



THE WITNESS

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From the Board...



One of the important responsibilities of The Book of Mormon Foundation Board is to keep our supporters informed concerning important changes in programs and organization. This enables us to continue our work together with a single focus and understanding of the vision, direction and implementation of programs at BMF.

We are announcing that the 2010 Internship program will be directed by Lynn and Sugar Baumgart. They are retired school teachers and active members of the Colbern Road Restoration Branch. We welcome them to the BMF Internship team and request your prayerful support in their new role as directors. The Board also extends our heartfelt appreciation to Bonnie Anderson for her past 12 years as Internship Director. We are pleased to announce Bonnie will continue to serve as the Internship Committee chairperson and will be actively involved in the future planning and direction of the program.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all our supporters for your many years of faithful prayers and financial contributions. The spiritual, financial and volunteer needs at BMF will never diminish as long as we continue to serve the Lord in all we do. These are challenging times for the saints in every aspect of life, and we recognize the deep commitment you make to the work of the Lord in many areas. Our prayer is that God continues to bless and keep you in your journey for Him.

Photo's in this publication by the 2009 BMF Staff & Interns

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The Book of Mormon Foundation

210 West White Oak,
Independence, MO 64050

Tel: 816-461-3722

Fax: 816-461-5850

Foundation E-mail:
bmfoundation@live.com

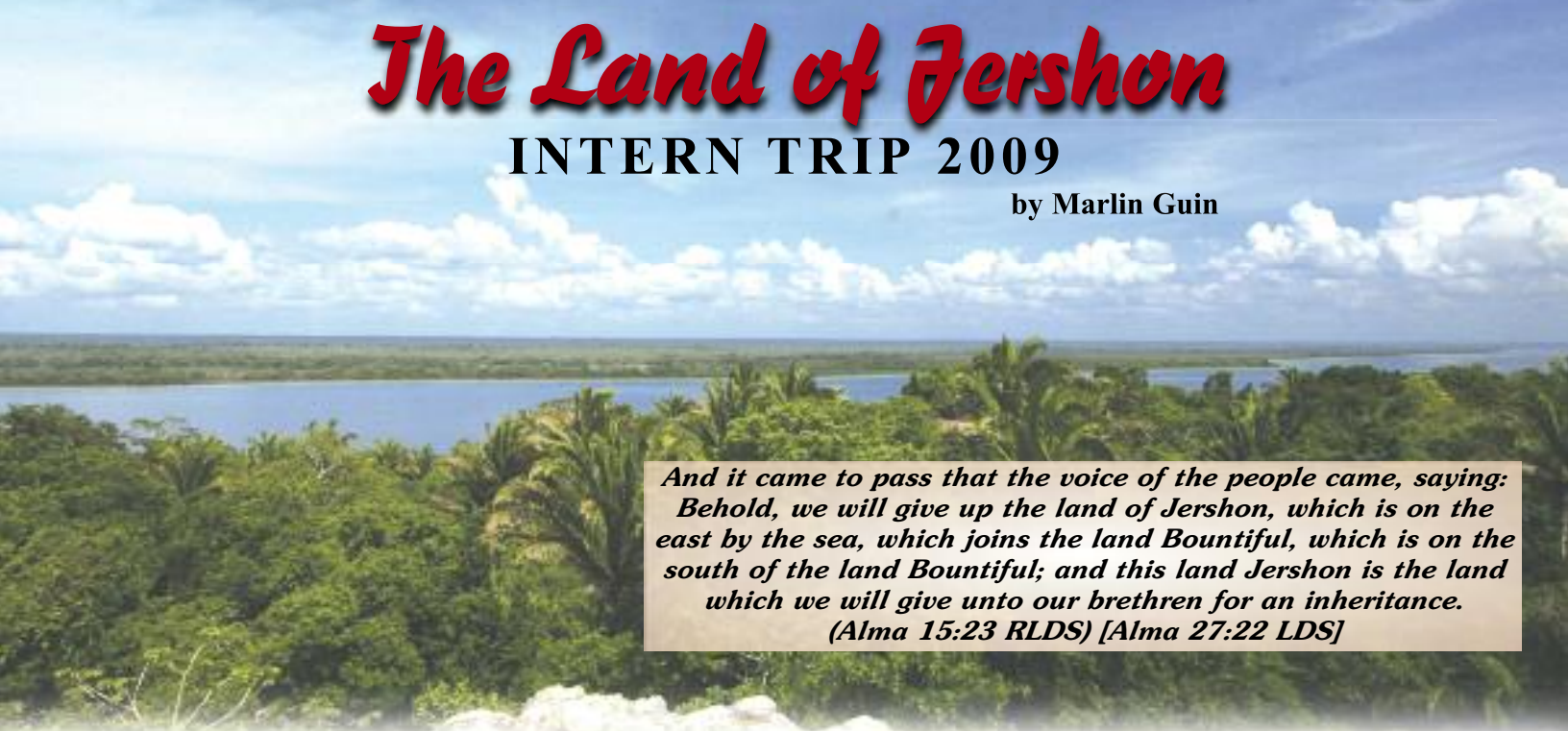
Interns E-mail:
bmfinternship@yahoo.com

Website: www.bomf.org

The Land of Jershon

INTERN TRIP 2009

by Marlin Guin



And it came to pass that the voice of the people came, saying: Behold, we will give up the land of Jershon, which is on the east by the sea, which joins the land Bountiful, which is on the south of the land Bountiful; and this land Jershon is the land which we will give unto our brethren for an inheritance. (Alma 15:23 RLDS) [Alma 27:22 LDS]


It was a beautiful fall day on Tuesday, June 23, 2009. My wife, Linda, and I sat on the balcony of the hotel in Corozal, Belize, looking at the ocean. We shared the joy of experiencing our trip together to this important place. It was Linda's first visit to Book of Mormon lands. We couldn't help but appreciate the words of Alma as we now dwelt in the Land of Jershon overlooking the East Sea. It was a humbling realization to know we would, in the coming days, move with the BMF interns among the descendants of the people of Ammon to share our testimony of Jesus Christ and The Book of Mormon.

This supports the Book of Mormon claim that the people were as numerous as the sands of the sea.

And behold, as they were crossing the river Sidon, the Lamanites and the Amlicites, being as **numerous almost, as it were, as the sands of the sea**, came upon them to destroy them; (Alma 1:84 RLDS) [Alma 2:27LDS]

One of the archaeological highlights for this trip would be a trip to the Mayan city of Lamanai. We were excited because this city is believed to be located in a land called Jershon in The Book of Mormon. It was a place of refuge for a faithful people converted to Jesus Christ by Ammon and his brethren. Therefore, they were called the people of Ammon. Their conversion was so complete that they refused to take up their weapons of war again and buried them deep in the earth as a testimony of their covenant. To protect their lives, the Nephites moved them to a land called Jershon by the East Sea and set their armies between them and the Lamanites to protect them. The scriptural account is found in (Alma 15 RLDS) [Alma 27-29 LDS]:

And it came to pass that the voice of the people came, saying: Behold, we will give up the land of Jershon, which is on the east by the sea, which joins the land Bountiful, which is on the south of the land Bountiful; and this land Jershon is the land which we will give unto our brethren for an inheritance. And behold, we will set our



Our trip from the Belize City airport to Corozal gave us many passing glimpses of this ancient people. One that initially caught our attention was a group of mounds projecting from the flat landscape along the road. They seemed "out of place" for the flat terrain, and we knew they were only one of many such places in Mesoamerica. It reminded me of the many archaeological sites yet undiscovered and the small percentage of those already discovered which have been properly researched and developed.



armies between the land Jershon and the land Nephi, that we may protect our brethren in the land Jershon; And this we do for our brethren, on account of their fear to take up arms against their brethren, lest they should commit sin: and this their great fear came, because of their sore repentance which they had, on account of their many murders, and their awful wickedness. And now behold, this will we do unto our brethren, that they may inherit the land Jershon; and we will guard them from their enemies with our armies, on conditions they will give us a portion of their substance to assist us, that we may maintain our armies. Now it came to pass that when Ammon had heard this, he returned to the people of Anti-Nephi-Lehi, and also Alma with him, into the wilderness, where they had pitched their tents, and made known unto them all these things. And Alma also related unto them his conversion with Ammon, and Aaron and his brethren. And it came to pass that it did cause great joy among them. And they went down into the land of Jershon, and took possession of the land of Jershon; and they were called by the Nephites the people of Ammon; Therefore they were distinguished by that name ever after; and they were among the people of Nephi, and also numbered among the people who were of the church of God. And they were also distinguished for their zeal towards God, and also towards men; for they were perfectly honest and upright in all things; and they were firm in the faith of Christ, even unto the end. And they did look upon shedding the blood of their brethren with the greatest abhorrence; and they never could be prevailed upon to take up arms against their brethren: And they never did look upon death with any degree of terror for their hope and views of Christ and the resurrection; therefore death was swallowed up to them by the victory of Christ over it; (Alma 15:23-33 RLDS) [Alma 27:22-28 LDS]

Is there a possible connection between The Book of Mormon and the name Lamanai? One perspective on this subject says:

Lamanai is the only Mayan ruin to use its original name. It is interesting that the name contains the name of a Book Of Mormon Lamanite, King Laman, who according to Professor of Archaeology, Joseph L. Allen; this ruins could have been named after. (The names, locations, activities of the people, and time period fit.)¹



Our trip to Lamanai was by boat on the New River. It is also called the “River of Foreigners” because of the history from many cultures that used its strategic advantages for trade, exploration and conflict. The river is beautiful and easily captured our attention with the sights and sounds of the journey.



Upon our arrival at Lamanai, it looked like the curtain of a stage opening as the river quickly expanded about a mile to form a wide lake. We could see the pyramids extending about 100 ft above the river and glistening beyond the jungle canopy. They rested upon the only noticeable hills seen along the river during our boat trip from Orange Walk to Lamanai. Our guide said it was about 32 miles each way.

Lamanai means “submerged crocodile” in



Mayan, and crocodile representations can be found throughout this site. The ruins lie along the lagoon of the New River, within the tropical rain forest, and can be reached by chartered boat. They cover an area of 3.6 square miles, in which more than 718 structures have been identified.

Lamanai was the earliest and one of the longest-occupied Maya cities, probably due to its location on the New River. The life span

of Lamanai is thought to be 800 B.C.-1675 A.D.

This site features monumental architecture of temples and palaces, one of which is over 100 feet high. The central area of the site covers approximately half a square mile. Pollen evidence dates the earliest occupation at the site to be about 1500 B.C.; however, the earliest pottery has been dated to about 500 B.C. The massive main temple is the largest Preclassic structure known in the entire Maya world.²



We found it fascinating that liquid mercury was discovered in a ceremonial jar under the round marker stone on the ball court. It is the smallest ball court discovered thus far in the Mayan world and the largest marker stone found to date. It was hollowed out on the bottom to hold a specific size

container. Marker stones were usually found in the center of the court and perhaps used to bounce the ball at the beginning of the game or during intervals according to the rules. Wilfred, our guide, was very knowledgeable concerning archaeology and the history of the Maya. He shared with us the use of the ball court and the rules of the game. Curiously, I asked him where the information originated and he said from the interpretation of glyphs. However, he said they do not know how they



produced liquid mercury or how it was used. Archaeologists believe it came from Guatemala.³ This was of great interest to us since the people of Ammon also came from the Land of Nephi (Guatemala) to the Land of Jershon (Belize).

During our tour through the museum we noticed a poster with historical information concerning the use of wheels in Mesoamerica. It read:

Did the Maya ever develop the wheel? It is commonly believed that the Maya never developed the wheel, but recent evidence suggests otherwise. Several small figures, or toys, have been found that have animal effigies on top of platforms with wheels. This suggests that they did know of this technology, but chose not to use it in the way that Europeans and other cultures employed it. The fact that the Maya did not have beasts of burden may have also influenced their choice.

²<http://www.mayan-world.com/ruinas/belize-m.htm>

³<http://www.planetware.com/northern-belize/lamanai-archaeological-site-biz-or-lam.htm>



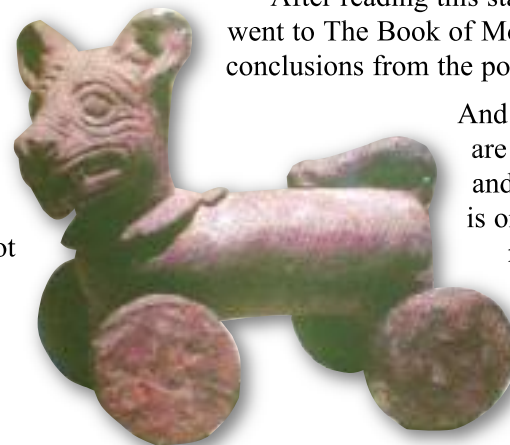
This has long been of interest to Book of Mormon believers because of references to the obvious use of wheels among Book of Mormon peoples.

Now the king had commanded his servants previous to the time of the watering of their flocks, that they should prepare his horses and *chariots*, and conduct him forth to the land of Nephi:
 (Alma 12:77 RLDS)
 [Alma 18:9 LDS]

Wilfred had shared with us earlier that the Maya were an advanced society in mathematics and science.

David Gilmore, being an engineer and remembering Wilfred's previous comment, asked how they could be such an advanced people in science, but unable to make the simple and obvious leap from the use of wheels on toys to the use of wheels on larger objects such as carts, etc.?

Wilfred said that perhaps the wheels were made out of material that did not survive over long periods of time. Hallelujah! Someone finally said it! This was my first experience to hear of such an observation from a tour guide. This archaeological idea is in harmony with the biblical holy land where archaeological artifacts of actual wheels have not yet been found for the same reason. They were made from materials that probably did not survive over many centuries.



Archaeology always seems to be in transition as new discoveries come forth, so we were again reminded how archaeology is working hard to catch up with the claims of The Book of Mormon. John Sorenson, a well-known Book of Mormon scholar describes it this way:

But, some may ask, how could all trace of the wheel and chariots *disappear*? Such disappearances are not as unusual as it sounds. According to the Bible, the Philistines in Saul's time had 30,000 chariots (1 Samuel 13:5). David, it is recorded (2 Samuel 8:4), took 1,000 chariots from Hadadezer, king of Zobah, and then 700 more a little later from the Syrians (2 Samuel 10:18) ... Yet with all these chariots mentioned in the Bible as bouncing around not a single fragment of a chariot has ever been uncovered in the Holy Land (see Sorenson [1998], 59).⁴

Another poster in the museum at Lamanai contained an interesting overview of the Maya people. I quote:

Were the Maya peaceful people? Our previous image of the Maya as peaceful, primitive farmers being guided by priest-astronomers is no longer valid. Their art, architecture and monuments provided overwhelming evidence that *they were warlike*, that they used advanced systems of agriculture, had developed *extensive trade networks* and participated in bloody religious rituals that included various forms of animal and human sacrifices. (Italics added)

After reading this statement, my thoughts immediately went to The Book of Mormon as it supported some of the conclusions from the poster.

And behold also, the Lamanites are *at war one with another*; and the whole face of this land is one continual round of murder and bloodshed; and no one knoweth the end of the war.
 (Mormon 4:10 RLDS)
 [Mormon 8:8 LDS]



Now I, Moroni, after having made an end of abridging the account of the people of Jared, I had supposed not to have written more, but I have not as yet perished; and I make not myself known to the Lamanites, lest they should destroy me. For behold, ***their wars are exceeding fierce among themselves;*** (Moroni 1:1-2 RLDS) [Moroni 1:1-2 LDS]

And it came to pass that there were many cities built anew, and there were many old cities repaired, and there were many ***highways*** cast up, and many ***roads made, which led from city to city, and from land to land, and from place to place.*** (3 Nephi 3:8 RLDS) [3 Nephi 6:7 LDS]

The poster in the museum went on to say:

Where did the Maya go? Did they simply disappear? The Maya never truly left the region. Some areas, like the central lowlands, were abandoned, but Maya civilization continued to thrive in the northern Yucatan Peninsula and in the highlands of Guatemala. When the Spanish arrived, they were also still living in Belize, the Peten province of Guatemala and southeastern Mexico. Today, these enduring and resilient people live on in places like Guatemala and Chiapas. They make up more than half of the total population. In modern Belize, descendants of the ancient Maya are represented by the Mopan and Kekchi groups of the Toledo district and by the Yucatec groups that inhabit the Cayo, Orange Walk and Corozal districts.

For me, one of the most intriguing statements made by our guide during the tour at Lamanai concerned the red volcanic rock used to make the stela in front of the Mask Temple. Wilfred said this rock is geologically unique and identifiable and only comes from Guatemala and central Mexico. He also said it would have been obtained and brought to Lamanai by someone powerful and in authority, such as royalty. The people of Ammon came from the area of Guatemala (Land of Nephi). The Book of Mormon tells us the people of Ammon were led by a powerful king named Lamoni. Is this just a coincidence, or is there some connection between King Lamoni and his people with this stone resting in the Land of Jerushon?



Another Mayan site we visited was Altun Ha. We found the area around this site more commercialized since it has much easier road access. This development probably exists because it's closer to the seaports and the airport at Belize City, which allows many tourists to visit. As we arrived and ate lunch, we noticed several tourist buses and vans come and go.



The following overview of Altun Ha reveals many interesting facts and observations.

Altun Ha takes its name from the ancient Maya reservoir that locals call "rock stone pond." But, its name



actually means “stone water” in Mayan. Altun Ha is located straight east of Lamanai. Altun Ha is thought to have been a commercial trading site between the waters of the Caribbean and the deep interior of the Maya Civilization. The life span of the site is thought to have been 100 B.C. - 1000 A.D.

Within the central portion of the site there are more than 500 structures. The entire city covered some 1.8 square miles and contains around 250 to 300 unexcavated mounds. Population estimates for Altun Ha at its peak are 9,000 to 12,000. The inhabitants of Altun Ha began to erect permanent buildings sometime around 100 A.D.

These early buildings centered around a natural depression in the ground with an artificial clay lining and a dam at the south end. Other small reservoirs were constructed from quarries. Quarries were modified as catch-basins for rain water.

The major temples are actually not single buildings, but several built on top of each other. Temple of the Green Tomb, shows at least seven constructional phases, and some of them are exposed to view. Also, a treasure of over 300 jade objects was found there. In all, seven tombs were found and excavated within the main temple. Of all the tombs, the most striking was the last one discovered which also was the earliest built.

This tomb dates from 600 A.D. Included among the objects found was a jade mask. It’s a mask of Kinich Ahau, The Sun God, standing 6 inches in diameter and weighing in at 10 pounds. It is the biggest jade piece yet discovered in the Maya area.⁵

After our tour of Altun Ha, we had the opportunity to see the howler monkeys in their natural habitat. It is always humorous to hear the interns try to imitate the distinct howling noise from the monkeys. The interns also enjoyed seeing many native plants and animals in the animal refuge and throughout Belize. The beauty of the plants and flowers is very impressive, as the explosion of colors and designs point to the majesty of God’s creation.

The interns usually share with the people of Belize by providing service through work projects. This year, there were three work projects consisting of clearing rubble from a destroyed building at a school, painting a new school and building a bicycle shed with a brick patio at a





school in a remote jungle town. The work was intense, but very rewarding, as the interns were able to share their testimony in many ways with the people.



Also highlighting the trip was our opportunity to share in a retreat with the children and their friends from the church in Corozal. Many experiences and testimonies were received and shared as the interns established a wonderful bond of love and friendship with them. The children's appreciation and enjoyment

could easily be seen in their smiles and enthusiastic participation with the interns. We also worshipped together on Wednesday evening with the saints at the Corozal Branch and grew further in our understanding of worship within the culture of other lands.



Previous intern trips have established and brought forward rich friendships and continued association with some of the people in Belize. One such family is Celia and her two daughters, Luisa and Laura. Celia served in the Belize education system for many years and was instrumental in providing work project opportunities for past intern trips. This year, this close friendship also opened the door for the interns to share a full day with this family. Celia, Luisa and Laura graciously invited the interns to their home for some authentic Belizean food, fascinating stories, exchanges of heartfelt gifts and some relaxing time at the local lagoon for swimming. Our close fellowship in sharing, singing, swimming and testimony with them was a blessing to all of us. It was sad for us to leave, but we look forward to the time when we will see them again.

When one writes about such a trip, it quickly becomes obvious that a few pages will barely describe the experience. It seemed the testimonies shared by the interns during the week in Belize were endless in both variety and content. Some of these testimonies will be shared later in this issue, but I'm sure many more will be heard for lifetimes. Such experiences in such a special place are not easily forgotten and shape our lives in so many ways. We thank all our supporters for making this trip possible and look forward to seeing even more good fruits springing forth in the lives of the 2009 interns.





names in order of appearance to go here

2009 Intern Testimonies

RACHEL STEPHENSON

The journey of my testimony began Thursday afternoon while the team was in Belize. We were at one of our work sites when I began to feel ill. I just brushed off my discomfort, thinking it was just the heat and I would be better once I got back to the hotel and lay down.

Much to my surprise, I still felt rather ill at our evening vespers that night. So that night, before I went to sleep, I asked to be administered to. I just knew the Lord would heal me, and I would be good as new in the morning. But the Lord had other plans for me. Only a few hours into the night, I was awakened just in time to make a mad dash to the bathroom. I was now vomiting. My sickness had begun to escalate. Knowing in my heart the Lord was going to heal me, I again asked for administration. I almost expected an immediate almighty healing but much to my despair, no healing was given, so I again drifted off to sleep. When the morning came, Bonnie informed me that there was no way I was going to the work site in my condition. This news weighed upon my heart, for my desire was to serve others while I was in Belize. So, I did the only thing I could think of. I prayed. As I was praying, I told the Lord, "I give myself to Thee." I fell asleep and Saturday morning I felt great! My fever had broken in the night, and my appetite was back. However, I was not allowed to participate in the retreat that day because it had not been 24 hours since my fever broke. We had a church service that night but I still wasn't feeling up to it. I was lying in bed asking the Lord why I hadn't been healed yet. He spoke to my heart and said, "Give me all that is mine." I was taken aback by this, because I had told God that I was His. I thought about what I could give my Lord. I began to pray: education came to mind first, then my friends and my choosing of friends. Thinking I was done, I closed my prayer. I laid there waiting to be healed, and the Lord spoke again, "I need all of you." My immediate response was, "Lord, what else do I have to give?" There was no reply, so I began to pray. Family and my job came to mind, so I

gave those to my Lord. Quickly after that, I thought of my possessions, and I gave them to the Lord. Once again, I thought that was all, so I closed my prayer. As I continued to lie there, I realized I was holding on to exactly what the Lord wanted. And He spoke again, "Rachel, I need all!" His words pierced my very being I knew what He wanted, but I hesitated for a little bit. I started my prayer. I gave the Lord something I should have given Him a long time ago. My relationship and all decisions I make regarding it. As I swallowed the lump in my throat, I gave Him my thoughts; actions and words that I would strive to glorify Him through them. The tears rolled down my cheeks as I continued to pray. The one thing I was holding on to is the one thing the Lord wants the most from me my heart. I felt as if the weight of the world was lifted off my shoulders. All my worries were gone, and a peace came over me. I now know I was prepared for the Lord to heal me. In conclusion of my prayer, I told the Lord all I wanted was to be able to join the team by the next day. On Sunday morning, I woke up and had energy! I was able to eat breakfast, ride in the vans, eat lunch, swim, laugh and enjoy fellowship with the team. The Lord had restored my health, and He gave me a testimony I can never deny. I know He lives and that He watches out for me every day. I now have that personal testimony and that important relationship with my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and my Heavenly Father. I pray with this testimony I can spread His love to many who do not know Him.

AMANDA CROWTHER

When I first heard about The Book of Mormon Internship at a junior high camp, I couldn't wait to be old enough to apply. By the time I graduated from high school, my family had started a bakery and, with summer being our busy season, I didn't feel I could take off for six weeks. In September 2008, I was helping at The Book of Mormon Foundation tent at Santa-Cali-Gon Days when it struck me how much my witness would benefit from being part of the internship. So, I went home and discussed with my parents the possibility of applying, which they supported whole-heartedly. When it came time to interview, I was quite nervous, as I have never been interviewed for a job/internship. Yet, my patriarchal blessing had mentioned the Lord would be with me when I went to interviews, so I took that as an added testimony this was where the Lord would have me.

Even though it required stepping out of my comfort zone both in the beginning with the interviews, then with the classes, trip to Belize and services once we arrived home, it has been worth the discomfort. My life has been so enriched by the friendships, classes and testimonies that came with doing the internship.





TERRY BRONSON

My testimony is about the power of song – not just any song, but praise to God. We were riding back to Celia’s house after a day of spending time with her family. We interns began to sing. We sang for a long time because the ride was really long, and soon our campfire songs turned serious. We had already started noticing that Laura, Celia’s youngest daughter, who was riding in our van, was really being affected by our singing. Nicole asked her if she wanted to join in, but she said she would rather listen because, in her country, for men and women to sing in unison was a rare thing, and it was even more rare for it to sound good at all.

We enjoyed the compliment, but thought nothing of it since songs come so easily for us all. By the end of the ride, Laura had tears in her eyes and couldn’t help, but cry. It was such an amazing blessing that song could truly touch a person’s heart. We may not have affected her at all during that day, but the spirit of God did more than we ever could. The whole experience really brought us closer together with Laura and each other.

REBECCA HORN

On the day of the retreat while we were in Belize, I had the opportunity to get to know one of the youth. Most of the interns and children were playing soccer at this point. I’ve never really enjoyed playing sports, so I stayed at the playground with some of the younger children. I soon noticed a 13-year-old girl sitting alone on a bench nearby. I walked over to her and noticed she was crying. I asked her why she wasn’t playing. She told me she couldn’t because she had a heart problem, but she really wanted to play. I sat down, and we started talking. She mentioned how much she liked our songs, so I told her I could teach her some. For the next ten to fifteen minutes, we sang together and continued talking. I found out she wasn’t a member of the church, but wanted to be baptized. I could tell she was in a better mood after we spent some time together. I’m thankful God used my gift of music and dislike for sports to help cheer up this young girl.

MATT STEPHENSON

During our trip to Belize, we encountered three instances when things did not go according to the plan. In all three, we went to the Lord in prayer and our prayers were answered. The first occasion was during our third work day. We were tasked with using a hand saw to cut some metal rod to replace some bolts. I started cutting on the first piece of rod, and I quickly broke two of the three saw blades. After placing the last blade into the saw, we decided to pray the last blade would be preserved to allow us to accomplish our task. After we prayed, we continued to cut the metal rod for our use. That blade cut through 16 pieces of metal rod without breaking! The second

occasion was on Sunday, when we were trying to find Celia's house to fellowship with her and her family. Somehow our directors were confused, and we became lost. The suggestion was made to pray for direction. Less than five minutes later, we were unloading at Celia's house. The Lord prompted our driver to turn the opposite way our directors had, and we found our destination in that prompting. Our third petition to the Lord for assistance came on our return boat ride from Lamanai. About halfway through our ride, we noticed the clouds becoming darker and thicker. Soon we could see lightning and heavy rain approaching; Bonnie asked the group to pray that we would not get soaked by the rain. We prayed, and almost immediately a rainbow appeared in the storm clouds. The rain sprinkled lightly on us and stopped, but the promise of God in the form of the rainbow stayed until we docked, and then it dissipated.

NICOLE CAPPS

Ever since I was in fifth grade, I have wanted to be a Book of Mormon Foundation intern. This summer, I was blessed to join nine others in this phenomenal program. From the beginning, I knew God opened multiple doors for me, but that did not mean that I did not have any apprehension of being part of this team.

My greatest intimidation could be said in two words: *the wall*. I had heard about it and the excitement and accomplishment it brought from previous interns. The wall is at Tucker Institute, where we were scheduled to go at the end of our first week together. It stands about 14 feet high, and the task is to get everyone on the team up and over it with no other assistance but each other.

This task terrified me even when I thought about it. What if I couldn't do it? What if I let my team down? These questions and more ran through my head from day one until we arrived at Tucker. As a team, we worked through all the challenges placed before us and, finally, we arrived at our final destination: *the wall*.

One at a time, my fellow interns and staff were lifted up and over the wall, and I was getting more and more afraid. Telling someone you trust them is a lot easier than actually trusting them. Finally, it came my turn to be lifted up. I didn't tell anyone how scared I was and, as I was lifted up and reached for the hands of those waiting to pull me over, I froze. I suddenly could not stop thinking that I was going to fail.

The person holding onto my hands looked right into my eyes and told me I could do it. Because of the support from my team, I made it over *the wall*! Our team conquered that wall and, even when I couldn't believe in myself, my team was there for me to trust.

Since that experience, I have learned to trust in my team and in God. Doubting myself only allows me to doubt God and





not let Him fully work in my life. With one encouraging look and sentence, I found the strength to conquer my greatest fear and, because of that, I was able to conquer many more obstacles during the internship.

MINDY SIMMONS

At the beginning of the internship, I was struggling, my heart was hardened and eyes were blinded to the blessings God had been giving me and the team. This continued even through our trip. I became disappointed because I was looking for something big and very clear to see “this was a blessing sort of thing.” The Sunday back from our trip, I spent some time in meditation and praying to God he would soften my heart. That night, we had a service and I came to a realization that we had so many blessings and was reminded that on our trip, we made a list of over 70 testimonies and blessings God had given us, and that was just the start. Also, during the benediction of the service, it was prayed that our experience not just be a mountaintop experience, but a springboard. This caught my attention, opening my spiritual eyes to see that first God had blessed me tremendously, and that his experience was to be used not just to receive those mountaintop blessings or experiences, but to use this as “a springboard” and to take the tools and lessons I have learned through this internship and use them in the days ahead.

BEN DESELMs

In Belize, our hotel was overlooking the bay, so a few times we were able to go swimming. One day, a few interns and some local church members were swimming, playing in the water, just having a good time. We had moved all over the area we were in. At one point, I noticed my necklace was missing. My fiancée had gotten it for me in Nauvoo, so it was very special to me. I have lost items in a clear stream and never found them. Now, I had lost something in the ocean, and the water was cloudy. I wasn't even in the area where I figured I'd lost it. I dove to search the ocean floor a few times and came up empty. Three thoughts came to me simultaneously. The first was that I would never find it. The second was that I really wanted to find it. The third was that if God could raise an axe head out of a river, he could help me find my necklace. So I prayed in faith God would help me find my necklace. As I started shuffling toward shore, my foot came across something small. I figured it was a rock, but as I kept going it was attached to a cord. I reached down and came up with my necklace. From the ocean, God had put it at my feet.

EMMA MCCLEAN

The last day in Belize, I woke up and didn't feel well. I passed it off as hunger and prepared for the day. I found out

during breakfast that it wasn't hunger, because I couldn't eat much. Before we left the hotel to go to Altun Ha and the baboon sanctuary, Marlin Guin was teaching a class. During the class I felt worse and worse. I knew we had a drive that would take over an hour. I asked Eldon and Marlin to administer to me because I really did not want to miss that day. After I was administered to, I still felt ill. Eldon told me I could stay behind if I needed to, but I decided I would go along anyway. On the way there, I started to feel better, which is pretty strange, considering people usually get sick in a van on bumpy roads. For the rest of the day, I didn't feel any sign of sickness, even in the heat and direct sun. I know the Lord blessed and healed me, and I am thankful to have been able to spend the day with the rest of the interns.

AARON BROWN

Our God is an awesome God! He truly has poured out his blessings on us as a people and a church. This is a testimony about how the Lord's timing is perfect in all things, down to even the smallest detail. Last year, I had applied and been accepted to do The Book of Mormon Foundation Internship. I was excited and looking forward to the great summer ahead, but the Lord opened up other doors for me. Now, anyone who knows Aaron Brown knows how much I absolutely love working with the youth and serving at summer church camps, because I know how much of an impact it has had on my life and the lives of many others. The camping program, the teachers and my counselors have helped to form the man I am today. I fill my summers by staffing at camps like Mammoth Camp, Camp Bountiful, and camps Tiona and Liahona.

I was forgoing the opportunity to serve at some of those camps to do the internship, but I knew it was something I wanted to do. So, in May, when the itinerary for the 2008 internship came out, I aligned it with my schedule for the summer and realized some of the conflicts. I had tried out for the Center Place Restoration School alumni production of *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* and I had been cast in the role of Brother Dan. I was so excited and felt like this would be a great opportunity. The auditions had gone great, but that same weekend the schedule for the internship came out, and I saw the trip dates were the same week as the performances for the play. I prayed about it and decided to wait to do the internship. I know I made the right choice because of just how perfectly everything fell into place. I was able to be on staff at some camps last year, and the dates worked out this summer where there weren't any conflicts with the internship and the camps I wanted to do. I also know that going to Belize this summer is where He wanted me to be.



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