

Restoration are yet ahead. Yes, what a day to be alive!

Among the believers, The Book of Mormon also brings another urgent call to action not often discussed nor understood by many of the saints. It beckons us to greater heights of humility and repentance as we remember the covenants God made to Abraham and his seed through a lineage called the House of Israel. These covenants had long been determined to be irrelevant by the institutional church as it slid into spiritual apostasy during the centuries following Christ. This same church evolved into a position of worldly wealth and power by proudly proclaiming itself to be the sole replacement for the covenants made to the House of Israel. It cast aside the word of the Lord concerning the seed of Abraham and determined the House of Israel would no longer be the recipients of the blessings promised to them. Today, this theology still exists and is intensely debated in the larger Christian church. It is called "Replacement Theology" and is decisively refuted as false doctrine by The Book of Mormon prophets. No person who understands and believes the message of The Book of Mormon should be found in support of "Replacement Theology." Instead, we should acknowledge and accept the Lord's urgent call to actively participate in their restoration and gathering just as He promised.



# *“in thy seed shall*

yea, the word of the Lord concerning his **church, established in the last days for 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; (Doctrine and Covenants 83:1b RLDS) [Doctrine and Covenants 84:2 LDS] (italics added)

With these insights, we realize how The Book of Mormon confounds false doctrine, by growing together with the Bible to bring consistent clarity to God’s word. “In the mouth of two or three witnesses” will His word be established accurately describes this relationship between these records.

Wherefore, **the fruit of thy loins shall write; and the fruit of the loins of Judah shall write;** And that which shall be written by the fruit of thy loins, and also that which shall be written by the fruit of the loins of Judah, **shall grow together, Unto the confounding of false doctrines**, and laying down of contentions, and establishing peace among the fruit of thy loins, And bringing them to the knowledge of their fathers in the latter days; And also **to the knowledge of my covenants**, saith the Lord. (2 Nephi 2:19-23 RLDS) [2 Nephi 3:12 LDS] (italics added)

The combined witness of the Bible and The Book of Mormon will work together to help bring latter day Israel to a knowledge of the covenants in the last days. As we ponder this promise, we quickly realize there were many covenants made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Israel) and the House of Israel. There is one particular covenant that carries deep and far-reaching implications for the fulfillment of

prophecy today. Our first glimpse of this covenant is seen in the seven blessings promised by God

in a covenant given to Abram. Notice the seven uses of the word “and” to connect them together into one.

Now, the Lord had said unto **Abram**, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will show thee;

And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing; and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curse thee; and **in thee shall the families of the earth be blessed.**

(Genesis 12:1-2 IV/KJ) (italics added)

This list is a unique form of Hebraic writing style. The last blessing on this list is the one we will focus on for this article. God promised Abram “in thee shall the families of the earth be blessed.” It is an extremely important covenant that is found consistently through scriptural history and is uniquely attached to the purpose of the church by The Book of Mormon. This covenant commands an enthusiastic response from all Book of Mormon believers interested in its fulfillment.

One of the reasons the Lord was pleased to make this covenant with Abram and his seed was because he held nothing back from God, not even his beloved Isaac. This act of faith became known as a type and shadow of the sacrifice of God’s only Son, Jesus Christ. This covenant was established in response to Abram’s faithful desire to be obedient to the Lord’s commandments. He simply obeyed God’s voice.

Thus saith the Lord, I have sworn by myself, that because thou hast done this thing, and hast **not withheld thy son, thine only Isaac from me;** That in blessing I will bless thee; and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of heaven, and as the sand which is upon the seashore. And thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

and **in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be**

BOOK OF MORMON

HOLY SCRIPTURES

# *all the nations of the earth be blessed...”*

***blessed***; because thou hast  
***obeyed my voice.***

(Genesis 22:20-22 IV)

[Genesis 22:16-18 KJ]

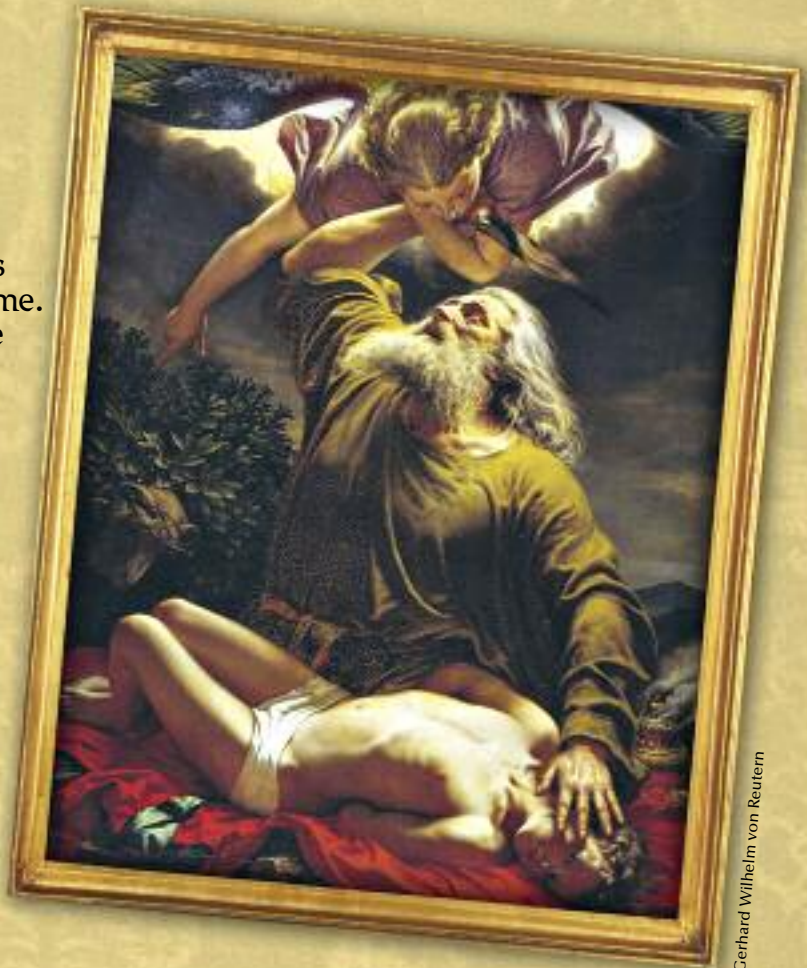
(italics added)

If this covenant was made to the seed of Abram, then we should be able to trace it through the scriptures and see how it extends to his lineage through the dispensations of time. As we do so, it will be obvious how this same covenant is also present with Isaac, Jacob (Israel) and the House of Israel. Moving forward in this progression, let's now consider the conversation between the Lord and Isaac.

And there was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And ***Isaac*** went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar. And the Lord appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of. Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and ***I will perform the oath which I swear unto Abraham thy father;*** And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and ***in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; Because that Abraham obeyed my voice,*** and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws. (Genesis 26:1-5 IV/KJ)  
(italics added)

Likewise, moving on to the next generation, the Lord spoke to Jacob (Israel) concerning the same covenant.

And ***Jacob*** went out from Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran. And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and behold the angels of God



Gerhard Wilhelm von Reutern

ascending and descending upon it. And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, ***I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac;*** the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth; and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south; and ***in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.***  
(Genesis 28:10-14 IV/KJ)  
(italics added)

It is interesting that we also find this same covenant quoted by Peter as he reminded the people in Jerusalem how Christ was the prophet raised up unto them and they were included in the covenant made to the children of their father, Abraham. As members of the House of Israel, the kindreds of the earth would also be blessed through their seed.

For Moses truly said unto the fathers, ***A Prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you*** of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that ***every soul, which will not hear that Prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.*** Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days. ***Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.*** Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities. (Acts 3:22-26 IV/K) (italics added)

The Book of Mormon serves a unique role in bringing this covenant forward to the latter days. It is the scriptural bond connecting it to all the tribes of Israel and its ultimate fulfillment. This is one reason why The Book of Mormon is so pertinent to our day.

Wherefore, our father hath not spoken of our seed alone, but also of ***all the house of Israel***, pointing to the ***covenant which should be fulfilled in the latter days***; Which covenant the Lord made to our father ***Abraham***, saying, ***In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.*** (1 Nephi 4:28-29 RLDS )  
[1 Nephi 5:18 LDS] (italics added)

One can't help but notice how precisely this scripture identifies a specific timeframe and the primary recipients for the fulfillment of this covenant. It will be fulfilled in the latter days among the House of Israel. I love the plain and simple wording that leaves little room for interpretation and highlights the inspired writing style of The Book of Mormon prophets. However, it's also important to remember this covenant has brought unique blessings to every dispensation since Abraham, but its final fulfillment is reserved for the last dispensation called the latter days.

In order to further accentuate how the prophets clarify and associate this covenant to the House of Israel, let's review some verses from one of the chapters of explanations in

The Book of Mormon. These verses represent, for me, some of the most beautiful words in scripture. Nephi, a prophet of the Lord, had just completed reading Isaiah chapters 48-49 to his people, and their subsequent confusion prompts further explanation to the meaning of the words. He gives a plain and simple explanation of these chapters as they relate to this covenant and the House of Israel.

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] (italics added)

Nephi explains that a marvelous work will come forth in the latter days that will be of great worth to their seed. Not only the seed of Lehi but all the House of Israel. This marvelous work will have the responsibility of making known the covenants to Abraham and in particular the covenant we have been exploring in this article. Making known means much more than just communicating their existence. It also challenges us to understand and effectively share the meaning, relevance and importance of the covenants in the process of restoration and gathering.

*“in thy seed shall all the nations of the*

Nephi also identifies the way this particular covenant will be accomplished. The Lord will manifest himself, described as making bare His arm, in bringing His covenants and gospel to the House of Israel. In fact, the nations of the earth can't be blessed until these things happen. Signs seen along the way are for them to come out of captivity and be gathered to the lands of their inheritance. In light of current world events, it is significant to mention the word "lands" is plural and represents the two places of gathering to which the Lord's people are now coming. Finally, the House of Israel will come out of darkness to know Jesus Christ as their Savior, Redeemer, and the Mighty One of Israel. Even now, people in many parts of the world are coming out of obscurity and proclaiming the Lord has revealed to them they are the seed of Abraham. The time will come for these groups, who don't know the true Messiah, to have the opportunity to come out of darkness and be converted to Jesus Christ!

Further evidence of Christ's personal involvement in the latter day work is found in (3 Nephi 7:35-36 RLDS) [3 Nephi 16:10-11 LDS] as He speaks concerning a prophetic sign when the gentiles have ripened in iniquity.

And if they (Gentiles) 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;*** And then will ***I remember my covenant which I have made unto my people, O house of Israel, and I will bring my gospel unto them;***  
(3 Nephi 7:35-36 RLDS)  
[3 Nephi 16:10-11 LDS] (italics added)

Notice in this scripture the use of the word "I" in first person. **I** will bring and **I** will remember are very personal references to oneself in both identity and action.

I believe this brief overview of (1 Nephi 7 RLDS) [1 Nephi 22 LDS] reveals it to be one of the most profound chapters in helping us understand the purpose of the church and the reason for the coming forth of The Book of Mormon.

The prophetic sequence given is perfect and instills hope and excitement for the future. Its personal invitation to participate with God in the fulfillment of this covenant reaches deep into our heart with power and authority. By these things will the world see the salvation of God in ways never before experienced in our lifetime.



What did Jesus say about this covenant: "In thy seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed"? It was a subject important enough for Him to expound on its meaning among the people of this land. He even went one step further and commanded His words be recorded for later generations to know and understand.

And it shall come to pass that ***I will establish my people, O house of Israel. And behold, this people will I establish in this land, unto the fulfilling of the covenant which I made with your father Jacob;*** and it shall be a new Jerusalem. And the powers of heaven shall be in the midst of this people; yea, even ***I will be in the midst of you.*** Behold, I am he of whom Moses spake, saying, ***A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you*** of your brethren, like unto me, him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass that ***every soul who will not hear that prophet, shall be cut off from among the people.*** Verily, I say unto you, Yea; and all the prophets from Samuel, and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have testified of me. And behold ye are the children of the prophets; and ***ye are of the house of Israel; and ye are of the covenant which the Father made with your fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed, shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed;*** The Father having raised me up unto you first, and sent me to bless you,

*earth be blessed..."*

in turning away every one of you from his iniquities; and this because ye are the children of the covenant. And after that ye were blessed, **then fulfilleth the Father the covenant** which he made with **Abraham**, saying, **In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed**, unto the pouring out of the Holy Ghost through me upon the Gentiles, which blessing upon the Gentiles, shall make them mighty above all, unto the scattering of my people, O house of Israel: and they shall be a scourge unto the people of this land. Nevertheless, when they shall have received the fullness of my gospel, then if they shall harden their hearts against me, I will return their iniquities upon their own heads, saith the Father. And I will remember the covenant which I have made with my people, and I have covenanted with them, that I would gather them together in mine own due time; That I would give unto them again the land of their fathers, for their inheritance, which is the land of Jerusalem, which is the promised land unto them for ever, saith the Father. **And it shall come to pass that 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**, the Son of God, and shall pray unto the Father in my name. (3 Nephi 9:57-69 RLDS) [3 Nephi 20:21-31 LDS] (italics added)

Jesus boldly announces that He will be in the midst of the House of Israel gathered to the New Jerusalem. He identifies himself as the prophet mentioned previously by Peter in Acts 3:21-26 (IV/KJ). It's also no coincidence Moroni quoted Acts 3:22-23 to Joseph Smith on September 21, 1823 and explained the prophet was Christ. He wanted Joseph to know early in the work that Jesus was the servant of the vineyard. At least three times now, we have been told this prophet is Christ, and we will either listen to His voice or be cut off from among the people. There's no doubt from these words that Jesus is in charge and the sole director of this great symphony.

There are obvious questions that arise from our study of this subject. One central question to consider is how are the nations of the earth blessed by the fulfillment of this covenant? This is the foundational reason for the Lord making this covenant. We don't have to look very far to see the many blessings bestowed by God on the nations of the earth through the seed of Abraham. Here are just a few examples:

- Abraham's seed provided for the coming of Jesus Christ, the true Messiah.
- Abraham's seed provided for the priesthood serving in the name of Christ and was passed from generation to generation.
- Abraham's seed provided for those who would be the keepers of the inspired records that testify of Christ. Each coming forth in the Lord's own due time and gathered into one, as the House of Israel gathers to the lands of their inheritance.
- Abraham's seed would bring forth the Restoration work in the latter days as the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh come together to first restore the house of Joseph upon the Land of Promise.
- Abraham's seed provided a covenant people for the Lord to "make bare His arm in the eyes of the nations" in the latter days after they had been scattered into all the nations of the earth.

Nearly two centuries after its publication, The Book of Mormon continues to be a common thread running through the fabric of all groups, organizations and churches that believe in its message and the miraculous events leading to its publication. These diverse entities find themselves separated in many ways, but are still being used by God to fulfill a simple prophecy given hundreds of years before the coming of Christ.



photo courtesy of Dreamstime; Carlos Santa Maria

For **after the book of which I have spoken shall come forth**, and be written unto the Gentiles, and sealed up again unto the Lord, **there shall be many which shall believe the words which are written; and they shall carry them forth unto the remnant of our seed.** And then shall the remnant of our seed know



concerning us, how that we came out from Jerusalem, and that they are descendants of the Jews. And the ***gospel of Jesus Christ shall be declared among them***; wherefore, they shall be ***restored unto the knowledge of their fathers, and also to the knowledge of Jesus Christ***, which was had among their fathers. And then shall they rejoice; ***for they shall know that it is a blessing unto them from the hand of God***;  
(2 Nephi 12:80-83 RLDS)  
[2 Nephi 30:3-6 LDS] (italics added)



Consequently, because of the faithfulness of the Lord to keep His covenants, we know there are over 13 million people in the world today who accept The Book of Mormon as the word of God and consider it a blessing unto them. Perhaps there are more we don't know about and will meet during the larger gathering of the saints. It's just a matter of time for us to hear more fully from the seed of Lehi within the Native American peoples. We have already seen in the last few decades an explosion of people accepting The Book of Mormon in the Hispanic culture, as many believers take it forth to the remnant of the seed of Lehi among them. This is exactly how the Lord said it would be done. Interestingly, they have initially received this record from many different people who share some things in common, but also find themselves separated by history, organization or belief. Nevertheless, to keep His covenant with the House of Israel, the Lord has blessed the simple effort of sharing a book containing the fullness of the gospel and allowing the content of the record to stand on its own merits. This is part of the preparatory work for greater things to come.

I believe Jesus Christ will personally intervene at the perfect time to resolve all the differences among His people and restore a greater vision of His marvelous work. He knows His sheep and not one will be lost. One of the best examples of this truth is read in 3 Nephi where Jesus Christ manifests himself to the people at Bountiful. All were converted to the Lord, and there were no longer any "ites" among the people. They were one, the children of Christ. Who else could accomplish such a miracle then and now? Who else will all the people trust and believe?

The world is moving toward its final conclusion and the coming of the great day of the Lord when His voice will be heard from heaven saying:

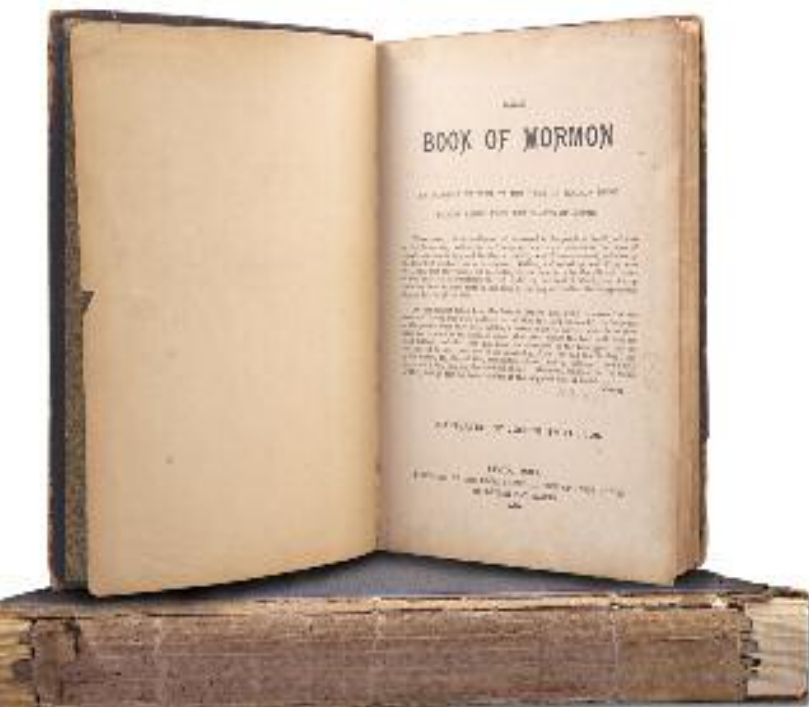
***O, ye nations of the earth***, how often would I have gathered you together as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, but ye would not? How oft have I called upon you by the mouth of my servants, and by the ministering of angels, and ***by mine own voice***, and by the voice of thunderings, and by the voice of lightnings, and by the voice of tempests, and by the voice of earthquakes, and great hailstorms, and by the voice of famines and pestilences of every kind, and by the great sound of a trump, and by the voice of judgment, and by the voice of mercy all the day long, and by the voice of glory and honor, and the riches of eternal life, and would have saved you with an everlasting salvation, but ye would not?  
(Doctrine and Covenants 43:6b-c RLDS)  
[Doctrine and Covenants 43:24-25]

At this very moment, the Lord is speaking in all these ways to the inhabitants of the earth. Even though the saints are engaged in mortal battle with principalities, powers and forces of darkness not of this world and victory sometimes seems far distant, the day is coming when Jesus Christ will stand before His people face-to-face. Then, by His own voice, He will call servants for the last time and put to rest all issues of priesthood authority. By His own voice, He will empower the faithful to accomplish all things commanded them. By His own voice, He will honor all the covenants and direct a restoration and gathering never before seen among the children of men. Yes, the fulfillment of the covenant, "in thy seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed," beckons our dedicated response. Watch therefore, pray always and be ready!

# IT'S NOT THE PRICE WHICH DETERMINES THE VALUE

1892 Book of Mormon.... \$1.50

by Dale Godfrey



Mary Sue Kennon keeps an eye out for old religious books when she goes to estate and garage sales. She likes to give them to her grandsons, who are young priesthood members. So, when she went to an estate sale one day, it wasn't unusual to find her where the books were being sold. After looking at several old books, her attention was drawn to one rather well-worn book. The back spine was worn off, so she pulled it out to see what it was. There was no name on the cover, so she opened it to the title page. The book was a large print 1892 edition of *The Book of Mormon*, published in Lamoni, Iowa. Mary Sue purchased the book for \$1.50. In order to make the book accessible to as many people as possible, she has donated it to The Book of Mormon Foundation.

The book contains many interesting reminders of our history. The name Moroni appears at the end of the title page text. It is unknown whether or not Moroni's name appeared on the original manuscript. "Unfortunately, this portion of the manuscript no longer exists, but it is plausible to assume that such was the case."<sup>1</sup> It was not on the printer's copy, but it did appear on the 1840 edition, as well as the Reorganization's first edition in 1874. The 1892 edition was the last edition in which Moroni's name appeared on the title page until publication of the Restored Covenant Edition in 1999.

This 1892 edition contains other interesting features. The First and Second Books of Nephi are titled as they are in current editions as the First and Second Books of Nephi. The interesting difference is that what the current editions refer to as the Third Book of Nephi and the Fourth Book of Nephi, in the 1892 edition were both entitled simply *The Book of Nephi*, with no distinguishing numbering. While it is of no doctrinal significance, it would certainly make referencing the books interesting. The 1892 edition was large print in a dual-column format. It contained an index at the beginning and a concordance at the end, which gave a page and verse reference. There are some textual variations between the 1892 edition and later editions.<sup>2</sup> Finally, the verse numbering in the 1892 version was significantly different than subsequent editions.

This book is an invaluable treasure worth much more than its price would suggest. We thank Mary Sue and many others who, over the years, have generously donated valuable books to The Book of Mormon Foundation.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Zarahemla Research Foundation Website.

<sup>2</sup> For further information on differences found in various editions of *The Book of Mormon* see *A Comparison of The Book of Mormon Manuscripts & Editions*; Zarahemla Research Foundation, Copyright © 2000. Available for purchase at The Book of Mormon Foundation.

<sup>3</sup> Most of those books are available for viewing or research at The Book of Mormon Foundation Learning Center.

# Thank You



for your  
*Support!*

On behalf of The Book of Mormon Foundation's Board of Directors, volunteers and staff, we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for your support and generosity. With your support, we are able to continue to strengthen our programs and develop new and innovative projects to promote the message of The Book of Mormon and its witness of Jesus Christ.

Each year, BMF works to assist in bringing forth the light contained in The Book of Mormon through research, publications, seminars and related projects. During this past year, your contributions have made it possible to fund important initiatives such as The Witness magazine, Book of Mormon symposiums and conferences, Book of Mormon Day for Kids, the Book of Mormon Internship Program, English as a Second Language (ESL) and the Santa-Cali-Gon Book of Mormon booth.

Please continue to financially and prayerfully support the work of The Book of Mormon Foundation. Without your contributions, these programs could be reduced or even discontinued. Any amount is greatly appreciated. Thank you and may the Lord bless your prayerful consideration.

# Meet The Book

## The Witness

Linda Guin, Editor

Mailed directly to 4,700 homes

Annual Cost: \$19,312

## BMF Internship Program

1992-2009 179 Interns

Six-weeks of classes and service projects

Annual trip is national and international

Cost: \$2,000 per intern

## Book of Mormon Retreat

Annual January Retreat, Ages 18-24

Classes, Skits and Fellowship

Cost: \$2,929

## Book of Mormon Day for Kids

1st-6th Graders

Book of Mormon Classes and Activities

Annual Cost: \$500

## Santa-Cali-Gon Book of Mormon Booth

2008 gave away 150 copies of the Book of Mormon. Staffed by young adults, many are former interns.

Annual Cost: \$1098

## Book of Mormon and Symposiums

Classes, Testimonies

Cost: Varies depending on financial support

and hosting congregations

## Language Development (ESL)

Classes began in

Current students

and Guatemala

Start up cost \$2,000

## BMF Learning

210 W White Oak

Facility use

Book of Mormon

Internship Program

Resource Center

merchandise for sale

games, DVDs and

Staffed office

Research Library

Annual Operations

# of Mormon Foundation

## Conferences

s and Worship  
ing on distance traveled  
ort provided by the  
on

## lopment classes

the Fall 2006  
from Honduras, El Salvador

## Center

Independence, Missouri

Classes, ESL  
gram  
r allows BMF? to provide mer  
sale, such as scriptures, books,  
nd CDs  
es  
ary  
ting Cost: \$15,107

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marlin Guin, President  
Rich Rowland, Vice President  
Eldon Anderson, Treasurer  
Kathy Keller, Secretary  
Rebecca Cornish  
Dale Godfrey  
Don Newman  
Kelli Pedersen

## OFFICE STAFF

Sue Manning,  
Manager

Linda Guin,  
Assistant Manager

# How The Book of Mormon Changed My Life

by Elizabeth Postlethwait

Now, behold, my brethren, I would ask, if ye have read the Scriptures? If ye have, how can ye disbelieve on the Son of God? (Alma 16:187 RLDS) [Alma 33:14 LDS]



All my life, I have been a part of the Restoration church. My parents are both members, and they raised me in the church. I have always had a knowledge of The Book of Mormon, but it wasn't until I took a Book of Mormon class in high school that I truly came to love The Book of Mormon. The summer after that, I was at a youth camp, and The Book of Mormon Foundation interns came and shared their testimonies with us. After I heard the testimonies they shared, I knew The Book of Mormon internship was something I wanted to do. They also shared about the Book of Mormon retreat, and I anxiously awaited the day when I would be old enough to go.

This year was my third year to attend the Book of Mormon retreat. As I was making preparations to go to the retreat, I got an e-mail from Kathy Gilmore asking me if I could write a testimony about the retreat. I agreed, and then left to go to class. Twice a week, I have a class that is an hour away. While I was driving, I was thinking about the retreat, and the song "Ancient Words," by Michael W. Smith, popped into my head. For those of you who are not familiar with the song, the chorus goes:

Ancient words, ever true,  
Changing me and changing you.  
We have come with open hearts,  
Oh, let the ancient words impart.

As I pondered these words, I started to wonder how the "ancient words" of The Book of Mormon had changed my life.

When I arrived at the Book of Mormon retreat on Saturday, I was pleasantly reminded that the theme for the weekend was "Exploring the Life Changing Testimony of Jesus Christ." We had four classes that day. Each class had a different teacher, and they each shared how their testimony of Jesus Christ had changed their lives. I sat and listened in awe of their powerful testimonies, the whole time wondering how the testimony of Jesus Christ had changed my life—or if it even had at all. After an hour or two of listening to life-changing testimonies and not remembering any of mine, I really started to question if I would have anything to write my testimony about.

After each class, we would break into small groups and talk about some things we had learned in the class. In every single one of these small group



sessions, the Lord brought to my remembrance some testimonies, both of how The Book of Mormon changed my life and how my testimony of Him changed my life. Even as I sat down and began writing up my testimony, He brought another one to my remembrance.

My testimony of Jesus Christ and the validity of The Book of Mormon are the same testimony, and so I will share it first. One evening, as I was getting ready for bed, I remember praying, because I was having some doubts. They weren't major doubts, I was still fairly certain that there was a God and that Jesus Christ was his only son who came and died for us, but I just needed a confirmation of that. So I began reading in Alma chapter 16. When I came to verse 187 (Alma 33:14 LDS) (the verse quoted at the beginning of my testimony) a wave of peace washed over me, and I knew Jesus Christ was in fact the son of the Living God, and he did come and die for me to save me from my sins. I also knew that because The Book of Mormon was testifying of Him, it was the true word of God.

About six years after I had that testimony, I applied for The Book of Mormon Foundation Internship. I had my interview and was accepted in February. In April of that year, a good friend of mine passed away. He was the third friend of mine in three years to have died. With the other two, I clung to Jesus to help get through the pain. When this good friend died, I got very angry at God. I couldn't understand why He would take him, and why I had to go through the pain of losing someone my age all over again. Needless to say, by the time the Book of Mormon Internship started up in June, I was not sure that I believed in God anymore. I couldn't believe God could take someone so good and cause so much pain in my life. I had gotten to the point where I felt I couldn't pray any more. However, in my heart I knew that God was the only one who could heal the hurt that I was feeling in my heart, and I did, as it says in Alma, "desire to believe". On the first day of the Internship, I will never forget, we went around the table where we were sitting and we shared prayer requests. I knew that I had to ask for prayers, but I was absolutely terrified to admit to this group of people that I didn't know that I believed in God. So when my turn came, I went ahead and opened up to these people that would be my family and my support system for the next six weeks.

After that first day, it was like everything we learned in class, every service project we did, every fellowship activity we had strengthened my faith again little by little. I fully believe God placed people in my way, not only the friends I made during the internship, but the teachers as well, during those six weeks, who would say things He knew I needed to hear, to remind me that He is always there, carrying me, no matter what.

I look back on how I felt that first day of the internship. I remember the darkness and despair I felt. If I had not been in the internship that summer, where I had to face my beliefs, read the scriptures, and be with people of like faith daily, I don't know where I would be today. I am so grateful for the love of Jesus Christ and the way it changed my life that summer.

## 2009 INTERN TEAM

**Terry Bronson – Independence, Missouri**

**Aaron Brown – Independence, Missouri**

**Nicole Capps – Alma, Missouri**

**Amanda Crowther – Osborn, Missouri**

**Benjamin DeSelms – Cameron, Missouri**

**Rebecca Horn – Sibley, Missouri**

**Emma McLean – Independence, Missouri**

**Mindy Simmons – Independence, Missouri**

**Matt Stephenson – Warrensburg, Missouri**

**Rachel Stephenson – Harrisonville, Missouri**

**STAFF: Brandy Anderson – Lamoni, Iowa (2004 Intern)**

**Mark Bendorf – Warrensburg, Missouri (2007 Intern, 2008 Intern Staff)**

**DIRECTOR: Bonnie Anderson**

THE BOOK OF MORMON FOUNDATION  
210 WEST WHITE OAK  
INDEPENDENCE, MO 64050

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

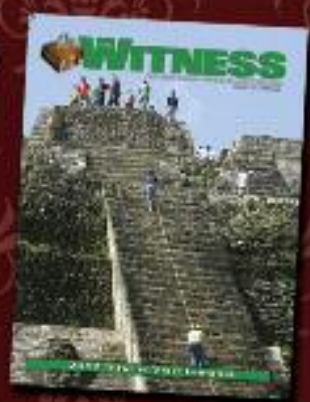
Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Kansas City, MO  
Permit No. 1016

If you no longer want to receive  
The Witness... Please write "Cancel"  
on the inside flap of the enclosed envelope,  
along with your name and address and  
return it to The Book of Mormon  
Foundation -or- contact us at  
(816) 461-3722 -or- email at  
bmfoundation@live.com

**Cancel**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge may be monthly or annually \$ \_\_\_\_\_ monthly \$ \_\_\_\_\_ annually



The Witness magazine is sent to over 4,700 homes four times a year. Our printing and postage costs have risen, our distribution list is growing, but our contributions are significantly down this year. There are currently no subscription charges because we want to get The Witness into as many homes as possible to promote The Book of Mormon and shed light on its contents. We cannot do this without YOUR help.

*These costs would be covered if only...*

- 200 PEOPLE DONATED \$100.00 OR**
- 400 PEOPLE DONATED \$50.00 OR**
- 800 PEOPLE DONATED \$25.00 OR**
- 1333 PEOPLE DONATED \$15.00**

The Witness is just one of The Book of Mormon Foundation's activities, all of which rely on your donations. Remember, your contribution is tax-deductible.