



# THE WITNESS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION BY THE BOOK OF MORMON FOUNDATION

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“But behold I say unto you, that by  
*small and simple things,*  
are **GREAT THINGS** brought to pass.”



# The Power of Giving is in *Your Hands*



In the last edition of The Witness magazine, we expressed the financial needs of The Book of Mormon Foundation and asked the Saints to prayerfully consider a financial gift. At that time, we were facing a \$12,000 deficit for the year. Your heartfelt response has been inspiring, and we are very pleased to let you know that, due to your generous gifts, the budget is back on track again! We recognize, particularly in these difficult times, that your finances at home are just as limited as ours here at BMF. It is out of your love for the Book of Mormon and its testimony of Jesus Christ that you give. We understand that and are humbled and very appreciative for your sacrifice. As with any missionary effort, the needs at the Foundation are ongoing, and we would be grateful for your continued support. Because of your generous gifts, we will be able to continue to provide the publications, programs, research and resources you have traditionally seen from the Foundation. We pray that the unique ministry provided by BMF can be enriching and inspiring to those that experience the marvelous work and wonder that is the Book of Mormon.

**Thank you for your generosity.**

Rich Rowland  
President

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## THE WITNESS

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Cover photo courtesy of Dale Godfrey  
 Art Museum in Mexico City, Mexico  
 Cover Scripture (Alma 17:35 RLDS) [Alma 37:6 LDS]

THE WITNESS



# ONE MIGHTY AMONG THEM

by Marlin Guin

*And it shall come to pass, that there shall be a great work in the land...and the time speedily cometh that great things are to be shown forth unto the children of men;*

*(D&C 34:3a,d RLDS) [D&C 35:7,10 LDS]*

*(selected verses)*

Like many of you, I often consider the exciting day in which we live. In so doing, we realize that great things have come, now come, and will come upon the earth as the word of the Lord becomes reality before our eyes. It sometimes feels like a tidal wave of scriptural fulfillment has fallen upon the world, creating a relentless personal challenge to keep up with daily events and their relationship to the scriptures.

I'm constantly amazed how accurate we find the prophetic descriptions of this time called the latter day dispensation. It is a time also called the dispensation of the fullness of times. It's a time of great restoration, gathering, movement, fulfillment and revelation. A church elder recently shared with us that we can't do anything about yesterday, and we have to wait for tomorrow to come. However, today is the day we can choose to participate in this great and marvelous work. So today, we journey toward the climax of prophetic world events as God moves to complete His work and establish His kingdom on earth. It's sometimes overwhelming to consider such great events, but let's focus and examine just one of them in this article.

One of the most intriguing prophetic chapters in the Book of Mormon is 2 Nephi 2 (RLDS) [2 Nephi 3 LDS]. Few scriptural passages have been studied, speculated upon and discussed more than this chapter since publication of the Book of Mormon in 1830. Testimonies about this subject have abounded for generations, perhaps because of the powerful message it contains and the anticipation of its fulfillment in our lifetime. I remember, as a teenager, listening to such a testimony from a church sister in my home congregation and the exciting interest it inspired within me. It's not my intent to add to or take away from

these testimonies, but rather to allow the scriptures to speak their own testimony concerning this great thing. I believe we can experience an increase in our faith and hope for the future as we recognize this to be one example of the many great things coming upon the earth in the last days.

For our brief consideration, let's primarily investigate the four summary scriptures toward the end of 2 Nephi 2 (RLDS) [2 Nephi 3 LDS]. I also encourage you to engage in your own personal study of the whole chapter. The summary verses read:

And now, behold, my son *Joseph*, after this manner did my father of old prophesy.

Wherefore, because of this covenant thou art blessed: for *thy seed shall not be destroyed*, for they shall *hearken unto the words of the book*.

And there shall raise up **one mighty among them**, who shall *do much good*, both in *word and in deed*, being *an instrument in the hands of God*, with *exceeding faith*.

To *work mighty wonders*, and *do that thing which is great in the sight of God*, unto the *bringing to pass much restoration unto the house of Israel*, and *unto the seed of thy brethren*.

(2 Nephi 2:44-47 RLDS) [2 Nephi 3:22-24 LDS]  
(emphasis added)

This chapter contains the blessing given by Lehi to his youngest son, Joseph. It was bestowed upon him soon after reaching the Americas and over five centuries before the birth of Christ. Young Joseph was born in Lehi's "wilderness of affliction," which describes their difficult journey from





Jerusalem, through the Arabian Peninsula and eventually across the waters to the Promised Land. Joseph, like his older brother Nephi, grew up in obedience to the word of the Lord and was highly favored of his father and in the sight of God.

In this blessing, Joseph was first given an overview of the Lord's covenants previously placed upon their patriarchal father Joseph of Egypt. It's because of those covenants that the seed of young Joseph would be blessed in the latter days and a primary reason for which this blessing is given.

One of the important prophecies spoken by Lehi was that the seed of his son Joseph would not be destroyed. How do we know they were not destroyed? As we trace them through history, we should remember the Book of Mormon describes them as Josephites. Individual tribes were often identified by names associated with the name of their patriarchal father. For example, we encounter the first reference to Josephites about 40 years after this blessing was given. About 544 B.C. we read:

Now the people which were not Lamanites, were Nephites; nevertheless, they were called Nephites, Jacobites, *Josephites*, Zoramites, Lamanites, Lemuelites, and Ishmaelites.

But I, Jacob, shall not hereafter distinguish them by these names, but I shall call them Lamanites, that seek to destroy the people of Nephi; and those who are friendly to Nephi, I shall call Nephites, or the people of Nephi, according to the reigns of the kings. (Jacob 1:13-14 RLDS) [Jacob 1:13-14 LDS] (emphasis added)

Even though the general names of "Nephites" and "Lamanites" are often used in the Book of Mormon to identify the larger grouping of individual tribes, we also see individual tribal names periodically used to distinguish them from the larger body of people. For instance, several centuries after this blessing, we find another specific reference to Josephites following the ministry of Christ on this continent. Some scriptures from about 194 A.D. read:

And now it came to pass in this year, yea, in the two hundred and thirty and first year, there was a great division among the people.

And it came to pass that in this year there arose a people who were called the Nephites, and they were true believers in Christ; and among them there were those who were called by the Lamanites, Jacobites, and *Josephites*, and Zoramites;

Therefore the true believers in Christ, and the true worshippers of Christ, (among whom were the three disciples of Jesus who should tarry,) were called Nephites, and Jacobites, and *Josephites*, and Zoramites.

And it came to pass that they who rejected the gospel, were called Lamanites, and Lemuelites, and Ishmaelites; and they did not dwindle in unbelief, but they did wilfully rebel against the gospel of Christ; (4 Nephi 1:39-42 RLDS) [4 Nephi 1:35-38 LDS] (emphasis added)

The last reference to Josephites in the Book of Mormon is found in the final years of the Nephite nation and recorded in Mormon's writing. He inscribes these words on the plates about three centuries after Christ.

And it came to pass in this year, there began to be a war between the Nephites, who consisted of the Nephites and the Jacobites, and the *Josephites*, and the Zoramites; and this war was between the Nephites and the Lamanites, and the Lemuelites, and the Ishmaelites.

Now the Lamanites, and the Lemuelites, and the Ishmaelites were called Lamanites, and the two parties were Nephites and Lamanites. (Mormon 1:8-9 RLDS) [Mormon 1:8-9 LDS] (emphasis added)

Thus, we see evidence the Josephites are still an existing and recognized tribe near the end of the Book of Mormon records. Consequently, Lehi's prophecy declaring that



Joseph's seed would not be destroyed is supported throughout the 1,000-year Book of Mormon timeline of Nephite history.

Further, the definitive scripture showing the modern-day survival of Joseph's seed is found in latter-day revelation. It testifies of the truthfulness of Lehi's blessing to his youngest son, given well over two millennia before. A revelation given in 1828 mentions the Josephites as one of the tribes from Lehi's seed who will receive promised blessings and participate in the great events of the Restoration. Taken together, we should be looking for the prophesied presence of Josephites in our day! We read:

Nevertheless, my work shall go forth, for, inasmuch as the knowledge of a Savior has come unto the world, through the testimony of the Jews, even so shall the knowledge of a Savior come unto my people, and to the Nephites, and the Jacobites, and the *Josephites*, and the Zoramites, through the testimony of their fathers;

and this testimony shall come to the knowledge of the Lamanites, and the Lemuelites, and the Ishmaelites, who dwindled in unbelief because of the iniquity of their fathers, whom the Lord has suffered to destroy their brethren the Nephites, because of their iniquities and their abominations;

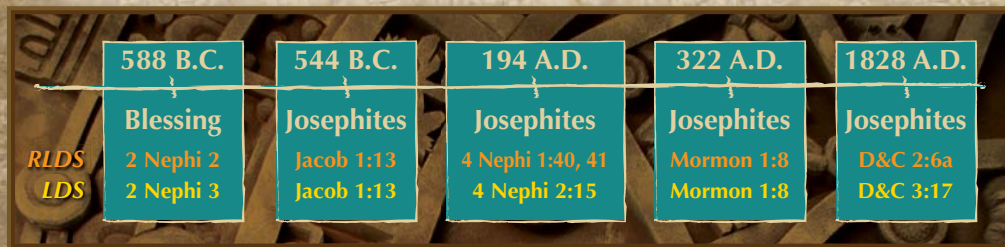
and for this very purpose are these plates preserved which contain these records, that the promises of the Lord might be fulfilled, which he made to his people;

and that the Lamanites might come to the knowledge of their fathers, and that they might know the promises of the Lord,

and that they may believe the gospel and rely upon the merits of Jesus Christ, and be glorified through faith in his name, and that through their repentance they might be saved. Amen.

(D&C 2:6a-e RLDS) [D&C 3:16-20 LDS]  
(emphasis added)

We can use a simple graphic timeline to see the consistent movement of scriptural references to the Josephites from the time of Lehi to the present.



Lehi told Joseph his seed would hearken unto the words of the book. We see, in the scripture just quoted, that is one of the reasons the plates were preserved, so the Josephites,

along with other Book of Mormon peoples, might come to a knowledge of the covenants and of Jesus Christ as their savior through the testimony of their fathers.

If all the Josephites were not destroyed at Cumorah, then some obvious questions are: When did they leave? How did they leave? Where did they go? Where is the one mighty among them today? Right now we can only imagine the answers, but there are some reasonable possibilities not too far down the road of speculation.



We know that groups of people left the area on ships, and probably also over land, long before the final battle at Cumorah. We know they went somewhere to the north. It's not difficult to think some also went to the south or to islands of the sea. They certainly went wherever the Lord led them. There could easily have been Josephites among any of these migrating groups, even though we don't know their exact make-up or final destination.

And it came to pass that Hagoth, he being an exceeding curious man, therefore he went forth, and built him an exceeding large ship, on the borders of the land Bountiful, by the land Desolation, and launched it forth into the west sea, by the narrow neck which *led into the land northward*.  
(Alma 30:6 RLDS) [Alma 63:5 LDS] (emphasis added)



We know that people tried to escape destruction and fled the area during the great turmoil and internal wars that surrounded the final battle at Cumorah. Moroni tells us the Nephites were hunted down by the Lamanites and killed. However, this reference may have been a more general observation to describe the overall scene rather than a detailed account of every single individual's fate among large numbers of people. There could have been Josephites among those individuals who may have escaped.

And now it came to pass that after the great and tremendous battle at Cumorah, behold, the Nephites who had *escaped into the country southward*, were hunted by the Lamanites, until they were all destroyed; and my father also was killed by them; and I, even remain alone to write the sad tale of the destruction of my people.  
(Mormon 4:2 RLD)  
[Mormon 8:2 LDS]  
(emphasis added)



We know that some of the Nephites dissented over to the Lamanites and became part of their history even today. We are told that some joined



the Lamanites because certain destruction was upon them. There could have been Josephites among them.

And if it so be that they perish, we know that many of our brethren have *dissented over* unto the Lamanites, and many more will also dissent over unto them; (Moroni 9:25 RLDS) [Moroni 9:24 LDS] (emphasis added)



It's intriguing to consider that one or more of the three disciples of Christ who chose to tarry upon the earth until the end, could be Josephites. Their names were not allowed to be recorded. Their specific tribal name is also not mentioned, but Restoration tradition has more commonly referred to them in general terms as the "three Nephites." This reference to them as Nephites may be true in the general sense, but may not be individually correct since the Nephites also included the Jacobites, Josephites, and Zoramites. I mention this as a possibility because the blessing to Joseph contains descriptive references to the purpose and ministry of the one mighty among them that seems to run parallel with the purpose and ministry of the "three Nephites." Also, both the mighty Josephite and the "three Nephites" will be present in the latter days, with each having the same calling to be involved in the restoration of the House of Israel. They both have the convincing power of God with them.

And it shall come to pass, when the Lord seeth fit in his wisdom, that they shall minister unto all the scattered *tribes of Israel*, and unto all nations, kindreds, tongues and people, and shall bring out of them unto Jesus many souls, that their desire may be fulfilled, and also because of the *convincing power of God which is in them*; (3 Nephi 13:41 RLDS) [3 Nephi 28:29 LDS] (emphasis added)

It seems we have a lot of Josephs to remember and understand. On our current list is Joseph of Egypt, Joseph the son of Lehi and Joseph Smith Jr. The chart on the right shows the different lineages and reminds us that this descendant of young Joseph was not Joseph Smith Jr.

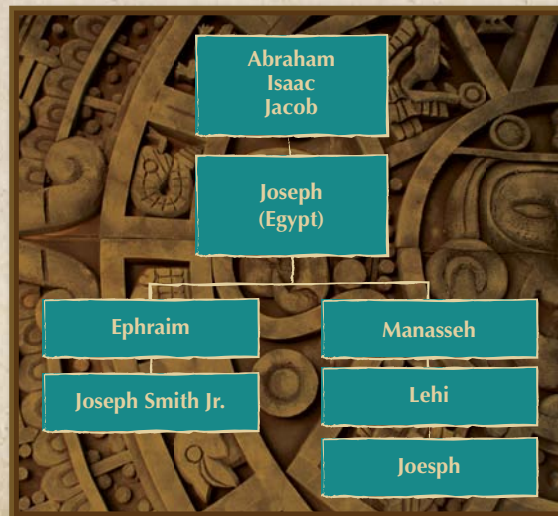
Lehi told his son, Joseph, that his seed would not only survive, but would hearken unto the words of the book. It's interesting the word "book" is not used elsewhere in this chapter to specifically identify the book being referenced. However, there are many verses in the

chapter which seem to describe the book as being the Book of Mormon. We should also remember that other books will be coming forth in the latter days, which may add further application to this prophecy. The Lord said, in the latter days, He will gather his records in one from the other tribes of Israel and the nations of the earth. The records will come with the people as they gather to the lands of their inheritance.

And it shall come to pass that my people which are of the house of Israel, shall be gathered home unto the lands of their possessions; and *my word* also shall be *gathered in one*. (2 Nephi 12:73 RLDS) [2 Nephi 29:14 LDS] (emphasis added)

What should we look for in the ministry of this mighty Josephite raised up in the latter days? The fruits of his ministry, with the testimony of the Holy Spirit, will confirm his identity to those who know and believe in the word of God. He will do much good in word and deed and be an instrument in the hands of God with exceeding faith. He will work mighty wonders and do that thing which is great in the sight of God. 2 Nephi 2:47 RLDS [2 Nephi 3:24 LDS] defines "that thing which is great in the sight of God" as bringing much restoration to the House of Israel and the seed of his brethren. The word "brethren" is important in this context since it differentiates his brethren, the Lamanites, from the other tribes of Israel throughout the world. Many times, the Book of Mormon prophets refer to their Lamanite cousins as their "brethren," even in times of war. An example of this is found in the words of Moroni:

And these things are written, that we may rid our garments of the blood of *our brethren* who have dwindled in unbelief. (Mormon 4:101 RLDS) [Mormon 9:35 LDS] (emphasis added)



Who, then, is this mighty servant? By now, you may be expecting to read his name, address and phone number in this article. Personally, I haven't yet seen any person, within the realm of my observation, projecting the spiritual qualities and mighty works found in 2 Nephi 2 (RLDS) [2 Nephi 3 LDS]. However, without any doubt, we should expect that he is either already working somewhere or will be raised up



in some future time and place. Either way, his mission will be accomplished with powerful and convincing ministry that will have wondrous effects upon the people to whom he is sent. This should prompt us to remember that this great and marvelous work is a much larger picture than our current experience.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the  
earth, so are *my ways higher than your ways*, and  
*my thoughts than your thoughts*.

(Isaiah 55:8-9 IV) [Isaiah 55:8-9 KJV] (emphasis added)

As we briefly consider further possibilities, we realize the mighty Josephite discussed in this article is but one example of other authoritative servants now working in the world outside our view. The scriptures specifically mention some of them such as apostle John and the “three Nephites.” However, there may be others. We also know Jesus visited all the tribes of Israel and performed the same ministry among them. Their own records contain an added testimony of Christ’s visit and ministry among them.

And *I shall also speak* unto the *other tribes of the house of Israel*, which I have led away, and *they shall write it*;

(2 Nephi 12:69 RLDS) [2 Nephi 29:12 LDS] (emphasis added)

And not at any time hath the Father given me commandment that I should tell it unto your brethren at Jerusalem;

neither at any time hath the Father given me commandment, that I should tell unto them concerning the *other tribes of the house of Israel*, whom the Father hath led away out of the land.

This much did the Father command me, that I should tell unto them, that *other sheep* I have, which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and *they shall hear my voice*; and there shall be *one fold, and one shepherd*.

(3 Nephi 7:15-16 RLDS) [3 Nephi 15:14-17 LDS] (emphasis added)

It’s reasonable to think these other tribes of Israel could have their own servants of Christ now working in the world or coming forth in the future. Perhaps they are immortals like the “three Nephites.” Perhaps they are simply descendants of those who received blessings like the mighty Josephite in this article.

Regardless, it will be fascinating to observe the saints gather to the New Jerusalem from the four quarters of the earth. Saints whose faces we have never seen, having been baptized by servants of Christ whom we do not know, from places we have never been. It may challenge us to discern the revelation of God for guidance and to open our arms to His people who come among us.

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; (D&C 83:1b RLDS) [D&C 84:2 LDS] (emphasis added)

Today, the Spirit of God stirs within the hearts of the faithful as His word is being fulfilled. As it does, the words of Jesus continue to admonish His children. He said to watch, pray always and be ready. He said to behold the leaves on the fig tree and see they are more tender and greener than ever before. He said to prepare for the great day of the Lord to come. Yes, get ready, there are great things coming upon the earth!

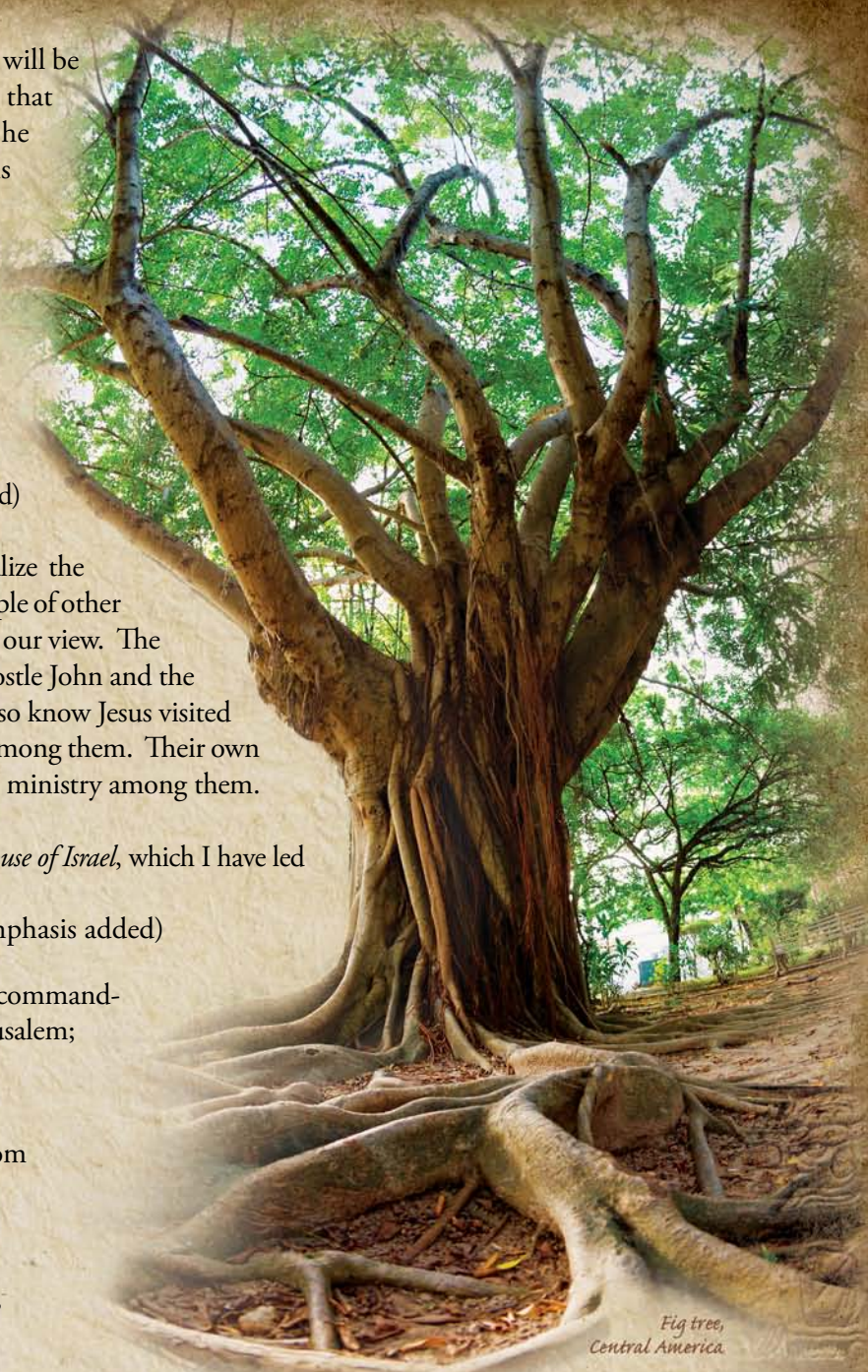


Fig tree,  
Central America



# “Second Year” Internship Program

The Book of Mormon Foundation is developing a program that would give former interns another opportunity to serve, learn and witness together. Though we have always taken former interns with us on Internship trips out of the country, this program is planned solely for former interns. We met with former interns in January 2010 to assess interest and develop guidelines for the program. This program is for anyone who has been part of the BMF Internship since its beginning in 1992.

As a result of our meeting, the following will be the guidelines for this program:

- 1 Those who may participate will be former interns (and spouse if married).
- 2 The program will consist of a 7–14 day trip, which could be planned for any time during the year. It will provide opportunities for continued learning, serving and witnessing in regard to the Book of Mormon.

## BONNIE ANDERSON

As we stood at the dig site listening to the instructions for the day, the excitement was evident on the faces of six former interns, one spouse and two BMF staff. Participating in an archaeological dig in Book of Mormon lands was a dream come true. Once we learned how to recognize some of the things we might find, how to hold our trowels, and save the artifacts, we dug in with earnest! Light-hearted banter began about what we might find – a jade mask, a crystal head – but there was pure satisfaction in the pottery, stone tools, shells, etc. that we did find. We were digging in a Mayan home where a family had

lived over a thousand years ago. In three days of digging, the artifacts we found covered two picnic tables and two benches. We spent a day washing and cataloging them. This opportunity came as an invitation from Luisa Carrillo, an archaeology student at Galen University in Belize.

Before and after the dig, we had time to explore the area around San Ignacio in western Belize, near the border with Guatemala. The Internship has always gone to Corozal in northern Belize, so this trip gave us an opportunity to see a very different part of the country. We visited two amazing Mayan ruins, Caracol and Cahal Pech. Cahal Pech is on a hill overlooking San Ignacio, but Caracol is a two-hour drive on a rough road deep into the Chiquibul Forest

Reserve. Caana is the tallest structure at Caracol, and is the tallest building in Belize. The site is breathtaking. The earliest construction here dates back to 300 BC, so we couldn't help wondering who we might know through the pages of the Book of Mormon who also walked the paths we walked. Cahal Pech was first settled between 1200–1000 BC and abandoned around AD 800–900. Oh, if walls could talk! We could almost visualize those long ago people going about their daily routines in the plaza.

On the return trip from Caracol, there is a swimming area called Rio on Pools. It was a river partially blocked by huge boulders, making layers of pools and waterfalls. It was a wonderful, refreshing spot after the heat at Caracol. The other water adventure taken by the younger members of the group was cave tubing. Floating down a river through caves on inner tubes is very popular in this part of Belize.

The chemist in our group, Isaac, was interested in some plants and their medicinal properties, so





- 3 Everyone who participates will be responsible for organizing a worship service to share about the trip experience once they return home.
- 4 Participants are responsible for all of their trip expenses.
- 5 The number of participants each year will be no more than eight former interns and two staff members.
- 6 Former interns interested in taking a trip with this program will need to send a letter/e-mail of intent to the Foundation expressing a desire to go. They will then receive an application to complete and return, as well as an approximate cost for the trip.
- 7 The 2011 trip is tentatively being planned for May to Beijing, China.

Since “Second Year Internship” does not really describe this program, we are having a contest to select a name. The winner will be chosen by the BMF Board and the Internship Committee. The winner will receive a leather copy of the pocket-sized Book of Mormon. We need a name that:

- is short
- distinguishes this program from the Internship, so there is no confusion between the two
- catches the essence of the program

Please mail entries to The Book of Mormon Foundation, 210 W White Oak Street, Independence, MO 64055, or e-mail to [bmfoundation@live.com](mailto:bmfoundation@live.com). For any questions about this program, please contact Bonnie Anderson at [bmfinternship@gmail.com](mailto:bmfinternship@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you.



we took a walk along the medicine trail with our guidebooks telling us about the different plants and trees. We missed the more direct path back to our van and took a rather long hike, but were rewarded with a visit from a family of howler monkeys in the tree tops. For those in our group who had never heard the roar of a howler monkey, it was definitely worth the hike! We also visited a Blue Morpho butterfly farm, where we stood in an enclosure with hundreds of these large, beautiful butterflies all around us.

Belize is an amazing country, beautiful and diverse, but its connection with the people of the Book of Mormon is what draws us back there time and time again. We pray that the Mayan people will embrace their heritage through the Book of Mormon. We are always looking for opportunities to share the Book of Mormon with the people we meet and, on this trip, our group befriended the night watchman at our guesthouse.

Those who went with us to Belize were Jared (intern in 2008) and Bethany Eggenberger, Michael (intern 2005) and Julie (intern 2005, staff 2007) (Marsh) Fleming, Isaac Stayton (intern 1999, staff 2001), and Brian (intern 2004, staff 2005) and Monica (intern 2003, staff 2008) (Reed) Twombly. Eldon and I thoroughly enjoyed traveling, working and worshipping with these wonderful people.

We hope this first “Second Year” trip is only the beginning of many more adventures for the Book of Mormon Foundation interns.

## BRIAN TWOMBLY

Prior to going to Belize, we fasted and prayed as a group for the trip. One of the things we prayed about was to have the opportunity to witness to the people we would meet on the trip. On Friday night, after checking into the guesthouse where we were to stay during the trip, I noticed a man sitting at the edge of the property. I thought it was odd that he was just sitting there all evening, but I did not think much about it. The next day, Eldon told us this man was the night guard. I decided to talk to him on our second night in Belize. The man’s name was Róque. He stayed at our guesthouse from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. every day. The local children liked to talk to him, but when it got late, he mostly just sat outside and read a book. The next night, when we got back from eating dinner, Róque was there, so I went over to talk to him. I asked him what he was going to read that night, but he said he had forgotten his book. I immediately thought this was an opportunity to share God with Róque. I





went back to my room and got a book I had brought about a Chinese Christian who suffered much in his dedication to serve Christ. Róque eagerly began to read the book and finished it the last night we were in Belize. Each night, he would talk about what he was reading, and each time we talked, it brought the opportunity to talk about God. I found out that Róque believed in God, but did not go to church. Others in our group were able to talk to him and share with him about our faith in God. By the end of the week, Isaac gave him a Book of Mormon to read about Christ in America. I pray he will read the Scriptures and allow God to become an integral part of his life.

## ISAAC STAYON

During our stay in San Ignacio, the guesthouse employed a night watchman. His name was Róque, and he was usually in a chair under a yard light with a book to help pass the time. Several members of our group would stop to chat with him or share something we couldn't finish at dinner. Brian loaned him a novel about a Christian in China, which he finished and returned before we left. Toward the end of the week, I was chatting with Róque after dinner. I told him we believe the Mayan legends of a bearded white god. I said Jesus came to these lands to teach the same principles He taught in the Old World. Róque said he would be interested in reading the book that told about Jesus' visit. I gave him a pocket-sized Book of Mormon, with a bookmark in III Nephi 5. It is my prayer that Róque can learn the good news Jesus personally brought to the people of this land so long ago.

The Belize trip gave me an appreciation for archaeology I could have never had without getting my hands dirty in the process of an excavation. I now look at excavated Mayan temples in awe of the work put into their construction, and also the thousands of man-hours it must have taken to rescue them from the jungle. In addition, it has given me a feel for the puzzle the archaeologists face when they uncover a building with its rubble and displaced stones.



## JULIE (MARSH) FLEMING

On the second night of our trip, we were able to have supper with Celia, a Belizean woman who has coordinated service projects in Corozal for the Book of Mormon interns for the past eight years. She traveled two hours by bus to eat with us. After our meal, she presented us with gifts to welcome us to Belize again. We were amazed when she pulled out beautifully hand-crafted pillowcases. Each pillowcase was embroidered with our birthday in the Mayan numerical system and monthly glyph. The stitching was exquisite, and the design covered most of the pillowcase's surface. She explained that she had recently learned to embroider, and she desired to make us a special gift when she learned we were coming again. Although her idea to design a pillowcase was time-consuming and extremely labor-intensive, she had lovingly embroidered eleven of them for us. My eyes filled with tears as she presented mine. It was beautiful. Her face radiated with love as she handed it to me. I felt so unworthy to receive it. She didn't know me. I could have been anyone, yet, it was apparent that those who have been involved in the Internship had touched her life through the years and opened a door of friendship and love. The pillowcase serves to remind me of what a great and lasting effect acts of kindness can have.

## MIKE FLEMING

I love to travel, because I enjoy meeting new people and learning about their lives. Recently, I had the privilege of traveling to Belize on the BMF Internship alumni trip to work on a Mayan archaeological dig near San Ignacio. One afternoon, we had the opportunity to visit a local nursing home. The residents were sitting on the patio enjoying the beautiful weather. We were warmly greeted with hugs and smiles as we met the residents. I approached a man sitting in a wheel chair. He could not speak or move the right side of his body due to a stroke. A nurse, Sarah, told me his name was Bernard. He was the youngest tenant there, and enjoyed humming with the piano and watching the iguanas eat in the morning. I could



see the care Sarah had for Bernard as she smiled while he drew her close for a picture. I was impressed by her loving spirit as I watched her interact with the residents. After visiting, the interns began singing. Several of the residents sang along. As we said goodbye, I couldn't help but feel at home. The people there welcomed us with open arms and shared a similar love for others. It was a love that reached out to family, friends and strangers alike. It was the love of Christ, and I found it there in the nursing home in Belize.

## MONICA (REED) TWOMBLY

I am thankful for the opportunity to go to Belize, and God blessed us in many ways on our trip. One blessing of the trip was the healing of my foot. On Monday night, we went out to eat and, as always, we moved tables together so we could sit together at one table. While I was helping move one of the tables, I didn't realize that a chair was nearby, and the table caught the chair and flipped it over onto my bare foot (I was wearing flip-flops). My foot really hurt, but I thought the pain would subside within a few minutes. As we ate, the pain in my foot was still there. As we left the restaurant, I noticed I could not put any weight on my foot as it hurt too much.

That night, I started to worry about how I was going to get to the archaeological site the next day, since I could not walk. The archaeological site was on a farm, and we had to hike through the tall pasture for about a half mile to get to the site. I knew there was no way I was going to make it the next day in the condition I was in unless God blessed me. So that night, my husband and I prayed for a healing of my foot, and I asked to be administered to the next morning.

On Tuesday, when we walked to the site, my foot still had a slight ache, but I was able to bear weight on it and walked to and from the site with little difficulty. I was glad that I didn't have to miss any of the digging project, as we found some really neat items that day. By Wednesday, the pain was gone, and I felt great. I know God answered the prayers on my behalf, and I am thankful for this blessing and healing.

## BETHANY EGGENBERGER

While we were in Belize, everything was so different, yet very much like home. I couldn't begin to explain the strange, but exciting feeling I had as we drove across the land to our destination in San Ignacio...and the sickening feeling as we went over the many speed bumps on the road.

History just poured out along our drive. I have never felt so amazed, intrigued and yet hesitant as to what I should believe to be truth. I had not prepared well for this trip to Belize. My knowledge of the Book of Mormon was and is very little. My preparation for what to do, say, witness, study and bring was also very weak and not well thought out. God saw to bless me anyway with this amazing experience. Perhaps He was preparing me for something greater, or maybe a learning experience. All I know is God has blessed me.

Even as unprepared as I was to receive the Lord's word and truth, He opened my understanding the time my husband, Jared, and I prepared morning devotions to share with the group. We used Ephesians 6:13, which talks about taking on the whole armor of God, and Mosiah 3:21

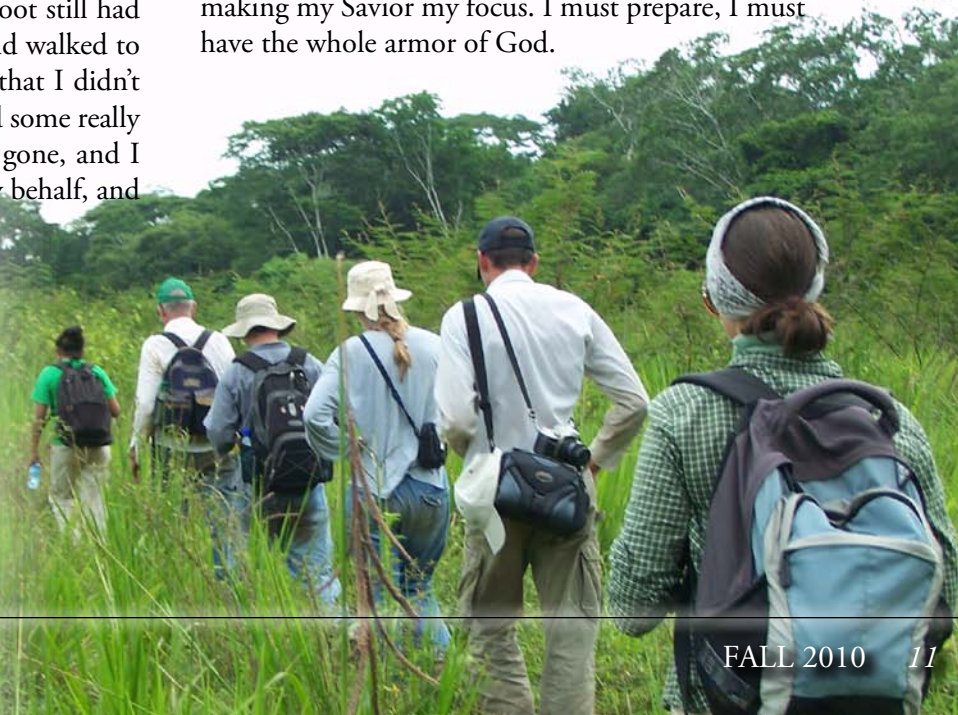


Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand. (Ephesians 6:13 IV/KJV)

Therefore, I would that ye should be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in good works, that Christ, the Lord God Omnipotent, may seal you his, that you may be brought to heaven, that ye may have everlasting salvation and eternal life, through the wisdom, and power, and justice, and mercy of him, who created all things, in heaven and in earth, who is God above all. Amen.

(Mosiah 3:21 RLDS) [Mosiah 5:15 LDS]

The message for me was prepare. We must prepare. God will use us in His work if we allow Him to, but if we don't prepare and live in His word and live our lives to seek Him, we cannot be blessed in His fullness. I can attest to this because I struggle making my Savior my focus. I must prepare, I must have the whole armor of God.





# 2010 INTERN TESTIMONIES



**Lauren Bobbitt~** I absolutely loved reading. I'd read just about anything you sent my way, except the Book of Mormon, of course. I mean, really, why would I want to read about a bunch of dead guys involved in bloody mass killings while being given unnecessary details of the exact location of a pile of plates. Not only was it dull, it was completely pointless! But I read it. Why? Because I knew it was the right thing to do. I've lost count of the number of times I've read the Book of Mormon, without being able to recall but one or two details. I can't really pinpoint the exact moment my heart changed. Maybe it was all those talks about life after death, and I wanted to make sure I was right with God, or possibly the fact that my peers' knowledge of the Book of Mormon far surpassed mine. Either way, the transition was dramatic. After I returned from Reunion, I immersed myself in studying the Book of Mormon. It was slow at first, but I was determined. I can't remember the exact scripture reference, but it says, "if you have but a desire, let that desire work in you." Well, I had a desire. I read about a chapter a day, sometimes more or less so after about six months, I came to the section on opposition. I can't say I felt the Spirit, but I knew without a doubt that this book was true. This section on opposition was completely logical. It made perfect sense. How could I not believe it? Suddenly, the rest of the scriptures had meaning. The characters seemed to come alive. Ever since then, I've immersed myself in studying the Book of Mormon. Every fact I learn and testimony I hear serves to strengthen my belief in Christ.

## Jenna Davis~

Wait...

"Are you sure, God? That's not really the answer I was looking for." I sat in my pew, ashamed at my disappointment in the message God was delivering to me. The message came again, unmistakable.

Wait...

The week had been marvelous. I had loved the trip with the Book of Mormon interns, touring church history sites and witnessing to those in our path. Our final stop of the journey was the Kirtland Temple, the house of God. We had an hour alone in the temple and, reverently, we filed into the sanctuary and into the boxed

pews. Each of us lifted our hearts in silent prayer as the director stood in one of the raised pulpits, his presence a reminder of the historical greats who had stood there before. The Lord had clearly led me to the Internship, and I already had quite the collection of testimonies. But, as the end of the program drew nearer, my prayers reflected my concerns about my future – my desire for a job and a family. I prayed, excited and confident that I was about to receive divine instruction.

The director began to speak. I was immediately struck by how often I was hearing the word "wait." Soon, I felt my hopes of a clear road map dwindling.

"Really, God, that isn't my message, is it?" I prayed. "Surely that is a coincidence." Wait. "I don't know, Lord." I responded, even though I did know. "It could be a coincidence. Send me confirmation."

As the service ended, we sang the response we'd chosen weeks prior to the trip. Walking out, I was struck by the lyrics in a way like never before.

I will go and do what the Lord has commanded...  
For I know in my heart, if I trust in Him,  
The Lord will prepare the ways

That was the confirmation. I sighed, accepting. "Alright, Lord. Waiting it is. I don't know what I'm waiting for, but we'll do it your way."

We mingled outside in the garden, and I could tell some still basked in the Spirit of the place. Again, I tried not to be frustrated. I sat down with another intern, and our conversation turned to the Spirit and Its presence. As she began to share experiences from her life, an understanding settled on me. It couldn't have been clearer than if it was spoken to my face. Throughout the Internship, I had been working through an old burden, buried in my heart. Over the weeks, I had dug down deep, prayed, cried and even shared the testimony with the group, feeling good about getting over such a stumbling block, but...

"That's it, Lord, isn't it?" I realized, shocked. "I'm not done yet. I'm not even halfway done yet!"





Emotions followed quickly. My surprise turned to shame at my audacity to question God; to amazement that I'd actually thought my testimony was over, followed immediately by relief at having direction. But, above all, an overwhelming happiness filled me. Again, as He always does, God knew exactly what I needed, what I was supposed to do, and when it was supposed to happen.

If there is a moral in this, it is never, never doubt God. We are so short-sighted, and yet are forever convinced that we have all the answers. As I write this, I'll admit I still have to finish that next step, but I know with all my heart, God will be there to meet me when I do. He always answers our prayers. Always. Even if the answer is... Wait.

**Heidi Gamble~** When we interns make the trip to New York every other year, we see the Book of Mormon pageant performed by the LDS. We also share the gospel with the evangelicals who gather to protest the pageant. I had heard the evangelicals could be very pushy, forcing their beliefs on anyone who would listen. When I heard those things, I didn't want to go talk to them. I was afraid of not knowing the right thing to say. I was also afraid I wouldn't have an answer when they asked me a question. There were so many "what-ifs." I didn't know how I would handle this! I made it a matter of prayer in the weeks leading up to the trip and during the trip as well. I knew fear was not the right attitude to have when approaching those people.

On the day of the pageant, we prayed for the evangelicals, as well as for us. We prayed that their hearts might be receptive to what we told them, that our conversations would be peaceful and civil, and we would know the right words to say. During the prayers, I could feel all that anxiety and stress leave me. As the Holy Spirit washed over me, I felt nothing but love toward those people. In fact, I was excited to share with them the gospel that gives me so much joy! Yes, they asked questions I didn't know the answers to, and they definitely said some things I don't agree with, but my attitude going into the situation was changed completely. That experience meant a lot to me, and I praise God for the opportunity.

**Sarah Gould~** I started considering the Internship two years ago. My sister's testimonies as an intern, and the joy she held when she spoke of her fellow interns was something I desired as well. In looking over the application questions, however, I realized I did not have the answers to some of the questions and discovered I was intending to apply for all the wrong reasons. What I wanted was the friends I would gain. I had not given thought to what my part would be or the witness I would bear.

Last year shook up my life. I found myself facing situations and problems and asking questions I had never asked before. An article in *The Witness* about finding the Valley of Lemuel touched me, and I could feel the Spirit of the Lord in those words. I was drawn again to the Internship, so I applied. I had just gotten a new job when I got the reply to my application and scheduled an interview. I wasn't sure if it was God's will that I continue working and earning money for tuition, or to take this Internship. I prayed that if it were God's will, I would be accepted and, if not, the committee would not accept me.

I went to the interview, and all of my good, clear answers seemed to evaporate. I remember giving a lot of very vague answers and thinking, "This is not going well at all." I went home fairly convinced I was not to be an intern, and my vague answers at the interview were my answer to my prayers.

For the next couple of days, I felt impressed to pray for the committee to make the right decisions. I thought, "All right Lord, whether I'm accepted or not, they still need guidance for something as important as this."

When I got the call accepting me, I was honestly stunned. I had to keep telling myself I had actually been accepted, but it was in the Lord's hands, and here I am.

**Sarah Holmes~** The Internship trip was an amazing experience! The highlight of the trip for me was the service in the Kirtland Temple. While we were sitting in the temple, I began to think about how much the early saints sacrificed. I thought of how they gave their whole lives to God, sometimes even dying for what they believed. At those thoughts, I felt the spirit really prick my heart. I began to realize I really haven't sacrificed much at all for God. God really gave me the conviction I needed to start living above and beyond that which I have in the past and to give my life completely over to Him. I am very thankful God gave me this experience, which really helped me refocus my life.

**Wayne Martens~** I have known about the Internship for several years. It was something I never considered doing. When I really thought about it, I decided I would never do it. Summer is a busy time for my family, and I usually work on our farm. This all changed when I went to the Book of Mormon retreat and heard last year's interns share their testimonies. I felt the Lord tugging on my heart, and







the Internship was something I wanted to be a part of. I wanted to have the testimonies and relationships they had, and I wanted the Lord to work in my life in the way he had touched theirs. I immediately started praying that if it was His will, that He would open the doors. I also started reading through the Book of Mormon the day after the retreat, which was a blessing in itself. It replaced some other things in my life that were keeping me from the Lord. The Lord did prepare the way for me, and I was able to be a part of it. After I was accepted into the program, I found out I was the only guy in the Internship. This was kind of a concern for me, but the Lord comforted me and helped me realize it was in His hands, and He had a plan for me to grow close to Him.

One of the requirements for the Internship is to read the entire Book of Mormon. I started reading before I sent my application in, because I felt the Lord really wanted me to be in the Internship. My goal was to read every day and to pray that God's spirit would be with me as I read. I really felt blessed as I read, and I picked up on several things I hadn't before, mainly about the condition of the hearts of the people. I really felt the Lord's blessing as I read the last half of the book. I normally don't like to read, but on some days I was reading for two hours at a time. I was sitting in my room a few days after I finished, and I was reflecting back. I felt the Lord's spirit pour out upon my heart. In Moroni 10:3, it gives requirements for a promise, and it says we must remember how merciful God has been to the children of men. This was something that impressed me as I read the Book of Mormon. The Lord was preparing me before I even knew it was a requirement.

**Delana Munsterman~** In the beautiful world we live in, there are many different people, many different religions, some people who believe in the Book of Mormon, and some people who call us crazy for believing in it! I have seen some of these people and wonder why they don't believe in the Book of Mormon. Have they been deceived? Do they not understand it? Or do they not have a testimony? The possibilities are endless, but I would like to share with you my testimony of why I believe the Book of Mormon is true.

During the Book of Mormon Internship, we traveled to Palmyra, New York, where we visited the Smith farm and the Sacred Grove. The farm was wonderful to see, but the most joyful part of the tour was the Sacred Grove.

We entered the Grove and quickly noticed that the Spirit of God was there! We walked in silence, then gathered together, sang a couple songs, said a prayer, and were told to take a few minutes to pray on our own. I found a place to sit and talked to God. When I finished my prayer, I looked up and saw nothing but trees, not that it surprised me, but these trees now meant more to me than they had a few minutes before.

When I looked at the trees, I found all of the large, tall, established trees. These stood for those who were well-grounded and knew what the Church was all about. They understood the Book of Mormon, believed it was true, and they knew their Scriptures! The smaller trees, which were not very tall, but were still growing, stood for those who believed in the Book of Mormon, were pretty grounded in the Church, and were becoming stronger as they continued to study. The saplings stood for the beginners, as they are small and easily broken. With nourishment these can grow, but if they are not cared for and given strength by the Saints and God, they will die away. The last thing that was brought to my attention was all of the dead branches on the ground. These were those who fell away from the Church, turned their back on the Book of Mormon and were spiritually dead!

All of this made perfect sense to me and made me wonder how big my tree is. It was not physically as old as I was or as tall, but it was as big as my spiritual life and my relationship with the Lord! How big is your spiritual tree and how is your relationship with God? He is calling us to come higher, are we listening?

**Elizabeth Reed~** On Tuesday night of our Internship trip we went to the Book of Mormon pageant at Hill Cumorah. While we were there, one of our missions was to share with the evangelicals who were protesting the pageant. After talking to them, I was feeling down and questioning some points raised about the Book of Mormon. At the hotel that night, I started to pray and ask questions. I fasted and prayed again the next morning about the questions on my heart. Later that morning, we visited the Sacred Grove. We walked up one of the paths, stood in a circle holding hands and sang songs a short way into the Grove. As we sang Ancient Words, the Spirit overflowed me with joy, and I had a burning in my bosom that I had never felt. One of my fellow interns then prayed for our hearts to be pricked like we had never felt. As we continued to pray, God brought to me that the Grove is a scared place, and what happened there was true. I am so thankful for this blessing and for God reaffirming to me what I know is true.





**Lauren Smith~** The Lord has been changing my life and moving my focus and energy in a different way than it had been going. I had become so consumed with this life and the cares of the world before the Internship started. I wasn't even sure I wanted to be a part of the Internship, because that would mean I wouldn't be free to do what I wanted to do. I'd have to follow a code of conduct and dress a certain way. I was going through a mindset of questioning the necessity of traditions and rules and standards in my life as a daughter of the King of Kings.

I decided to dedicate my summer to the Lord in a greater way than even the Internship asked. We had many classes to make me feel this way, but one in particular made me see the importance of choosing to live my daily life in a truly set-apart way.

The class was on the Gadianton Robbers and compared their ways to the terrorisms and governments of today throughout the world. A scripture was read that pricked me to the core.

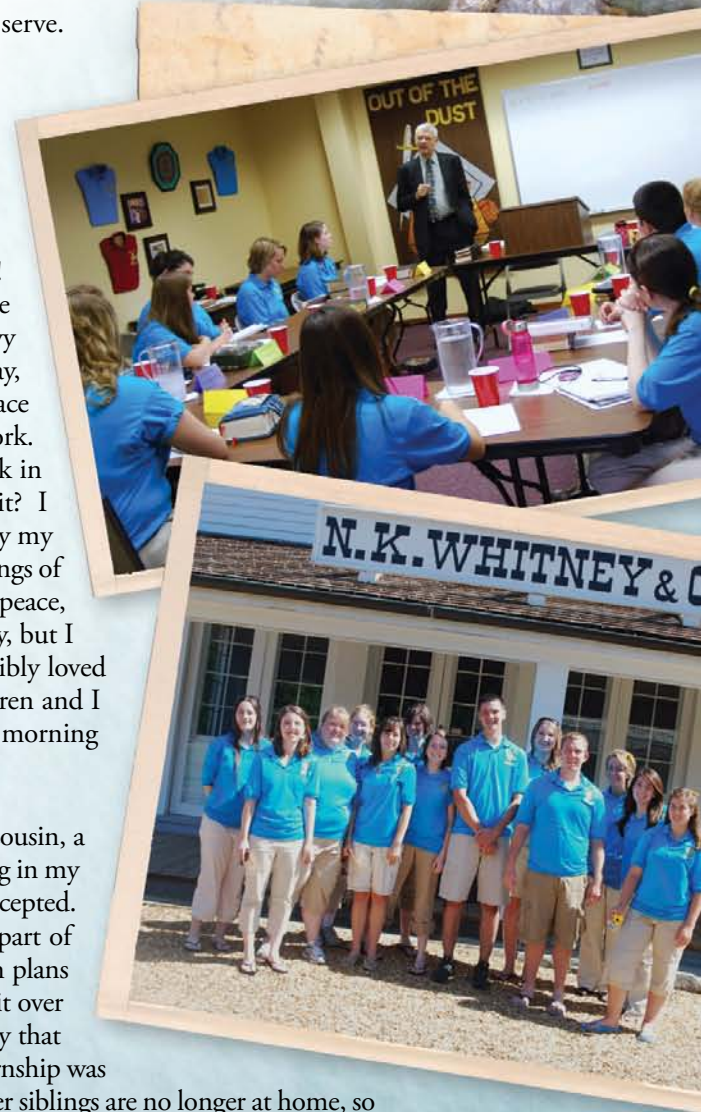
They wear stiff necks and high heads; yea, and because of pride, and wickedness, and abominations, and whoredoms, they have **ALL** gone astray, save it be a few, who are the humble followers of Christ; Nevertheless, they are led, that in many instances they do err, because they are taught by the precepts of men. Wo unto them that turn aside the just for a thing of nought, and revile against that which is good, and say that it is of no worth: (2 Nephi 12:16, 17, 19 RLDS) [2 Nephi 28:14, 16 LDS] (emphasis added)

I realized I don't need to be so concerned about what other people are doing and what I'm used to doing as a girl in today's society. So, I made the choice to change my thinking and to begin a study of what exactly the scriptures say about what a TRUE follower of Jesus Christ would do, think, say and all-around live. The second thing that really sunk in from what the teacher said was that, even though there may be secret combinations and corrupt governments, the real war is a spiritual one between God (who has already won) and Satan. We choose what side to be on. We know who our master or general is by who we serve. We serve the one that we obey and who we follow by how we use our time.

We often read the scriptures and feel it won't really matter if we do what God suggests or not. The scripture warn us about this mindset, and I've learned I can't be on the winning side if I'm not willing to give every part of my life, and habits and hobbies to God.

**Natalie Smith~** The Book of Mormon Internship is WONDERFUL! The spirit I feel when we gather together is such a joy to be around. Over these past few weeks, when the end of the day would come, my heart would feel heavy at the thought of leaving. Monday was the worst. As Lauren and I drove away, a feeling of uneasiness and fear began to weigh on my heart. We got to the place where we were staying, and I reluctantly began to work on my statistics homework. As the evening went on, the uneasiness grew and grew. My heart felt like a rock in my chest. A question suddenly came to my mind why I hadn't I prayed about it? I stopped doing my homework right then and there and got down on my knees by my bed. I started praying to my Father in Heaven. I asked Him to take away the feelings of fear, uneasiness and anxiety. When I climbed back on my bed, I was filled with peace, joy and an incredible calmness. My heart was no longer heavy. I don't know why, but I am still amazed when the Lord answers my prayer immediately. I felt so incredibly loved by my Lord. He had once again reached down and touched by life. When Lauren and I left the Internship the feeling of peace and joy I found at the Foundation every morning stayed with me! Our God is an awesome God!

**Regan Thomas~** I first began thinking about the Internship when my cousin, a previous intern, suggested it to me. I did a lot of praying and fasting before sending in my application. I decided to leave it in God's hands, as to whether or not I would be accepted. I was accepted and took that as a testimony that the Lord did want me to be a part of the Internship this year. Once I was accepted, my mom and I moved ahead with plans for the trip, looking for airline tickets, etc. The only problem was I hadn't talked it over with my dad to let him know I would be gone for a month and a half. Ordinarily that wouldn't have been a problem, but we have a family haying business, and the Internship was during our two biggest cuttings. I've helped out for the last two years, and my other siblings are no longer at home, so my parents depend on me to help. I was afraid my dad would say he didn't think it would work for me to be gone. My friends and I did a lot of praying that I would have wisdom in what to say. We talked, and though he was worried about being able to find enough people to help, he said it would be all right if I was gone. What a blessing! To top it off, they found three additional people to help bring in the hay while I was gone.





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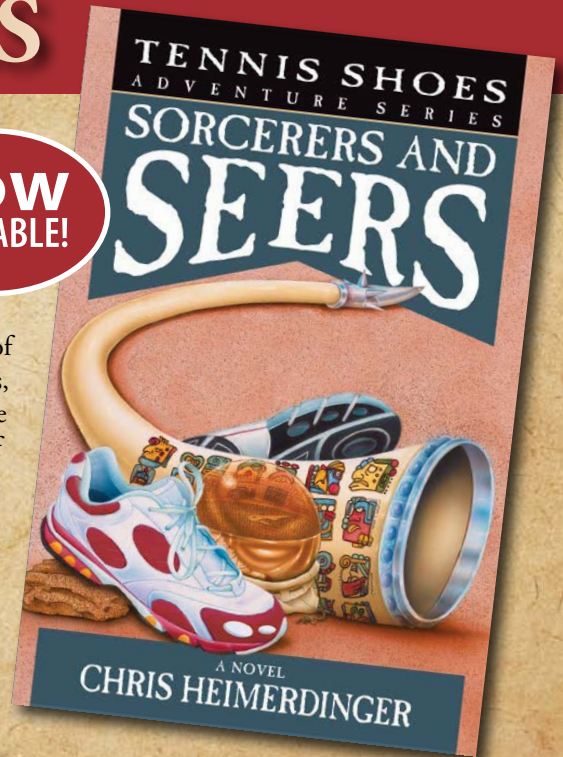
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