

The Witness

The Book of Mormon Foundation
Number 102

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The Book of Mormon Foundation Internship 2001

On June 4, nine interns and three staff members met at the BMF Learning Center to begin a unique and challenging experience: The Book of Mormon Foundation Internship. That first week the focus was on prayer and teamwork. By the time the program ended with the banquet on July 13, the intern team was acutely aware of a personal, loving God and the power of prayer.

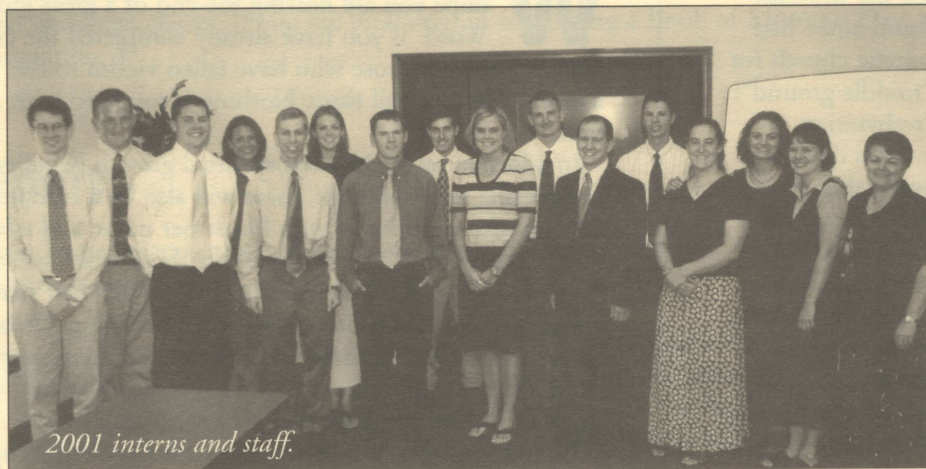
It is the goal of the Foundation to provide each intern an opportunity for spiritual growth, witnessing, and service with The Book of Mormon as our primary tool. It is our prayer that the young people of the church will take to heart the words in Alma 17:68-70. Alma counseled his son Helaman to “learn wisdom in thy youth; yea, learn in thy

youth to keep the commandments of God; yea, and cry unto God for all thy support.” Youth provide a wonderful ministry to the church, and it is our hope that the internship will be an influence for lifelong commitments to Jesus Christ, service to others and love of The Book of Mormon.

The 2001 Internship team included: **Libby Angell**, Coal City, Ill.; **Deborah Bird**, Higginsville, Mo.; **Nathan Fieth**, Odessa, Mo.; **Emily Griffin**, Oak Grove, Mo.; **Roger Gummerman**, Lee’s Summit, Mo.; **Chris Morris**, Independence, Mo.; **Nathan Sherer**, Independence, Mo.; **Rebecca Twombly**, Troy, Kan.; and **Jerrad Updike**, Buckner, Mo. The assistant director was **Kathy Anderson** and the priesthood support was provided by **Isaac Stayton**. †

Testimony of Deborah Bird

Being a part of the 2001 Book of Mormon Foundation Internship was a wonderful blessing in my life. Many valuable speakers and classes were presented throughout the six-week program. Another awesome experience was the trip to Belize, Central America. A group of 21 flew to Belize City and spent eight days in Corozal with the saints. While we were there, many neat testimonies occurred. The one I would like to share happened Saturday night at a



2001 interns and staff.

church service. Edward Glaser was preaching. He was giving the message in Spanish and having it translated. About halfway through, he stopped and asked if we (the people from the U.S.) needed it to be translated anymore. He continued without the translation and even though we did

not understand every word, all of us understood the main message. I know the Lord blessed us abundantly throughout our trip, and this was just one way He chose to bless us. I am thankful I had an opportunity to share with the saints in Belize. They were a strong witness to me and are really

on fire for Jesus Christ.

Testimony of Rebecca Twombly

When I went to Belize, my focus was serving the saints there and sharing the gospel with people who

have never heard it before. I guess I've always defined missionary work as going to another country, walking door-to-door, and such. We were doing that in Belize, so when we got to the hotel on the fourth day, it felt like we could just relax and hang out. We were having devotions the second night, and someone reminded us that we were witnesses to everyone we came in contact with. The question was asked if we knew the names of everyone working in the hotel. I felt bad because I didn't. I'd basically been ignoring the hotel staff and doing my

own thing. The next morning I went down to the kitchen (it was a small hotel) and volunteered to help with breakfast. The lady cooking asked why I was in Belize and while explaining about The Book of Mormon Foundation, I was able to ask her if she knew Jesus Christ. She said she really wasn't sure what to believe. On the morning we were leaving, I went down to help with breakfast again, and we continued our conversation. She was frustrated because every Christian she talked to from different churches would tell her about a dif-

ferent Jesus Christ. I told her about The Book of Mormon and how it introduces Jesus Christ so simply and yet so powerfully. She already owned a Book of Mormon but had never read it. After our conversation she said she would read it.

I see this as a reminder from God that most of our witnessing does not happen on missionary trips, but in our everyday lives with our friends, our families, at school, or at work. God was so good to show me that he will use love for others and a desire to serve in a missionary effort for him. †

Cover to Cover Challenge

The challenge of a lifetime

By *Kathy Vogt*

A few years ago, I accepted a challenge that would forever alter the course of my life. In 1996, I found myself at a spiritual crossroads. I had been raised in the RLDS church but stopped attending in 1986. I married soon after this and was living my own life, not interested in the church at that point.

Then, five years ago, my mom passed away, leaving me an "orphan" since my dad preceded her in death by six years. My husband and I had been attending a Nazarene church for a year as a religious "middle ground"; he had been raised Presbyterian. Around the time my mom died, we started attending membership classes at the Nazarene church. I disagreed with the pastor on a few points of doctrine, and we had a friendly discussion. I told him I was not interested in joining his church, and he supported me in that decision. He encouraged me to seek spiritual truths and enlightenment, preferably with them, but not exclusively. He also encouraged me to attend "my own church" if I needed more spiritual fulfillment.

Around that time, a friend was curious about The Book of Mormon and asked me to tell her about it. I felt panic and embarrassment because I didn't know how to answer her. In

my nineteen years in the church, I had never read it all the way through. I knew the basics of some of the stories, but I didn't have a clue as to what the book was all about. My mind raced back to pre-baptismal and other classes and I gave her some generic, vague reply that didn't answer her question at all. Afterwards, I felt

shame that I didn't even know what was in a book that I supposedly believed. At that point I didn't know what I believed and since my parents were gone, I had nothing holding me to the church. Before I walked away and left behind my spiritual heritage, I decided to investigate and learn what it actually was that I professed

With about a month to go in this Cover to Cover Challenge, we hope you are nearing the end of a great journey into God's Word. If you have already completed the challenge — congratulations! For those who have fallen victim to the "p" word (procrastination!), there is still time. Nothing is too hard with a little determination.

In addition to the obvious spiritual growth benefits associated with completing this challenge, there will also be a completion prize mailed to anyone who supplies us with his or her name and address. Also, 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 we will have an accurate count of those who completed the Cover to Cover Challenge. If you would like to share a testimony related to reading The Book of Mormon, please pass that on to us as well.

As you near the end, continue to 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 continue to 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, contact The Book of Mormon Foundation. †

Congregational Book of Mormon Days

Zion's Hope Restoration Branch
Levasy, Missouri

November 18, 2002

Odessa Restoration Branch
Odessa, Missouri

January 20, 2002

Hill Cumorah Restoration Branch
Independence, Missouri

January 27, 2002

Chilhowee Restoration Branch
Chilhowee, Missouri

February 10, 2002

Mt. Zion Restoration Branch
Independence, Missouri

February 24, 2002

Carthage Restoration Branch
Carthage, Missouri

March 10, 2002

Zion's Outpost Restoration Branch
Wichita, Kansas

March 24, 2002

Washington Restoration Branch
Excelsior Springs, Missouri

April 14, 2002

Outreach Restoration Branch
Independence, Missouri

April 28, 2002

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. †

Financial Report

The Book of Mormon Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that depends on the generosity of its supporters. The budget for 2002 and current cash balances are listed below:

2002 Budget

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Operating Expenses | \$52,500 |
| Give It to the World | \$ 2,500 |
| Internship | \$25,000 |
| Total | \$80,000 |

Current Balances

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| General Account | \$13,400 |
| Give It to the World | \$ 0 |
| Internship Account | \$20,600 |
| Total | \$34,000 |

As you can see, we currently have enough General Account funds to continue operation for about three months. We trust those of you who believe in the importance of the programs at BMF will give prayerful consideration to your financial contribution. We appreciate each of you and thank you for your dedicated support. †

Winter-Spring Calendar of Events

Class Schedule for 2001-2002

Preparing for the Endowment

**December 6 and 13, 2001
and February 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2002**
Thursday 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Ray Treat

The text for this class will be Earl R. Curry's book, *The Endowment*. This book has been republished in the Hebrew poetry form in which it was originally given to the author.

Ray established Zarahemla Research Foundation in 1975. He travels throughout the United States lecturing on The Book of Mormon and The Book of Mormon archaeology. In 1999 Zarahemla Research Foundation published the Restored Covenant Edition of The Book of Mormon.

Restoration Apologetics

Three-week class
January 15, 22 and 29, 2002
Tuesday 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Robert Bobbitt and James Reeves, Jr.

Preregistration is required
Attendance is limited to sixteen students

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 is 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" (1 Peter 3:15), then come prepared for nine intensive hours of study.

Robert Bobbitt and Jim Reeves have been involved in the field of Restoration apologetics for over eight years and have published several materials on various subjects regarding Restoration teachings. Early in their ministry, Bob and Jim served as tour guides at Restoration sites — Bob at Nauvoo, Ill., and Jim at the RLDS Auditorium. These experiences enabled them to talk with many people of vari-

ous faiths and, coupled with witnessing opportunities over the years, have given them a desire to help others in their desire to share the Restoration faith.

The Search for Cumorah South

March 7, 2002
Thursday 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The Records in Hill Cumorah

March 14, 2002
Thursday 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Verneil Simmons

These two classes are a result of a lifelong quest by Verneil and her husband Wayne to find the location of Hill Cumorah. Come and hear the exciting journeys they experienced as their search unfolded and as the Lord opened doors that had been closed long ago. These classes will keep you on the edge of your seat and at the conclusion, your thirst for adventure and knowledge will be richly satisfied. Listen to Verneil tell about her experience with Arthur Rock, which will leave you in awe!

Verneil has been a student of The Book of Mormon since her teenage years. Verneil's husband Wayne was the first appointee Latin American missionary for the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ in 1950. While living in Mexico City, Verneil began intensive research into the archaeology of Mesoamerica. She took courses at the National University and attended many hours of lectures at the Instituto Nacional de Arqueología e Historia. Verneil has taught Book of Mormon classes throughout the church and has written several books.

Book of Mormon Archaeology

Four-week class
January 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2002
Thursday 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Pre-Columbian Studies Institute

The teachers for this class will be Lyle Smith, Glenn Scott, Don Beebe, and Tim Raffety. They will present the

newest archaeological discoveries pertaining to The Book of Mormon. They will take you on a journey into the land of the Mulekites, the Lamanites, the Nephites, and the Jaredites. They present this in such a way that you will actually find yourself there, walking within the ruins, among The Book of Mormon people who walked that land years ago.

Pre-Columbian Studies Institute (PSI) was established in 1995. Its goal is to provide archaeological insights, testimonies, and the latest discoveries pertinent to The Book of Mormon. PSI is well known for its archaeological tours into the lands of The Book of Mormon.

Fear of the Lord

Two-week class

January 4 and 11, 2002

Friday 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Peggy Feagins

This Scripture study will explore what it means to “fear the Lord.” Godly fear should be a guiding influence in every decision we make, in the words we speak, and in the thoughts and feelings of our hearts. Fear of the Lord can deliver us from fear. It is essential to becoming the people of faith he has called us to be.

Peggy is the wife of Jim Feagins; they have a daughter and son, both married, and one granddaughter. They attend Belton Restoration Branch. Peggy serves on the Women’s Council of the Conference of Restoration Elders.

Types, Shadows, and Threads

Eight-week class

January 18 through March 8, 2002

Friday 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Ann Taylor

The Scriptures are full of symbolic references that most non-Jewish and many Jewish people miss. Often we mis-

understand the purpose of a scripture or lose the deeper meaning because we are unaware of Jewish customs, culture, and expectations. This eight-week class will explore a few of the symbols used in our Scriptures. We will look for types and shadows that can give a clearer and deeper understanding of the author’s intent. This class will examine and stress the continuous thread woven throughout God’s Word that points us to Jesus; the Messiah, the Holy One of Israel.

Ann, along with her family, moved to the Center Place from Texas in 1996. She attends the Belton Restoration Branch where she is currently the women’s leader. She serves on the Women’s Council of the Conference of Restoration Elders. Since becoming a member of Christ’s Church, Ann has had many opportunities to teach various classes on the Scriptures. God has given her a love of his Word, especially the Old Testament and its people. Ann hopes to encourage everyone to study and receive the special blessings God provides through his Word.

The Book of Mormon as a Tool to Clarify Doctrine and Stop Contention

Three-week class

April 11, 18 and 25, 2002

Thursday 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

James Hobbs

In this class Jim will show that one of the purposes of The Book of Mormon is to do away with contention and disputes over doctrine. He will also show how The Book of Mormon reveals greater light on these doctrines and the ordinances. Our traditions often determine how controversial an issue is, especially if our traditions do not line up with Scripture. He will show that many issues can be resolved simply by accepting The Book of Mormon and what it says about an issue. Some of these issues apply not only to the Restoration but to other churches as well.

Jim spent most of his life in Texas where he served as a presiding elder. He moved to the Center Place in 1998.

The Book of Mormon Research Library A Dream Come True

Too much to believe our Foundation can grow to the point of having a building in which to establish headquarters — A library, a place for research, a place where students could go for study and research — where files could be established and kept together!

— THE WITNESS, Fall 1991, No. 74

These words were penned by Thelona Stevens in 1970 and now The Book of Mormon Foundation is continuing to fulfill this dream by one of its founders by expanding the research library. The Foundation is accepting donations of books, magazines, manuscripts, pictures and slides. If you would like to make a donation or you have any questions, please contact Dennis Moe at The Book of Mormon Foundation.

Spanish Programs for 2002

This program will consist of three sessions per year/ten weeks per session

Sessions are: January 7 to March 11

March 18 to May 27

September 9 to November 11

| Day | Time | Class | Teacher |
|---------|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Monday | 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. | Spanish 1 | Heather Bird |
| Monday | 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. | Spanish 2 | Heather Bird |
| Monday | 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. | Gospel Vocabulary | Gary Metzger |
| Monday | 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. | Spanish 3 | Gary Metzger |
| Tuesday | 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. | Intro to Conversation | Julie Moreira-Fruits |
| Tuesday | 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. | Spanish 1 | Julie Moreira-Fruits |
| Friday | 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. | Vocabulary/Verb Enrichment 1 | Annie Webb |
| Friday | 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. | Vocabulary/Verb Enrichment 2 | Annie Webb |

Description of Spanish Classes

Intro to Conversation: Basic Spanish skills; introductions; common phrases; *ser* and *estar*. A few more verbs. Not an emphasis on grammar. A taste of Spanish.

Spanish 1: No prior Spanish required. Introductions, nouns, *ser* and *estar*, conjugating *-ar*, *-er*, *-ir* verbs.

Vocabulary/Verb Study: Spanish 1 required. Conjugating new verbs in present tense. Vocabulary building.

Spanish 2: Spanish 1 required. Irregular verbs in present

tense, past tense: preterite and imperfect.

Vocabulary/Verb Study 2: Spanish 2 required. Conjugation of new verbs — present, past and future tenses.

Spanish 3: Spanish 2 required. Future, direct objects, *-ing* and *-ed*, helping verbs, irregular preterites, indirect objects.

Gospel Vocabulary: Spanish 3 required. Witnessing phrases, gospel nouns and verbs, prayer, stories, songs and doctrines.

Teachers

Julie Moreira-Fruits

Julie has been teaching Spanish at Truman High School in Independence for the last seven years. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Central Missouri State University with a major in Spanish and a minor in biology. She also has a Master of Science in Technology in Education from Lesley College. Julie travels to Mexico, Guatemala, and especially Honduras because she still has family there. She resides in Sibley, Missouri, with her husband Byron and her son Anthony.

Heather Bird

Heather started her Spanish background with two years of Spanish in high school. She fell in love with the language and its people so much that she pursued it in college, graduating in 1995 from UMKC with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish. She studied in Mexico through the University of Missouri Study Abroad Program. She attended the Autonoma de Guadalajara. Heather also taught Spanish 1 at Fort Osage Middle School. She visited Mexico in 1996 and 1999 and plans to return again this next summer. Heather lives in Knob Noster, Missouri, with her husband Christopher and two children, Jeffrey and Katherine.

Annie Webb

Annie has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Inter-American Studies with a double major in Spanish and history with Latin American emphasis which she received at the Pan American University which is a part of the University of Texas. She also has a Masters of Arts degree in history. She is a member of la Iglesia de Jesucristo and resides in Independence with her husband Jerry.

Gary Metzger

Gary served as a missionary elder in Honduras for seven years. He assisted in the formation of several new branches and the baptism and ordination of several ministers while living in Honduras. He has written several tracts and study manuals in Spanish. In Honduras, he was blessed to marry the first person he baptized, Tita. They now live in Independence with their twin sons, Gary Joe and Joshua. Gary teaches Spanish at CPRS and is the presiding elder of the Spanish Branch.

to believe. I knew that I needed to read The Book of Mormon, and for some reason, I almost dreaded it.

Not long after this, my very good friend, Pam Wilson, knowing my dilemma, took me to the former Foundation for Research on Ancient America (FRAA, now the BMF) and introduced me to Linda Guin and Wilma Abbott. We had a nice visit, and Linda gave me several back issues of THE WITNESS to take home and read. On the way home, Pam mentioned the Cover to Cover Challenge that FRAA had issued, and the results were listed in one of the issues that I had just received.

I kind of blew it off, but Pam was very persistent that I read about the challenge. I knew from past experiences that I wouldn't get any rest until I did, so one quiet afternoon I opened the magazine and started to read. I read all about the challenge and then perused the list of several hundred names of the people who had completed the challenge. I saw my mom's name, Wilma Crow, which surprised me because we were close, and she hadn't mentioned it to me. Among the many names that I recognized, I saw my nephew's name, who was a teenager at the time. I decided that if he and all these other people that I knew (including my dearly loved, recently departed mother) could read The Book of Mormon from cover to cover in six months, then I could too!

I started reading every day and, being aware of the promise in the tenth chapter of Moroni, I prayed for guidance and understanding every time before I opened the book to read. I also asked the Lord that if this book was indeed true and inspired of Him, that He would let me know. I am not able to estimate how many times the Spirit flooded my soul as I read those precious words. So many times, I knew that what I was reading was indeed true and inspired of the Lord. Through the Spirit, I possessed the knowledge of the truth. Like many of The Book of Mormon writers, I feel inadequate to express with words the feelings and the enlightenment that I experienced. I know The Book of Mormon is true! I believe it with all my heart.

As I read and discovered for the first time an important part of my heritage, I found myself caught up in the story. I eagerly devoured the words, yearning to know what was going to happen next. In my mind I traveled with the four sons of Mosiah to teach the Lamanites. I rooted for Captain Moroni and got upset with the wickedness of the people. I rejoiced when they saw and talked with Christ and anguished when the people rejected the truth and became totally wicked.

Reading The Book of Mormon from cover to cover for the first time is an experience that I will always cherish and never forget. I am currently in the process of completing my sixth cover to cover reading and my third cover to cover reading of the Restored Covenant Edition (RCE). Since I started using the RCE, The Book of Mormon has come alive to me in more ways than I ever thought possible. I used to dread muddling

through Nephi's long quotation of Isaiah, but after much prayer I understand a little more each time and I'm through it before I realize it. I was very excited that The Book of Mormon Foundation issued another Cover to Cover Challenge. It is my hope and prayer that if the saints step up to the challenge and exercise some prayer and discipline the Lord will change their lives the way he has changed mine. May we as a people no longer treat lightly The Book of Mormon, but may we embrace the truths therein and share them with the world. Just like Nephi, my soul delighteth in the truth and plainness of the words — I hope your soul will too. †

This testimony was a life changing experience for this Cover to Cover reader. Do you have any such testimonies? If you do and would like to share them with us, please contact The Book of Mormon Foundation.

Book of Mormon Day for Kids

American Voyagers was the theme for The Book of Mormon Day for Kids held on Saturday, Aug. 11, at the South Crysler Restoration Branch. Seventy-two youth, grades one through six, attended this special day focusing on The Book of Mormon truths. After singing and praying, we were visited by Emma Smith (portrayed by Sherri Macomber) sharing her experiences and testimonies of the Restored

Gospel. Youth in grades one through five participated in five activities/classes. Each group was led by an intern and junior high volunteer. The sixth-graders prepared for a drama written and directed by former intern David Howlett.

In visiting the Waters of Mormon, students found two paths of footprints; white leading to Christ and black leading to darkness. Scriptures were shared as they followed the path



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The Book of Mormon Foundation

210 West White Oak
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Tel: 816-461-3722

Fax: 816-461-5850

E-mail: bmfoundation@aol.com

Web site: www.bomf.org

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.

to Christ, also discussing what they might be required to leave behind as they follow him. Before leaving this part of the voyage, they made footprint bookmarks reminding them to always choose the right path.

Journeying to the Promised Land helped the children to see that by having faith, following God's commands and seeking his guidance, they will be able accomplish his goals in their lives. In groups of three or four, they stood on two boards attempting to walk them toward a tree. Only when listening to the directions were the groups able to reach their destination. By working together toward a common goal, they learned how church members can work together as the body of Christ.

The account of Helaman's 2000 was shared, and students learned of their great courage and their covenant made to "never give up their liberty." Students viewed various simulated artifacts which the soldiers may have carried as they marched. They saw

praying hands placed among Indian figures reminding them of the mothers' prayers and diligent teaching.

Two of the "more righteous" (3 Nephi 4:66) of the Nephites (portrayed by interns) told of Christ coming to the Nephites and how they felt his nail prints and that Christ gave authority for baptism and taught many things. One way he taught was with parables. Each class divided into three groups, role playing various parables.

As a special keepsake, each youth decorated a mug bearing the theme "Jesus Christ is My Captain."

Before the closing prayer, the sixth graders performed their drama, "Voyagers for the Lord." The drama depicted three youths discussing and imagining traveling on the ship with Nephi to the Promised Land and what it would be like witnessing in Belize today. These youth realized that saints don't have to go far to witness — we can use everyday opportunities to share the gospel of Christ. †

Change of Address

Please help The Book of Mormon Foundation avoid expensive postal fees by e-mailing us at bmfoundation@aol.com and noting any changes in your name or address. You can also call us at 816-461-3722 or write to us at 210 West White Oak, Independence, MO 64050.

Duplicate Mailings

Please use the enclosed envelope to notify us of duplicate mailings. Attach the address labels from the duplicate mailings and indicate which one(s) should be removed from our list.

The Witness

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