

The Witness

The Book of Mormon Foundation
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I Remember

by Marlin Guin

On July 4, Independence Day, the BMF interns and staff watched fireworks from about 30,000 feet as we flew home from Belize. There was a sense of accomplishment from the past nine days and yet a thankfulness to be back in this free land that has been blessed with such prosperity. We were returning from a trip to help build homes for the saints. My desire is to share a personal testimony of things that I remember from an experience I will never forget. These things have caused me to evaluate and re-define many aspects of my life, both physically and spiritually, and seriously consider my personal relationship with God and other people.

I remember how exciting it was to see the team of interns and staff work hard, under very difficult circumstances, to complete the assigned tasks. It was impressive how they were intensely engaged in problem-solving as they moved 1800 concrete blocks and 35 large bags (94 lbs each) of mortar from town to the work site and again to various staging points in the project. I remember how they pulled together, along with the Belize

saints, to lay the blocks for the walls of the first house and mix the concrete to pour the floor for the second house. I remember the smiles and joy that radiated from Brother Victor as he helped lay concrete blocks for the home that his family will occupy. He would frequently sing hymns of praise in Spanish as we worked on his home. His family of eleven (seven

saints in Belize will complete both these homes in the near future.

I remember our tour to the Mayan site at Lamanai. The interns shared how the Book of Mormon had “come to life” for them as they walked where these people had lived. It was also very interesting that an archaeological site exists on the church land. The interns were able to see some of the

artifacts already taken from the site and actually go there and find some of their own. They retrieved several pieces of pottery to add to the existing collection and reflected upon the people who created it.

I remember the many opportunities to witness of the gospel of Jesus Christ in such plain and simple terms. As we returned to

Corozal from Lamanai, we were able to stop at a Mennonite community and share with them in song and prayer as we ate lunch. We also visited the home of a family previously contacted by Arturo Gomez. This was one of the most powerful experiences of the convincing power of God that I have ever seen. We proclaimed Jesus Christ through testimony, song and



Twenty members of BMF and Victor posed for the final picture in front of the house.

children with twins due in July) will occupy this home of just 480 square feet (20 feet by 24 feet). I also remember the precise moment when we completed the challenging task of pouring the concrete floor on the second house. Brother Porfirio turned to me, raised his hands to heaven with a smile, and said “God bless you.” This will be the house for his family. The



Nathan Sherer teaching a class on prayer to thirty 8-18 year olds.



Pouring a 20 x 24 foot slab of concrete for the second house took seven hours.

witnessed of the truth of the Book of Mormon. You could actually see the Lord's revelation of truth reflected through the countenance of this family during our visit. The teenage daughters wanted to know how they could be a part of our group. We believe this family will be baptized in the near future. The words of our testimony are carried by the power of the Holy Ghost into the hearts of the children of men. This was also true as the interns, along with some of the Belize children, went door to door in the community to invite and share. I love some of the names of these children such as Abinadi, Ishmael and Ammon. We enjoyed the report of one intern team who said that Ishmael, who is very young, kept saying "just two more houses" when they

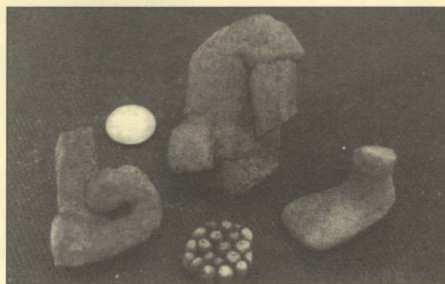
wanted to go back to the church. They all returned with testimonies of how God blesses those who go in faith. Some found families that expressed interest and our prayer is that new doors will be opened for missionary work.

I remember the excitement of the interns as they participated in a retreat with the youth of the branch. The retreat served to strengthen the relationship between the interns and the youth. This bond opened many opportunities for ministry and created joy in our fellowship. It also created a tremendous sadness as we left to come home. We thought that Arturo would bring the church bus to pick us up for the trip to the airport. To our surprise and joy, the bus was almost half full of our brothers and sis-

ters who wanted to come and spend just a few more hours with us on the trip to the airport. Although we were sad to leave them we were reminded of the promises of God and the great time ahead. A time when we will put our arms around each other when the Lord gathers his covenant people to the New Jerusalem. I look forward to this time with great anticipation.

I remember the generosity of the saints here that made it possible for this trip to become a reality; the individuals and branches that provided the funds to send the interns on a mission to build two homes for our brothers and sisters in a distant land; the mighty prayers offered on our behalf and support expressed in so many ways.

All of the things that I remember cause me to now think of the future and the needs of those that I have grown to love. It seems that these thoughts will not leave me and form a permanent remembrance in my mind. I remember a people who find joy in their hearts and happiness in their lives because of a true faith and trust in God. For me to realize that this spiritual quality can exist, even when every day is a journey of faith for the basic physical needs of life, brings



Artifacts found in a Mayan ruin near the building project.



Interns and youth at the retreat enjoyed swimming and playing games in the lagoon.

Fall Calendar of Events

Class Schedule 2001

Linda Wilson

Ten-week program. Fridays from September 14 through November 16. 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

New Testament — Life and Times of Jesus Christ, Part II. Linda's ministry began primarily as a storyteller. She has done extensive research in order to accurately develop scripts and present materials that are historically correct. Linda is currently serving on the Conference of Restoration Elders Women's Council. She teaches religion classes at Oak Valley Day School and Lexington Restoration Branch. Linda also provides ministry at camps and reunions.

Pat Chadwick

Four-week program. September 6, 13, 20 and 27. 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Sanctification and Preparation for the Kingdom. Pat's love for the Lord and love for teaching His people has helped her in her preparation for ministry. Pat is married with three children and nine grandchildren. She and her husband Harold attend the Odessa Restoration Branch. Pat is currently serving on the Conference of Restoration Elders Women's Council. She also provides ministry at camps, retreats and The Book of Mormon Foundation Internship.

Gaylord Shaw

Two-week program. October 4 and 11. 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

THUS SAITH THE LORD...Revelation, Inspiration or...?? What is and is not revelation from the Lord? A series of 2 classes which will explore this question and provide the necessary guidelines to determine the source of writings, dreams, visions and prophetic utterances which are presented and all described as being "from the Lord."

Gaylord Shaw, Ph. D., is a Professor of Biological Sciences at Graceland University and cofounder, with his wife Faye, of the Christian Center for Book of Mormon Study and Research in Lamoni, Iowa.

Robert Bobbitt

Three-week program: October 2, 9, and 16. 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Preregistration is required for this class. Attendance limited to 20 students.

Restoration Apologetics. How well do you know your faith? Can you defend what you believe if called upon to do so? Do you have a personal testimony of Jesus Christ? Do Latter Day Saints believe in salvation by grace alone, or by works? If you would like to have answers to these questions and others, then this is the class for you. For three years, this class has been a part of the training for the Youth Missionary Corp and The Book of Mormon Foundation summer interns, and now it's available to the general church. This is a class unlike any other you have ever attended. If you want to learn how to express to others "a reason for the hope that is in you" (I Peter 3:15), then come prepared for nine intensive hours of study.

Robert Bobbitt has been involved in the field of restoration apologetics for over eight years and has published several materials on various subjects regarding Restoration teachings. Early in his ministry, Robert served as a tour guide at Nauvoo, Illinois. This experience enabled him to talk with many people of various faiths and, coupled with witnessing opportunities over the years, has given him a desire to help others learn to share the Restoration faith.

John Mills

Two-week program. 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

October 18 — How the world was transformed by the American Indians

October 25 — Current and ancient religions of the American Indian

John was born and raised in Southern Arizona near the Papago Indian Reservation. He has also worked extensively on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. John received his degree in Agriculture and has had the wonderful opportunity to serve on different agricultural projects in Saudi Arabia, Bolivia, Jamaica, Mexico, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Kazakhstan and Canada.

Jonathan Winegar and Jason Anderson

Three-week program. October 8, 15 and 22. 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Witnessing. This class is designed specifically for Senior High age students. It will help you better understand your own faith and beliefs as well as how to express them to others. It will be similar to the class Jim Reeves and Robert Bobbit teach though not as intense or extensive. Both Jason and Jon have attended Jim and Robert's classes. Jon and Jason both attend the Colbern Road Restoration Branch, where they have been active in instructing the youth for a number of years.

Dale Godfrey and Marlin Guin

Three-week program. November 1, 8, and 15. 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Book of Mormon Prophecies in the Latter Days. Dale is the BMF Board President and Marlin is the BMF Board Vice-President. Both men are actively involved with the work in their branch, at the Foundation and Book of Mormon days. Dale and Marlin attend Colbern Road Restoration Branch with their wives.

Julie Moreira-Fruits

Eleven-week program. September 6 through November 15. 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Introduction to Spanish. This class is designed for those people who have a desire to learn Spanish, but have never had a Spanish class before. The class is limited to 30 students, so please call the Foundation to sign up.

Congregational Book of Mormon Days

Cross Timbers Restoration Branch Reunion Knob Noster, Missouri	August 25, 2001
Colorado Springs Restoration Branch Colorado Springs, Colorado	September 16, 2001
South Iowa/North Missouri Restoration Retreat Stewartsville, Missouri	September 22, 2001
Apopka Restoration Branch Apopka (Orlando area), Florida	September 30, 2001
New Jerusalem Restoration Branch Independence, Missouri	October 14, 2001
Miami Restoration Branch Miami, Oklahoma	October 21, 2001

Congregational Book of Mormon Day programs offer ministry that includes archaeology, speakers, classes, dramas, special music, testimonies and children's classes. If you are interested in scheduling a Book of Mormon Day, please contact The Book of Mormon Foundation.

You are cordially invited to an open house to commemorate the retiring of the mortgage. The open house will be at The Book of Mormon Foundation Learning Center, September 9, 2001, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

The Book of Mormon Foundation

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humility to me. To see this response in times where there seems to be no money for food, clothing, bills and medical care is a witness to me that truly happy is the people whose God is the Lord. I encourage the saints here, with all the conviction of my heart, to consider giving to the work in Belize. There is need for ministry, funds, tools and most importantly,

prayers. This is not to suggest that there are no needs in other places. I can only testify of my own personal experience based on what I remember and trust the Lord will grant you the same testimony. I hope we can return next year.

With this testimony, there swells up within me a yearning for a church with a common vision of the Lord's

work and a united people actively engaged in it. A people who understand the reason for our existence and the purpose of the Book of Mormon. If we believe these are the latter days, then the times demand it from us. I encourage each to consider your response to the call of God. May the Lord bless you in your thoughts and prayers. †

Cover to Cover Challenge

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 2 Nephi 9:66.

No, we don't have our seasons mixed up. It's been much too hot for that! This scripture is about where you should be if you want to complete the cover to cover challenge on time.

Remember the challenge presented to you in the last issue of this newsletter? This challenge began July 1, 2001 (although there was no penalty for starting early and some of you took advantage of that) and will conclude December 31, 2001. We asked everyone to read the Book of Mormon as a unified effort to make its principles a

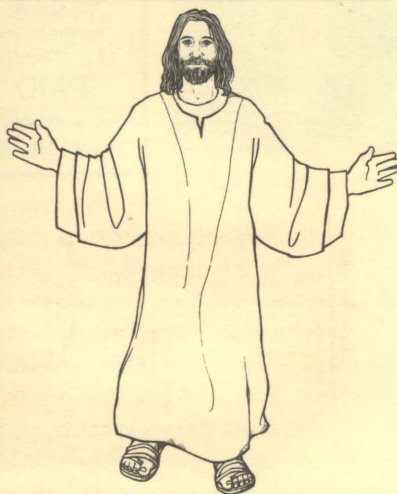
part of our lives. The first 2002 issue of *The Witness* will list those who have completed the challenge and given BMF permission to publish their names. Please write or e-mail us even if you do not want your name published so that we will have an accurate count of those who completed the Cover to Cover Challenge. For those who have already received testimonies, please share them with us as well. You don't have to wait until you've finished.

Now, if you haven't reached 2 Nephi 9:66 yet, or if you haven't even

started, not to worry — there is plenty of time to catch up. And, for those that are ahead of pace — don't get complacent or you'll wind up like the hare that lost to the tortoise.

As you read, ask the Lord to open your mind and heart to the blessings He has in store for you. Ask Him to increase your faith and understanding from what you read and how you can use this for His glory. As you do this, we know He will bless you and you will come to know Him and His son Jesus in ways you have never known as He reveals Himself to your willing and faithful heart.

If you have questions about the cover to cover challenge, write or call the Foundation. †



Book of Mormon Day for Kids "American Voyagers"

August 11, 2001

South Chrysler Restoration Branch

9am - 3pm

\$5/Child with \$10/Family max.

816-461-3722

Grades 1-6/Lunch provided

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

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

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

From the President

BMF plans open house

"I believe we need to make a decision regarding the building and whether to try to keep it or sell it." I wrote those words in a letter to the then FRAA Board of Directors on February 14, 1999. We exercised our faith and decided to try and keep the building. How the Lord has blessed us since those days. The Book of Mormon Foundation Officers and Board of Directors are pleased to announce that the building has now been paid off in full. This has been made possible through the Lord's blessings and your faithfulness and support for The Book of Mormon. We at BMF thank God and each of you who made this possible.

We want you to share with us in an open house to commemorate the retiring of the mortgage. **The open house at The Book of Mormon Foundation Learning Center will be from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on September 9, 2001.**

More than just a goal accomplished, retirement of the mortgage is actually a door to new opportunities. Now even more of your financial support will go directly to The Book of Mormon work. So rather than reducing your financial support we are asking you to double your efforts. Great things lie ahead for The Book of Mormon and its role in the work of the Kingdom. We each have a calling to participate in and support that great work. Retiring the mortgage as well as the special projects we do creates a major drain on our financial resources. We need your financial support.

Several of you have responded to the wish list printed in the last Witness. We thank each individual and organization which responded to those needs. We received a wireless microphone and new air conditioning, and we thank you for your generous support. A number of you have asked how you can best help, therefore, we will continue to make our needs known in the form of a wish list from time to time so that those desiring to do so may assist in this fashion.

More good news. As you have read, the interns traveled to Belize this summer to assist the saints there in building two new homes for families now living in inadequate housing. The generous donations of many individuals and several congregations provided sufficient funds to completely pay for the two houses. Watch upcoming issues of *The Witness* for more information on this exciting and worthwhile project.

Once again, thank you for your generous support and prayers. We look forward to seeing each of you at the open house. †

The Witness

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