

# THE WITNESS

A Quarterly Publication of



The Book of Mormon Foundation

For the Lord covenanteth with none,  
save it be with them that  
*repent and believe in his Son,*  
who is the Holy One of Israel.

THE  
**WITNESS**

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Cover Photo Courtesy of Dale Godfrey  
(2 Nephi 12:78) [2 Nephi 30:2]

THE *Book* OF *Mormon*  
F O U N D A T I O N

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

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by Shirley Heater

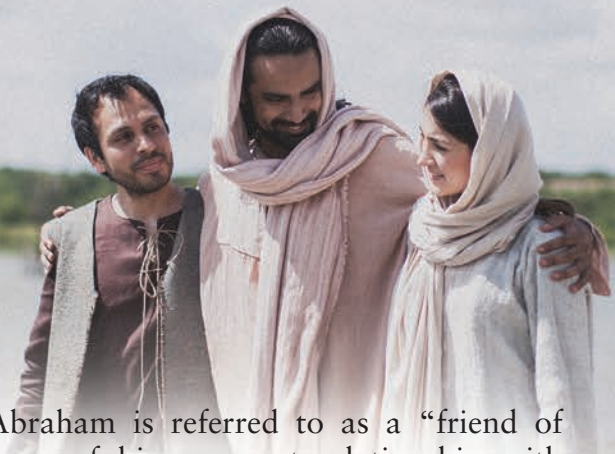
This country is no longer viewed as a Christian nation, with conditions continuing to deteriorate, both in this land and in the world at large. Are the two related? It would seem so. God's instructions to His people in 2 Chronicles to heal the land are: humility, prayer, seeking the face of God and repentance; and also, relevant for us, remembering the new covenant, both the Book of Mormon and the Bible. (D&C 83:8a-b RLDS) [D&C 84:54-57 LDS]

To my knowledge, we still remain under condemnation, even though in recent decades, we've seen many new insights relating to the Book of Mormon: its Hebrew nature including over 20 forms of poetry, mirror image archaeology, and a growing, deeper spiritual understanding. But its potential has hardly been scratched! The Scriptures tell us that God is going to do a new thing, which we believe directly relates to the Book of Mormon, as well as other records which are waiting to come forth—God's special gift for these last days. The time is ripe for the message of hope as the whole world "lieth in sin and groaneth under darkness." (D&C 83:7:f-i RLDS) [D&C 49-53 LDS]

What is the desire of your heart? What sacrifice are you willing to make? I'm reminded that Jesus said you cannot put new wine in old bottles—as the new wine expands, old bottles will burst because they have become dry and have lost their elasticity. Spiritually, we can equate this to a hardened heart and unbelief, conditions that contribute to condemnation and the world groaning in sin. We must cast off the old, our hearts softened so that we may be filled with the "new wine." Our purpose and vision here at The Book of Mormon Foundation is repentance in action—to not treat the Scriptures lightly and share that positive voice for scriptural harmony which is the message in both the Bible and Book of Mormon—to direct our eyes toward the Savior, and prepare for the coming breakthrough. We may be small, but we are mindful that it was David who slew Goliath! May we join our voices together with others as we prepare for the coming harvest in these last days.

# Friend

*A Covenant Term* by David Lamb



The main purpose of the word of God is to convince men to repent and enter into covenant with Jesus Christ, accepting Him as Lord and Savior. This call to covenant is the basis for coming back into the presence of God, for only by entering into covenant with Jesus Christ can man be redeemed from the fall. It is therefore essential that we begin to understand the real meaning of covenant and begin to comprehend and recognize "covenant statements" as they appear in the scriptures.

A covenant statement is a word or phrase which implies a covenant relationship or is symbolically associated with such a relationship. Such a statement is much like an idiom or a figure of speech. It is a word or phrase which literally expresses a thought or idea but which also conveys a deeper meaning pertaining to covenant. An example is the frequently used Book of Mormon phrase, "Come unto Christ." This covenant statement of invitation not only invites all to seek out Jesus Christ, but also implies that all who truly seek Him and desire to be a part of His kingdom must first enter into covenant with Him. Another example of a covenant statement is the word "oath." In the scriptures, the swearing of an oath is synonymous with the making of a covenant and the two words are used interchangeably.

Though the scriptures abound with numerous covenant terms and statements, one of the most beautiful is the usage of the word "friend." In its covenant context, the word "friend" means more than just an acquaintance or one who is known, liked and trusted; it signifies that a covenant has been made between two individuals. Once we recognize that the word "friend" may carry the idea or expression of a covenant relationship, we can begin to more fully understand the true significance and underlying meanings of certain scriptures which contain this covenant word.

In Genesis 17:2 (IV/KJV) we find God enacting His covenant with Abraham: *And I will make my covenant between me and thee.* From this time

forward, Abraham is referred to as a "friend of God" because of his covenant relationship with the great Jehovah. Isaiah 41:8 (IV/KJV) states: *But, thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend.*

As used in this scripture, the word "friend" is a covenant term and acknowledges that Abraham is in covenant with God. This covenant is not exclusive to Abraham personally, but is extended to all of Abraham's descendants, the entire house of Israel. Another example of this covenant term is found in 2 Chronicles 20:7 (IV/KJV) *...seed of Abraham thy friend forever.* Once again, Abraham and his descendants are identified as the covenant people of God.

Knowing the covenant meaning of the word "friend" can greatly enhance our understanding of the total idea or message which is sometimes conveyed by certain passages of scriptures. A graphic example of this can be found in Zechariah 13:6 (IV/KJV) concerning the death of the Messiah:

And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.

This moving prophecy describes the rejection of Jesus Christ by His own covenant people.

The usage of the word "friend" as a covenant term is not restricted to the Bible, but can be found in the Book of Mormon as well. As with the Bible, recognition of the word "friend" as a covenant term may greatly enhance our understanding of certain passages encountered within the Book of Mormon scriptures.

A prime example of this is found in 2 Nephi 1:55 (RLDS) [2 Nephi 1:30 LDS], as Lehi extends his final blessing to Zoram, the former servant of Laban:

And now Zoram, I speak unto you: Behold, thou art the servant of Laban; Nevertheless, thou hast been brought out of the Land of Jerusalem, And I know that thou art a true friend unto my son Nephi forever;

The usage of the word "friend" in this context refers to more than just a friendly relationship; it is a covenant term which tells us that Nephi and Zoram are in covenant. The account of the life and death struggle between Nephi and Zoram, as they leave the city of Jerusalem with the plates of brass, is given in 1 Nephi 1:127-144 (RLDS) [1 Nephi 4:24-37 LDS]. This conflict is settled and all fears relinquished as the two men swear an oath, or make a covenant. (1 Nephi 1:137-142 RLDS) [1 Nephi 4:33-35 LDS] As with all true covenants, the covenant which is made between Nephi and Zoram remains a lasting bond which is never broken. Nephi and Zoram are more than just friends; they are covenant brothers, bound by an oath which is more lasting and sacred even than family ties. This is pointed out by Lehi in 2 Nephi 1:55 (RLDS) [2 Nephi 1:30 LDS] when he refers to Zoram as *...a true friend unto my son Nephi forever*. As Lehi's blessing over Zoram continues, he states that because Zoram has been faithful (to his covenant with Nephi), his seed will be blessed even as the descendants of Nephi, his covenant partner. Because Nephi and Zoram are united in their covenant, their descendants are to receive the same blessing. Knowing that the word "friend" is employed as a covenant term in this set of scripture adds a new dimension to our understanding of Lehi's blessing upon Zoram and the friendship shared by Nephi and Zoram.

In King Benjamin's proclamation, we find another example of the word "friend" as it applies to a covenant relationship. King Benjamin begins his message by greeting his people as "my brethren." While "brother" is also a covenant term, in this case "brethren" refers to blood lineage as they are all from the house of Israel.

As he continues his speech, he salutes the people from time to time in various ways such as *O my people* or *O ye old men, and also ye young men, and you little children* or *And now my brethren*, etc. These various salutations, during the first portion of his message, can be found in Mosiah 1:47, 52, 70, 73, 79, 86, 92 (RLDS) [Mosiah 2:15, 20, 31-32, 36, 40; 3:1 LDS].

As King Benjamin finishes the first part of his message, he notices that the fear of the Lord has come upon his people and they have all fallen to the ground. In reading Mosiah 2:3-5 (RLDS) [Mosiah 4:2-3 LDS],

we find that these people enter into a covenant with God by asking that the atoning blood of Christ be upon them. (Also note Mosiah 3:6 RLDS) [Mosiah 5:5 LDS]

Immediately after the people enter into a covenant with the Lord, King Benjamin addresses them in a different manner. For the first time in his speech, he addresses them as "friends."

And King Benjamin again opened his mouth and began to speak unto them, saying: "My friends and my brethren, my kindred and my people, ..

(Mosiah 2:7 RLDS) [Mosiah 4:4 LDS]

King Benjamin's introduction of the salute "my friends" into the proclamation at this particular point is more than an expression of fondness for his subjects; it is recognition that the people have entered into a covenant. In addressing the people as "friends," King Benjamin acknowledges that now they are all covenant partners with the Lord Jesus Christ. Once again, the recognition of this covenant statement serves to increase our understanding.

Recognizing and understanding covenant terms can greatly increase our comprehension of the scriptures and the meaning of covenant. This in turn will increase our understanding of the call to enter into covenant with Jesus Christ, the one who gave His life that we might be His "friends" (covenant partners).

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

(John 15:13-14 IV/KJV)



# JOY in Covenant

by Linda Rowland



As has been mentioned in the article written by David Lamb, *Friend: A Covenant Term*, there are many covenant words within God's word that enhance our understanding of the covenant.

Also contained within King Benjamin's address are various characteristics which may be attributed to those individuals that are keeping the covenant. Those characteristics likewise increase our understanding of the covenant.

Upon careful analysis of the covenant characteristics, one can easily "grade" their obedience to the covenant. Perhaps one characteristic which easily stands out on this barometer of measurement is the characteristic of joy. To the world, it may seem that there is little cause for joy because of the seemingly joyless happenings which are and will continue to occur, yet there are many reasons for joy to be evident in the life of the covenanted believer. The Book of Mormon examples of those experiencing joy, because of the covenant, are enlightening illustrations for us to heed.

Following King Benjamin's first address, the people entered into covenant by verbalizing their surrender (their previous falling to the earth illustrated their physical submission in fear of the Lord) and belief in Jesus Christ. After they voiced their covenant, *the Spirit of the Lord came upon them, and they were filled with joy.* (Mosiah 2:5 RLDS) [Mosiah 4:3 LDS] This reference to joy, in conjunction with the covenant, occurs three other times in King Benjamin's account. (Mosiah 2:19, 35 RLDS) [Mosiah 4:11, 20 LDS]

Another reference of correlating joy with the covenant is noted in the account of Alma at the waters of Mormon. Recognizing the significance of the events which transpired at that fountain of pure water, the people acknowledged their joy at Alma's baptismal suggestion; so witnessing of the covenant they had already made.

Perhaps one of the most pictorial accounts of joy, because of the covenant, occurs in Lehi's vision. As Lehi partook of the fruit that was most sweet, white and desirable to make one happy, he recalls, *And as I partook of the fruit thereof, it filled my soul with exceeding great joy.* (1 Nephi 2:52 RLDS) [1 Nephi 8:12 LDS] When one has entered into the covenant and "tasted" of its sweetness—Lehi's words take on significant meaning. One can also empathize with Lehi's desire for his family to likewise partake of the

fruit. Lehi's desire is no less symbolic of the desire that the Father has for us to partake or taste of the fruit, the covenant, the Messiah.

As one begins to examine these illustrations of joy, a noteworthy parallel emerges. As already stated, Lehi desired that his family partake or taste of the fruit. Partaking or tasting of the fruit implies something has been ingested or simply, has become part of you. When we enter into the covenant, we accept the invitation to come unto Christ—to partake; to become one. Do we not then experience the joy that Nephi refers to? Thus when one has tasted of the love and goodness of Christ, one has partaken of the covenant.

As Lehi's pictorial account visually illustrates this message of joy with partaking of the covenant, the later chiasmic section of Alma's conversion experience, poetically forms a similar picture. Alma writes that from the time of his conversion experience, he labored to bring souls to repentance.

...that I might bring souls unto repentance;  
that I might bring them to taste of the exceeding  
joy of which I did taste; that they might also be  
born of God, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.  
(Alma 17:22 RLDS) [Alma 36:24 LDS]

With these examples, we can again return to King Benjamin's account and gain a greater understanding of key words within a phrase which are couched in a covenant setting. Following their entrance into the covenant, King Benjamin exclaims:

And again I say unto you as I have said  
before, that as ye have come to the knowledge  
of the glory of God, Or if ye have known of his  
goodness, and have tasted of his love, and have  
received a remission of your sins, which causeth  
such exceeding great joy in your souls,  
(Mosiah 2:18-19 RLDS) [Mosiah 4:11 LDS]

"Tasted of his love" is in reference to the covenant. As our knowledge of the covenant increases and we begin to identify and comprehend covenant words and phrases, likewise our joy will increase for we will understand the magnitude of our covenant. Then perhaps we can claim Mormon's words and respond that we too had *tasted, and knew of the goodness of Jesus.* (Mormon 1:16 RLDS) [Mormon 1:15 LDS]

# NAVAJO AND THE BOOK OF MORMON

By Alicia Negaard

And also, that I may remember the promises which I have made unto thee, Nephi, and also unto thy father, that I would remember your seed; and that the words of your seed should proceed forth out of my mouth unto your seed.

(2 Nephi 12:43 RLDS) [2 Nephi 29:2 LDS]

Yea, I say unto you, that in the latter times, the promises of the Lord hath been extended to our brethren, the Lamanites; (Helaman 5:102 RLDS) [Helaman 15:12 LDS]

And he did hide them up unto the Lord, that they might come again unto the remnant of the house of Jacob, according to the prophecies and the promises of the Lord.

(4 Nephi 1:59 RLDS) [4 Nephi 1:49 LDS]

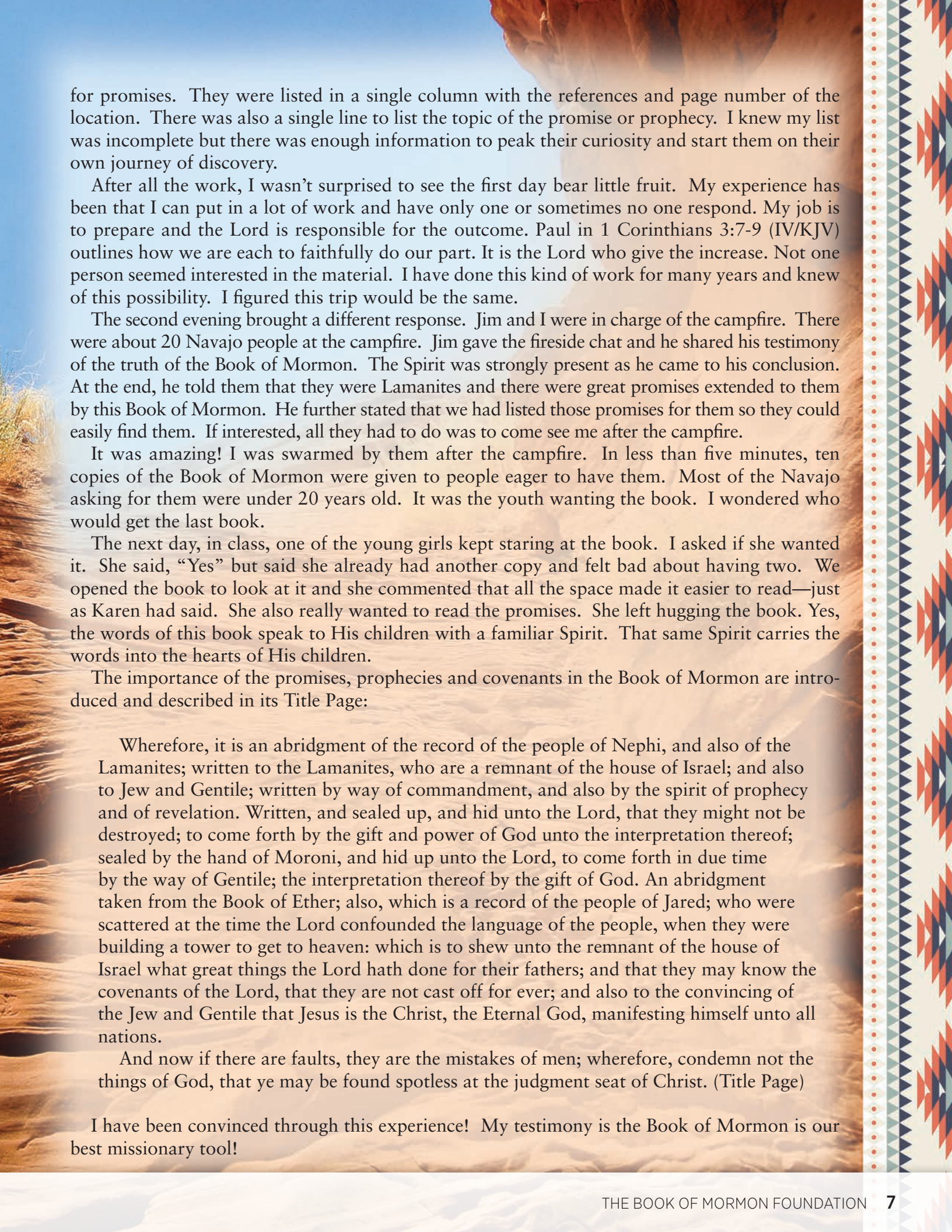
During the summer of 2017, my husband, Jim and I were asked to teach classes to the Navajo children. I have taught these classes before and was excited to be asked again. However, preparing was anything but smooth sailing. It seemed like the more I prayed and tried to prepare the material, the more confused I became about what I should do. The Navajo love crafting, so I try to weave lessons into the crafts. I also tried to think of games, or create new ones, that reinforce the lessons. If they don't listen to the lessons then perhaps they can catch the teaching points in the crafts or games. This approach had worked in the past. The approach didn't seem wrong—the lessons themselves seemed lacking.

The Elder in charge had given us broad themes for guidance, but was not restrictive on how we would present it. We had engaged in much fasting and prayer but specific direction didn't seem to be coming. Even with all this effort, things didn't seem to be clicking. It just wasn't coming together as I had envisioned it. Over time, I knew what I was doing wasn't what the Lord really wanted me to do.

A few weeks before we were to leave, I attended a class taught by a local Elder. He was speaking about how the greatest growth in the church was when the Book of Mormon was used in their witnessing. He insisted our best "conversion" tool was the Book of Mormon. I wondered about it until the next day. When I awoke the next morning, I knew what I was going to do. My class lessons were restructured using Book of Mormon stories and examples rather than the original Bible stories I had planned. Suddenly, things really started humming and I knew this was the right approach.

The lessons, songs and games came together well, but there still seemed to be something lacking. For some reason, I started asking around to see if someone had gone through the Book of Mormon and listed the promises and prophecies to the Lamanites. There was a booklet available on the subject, but I felt it wasn't really what was needed. It was long and detailed. I wanted pages that could be pasted inside a gift Book of Mormon so they could be referenced easily. A subsequent visit to The Book of Mormon Foundation (BMF) led to a recommendation by Karen Bates. Karen is on the BMF research staff and encouraged me to give the hard back Restored Covenant Edition (RCE) Book of Mormon as the gift book to the students. It was close to the price of the smaller books and had a lot of white space around the words, making it easier to read. Also, due to its size and binding, it looked like they would be receiving a valuable edition. I was sold! I purchased 11 copies and brought them home for the trip.

Since I couldn't find an existing resource containing the promises and prophecies needed, the idea kept growing that I should find and assemble them myself. After numerous scripture searches, I finally ended with one page of references for prophecies and one page of references



for promises. They were listed in a single column with the references and page number of the location. There was also a single line to list the topic of the promise or prophecy. I knew my list was incomplete but there was enough information to peak their curiosity and start them on their own journey of discovery.

After all the work, I wasn't surprised to see the first day bear little fruit. My experience has been that I can put in a lot of work and have only one or sometimes no one respond. My job is to prepare and the Lord is responsible for the outcome. Paul in 1 Corinthians 3:7-9 (IV/KJV) outlines how we are each to faithfully do our part. It is the Lord who give the increase. Not one person seemed interested in the material. I have done this kind of work for many years and knew of this possibility. I figured this trip would be the same.

The second evening brought a different response. Jim and I were in charge of the campfire. There were about 20 Navajo people at the campfire. Jim gave the fireside chat and he shared his testimony of the truth of the Book of Mormon. The Spirit was strongly present as he came to his conclusion. At the end, he told them that they were Lamanites and there were great promises extended to them by this Book of Mormon. He further stated that we had listed those promises for them so they could easily find them. If interested, all they had to do was to come see me after the campfire.

It was amazing! I was swarmed by them after the campfire. In less than five minutes, ten copies of the Book of Mormon were given to people eager to have them. Most of the Navajo asking for them were under 20 years old. It was the youth wanting the book. I wondered who would get the last book.

The next day, in class, one of the young girls kept staring at the book. I asked if she wanted it. She said, "Yes" but said she already had another copy and felt bad about having two. We opened the book to look at it and she commented that all the space made it easier to read—just as Karen had said. She also really wanted to read the promises. She left hugging the book. Yes, the words of this book speak to His children with a familiar Spirit. That same Spirit carries the words into the hearts of His children.

The importance of the promises, prophecies and covenants in the Book of Mormon are introduced and described in its Title Page:

Wherefore, it is an abridgment of the record of the people of Nephi, and also of the Lamanites; written to the Lamanites, who are a remnant of the house of Israel; and also to Jew and Gentile; written by way of commandment, and also by the spirit of prophecy and of revelation. Written, and sealed up, and hid unto the Lord, that they might not be destroyed; to come forth by the gift and power of God unto the interpretation thereof; sealed by the hand of Moroni, and hid up unto the Lord, to come forth in due time by the way of Gentile; the interpretation thereof by the gift of God. An abridgment taken from the Book of Ether; also, which is a record of the people of Jared; who were scattered at the time the Lord confounded the language of the people, when they were building a tower to get to heaven: which is to shew unto the remnant of the house of Israel what great things the Lord hath done for their fathers; and that they may know the covenants of the Lord, that they are not cast off for ever; and also to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God, manifesting himself unto all nations.

And now if there are faults, they are the mistakes of men; wherefore, condemn not the things of God, that ye may be found spotless at the judgment seat of Christ. (Title Page)

I have been convinced through this experience! My testimony is the Book of Mormon is our best missionary tool!

# 2017 Intern Testimonies

*Take the Gospel to the world*

## Brianna Cappo

I have always struggled reading the Scriptures. At church and classes, I would be asked to read a verse and then say a summary of what I had just read, but I would never know what to say. I had problems understanding and remembering major stories in the Book of Mormon and Bible. When I applied for the



Internship, I received a letter saying I needed to have the entire Book of Mormon read and thoroughly studied. My thoughts were everywhere, trying to figure out how I was going to read something I didn't understand. Not only did I have to read something I didn't understand, I had to read it in just a few short months! I started to read it with my dad a few chapters at a time, and I would ask him questions along the way. With the pace I was reading, there would be no way I could finish in time. I started panicking, and I started reading the Book of Mormon by myself, even though I did not understand what I was reading. After a couple of weeks trying to get through 1 Nephi and 2 Nephi, I finally decided to ask God for help. I asked God to help me understand the words He has given to us and to help me remember what I was reading. When I got to the book of Jacob, I started to understand everything I was reading! It was amazing! I was in such awe that I couldn't stop reading! I ended up finishing the Book of Mormon in about a month, because the words I was reading were so powerful to me! The Internship has taught me so much about the Book of Mormon—how I should live my life for God, and how to be a better person in God's and others' eyes.



The building up of Zion is a cause that has interested the people of God in every age, it is a theme upon which prophets, priests, and kings have dwelt with peculiar delight; they have looked forward with joyful anticipation to the day in which we lived; and fired with heavenly and joyful anticipations they have sung, and wrote, and prophesied of this our day;—but they died without the sight; we are the favored people that God has made choice of to bring about the Latter Day glory, it is left for us to see, participate in, and help to roll forward the Latter Day glory. ”

Times & Seasons Vol 3:776



And blessed are the Gentiles, because of their belief in me, in and of the Holy Ghost, which witness unto them of me and of the Father. Behold, because of their belief in me, saith the Father, and because of the unbelief of you, O house of Israel, in the latter day shall the truth come unto the Gentiles, that the fullness of these things shall be made known unto them. ”

3 Nephi 7:30-31





“  
But the book shall be delivered unto a man, and he shall deliver the words of the book, which are the words of those who have slumbered in the dust; and he shall deliver these words unto another; but the words which are sealed, he shall not deliver, neither shall he deliver the book. For the book shall be sealed by the power of God, and the revelation which was sealed, shall be kept in the book until the own due time of the Lord, that they may come forth: for, behold, they reveal all things from the foundation of the world unto the end thereof. And the day cometh that the words of the book which were sealed, shall be read upon the housetops; and they shall be read by the power of Christ; And all things shall be revealed unto the children of men which ever have been among the children of men, and which ever will be, even unto the end of the earth.”

2 Nephi 11:129-132

“  
Wherefore, it is an abridgment of the record of the people of Nephi, and also of the Lamanites; written to the Lamanites, who are a remnant of the house of Israel; and also to Jew and Gentile; written by way of commandment, and also by the spirit of prophecy and of revelation.”

Title Page 1:1

## Caitlin Dillon | *Testimony on the New River*

The main reason I wanted to do the Internship was so I could receive a personal testimony of Jesus Christ and of the Book of Mormon. During the Internship, I received dozens of wonderful blessings, but during our trip to Belize I found myself not satisfied with the testimonies I had received thus far. I prayed God would give me a testimony I could not deny and one that was personal to me. On the last full day of our trip, we toured the Mayan ruins of Lamanai and took an hour-long boat ride on the New River to get there. The boat ride was absolutely beautiful; the sky was a brilliant blue, the trees were a cheerful green, and the water that splashed up from the boat was refreshing after being in the heat for the whole trip. The motor of the boat was loud, so we all sat mostly in silence for a lot of the trip. I spent the ride in meditation and prayer, thanking God for the beauty I was seeing. I then noticed that if I concentrated hard enough, I could see the reflection of the sky in the river, like it was a shimmering mirror of the picture from above. I was absolutely mesmerized by this picture, and I couldn't look away. I soon noticed that I could see pictures in the clouds in the water, and I kept seeing the same unfamiliar face with an abnormally large nose and smaller forehead. I saw this face dozens of times in every cloud I looked at, and I didn't understand what God was trying to show me since I didn't recognize the face. I started to pray that God would show me a cross in the water, and that would be my personal testimony of him. I repeated this prayer for 30 minutes, searching the water for the cross I was confident He would show me. Finally, the giant cloud that was covering the sun parted to reveal a tiny circle of blue sky surrounding the sun, letting it shine through. In the water, the reflection of the sun rays created a beautiful, shimmering cross. I was beyond excited that God answered my prayer, yet I couldn't stop wondering about the face I had seen.



Later, during our tour of Lamanai, we visited a museum talking about the Mayans, which we believe are the people from the Book of Mormon. While looking at the Mayans' stonework, I realized the face I had seen was the Mayan face that is commonly shown carved in stone. When I saw the picture of the Mayan face, I immediately knew God showed me the face in the clouds to be a confirmation that the



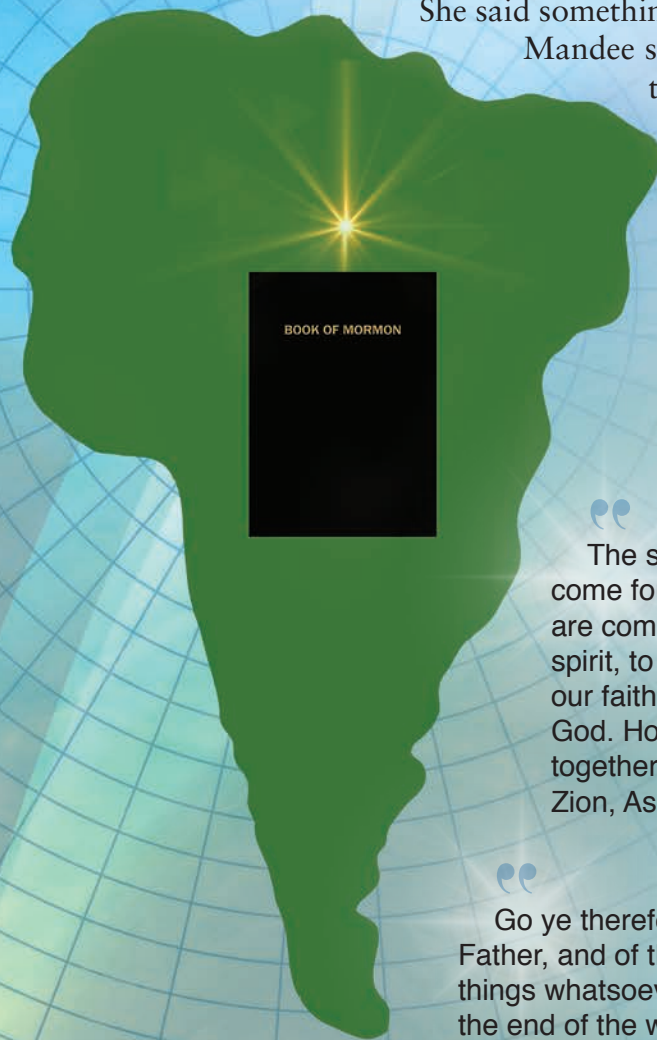
Mayans truly were the people from the Book of Mormon, and that the Book of Mormon is true. From all the wonderful things I got from this Internship, my personal testimony is the most precious thing I received, and I am extremely grateful I had the opportunity to be a part of this Internship.

## Jared Ellis

Faith, those five little letters can mean so much when they remind me that I need to trust in God. My testimony started when we were helping paint the college down in Belize. I felt as if I were being eaten alive by mosquitoes! All day long, I worried that I was going to get malaria from being bitten. I had not been able to get anti-malarial medication before I left the United States. I was taking vitamin A and garlic, but knew that wouldn't be enough. The worry continued until, at lunch, I expressed my concern to Mande.

She said something that set a spark in me, and I realized what I should be doing.

Mande said, "Why do you think we ask for God's protection; for Him to be there with us? God wants us to have faith that He will protect us wherever we go." When she said those words, I realized I had not put my trust in God for protection. I said a prayer, asking God to protect me and everyone else from any diseases. God blessed us with no problems or illness. Just like Alma reminded his son Shiblon in Alma 18:5 (RLDS) [Alma 38:5 LDS], *...remember that as much as ye shall put your trust in God, even so much as ye shall be delivered out of your trials, and your troubles, and your afflictions; I learned to trust God with faith rather than worry.*



The spirit of God like a fire is burning; The latter day Glory begins to come forth. The visions and blessings of old are returning, the angels are coming to visit the earth. We'll call in our solemn assemblies in spirit, to spread forth the kingdom of heaven abroad, that we through our faith may begin to inherit the visions and blessings and glories of God. How blessed be the day when the lamb and the lion, shall lie down together without any ire; and Ephraim be crowned with his blessings in Zion, As Jesus descends with his chariots of fire. ” The Spirit of God



Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, unto the end of the world. ”

Matthew 28:18-19

“ And it came to pass that there were many that did believe in their words: and as many as did believe, were baptized; and they became a righteous people, and they did establish a church among them; And thus the work of the Lord did commence among the Lamanites; thus the Lord did begin to pour out his Spirit upon them; And we see that his arm is extended to all people who will repent and believe on his name. ”

Alma 12:178-180

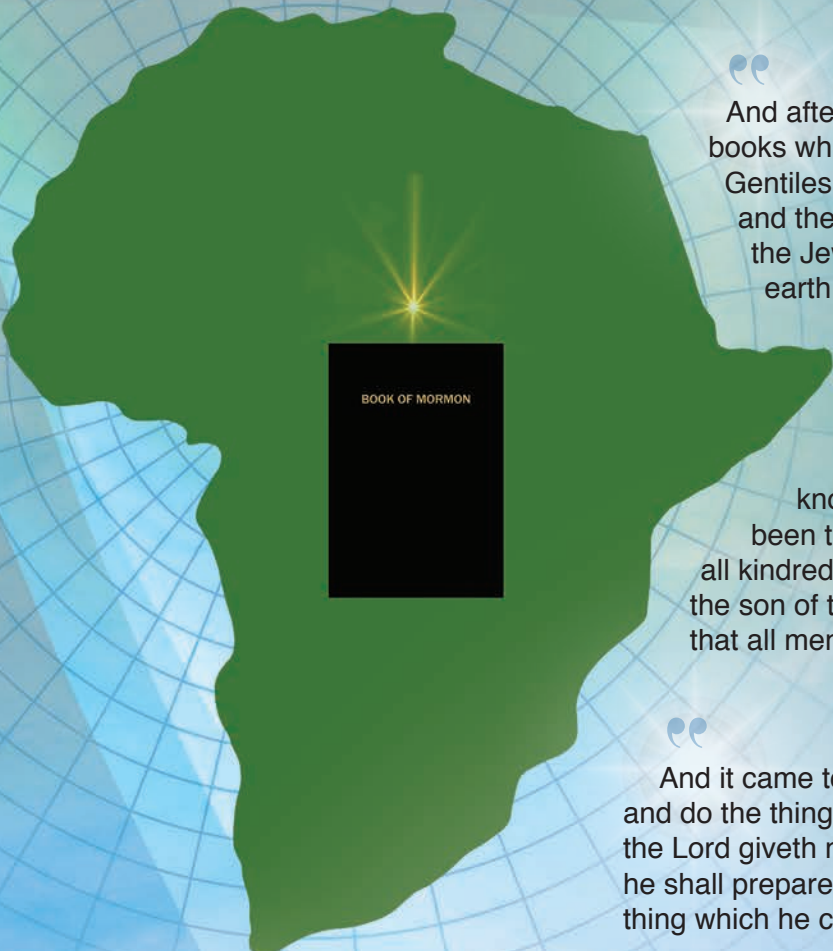
“ And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost; And if they endure unto the end, they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb; And whoso shall publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be. And it came to pass that I beheld the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the book of the Lamb of God, which had proceeded forth from the mouth of the Jew, that it came forth from the Gentiles, unto the remnant of the seed of my brethren; ”

1 Nephi 3:187-190

## Brandon Groseth

In January, Jared Rowlett and I attended the Book of Mormon weekend retreat. While we were there, we learned more about the Internship and, on our way home, we talked about whether we wanted to apply for the internship. We both expressed that we had always wanted to do a mission trip, and this would be a great experience. We decided we would apply and worry about what we would do about the rest later. When I began to think about it, I told myself there was no way my boss would give me six weeks off, so I decided I wouldn't tell him about it. When time came, I would just quit my job to do the Internship. As I finished filling out the application, I read the part that you need two letters of recommendation and that one needed to be from a work supervisor. I thought to myself, "Great, now I have to tell my boss about this and let him know it would require me to be gone for six weeks during the summer." So my plan was now not going to work. The days were winding down for the application due date, so I had to step up and ask my boss. One day, we were on break and I asked my boss if he would write a recommendation letter for me. He said no problem, so that obstacle was out of the way. Now I had to tell him more about it. I let him know that if I was accepted, it would require me to be gone for six weeks. Without blinking an eye, he just shrugged his shoulders and said, "That's fine, do what you got to do—we can handle it without you." That was a confirmation to me that I was doing the right thing by being in the Internship. It also taught me not to worry—God's plan is always greater than ours and, if it's His will, then He will open the right doors and take care of everything.





“

And after it had come forth unto them, I beheld other books which came forth by the power of the Lamb, from the Gentiles unto them, unto the convincing of the Gentiles, and the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the Jews, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth, that the records of the prophets and of the twelve apostles of the Lamb are true. And the angel spake unto me, saying, These last records which thou hast seen among the Gentiles shall establish the truth of the first, which are of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, and shall make known the plain and precious things which have been taken away from them; And shall make known to all kindreds, tongues and people, that the Lamb of God is the son of the Eternal Father, and the Savior of the world; and that all men must come unto him or they can not be saved;”

1 Nephi 3:191-193

“

And it came to pass that I, Nephi, said unto my father, I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them.”

1 Nephi 1:65

### Jamie Lang

Imagine a red, white and blue flag, encompassed by the brilliance of red, representing those who are a significant reason why we are a land of liberty and freedom. Imagine a country where people are not free, where they hunger and thirst for liberty and freedom. Imagine the scriptures and a people promised an everlasting covenant by the Creator of the universe. Imagine people who are still hungry for the more plain and precious truths; that even though their ancestors fell away from God, their promise remains true, as our God is everlasting, and Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior. Beloved, this is what we hold in our hands, the gospel.

As an intern these last few weeks, I searched the scriptures and feasted upon His words, as we are called to do. In them, I found truth. I found the everlasting covenant of the restored covenant; a message of hope to the remnant of the House of Israel and those who hunger and thirst.

In Belize, the Lord placed a man within my midst named Gomez. He told me, in Spanish, that I was a hard worker, and we struck up a conversation, as he desired to know why we were there. "You know Jesus was in Jerusalem, correct?" I asked. "Yes, I do," Gomez replied. "Well, when destruction was occurring in Jerusalem, He preserved His people, your people, and led them to the Land of Promise to preserve them, which is believed be this land. After His resurrection, He returned to His covenant people to remind them that they were never forgotten. The love He has for them has never ceased, and they are a remnant of the House of Israel." Gomez, with a smile upon His face, replied "Wow, that is beautiful." If only we could all truly see the gospel through Gomez' eyes. The beautiful gospel has been placed in our midst by a remnant of the House of Israel that testifies the truth of Jesus





Christ and meticulously agrees with the Bible. May we seek the Creator upon high, seek the scriptures diligently and share with the world that is more hungry than ever before!

## Jared Rowlett | My Opened Door

At my current job, I work over 70 hours each week loading trucks full with pallets of groceries that are then delivered to hometown grocery stores across the United States. I also help supervisors with specific tasks they normally perform, but are unable to do at the time. Knowing how to do many

of the tasks that a supervisor does makes me an important member of our team. Getting time off is very hard to do at my job, and even asking for a weekend off is a high order.

The Lord granted me the opportunity to go to the Book of Mormon retreat held at the Odessa campgrounds in January this year. There, I learned about the Book of Mormon Internship and was very interested in applying and being involved in it. After being interviewed, I got a call later in the week saying I was accepted into the Internship! I was so overjoyed, but then I realized I would have to ask my boss for six weeks off in the middle of the busiest time of the year. I knew it was time to take it to the Lord in prayer.

I prayed for a couple of weeks before I brought it up to him. As I was talking to him, he was astonished that I wanted six weeks off work. He said that was something they don't normally allow, and so I mentioned to him if I couldn't get the time off I would just have to quit. He knew I was serious about it, so he took it to some of the other supervisors to discuss. A couple weeks passed by, and he came to me saying they would allow me to go and come back to my job with open arms. I was so happy and knew God had paved the path for me to be involved in the Internship!

God is so good and, through this Internship I have learned so much about the Book of Mormon, my faith, prayer life, and how to witness to others. This has been the most influential six weeks of my entire life!



And again I say unto you, Ye must repent, and be baptized in my name, and become as a little child, or ye can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God. Verily, verily I say unto you, that this is my doctrine; and whoso buildeth upon this, buildeth upon my rock; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against them. And whoso shall declare more or less than this, and establish it for my doctrine, the same cometh of evil, and is not built upon my rock, but he buildeth upon a sandy foundation, and the gates of hell standeth open to receive such, when the floods come, and the winds beat upon them. Therefore go forth unto this people, and declare the words which I have spoken, unto the ends of the earth. ”

3 Nephi 5:40-43



Go ye, go ye into the world, and preach the gospel to every creature that cometh under the sound of your voice... wherefore go ye and preach my gospel, whether to the north, or to the south; to the east, or to the west, it mattereth not, for ye cannot go amiss therefore declare the things which ye have heard and verily believe, and know to be true. ”

D&C 79:1b-d





“ And I would, my brethren, that ye should know that all the kindreds of the earth can not be blessed unless he shall make bare his arm in the eyes of the nations. Wherefore, the Lord God will proceed to make bare his arm in the eyes of all the nations, in bringing about his covenants and his gospel, unto those who are of the house of Israel. Wherefore, he will bring them again out of captivity, and they shall be gathered together to the lands of their inheritance; And they shall be brought out of obscurity, and out of darkness; And they shall know that the Lord is their Savior and their Redeemer, the mighty one of Israel. ” 1 Nephi 7:21-25

“ We are walking down time's vista; We are very near the end; Let us pray that God, the Father, Will his guiding Spirit send. Now the foe becomes more daring, Knowing well the latter day; 'Tis the strength of his despairing; For each other let us pray.

It is waning on t'ward midnight; Soon we'll hear the watchman say, "See, the Son of God is coming; Go and meet him on the way!" That our lamps may then be burning Bright enough to guide our way. And that we may share his glory, For each other let us pray. ” Let us Pray for One Another, 2nd and 4thVerse.

## Ellie Williams

After receiving a testimony about my decision to apply for the Book of Mormon Foundation Internship, I began to worry about the fact that I would not be bringing in any money this summer. This wasn't something I wanted to worry about but, as a college student, it's pretty important. I made it a matter of prayer, but I still worried. In April, I filed my taxes and figured I should get a small refund. It wouldn't be enough to really help with anything, but I sent it in anyway and soon forgot about it. A couple of months later, I got a check in the mail. It was my tax refund, and it was over twice the amount I expected it to be. This was a huge blessing from God, and a confirmation that I should be in the Internship, but I still worried.

For the past four years, I have worked as a little league soccer and basketball referee, but I hardly ever worked in the summer. Usually, all of the older refs would be home from college and get first choice. I was fully expecting not to





work, but my boss began texting me and asking me to work. At first, I was kind of annoyed that I actually had to work, but I realized this was God answering my prayers again. This was another confirmation that God wanted me to be in the Internship. During the last week of the Internship, I received a card in the mail. I opened it, and it was a graduation card and check from some family members who lived far away. They explained how they had been meaning to mail it for a year now, but had just gotten around to doing it. How perfect is God's timing? This time, I was much quicker to recognize God's hand in my life. I know I need to always trust in Him; He knows where you need to be, and He will always provide.

The Internship has given me so much—testimonies, good friends and faith. Lynn and Sugar asked us to think about why the Internship was such a great experience, and what reasons we would have for continuing the program. These past six weeks, I have realized the importance of my friends in this faith. We have grown so close over our short time together. You don't have friends like these at college. I know I can always count on my friends in the Internship for prayers and support, and they can count on me. I am so thankful to God for bringing this group of people together, and I know that in them I have lifelong friends.

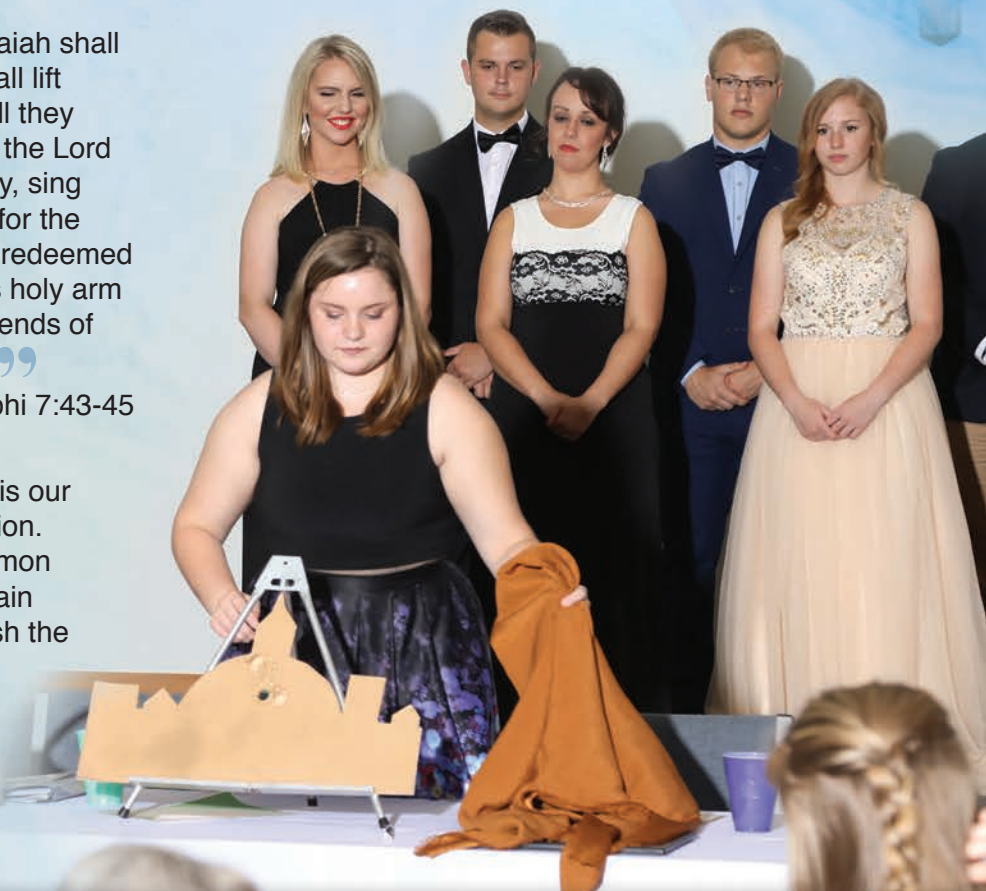


And when the words of the prophet Isaiah shall be fulfilled, which say, Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing, for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion. Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of God. ”

3 Nephi 7:43-45



As members of the restored church it is our duty to press toward the building up of Zion. The covenants found in the Book of Mormon are key to this calling, and without the plain and precious truths we will fail to establish the cause. We need to be the sowers of the seed, and take the Gospel to each and every nation, and then we will start to see the Kingdom here on the earth, and we can assist the house of Israel in the building up of Zion. ”



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## STUDENTS VISIT BMF

On Friday, April 21st, Mrs. Miller's fourth grade class from Center Place Restoration School dropped by the Foundation office, after spending the morning at Truman Library. The ten students, Mrs. Miller and a couple of parents were given a tour of the building, where they saw original paintings that made up the first edition of the Book of Mormon Overview. They learned that, before computers, books were made by overlaying the words onto photographs of paintings or other artwork. They thought that was a very difficult way to make books!

The visitors also viewed original paintings by J. Robert Farley. A favorite was the painting of Lehi and Sariah finding the Liahona outside their tent. They heard the experience of Mr. Farley when he painted the Liahona and learned how he saved that part of the painting until last. As he began painting, he was given insights as to how the Liahona should look. (See <http://www.bomf.org/the-witness.html> or *The Witness*, issue 146, page 14, for complete testimony)

In the library, the artifacts from both the Olmec and Maya cultures were observed. The oil lamps, candle holders and obsidian blades were favorites with this group. Replicas of the Liahona and gold plates were examined, too. The copy of Laban's sword was viewed, but not touched, much to the dismay of the boys!

These replicas started interesting conversations about the coming forth of the Book of Mormon and favorite stories within.

After an hour, the class headed to Clinton's Soda Fountain on the Independence Square for some ice cream before heading back to school. These visits are an uplifting part of the week for the office staff.

*First Row: Seth Newel, Jake Kennemore, Caylyn Schrunk, Abby Sinclair*

*Second Row: Rylie Kroesen, Ryan Hale, William Bauman, Jeremiah Wilson, Joy Lassen, Isabelle Howen*

