
THE

WITNESS

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*Now this is my joy
and my great thanksgiving!
Yea, and I will give
thanks unto my
God forever.*

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Alma 14:128

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From the Board



We live in hastening times that call the saints to work together more fully than ever before. In response to that challenge, The Book of Mormon Foundation (BMF), Quetzal Archaeology Center for Mesoamerican Research (Quetzal) and Zarahemla Research Foundation (ZRF) merged in 2015. We felt the promptings of God's Spirit to move forward in uniting our efforts. Our goal was to combine strengths and resources in declaring the Book of Mormon to the world. This journey of faith has brought forth good fruit and demonstrated how the power of God always provides a way to accomplish His will.

One of the ministries coming from the merger was our acceptance of stewardship for publication and distribution of the Restored Covenant Edition (RCE) of the Book of Mormon. It has blessed thousands of people and been carried by missionaries into foreign lands.

We are now facing a need to reprint the next edition of the RCE. Our inventory of the paperback and hardback versions have been depleted and requires us to move forward quickly. We want to extend the opportunity for our supporters to participate with us financially. Our goal is to print 10,000 paperback copies at a minimum estimate of \$100,000.

Prophetic events are moving forward quickly and in many ways, one of which is the literal gathering of Israel. Printing the RCE helps ensure copies of the Book of Mormon will be available for the saints, missionary work and those who will be gathering to Zion from the nations of the earth.

We invite our supporters to contribute for this reprinting. Please consider offering financial assistance by using the envelope in The Witness. We're excited to move into the future proclaiming the message of the Book of Mormon. We believe there are great things waiting in the journey ahead and invite all Book of Mormon believers to join us. Thank you for your support and prayers.

What Plain and Precious Things?

by Marlin Guin

Nephi records one of the great prophetic chapters in the Book of Mormon, 1 Nephi 3. It's a chronological sequence of events revealed to him in a vision and contains 13 prophetic scenes. Each of the scenes begins with some version of these words: The angel said **look and I looked and beheld**. Each time a scene begins is like a curtain being drawn back, and Nephi's eyes are opened so he can see and understand the things of God. This is very much like Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon experienced and recorded in D&C 76.

... by the power of the Spirit **our eyes were opened, and our understandings were enlightened, so as to see and understand the things of God;** (D&C 76:3a) (emphasis added)

As an example, scene #11 opens with these words:

And it came to pass that the angel spake unto me, saying, **Look! And I looked and beheld** many nations and kingdoms. (1Nephi 3:135) (emphasis added)

In this scene, a very important prophecy is opened up to Nephi concerning the plain and precious things taken away from the gospel of the Lamb by the great and abominable church. Along with its prophetic importance is its historical accuracy, as we see how the sequence of events and timeline reflects our world history.

Nephi sees a book coming from the "mouth of a Jew" containing the plainness of the gospel of the Lord. It's validated by the testimony of the Apostles and goes forth in purity to the Gentiles following the death and resurrection of Christ. Historically, this occurred in the first century A.D. Have you ever wondered why the "mouth of a Jew" is singular when our current Bible is written by many authors? This "mouth of a Jew" book is the scriptural record that goes from the Apostles to the Gentiles in which there are no known original copies today. Or is there? Time will have to answer that question. Nephi sees the formation of a great and abominable church which is most abominable above all other churches and whose founder is the devil.

And it came to pass that he said unto me, **Look and behold** that great and abominable church, which is the mother of abominations, whose founder is the devil. (1 Nephi 3:219) (emphasis added)

He sees how the book from the "mouth of a Jew" goes through the hands of the great and abominable church, suggesting it had possession of the record. He describes how that church takes away parts of the gospel of the Lamb as it changes the book from the "mouth of a Jew" into another version of the book. This altered book is the basis for some versions of the Bible still used today.

Look! And I looked and beheld.

This is the altered book carried to all the nations of the Gentiles, which happens centuries later than the time of the Apostles. Historically, this is about the same period in world history that early explorers, like Columbus, traveled the earth. These explorers were soon followed by other Gentiles, like the Puritans, seeking religious freedom and opportunity elsewhere in the world. It was these Gentiles who carried this altered book with them to the nations of the Gentiles.

Nephi sees the reason for this prophecy being given. He saw the evil aspirations of the great and abominable church. Its purpose was to alter the inspired record in order to blind, confuse and throw stumbling blocks in the way of those seeking a clear understanding of the true plan of salvation. We all know this is how the adversary seeks to destroy, through all manner of lying and deception. He is the father of lies. We read the scriptural account:

And the angel of the Lord said unto me, Thou hast beheld that the book proceeded forth from the mouth of a Jew; and when it proceeded forth from the mouth of a Jew it contained the plainness of the gospel of the Lord, of whom the twelve apostles bear record; and they bear record according to the truth which is in the Lamb of God: Wherefore, these things go forth from the Jews in purity unto the Gentiles, according to the truth which is in God: And after they go forth by the hand of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, from the Jews unto the Gentiles, thou seest the foundation of a great and abominable church, which is most abominable above all other churches; For behold, they have taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are plain and most precious; And also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away; And **all this have they done that they might pervert the right ways of the Lord; that they might blind the eyes and harden the hearts of the children of men:** Wherefore, thou seest that after the book hath gone forth through the hands of the great and abominable church that there are **many plain and precious things taken away from the book**, which is the book of the Lamb of God; And after these plain and precious things were taken away, it goeth forth unto all the nations of the Gentiles: And after it goeth forth unto all the nations of the Gentiles, yea, even across the many waters which thou hast seen, with the Gentiles which have gone forth out of captivity; Thou seest because of the many plain and precious things which have been taken out of the book, which were plain unto the understanding of the children of men, according to the plainness which is in the Lamb of God; **Because of these things which are taken away out of the gospel of the Lamb, an exceeding great many do stumble**, yea, insomuch that Satan hath great power over them; (1 Nephi 3:165-175) (emphasis added)

Have you ever wondered what plain and precious things were taken away from the book proceeding forth from the “mouth of a Jew?” What covenants were taken away? What other things were taken away? Sometimes, when studying this prophecy, the focus is on trying to identify the great and abominable church rather than identifying the plain and precious things taken away. These precious things were later restored by the gift and power of God.

Understanding the context of this prophecy brings us to an interesting question and the focus of this article. If someone wanted to create the most effective stumbling blocks to salvation, what would they hold back from the scriptures? Since we have been blessed with the Book of Mormon, we can find scriptures to help answer that question.

There are many stumbling blocks, but let’s specifically look at one that has been very effective. It is the intentional changing of scripture surrounding the gate we must enter to stand on the path to eternal life. It’s no surprise! It’s one of the gospel principles most fiercely attacked by the adversary because of its spiritual connection to all the other principles of the gospel.

When we study the Book of Mormon, there is a simple truth that penetrates us with great spiritual power. If we are not baptized, then the promised blessings coming from the baptismal covenant remain separated from us, and the journey of life looks much different than God intended. Nephi describes it this way:

For **the gate** by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism by water: and then cometh a remission of your sins by fire, and by the Holy Ghost. And then are ye in this **strait and narrow path** which leads to eternal life; yea, ye **have entered in by the gate**; ye have done **according to the commandments** of the Father and the Son; And ye **have received the Holy Ghost**, which witnesses of the Father and the Son, unto the **fulfilling of the promise** which he hath made, that if ye enter in by the way, ye **should receive**.
(2 Nephi 13:24-26) (emphasis added)



I recommend reading the entire chapter of 2 Nephi 13. It explains how our journey to the tree of life can't continue in accordance to God's plan, without first entering the gate. Unfortunately, it's no accident the adversary chose to intensely attack the clear understanding of the gate. He knows the critical meaning of the gate in God's plan.

Now that we have identified this particular stumbling block, let's consider these questions more specifically. How was the clear understanding of baptism held back by changing the original book coming from the "mouth of a Jew?" How did the Bible end up with such descriptions, explanations and omissions for such a profoundly important subject? How are the eyes of people today

blinded to baptism as a required principle of the gospel? Why are the prayers we are commanded to use for baptism and the sacrament removed from the Bible? There are many possible answers to study, but here are a few to consider for this article.

Baptism

The scriptures were taken away or changed so baptism would not be seen as a commandment, but rather as optional or even unnecessary in the plan of salvation.

- Today, the need for baptism, as part of the plan of salvation, is a serious point of contention and division in Christianity. Some consider it symbolic or optional.
- The Book of Mormon teaches:
Now this is **the commandment**, Repent, all ye ends of the earth, and **come unto me and be baptized in my name**, that ye may be sanctified by the reception of the Holy Ghost, that ye may stand spotless before me at the last day. (3 Nephi 12:33) (emphasis added)

Baptism of Jesus

The scriptures were taken away or changed so the baptism of Jesus is described more as just another event rather than a gospel example of our Savior who said, "Follow Me."

- Today, some believe the baptism of Jesus carries no scriptural importance in relation to the plan of salvation. It was just something He did in life or another Bible story.
- The Book of Mormon teaches:
And he spake also concerning a prophet (John the Baptist), who should come before the Messiah, to prepare the way of the Lord; And my father said he should baptize in Bethabara, beyond Jordan; and he also said he should baptize with water; even that he should baptize the Messiah with water. And after he had **baptized the Messiah** with water, he should behold and **bear record that he had baptized the Lamb of God, who should take away the sins of the world.** (1 Nephi 3:7-12) (emphasis added)

...wherefore, **follow me**, and **do the things which ye have seen me do.**
(3 Nephi 13:15) (emphasis added)



Manner of Baptism

The scriptures were taken away or changed, so the manner of baptism was not clearly explained as a commandment of Jesus.

- Today, various forms of baptism are used, such as sprinkling, washing and immersion. Sometimes there is no mention of faith and repentance or preparation before being baptized.
- The Book of Mormon teaches:
And he said unto them, **On this wise shall ye baptize**; and there shall be **no disputations** among you. Verily I say unto you, that whoso repenteth of his sins through your words, and desireth to be baptized in my name, on this wise shall ye baptize them: Behold, ye shall go down and stand in the water, and in my name shall ye baptize them. **And now behold, these are the words which ye shall say, calling them by name, saying: Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. And then shall ye immerse them in the water, and come forth again out of the water. And after this manner shall ye baptize in my name.** (3 Nephi 5:23-27) (emphasis added)

Priesthood Authority

The scriptures were taken away or changed so the authority from God needed to baptize was not clearly understood. Many do not make the spiritual connection between the baptism of Jesus and the authority of John the Baptist. Why John? Jesus specifically went into the wilderness and sought out John the Baptist because John had authority from God.

- Today, many ways to claim authority are used. For example, the authority of all believers allows anyone to have authority based on personal beliefs and convictions. Others may choose to attend a seminary or similar school to receive official certification as clergy. Some can simply fill out forms online. The scriptures that were taken away or changed have clouded the understanding of authority for many in Christianity. It's more than a personal choice, title, certification or self-declaration. It has always been and will always be the power given from God to baptize, bestowed upon the one who is called of God, as was Aaron.
- The Book of Mormon teaches:
And it came to pass that he spake unto Nephi, (for Nephi was among the multitude,) and he commanded him that he should come forth. And the Lord said unto him, **I give unto you power that ye shall baptize this people**, when I am again ascended into heaven. And again the Lord called others, and said unto them likewise; and he gave unto them **power to baptize**.
(3 Nephi 5:18, 21-22) (emphasis added)

Baptismal Covenant

The scriptures were taken away or changed so there is little or no direct reference to the baptismal covenant and its importance in the plan of salvation. It doesn't seem to be a subject widely discussed in Christianity today.

- Today, entering into a personal covenant with God, through baptism, is often replaced with other life responses such as “once saved, always saved,” “prosperity gospel” and “eat, drink and be merry” theology.
- The Book of Mormon teaches:
And when he had said these words, the Spirit of the Lord was upon him, and he said, Helam, **I baptize thee, having authority from the Almighty God**, as a testimony that ye have **entered into a covenant to serve him until you are dead**, as to the mortal body; and may the Spirit of the Lord be poured out upon you; and may he grant unto you eternal life, through the redemption of Christ, whom he has prepared from the foundation of the world.
(Mosiah 9:44) (emphasis added)

Prayer for Baptism

The scriptures were taken away or changed to remove the baptismal prayer and the exact wording to be used.

- Today, all manner of words are used, or there is no baptismal prayer at all.
- The Book of Mormon teaches:
And now behold, **these are the words which ye shall say**, calling them by name, saying: Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.
(3 Nephi 5:25) (emphasis added)



Sacrament Prayers

The scriptures were taken away or changed to remove the sacrament prayers supporting the baptismal covenant.

- Today, sacrament prayers have different wording or are not used at all.
- The Book of Mormon teaches:

The **manner of their elders and priests administering the flesh and blood of Christ unto the church: And they administered it according to the commandments of Christ**; wherefore we know the manner to be true, and the elder or priest administered it: And they did kneel down with the church and prayed to the Father in the name of Christ, saying, O God, the eternal Father, we ask thee in the name of thy Son Jesus Christ, to bless and sanctify this bread to the souls of all those who partake of it, that they may eat in remembrance of the body of thy Son, and witness unto thee, O God the eternal Father, that they are willing to take upon them the name of thy Son, and always remember him, and keep his commandments which he has given them, that they may always have his Spirit to be with them. Amen. (Moroni 4:1-4) (emphasis added)

The **manner of administering the wine**. Behold, they took the cup, and said, O God, the eternal Father, we ask thee, in the name of thy Son Jesus Christ, to bless and sanctify this wine to the souls of all those who drink of it, that they may do it in remembrance of the blood of thy Son which was shed for them, that they may witness unto thee, O God, the eternal Father, that they do always remember him, that they may have his Spirit to be with them. Amen. (Moroni 5:1-3) (emphasis added)

Conclusion

We can easily see how these stumbling blocks are so effective, even among those with the best intentions. According to the previously mentioned prophecy from 1 Nephi 3, these stumbling blocks were made possible simply by holding back or changing scriptures in the biblical record coming through the centuries. Today, because of this lack of clarity and understanding on important gospel subjects, the “precepts of men” have been allowed to creep in to blind, confuse and misdirect.

God is never caught unaware! He wants to save all who will hearken unto His voice. As always, He provides answers and solutions to overcome everything thrown in the way to salvation. One of these is the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. It is a book divinely restored to provide clear explanations of the plain and simple gospel of Jesus Christ.

Book of Mormon believers get it! We have all been touched in a powerful way with the simple and beautiful scriptures in the Book of Mormon. Therefore, this solution makes perfect sense to those who believe the Book of Mormon is the word of God. For those who do not yet believe. I offer this invitation. He will answer!

And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; And if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost; and by the power of the Holy Ghost, ye may know the truth of all things. (Moroni 10:4-5)





*Karla Stump, Aaron Padilla, Lauren Owens, Daisy Hasselman,
Hannah Edwards, Josh Sperry, Andrea Padilla, Isabel Jordison*



Hannah Edwards

After I had been accepted into this year's Internship, I looked forward to finding out who else would be in the program, because I was friends with several of last year's interns. I got a letter with some information about the Internship, and it listed the names of my fellow interns. I was surprised to discover that I only vaguely knew two of the interns, and I had only met the staff a handful of times.

On the first day of the Internship, we met at Lynn and Sugar Baumgart's for a mixer. As we went around the room introducing ourselves, I realized we had interns from across the country and even the world! I wondered how we would ever become a cohesive group. Surely, we had so many differing opinions and life experiences that this would never work out.

As we dove into classes, prayer, and worship over the next few days, we became aware of a prayer request for one of the interns. We all prayed together for her many times, and we prayed individually as well. During our first fasting service of the Internship, we all fasted for her, too. I think fasting and praying for the same cause—and one of our own interns—helped fuse us together.

Lynn kept telling us to just wait for the day we would go to the Tucker Institute. He said that we would arrive as a group and leave as a team. He was right! We learned to listen to each other's needs, help each other out and work together to complete projects that would have been impossible on our own. I really saw the team growing together.

I think my favorite thing so far, though, has been the service project we did just a few days ago. We went to a home in Buckner, Missouri, that had been trashed by previous owners and helped the new owners clean up some outbuildings. It was hard work, but we were able to fill an entire dumpster full in just one day. It was a cool experience, because some former interns came out to help us as well. I found that we had a special bond, even though we were in the Internship at different times. We all worked together and helped each other. As I reflected on our experience, I thought, "This is what building Zion looks like." We must be ready to help our brothers and sisters with whatever they stand in need of.

As I think of my fellow interns now, I do not think of the differences we all have. I think of the experiences we have shared together in just the last few weeks—the classes, learning, fasting, praying and all the fun we have had, too. I am so glad God brought us each here to the Internship this year. He always knows what He is doing.





One evening on our trip, I was feeling particularly homesick, tired and hungry. After talking on the phone with my mom, someone asked how she was doing and I began to tear up. Before I knew it, everyone had gathered around me. They were all hugging me and comforting me. This small, simple act made me feel so loved that I almost forgot why I was upset! I believe this is exactly what the Scriptures mean when they tell us to take each other's' burdens and lift them up. For example:

And now, as ye are desirous to come into the fold of God, and to be called his people, and are willing to bear one another's burdens, that they may be light; Yea, and are willing to mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort, and to stand as witnesses of God at all times, and in all things, and in all places that ye may be in, even until death, that ye may be redeemed of God, and be numbered with those of the first resurrection, that ye may have eternal life. (Mosiah 9:39-40)

Jesus comforts His children and we are called to do the same for our brothers and sisters. This helped me be more aware of other people's needs and struggles throughout the trip. I just hope I can help comfort others the same way they comforted me.

Daisy Hasselman



The Internship has changed how I see people in need. I often would be so busy with full-time school at Purdue for communications and full-time work as a flight attendant, that the only person I thought about during my free time was myself and how to take care of me. I was focused on my own struggles and needs to the point that I would feel burdened by people, strangers, family, and friends in need. I thought I wasn't capable of being a blessing to anyone because I was barely getting my things done within my own time. I didn't mean to be selfish. I just got so carried away

with work, school, commitments and priorities.

The Internship changed the way I see serving and helping people in need. Before, I didn't think I had what it took to constantly serve others or put others' needs above my own. Now I look for opportunities to serve or help someone in need. It fills my heart to be able to serve or help someone. It has even brought me to tears that so many people in this world are hurting and need help. Growing closer to God during this Internship has brought to me a new level of compassion for God's children. God put me where I am for a reason, to help those who may not be able to help themselves. A scripture we learned in a class on servant-hood was Matthew 25:46. It taught us that when we're serving others, we're directly serving Jesus.

True joy came when I stopped looking at my own needs and looked to the needs of those around me. Now when I see a homeless person or someone in need of a hand in my family or friendships, I think to myself, "Could I help this person for Jesus and His Kingdom?" I believe the Internship changed who

I am and has given me joy in serving again. It has given me a new perspective to serve God in a better way than I ever have before.

Lauren
Owens

Aaron
Padilla

I want to share my testimony of how this Internship worked for me and how it changed my life in such a short amount of time. At first, I didn't want to attend. I kept thinking "It's so much time, I don't know anybody and I'm supposed to spend six weeks with them. I don't want to spend my birthday without my family and be with people I don't know," and so many other excuses.

Then, the Internship started. First, I loved the classes. If I had a doubt about anything, most of the time my doubt would get resolved the next day or the day after because the teachers were really talented and gifted in sharing class topics with us.

The prayer services were one of my favorite experiences because of the Spirit felt during them, seeing and listening to the other interns pray for concerns we talked about and even those concerns we weren't ready to share yet.

Of course, one of the best parts of the Internship is the food. They don't tell you how much weight you're going to gain during the program! The board should consider adding to the Internship pamphlet a warning sign about how much food you are going to consume.



When I came to the Internship, I didn't really have a lot of expectations. I wasn't really excited about it and I was just going with the flow. I didn't want to open my heart to learning or actually making friends. I didn't want to step out of my comfort zone.

This testimony didn't really hit me until close to the end of our journey. We had a class with Val Brotherton and he talked about recognizing when the Spirit is there and talking to you. At that moment, I realized how the Spirit had been talking to me this whole time and I wasn't willing to give it not even two seconds to listen to it.

I realized how much my life had changed since first entering this amazing program, with amazing people and amazing classes. Saying yes to the Internship and opening my ears, mind and soul to the Spirit has changed my life. I am just realizing how good the Internship was for me. It gave me brothers and sisters who are willing to listen to me whenever I feel down. After the Internship, I have a greater relationship with God and myself. I fell in love with His greatness, power and love for all His children.

Like Val Brotherton said in one class, "God will never do anything to harm us. Maybe it will take awhile for us to realize why it happens, but later it will all make sense to us." That's what happened to me. I know it makes sense. I had to go through all my past before the Internship, so I could rethink my life path.

Andrea
Padilla



Probably the best part of the Internship is the people. It was the part I was concerned about the most. Even though I was going to be with my sister in the program, I was afraid of not getting along with the people. I was going to share at least two out of the three meals of the day, share a 12-passenger van for what felt like 80 hours, and share almost every day for six weeks with them.

What I take from this Internship is the knowledge I gained. I take all of the things I learned from the teachers, my friends, the beautiful scriptures the teachers gave us and the change of mind it gave me. I now know everything is possible with God. He is a God of miracles and a merciful God. You can talk with Him about everything. He has mysterious ways of getting things to happen, but He'll never harm you. His decision will always be the right and best decision.

I just want to say thank you, thank you to the family I gained by being accepted into this program. You watched me grow so much spiritually. I want to especially thank Lynn and Sugar for letting me be their adoptive kid during this Internship and for taking care of me. I love you guys, and I hope I get to share more special moments with you sometime soon.

Karla Stump

What has the Internship done for me? The Internship has changed my relationship with God. Before the Internship, I would say I am too busy for God. I rarely prayed let alone did devotions with God. I went off to college and never really went to church.

The first day of the Internship I would have to say I was uncomfortable when we did devotions. As the weeks went on, I got a little more comfortable and got used to it. By the time we went on our trip, I would get excited for morning devotions which is a good thing, because we would be doing morning and night time devotions. We had to get up super early on the first day of our trip because we had to do devotions and eat breakfast. I made myself get up and eat and be on time for devotions. That night, we wanted to go swimming, but we had to do devotions. We had to make a sacrifice, because the pool would only be open so long and the Baumgarts wanted us to get to bed at a reasonable time. We sacrificed swimming so we could do devotions.

Throughout the rest of the week, this continued. I missed the night time devotions when I got back home. Even though I was tired, I still made the time to do them myself. Throughout the rest of the Internship, I got up earlier and stayed up an extra few minutes to do night time devotions.

What has the internship done for me? It helped me get back on the straight and narrow, make the time, and sometimes sacrifice to come unto the Lord.



Josh
Sperry

Eldon Anderson taught a class that really stood out to me. He gave us a problem to solve which involved connecting points in a three-by-three grid. The only way to solve this problem was to think outside the box. The answer was so simple, yet no one was able to get it. I realized that we often treat things in our lives like that. We have boxes that we have things in and if something does not do what we expect, we often reject it.

How often do we also try and put God in a box? When we pray, we have a certain way we want God to answer our prayers. If He does not do it the way we want, we oftentimes don't realize He has answered our prayers. God is greater than any box we could put Him in. His plans are greater and bigger than our own. He knows all and sees all. He knows what is best for us. God's plans will not be frustrated or put in any box. If we break ourselves out of expecting God to answer a certain way, we can see more of the great things God has done for us in our lives.

Isabel Jordison



As the female staff member of the 2021 Book of Mormon Internship, I am in charge of setting up service projects for the interns. I know all service projects are helpful, but I really wanted to make an impact this year. I prayed and contemplated what we would do months before the Internship started. I had an idea, but I wasn't sure it would work out.

Some distant friends of mine had just bought a run-down farm under the direction of the Lord and it needed a lot of work done. Part of me hesitated to ask. I wasn't sure who was going to be in the Internship yet, and I didn't know what we would be capable of doing. Slowly, the Holy Spirit nudged me into deciding to make it work! I talked to the family who had purchased the land, and they accepted our help with open arms. They were so excited that they offered to make us lunch and dinner!

As the Internship drew closer, potential interns I was counting on to make this big project work backed out of the program. The weather forecast for the service project, as well as the days leading up to it, was showing thunderstorms. The lady who offered to make food for that day had a terrible headache and was dizzy the day before. The land owner broke his foot, and his wife was very pregnant. I kept getting questions like "what will you do if it rains?" There were all these problems and then some, and I could've easily backed out and said there were too many complications, and we needed to cancel. However, I was an intern last year, and I took a class on prayer. Pat Chadwick, who taught the class, showed me how to pray differently. Ever since I took that class, my prayer life and my heart have only changed for the better. Pat talked about how we have to pray with faith and power, to be specific, to trust who we are praying to, and to recognize the power of who we are talking to. She also helped open our eyes to how great God is and how He desires to help us—especially when we are trying to build the Kingdom! So, in the midst of the doubt that was creeping into my head, I recalled the class I had now taken twice. Now it just wasn't my prayers that helped clear a way, but I prayed differently than I ever have these past few weeks because of that class. Something about that class had changed my heart and how I viewed my prayers, and the prayers of the other interns and mine were heard.

Friends who weren't in the Internship turned up to help us when we were short-handed. The rain that had been pouring all week stopped and we had nothing but a nice breeze and clouds that covered the sun whenever we were not taking breaks. The lady who was feeling too sick to make the food the previous day woke up feeling great! The owner who broke his foot was able to sit in a lawn chair and direct what needed to be done. We ended up cleaning out four sheds full of junk when we thought we would only get through one and we filled a 40-yard dumpster to the top with all that stuff! And did I mention we got done early?! By the end of the day we were all covered in a layer or two of dirt, but I couldn't have been happier. The whole day was filled with blessings. The impact it made on the land owners was wonderful. I do believe they felt loved. I wanted to make an impact on others, but I also unintentionally impacted myself.

That day made me realize the potential of faith and prayer. When we really step out—even if it is uncertain, because we want to build that kingdom, God will provide and He will also bless us. There is no reason to doubt it! I cry unto my God in faith, and I know that he will hear my cry; and I know that the Lord God will consecrate my prayers, for the gain of my people. (2 Nephi 15:4)



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