



THE WITNESS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION BY THE BOOK OF MORMON FOUNDATION

Number 139 • Fall 2011



THE
Internship
Celebrates **20** YEARS

The Book of Mormon



This year marks the 20th anniversary for The Book of Mormon Foundation Internship program. As we reflect upon these many years, a flood of good memories and experiences bless our remembrance. The faces of 189 former interns occupy a special place in our hearts, and we remain humbled by the many youth who committed their lives to participate in the program. Today, many of them continue to provide positive contributions to the work of the Lord.

The Lord has always been merciful in providing for every need to make the Internship a reality and has sustained it through the years. Our financial needs have always been met by the generosity of individuals, families and congregations who have been touched by the good Spirit.

Our internship directors have come forth, at just the right time, to lead the program with insight and vision. Our deepest gratitude goes to Don Beebe, Michael and Julie Gatrost, Bonnie Anderson, and Lynn and Sugar Baumgart for their dedicated service. We also thank the many saints who have served on the Internship Committee to provide counsel, program evaluation and conduct the interview process.

One of the great assets of the program has been the participation of teachers who are considered to be some of the best in the Restoration. Their knowledge and insights into the Scriptures and their application to daily living has prepared the interns for their service to God.

We look forward to the years ahead with faith and gratitude for the opportunity to prepare the youth for their service in the great things that are coming upon the earth. Our heartfelt thanks go to all who make this goal possible.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT Rich Rowland
VICE PRESIDENT Dale Godfrey
TREASURER Eldon Anderson
SECRETARY Kathy Keller
 Rebecca Cornish
 Marlin Guin
 Don Newman
 Kelli Pedersen

THE WITNESS

EDITOR Linda Guin
COPY EDITOR Cheryl Scofield
DESIGNER Laura Clute

THE BOOK OF MORMON FOUNDATION

OFFICE MANAGER Sue Manning

The Book of Mormon Foundation

is a non-profit 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 The Book of Mormon Foundation 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. Financial statements are available upon request.

Articles and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent the view of The Book of Mormon Foundation. Unsigned articles are attributable to the Foundation.

Published quarterly by
The Book of Mormon Foundation

210 West White Oak
 Independence, MO 64050
 Tel: 816-461-3722
 Fax: 816-461-5850

Foundation email:
bmfoundation@live.com
 Interns email:
bmfinternship@yahoo.com

Website: www.bomf.org

Contents

3-5	Defining Moments — The Internship
6-7	Team Building <i>by Rebecca Cornish</i>
8-9	Internship Testimonies
10	2011 Book of Mormon Day for Kids
11-15	2011 Intern Testimonies
16	Red Sky Series





Defining Moments

— THE INTERNSHIP —

There are defining moments in all of our lives. They come in different forms and affect each of us in different ways; but all of those moments share the common trait that, after experiencing them, we are never the same. Sometimes these defining experiences of life catch us off guard and unsuspectingly rock our world, changing us in an instant, and undoubtedly causing us to learn more about ourselves. In other cases, we have opportunity to seek out our own defining moment, capture it according to our own planning and in our own time. This, of course, gives us the advantage of preparing ourselves and having some level of expectation of what lies ahead. However, no amount of planning or foresight into our lives can actually give us an understanding of how our lives will be marked by our defining moments. We don't know who we will become on the backside; what we will have learned about ourselves; how our values and perspectives will be reshaped and, most importantly, how our relationship with God will be altered.

This to me is the best place to begin a description of the Internship Program. For 20 years now, young adults have engaged in this opportunity to redefine their lives. We are deciding for ourselves that this six-week program is worth our time and effort, yet have no real understanding of who we will be when it's over. We, former interns, represent a diversity of backgrounds. We come from several parts of the world. We have different religious affiliations. We have varying levels of previous exposure to the Book of Mormon, but we are all excited about what brings the opportunity to grow in Christ. This growth in Christ is central to how we have been redefined by what the Internship offered us. Our diversity and uniqueness allows us together and becomes our central testimony to how we have been redefined about how we have been changed – though always changed in some way.



As the name implies, the central focus of the program is the Book of Mormon; but to think of this program as a course in learning about a book would not be accurate. This experience is very much about the Man in the book. Of all the books that have been penned by the hand of men, the Holy Scriptures are unique in that they are the fruits of the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. They are prophetic, they are words of life, they give us moral direction, and they lead us on that path back to the One who made us all. And the Book of Mormon is uniquely special to us because we have found it to contain those plain and precious truths to God's covenant people. It seeks to bring a remembrance of those covenants to the remnant of the House of Israel. Its words have been preserved to convince both Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ. Yes, this is what we walk away from the Internship with, not just a testimony of a book (ink and paper), but a testimony of Jesus Christ. (reference 2 Nephi 11 – "we talk of Christ, teach of Christ, preach of Christ...")

During our time together, we develop our testimony in many ways. We engage daily in group prayer, study, fasting and service. We take time to emphasize the importance of each of those disciplines and also show the necessity of using them together to grow in Christ. We begin to learn what effectual, fervent and continued prayer can do to improve our communication with our Father in heaven. We participate in classes on a range of subjects that pertain to the Book of Mormon, and each in their own way helps us understand the preciousness of the record. We unite in fasting every week to help us understand how we can submit our will before God and be nourished from on high. Then we go out together and put into practice all that we profess as we obey the commandment to serve others. This service takes on many forms as we work to improve our





local community and also travel together for a week and provide service in other areas. These trips have taken us from upstate New York, to Kirtland, Ohio, to Indian reservations in Canada, and all the way down to Mexico and Belize (to name a few). These trips allow us a multitude of opportunities for service as we seek to share our testimony of Christ in any way that we can. Each of us will remember different highlights from the program, but all of us will agree that it wouldn't be the same without the sum total of all areas. Some of us walk away with a renewed dedication in our walk with Christ, some with a broader perspective on God's sovereignty through time and space, and some even with just a seed of desire to learn more (as Alma would describe it – reference Alma 16 “if you can but desire to believe”). The challenge for all of us then becomes, “How do we nurture our newfound desires to help us grow in Christ? How do we maintain that resolve to make an impact in our circle of influence? And maybe most difficult, how do we even begin to describe this six-week defining moment of our lives to our friends and family who have not shared the experience?”

That is why we pause and mine through our thoughts when you ask us how the Internship went. We struggle to find the words in that moment to accurately describe the way spiritual enlightenment from God and camaraderie with our fellow interns came together to give us what we feel is a glimpse of Zion in our young lives. We want you to understand our excitement, though you may not understand all of the details of the moments we spent together with God and each other. We want our peers to catch a glimpse of the new “us” so they will want a new “them:” but we want to share as Ammon did as he gave all glory to the Lord for the new person he had become (reference Alma 14 – “I will glory in God...”).

From all of us who have benefited from this program over the last 20 years, we want to thank all of the teachers and directors who have given of themselves that we might grow. We want to thank all of our former fellow interns who joined us in this defining moment in our lives and forged friendships because of it. We know that whenever we see each other again we have those shared memories of God's blessings that cause us to reminisce, and embrace each other again as if no time had passed since we had seen each other last.

We want to thank those who will come after us and be a part of the Internship in years to come. If you have talked to any of us, you know that we wouldn't feel right if we didn't take this one last chance to encourage you to choose this program as a defining moment in your life. You will never know how you will be different when it is over. But one day, we will smile at each other silently as others ask us to describe what the Internship was like. (Sons of Mosiah coming together in joy because they were still brothers in Christ – Alma 12)



Team Building

REBECCA CORNISH

My family moved to Independence in July 1996. We had lived most of my life in Texas, so I really didn't know much about how things worked in the Center Place. One thing I did know, however, was what a challenge course was. Three days after arriving, I saw an ad in the Independence paper, applied, and was immediately hired. What I didn't realize at the time was my life was going to forever become intertwined with The Book of Mormon Foundation interns.

Before continuing, I want to explain the term "challenge course" and how I function as a facilitator. Challenge courses are places where people go to improve the dynamics of their organization. As a facilitator, my job is to evaluate the group and determine which obstacles I want to use to build up that team. If a group needs to develop trust within their ranks, I might choose to have the group scale a wall together. If a group has trouble communicating effectively, I might enhance the experience by adding a blindfold or two. Most often, groups have to get from Point A to Point B using limited resources, and they always find that their best resources are each other.



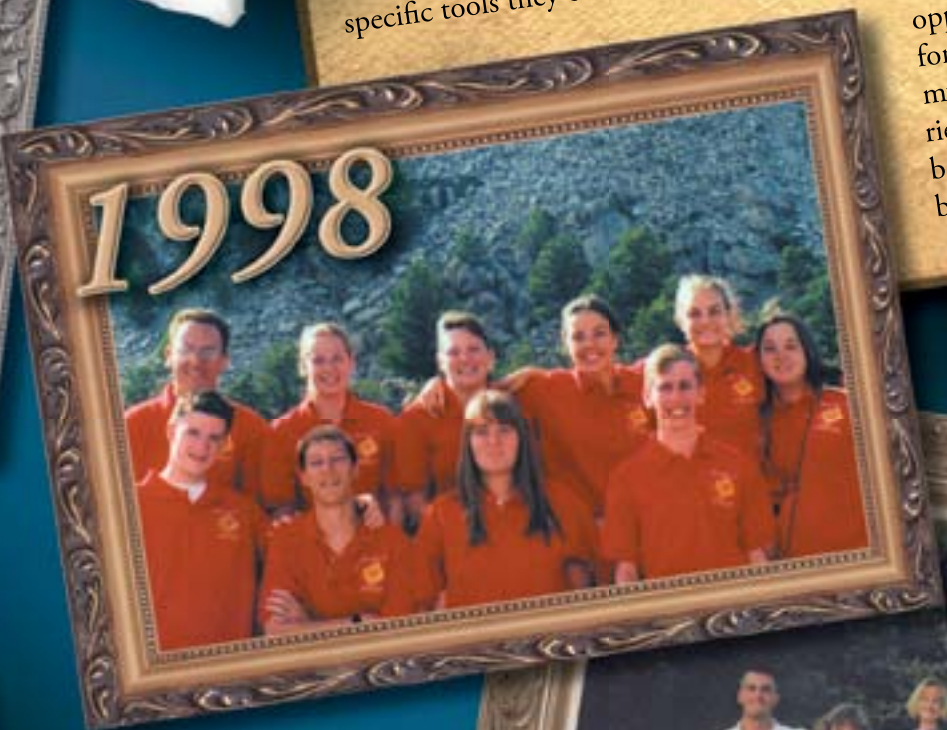
I think the first time I worked with the interns was the summer of 1997. They were called Foundation for Research on Ancient America (FRAA) back then, and I was so excited they were coming. I'd never had the chance or opportunity to work with fellow Book of Mormon believers and, being from Texas, I didn't really know many Book of Mormon believers anyway.

My first response prior to their arrival was to pray. I asked that the Lord would bless my efforts and, as I took the group through the course, they would gain greater insights into His love for them. I also asked that He would help to build up their team, so they could become more effective witnesses for Him. If those two things occurred, I knew we all would be blessed.

I took the interns to a field to begin our opening activities. The group was highly functioning, so I knew we would be able to do great things. One activity provided the opportunity for the group to hold fast to the Rod of Iron as they tried to make their way to the Tree of Life. Of course, all of them were blindfolded. Another activity forced them to swing over a "river of doubt and despair" as they moved to an island of joy and peace. Their goal was to rescue someone who was covered with discouragement and despair without falling into despair themselves. All of them had to swing to the island, and all had to shower the struggling saint with their testimony. Their final activity was to get over a 12-foot wall which represented the struggles all of us have when it comes to being effective servants for Christ.

While we performed many other activities that day, the thing I took away with me was that God has seen fit to arm many of our youth with a desire to serve. Having the Book of Mormon Foundation available for the youth has been an even greater thing because it merges their willingness to serve with specific tools they can use as effective servants for Christ.

Since that fine summer day in 1997, I have had the opportunity to provide a challenge course experience for every intern group. What I didn't realize then was my heart would be forever changed through the experiences I've shared with all of them. I thank God because I am sure he knew how much I've needed to be a part of such a fine organization!





Anita and Val Brotherton

It has been our pleasure to have been associated with The Book of Mormon Foundation for many years. From the first time we heard of this Internship, we were very excited about it. There are very few programs for the young adults in the church. This program is the best we've seen in building up our young people in the Lord, as well as giving them excellent avenues of witnessing, worship and personal spiritual growth. Anita and I both served on the selection committee for many years. We also went on numerous trips with the interns. The trips to Belize and Oaxaca were some of the most memorable. We worshipped with many of the saints in those areas and spent time working on various construction projects. We also were privileged to visit some of the ancient ruins at Lamanai and Monte Alban. For several years, Val has been a part of the first-day orientation, as well as teaching one of the classes that are shared during the six-week program. It is our prayer that the Lord will continue to use The Book of Mormon Foundation Internship to prepare our youth for the building of His kingdom.



Deborah Ballantyne/Bird

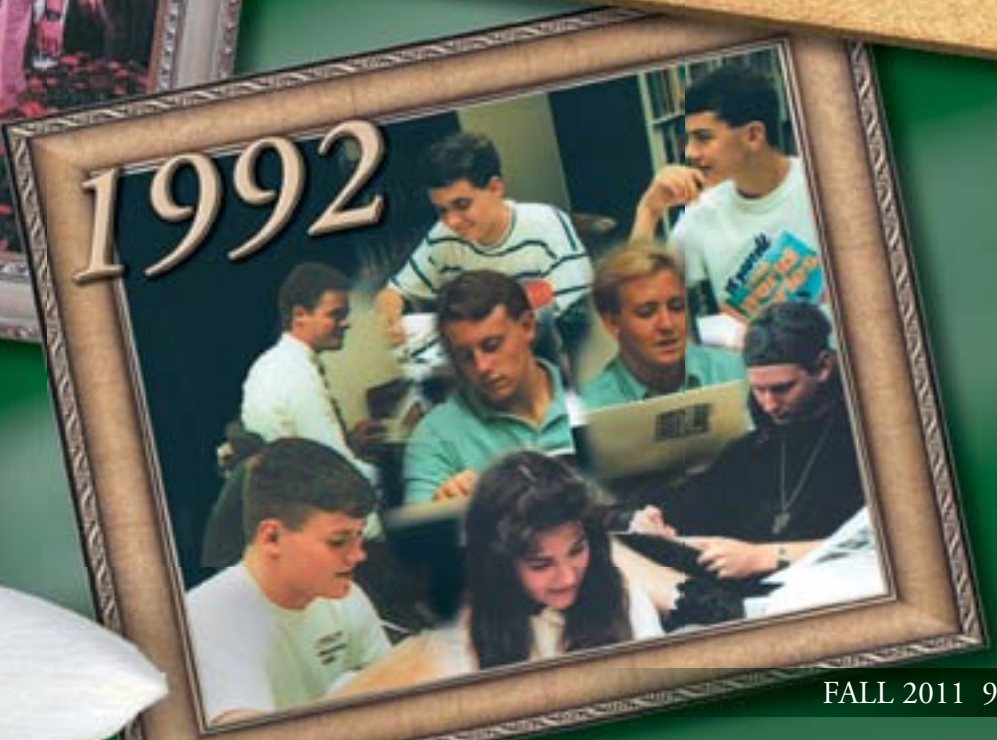
It is hard to believe that a decade has passed since I participated in the 2001 Book of Mormon Foundation Internship, yet as I think back to the experiences from those few months, I realize how much my life was changed! There are so many events and testimonies that happened that summer that have molded and shaped me into the person I am today. However, one particular thing that seemed insignificant at the time was when our director, Bonnie Anderson, challenged us to journal our testimonies and blessings. I did that during that summer and am so grateful to have those experiences written down to look back on. Many of them are things I would not have remembered had I not taken the time to journal.

I haven't been great at doing it all of the 10 years since then, but in 2007, my son was born. When he was just a tiny baby, I decided that I should record and scrapbook everything I could so that someday, the experiences we had as a family could be passed down to him. Since that time, I have strived to be diligent at writing down the daily/weekly blessings, and I include them in the end of our annual family scrapbook. It is something small I started 10 years ago in the Internship that has now played a key role in bringing up my family. It is my hope and desire that, someday, we can take these experiences and make them into a family testimony book, to not only strengthen our family's faith, but to bear witness of God's goodness in our lives to others. It has made such a difference to us as we notice even the "little" blessings that we otherwise might have missed.

I am so grateful for the experiences I gained through both the first and second year Internships. From the classes and prayer services to the trips to Belize, my life has been better because of it! Thank you to those who have paved the way to make it possible. Above all, thank you to our Heavenly Father who blesses us each day and provides us with these kinds of testimonies to strengthen us when we need it the most.

Jeff Anger

It's hard to believe that it has been 20 years since the Foundation for Research on Ancient America began what I think was their greatest project. It was my grandmother who saw a bulletin insert that shared about an internship to learn about the Book of Mormon. I was so blessed to be a part of the first two years of the program. I remember many days that first year talking about the Internship and speculating as to where it would be in 10 and 20 years. While the program has become infinitely more refined than that first summer, I believe the Internship was a huge part of my formative years in the gospel. The study and preparation we were able to be a part of were amazing. I can count several of those first interns as my dearest friends.



2011 BOOK OF MORMON DAY for Kids



“From the **GROVE**
to the **PRESS**”

Saturday, November 19, 2011
8:30am - 2:30pm
Living Hope Restoration Branch

Kindergarten - 6th Grade
\$10 per child, \$20 per family
T-shirt, lunch and snacks provided

Presented By
The Book of Mormon Foundation

2011 Intern Testimonies



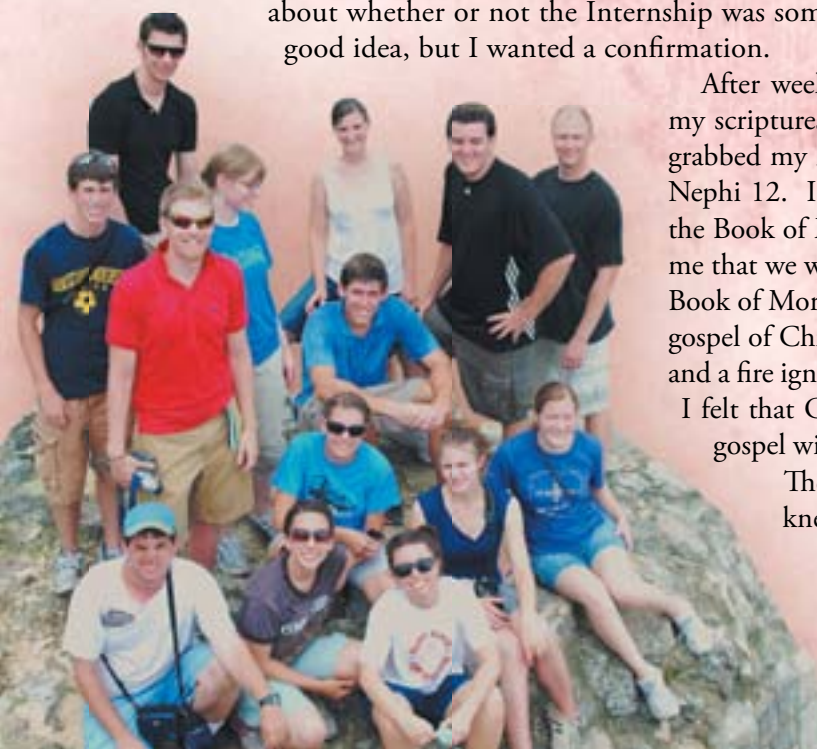
Lauren Dillon – One week into the Internship, two people I had attended high school with were involved in an ATV accident. One died instantly, and one had very severe injuries and was in the ICU ward in the hospital. It really affected me because the boy who died was someone I had spent time with. It was different than grandparents who had passed when I was young or people I didn't know from church. Also, a very close friend of mine was best friends with the boy who died and wasn't handling the loss well. It hurt me to see him going through such pain and not be able to do anything to help. This happened on the weekend. Upon returning to classes at the Book of Mormon Foundation on Monday morning, I found myself distracted and unable to think about anything else but what had occurred. I put the names of those affected most by the tragedy on our prayer list, and the interns prayed mightily from then on for strength and peace for those who were mourning, and health and healing for the girl still in the hospital. As the week passed, I continued on my emotional roller coaster and struggled with how to be there for my friends who were hurting. Looking back, I can see that God was quietly guiding me back to my normal day-to-day life. He has taught me to give up ALL of my troubles to Him and that He will guide me through the ups and downs of life. He will take care of me and help me to help others.

Savannah Etter – I am part of a Christian group at UMKC, where I attend college. At times, I sensed that we viewed so many things in such different ways. I actually had been thinking of not attending the meetings anymore, because I just didn't understand them. As part of the Internship, Bob Bobbitt presented a class which showed us the different viewpoints of Christians in the world. With almost everything he pointed out, I was able to see how the group at school related to them. Now I feel like I will be able to relate to them better and be a better witness. In addition, I understand our own church much better, and I feel like I have a greater testimony.

Amy Friend – I have had the Book of Mormon Internship in the back of my mind for many years. I thought becoming an intern would be a great opportunity to grow and become a better witness. When a free summer finally presented itself, I started to pray about whether or not the Internship was something God really wanted me to do. I thought it seemed like a good idea, but I wanted a confirmation.

After weeks of praying, one day I felt a sudden and distinct urge to go to my scriptures and flip them open. I finally decided to follow the direction. I grabbed my 3-in-1, opened it, and let it fall to a random page. It opened to 2 Nephi 12. I began to read verse 80 about the prophecy of the Gentiles taking the Book of Mormon to the descendants of Lehi in the last days. It dawned on me that we were the Gentiles, and that we will be an instrument in bringing the Book of Mormon descendants back to the knowledge of their history and of the gospel of Christ. I thought of Belize (this summer's destination for the interns), and a fire ignited in my heart. I was filled with the desire to share in this mission. I felt that God was pulling me to the Internship and pulling me to share the gospel with this lost tribe of Israel.

The weeks of the Internship passed by like a whirlwind and, before we knew it, we were in Belize. We went to prayer service on our second night there. I thought we would be putting on one of our services at a later date, so I had not even thought about sharing my testimony that Wednesday. Then, Arturo opened up the floor





for testimonies of the Book of Mormon. As others began to share, the thought hit me to share my experience of coming to the Internship. I immediately shut out the thought. I was afraid. This was a new place with people I didn't know who spoke another language, but I kept the idea in the back of my mind. Slowly, I began to open my heart and pray, and many of my fellow interns got up to bear testimony, and it gave me strength. The feeling that I should share became stronger and stronger. I finally got up the courage and decided to get up. However, someone else hopped up before I did, and Arturo announced that it would be the last testimony. I was heartbroken. I had lost my opportunity after I had finally overcome my fear. After the testimony,

we knelt down to pray as a congregation, but I prayed my own prayer. I asked God to give me the opportunity to share my testimony that night if He really did want me to share. When the prayer was over, Arturo announced that the Spirit was strong, and he felt that we should keep sharing testimonies. I was overjoyed that God had answered my prayer and knew that I had to speak. I got up and shared my testimony with the congregation about the validity of this Book of Mormon prophecy. I told them they may be descendants of Lehi. As I shared, the spirit flooded into my heart, and I felt a great love for all of the people. I told them God loved them and sat down. Many more people shared their testimonies that night. Because of the Spirit I felt and the powerful testimonies I heard, the truth of the scripture burned in my heart, and I knew without a doubt that the Book of Mormon was the word of God.

I also had the opportunity to give away two copies of the Book of Mormon while sight-seeing. I truly feel that God led me to the Internship, allowed me to participate in His latter-day work, and gave me confirmation of the truth of his scripture. I know the Book of Mormon is true.

Caleb Geno – When it came to the Book of Mormon Internship, I decided to apply this year, and I believed God would put me in if he wanted me there. This year, I almost didn't apply because they were going to Belize. I am not completely sure why, but I have a fear of leaving the country. I went ahead and decided to apply and trust God with the results. The interview seemed to go well, which made me a little nervous. When I received word that I had been accepted, the fear of leaving for Belize began. Throughout the Internship, I pushed it to the corner of my thoughts, not wanting it to get in the way of the opportunity the internship provided. As the time got closer, I became more scared than ever, and I finally mentioned my fear on the day before we left. I downplayed it, but that didn't remove the fact that I was petrified about the trip the next day. During the trip, my fear showed itself in fear of flying, even though I have been in planes many times prior to this. At the end of the flight, we stopped at our hotel, and the breeze from the ocean hit me. I have been to the ocean from time to time growing up, and each time was a happy experience. When that wind hit my nose, the fear left, and I didn't even remember I was afraid before until after I got back home. Sometimes God calls on us to step out in faith, even though we may be afraid. When we take the step out of the boat (our comfort zone), we find our fear is gone or no longer a factor anymore.

Sean McElwain – On the first day of the Internship, Bonnie Anderson asked all of us what we wanted out of the internship. Then she asked me specifically, and I said, "I'll give what I got and get what I get," and, truthfully, I had little more inclination than that as to what the next six weeks would bring. As the program went on, I liked some of the classes more than others. Personally, I favored the classes that focused more on the Book of Mormon and noncircumstantial evidences supporting it. As we progressed through the six weeks, I began to feel a change within myself. More than anything, it was a shift in perspective. The Internship helped me to internalize concepts and lessons I had already known and see them more clearly. I was able to be more loving and was finally able to connect to other non-Restoration Christians. Ever since I was young, I felt a separation between our faith and the Christian world. I thought the Christian world was superficial and fake. It was a challenge for me to connect with them. I can't really explain what or how, but the Internship helped me to move past this and make a connection with them. Reflecting upon the experience above all, the Internship helped me to look at life more clearly.

In I Corinthians 13:12 (IV/KJ), Paul wrote, "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face; now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known." I thought of this scripture because life has not changed, but rather my perception of it.

One of my fondest memories of the Book of Mormon Internship is what, on the surface, seemed to be a complete disaster. When we were in Belize, we traveled two hours by boat on the New River to reach the remote Mayan ruins of Lamanai. Once we arrived, we toured most of the site and climbed the tallest pyramid before a light rain started to fall. Our guide's son, Lorenzo, who was probably around seven years old, offered to share his umbrella. As we were walking, he told me, "hurricane's coming" I was like, "what?!, not soon right?" and little Lorenzo said, "No, soon probably today, hurricanes always come the first week of July." Little Lorenzo was right. Within 30 minutes, the torrential rainfall started. Almost immediately, everybody was drenched except Aaron Brown, who had a poncho. In

the beginning, we stayed under the trees and tried to keep dry. When we realized the rain wasn't going to let up, we decided to just play in the rain. As the rain continued, it was time to take the boat ride back, I was blessed in that I was able to sit next to Sugar Baumgart and take refuge under her umbrella. I looked at the umbrella and thought about all the good things I could do to recompense God for this awesome blessing. Then I began to hear singing. Everyone in front of me

was joyfully singing. I was amazed. Singing?! I thought to myself—and they don't even have the refuge of an umbrella? Then, all at once, I came to understand how blessed I was to be in the company of such great people. What a beautiful blessing! As someone once said, "Attitude is 90% of the experience." What could be looked at as a disaster of a day turned out to be one of my fondest memories. It is amazing how just the slightest shift in perception can melt the heart.

Jeff Ohmer — On the first Tuesday of the Internship, we had a class on prayer. Pat Chadwick came to share the types of prayers that you can say, how important it is to pray, and how powerful prayer is. As she talked about the power of prayer, she shared many testimonies, but the one that made an impact on me is that God can answer prayers even before you ask them. During the Internship, when our service project at Odessa Hills was finished, I headed north to Graceland University to go to the last two days of South Crysler's Reunion. After a great sermon Thursday and a good day Friday, I headed to church with a drawstring backpack that had my 3-in-1 and a King James Version a friend had given me. After the service, I went outside to help start the campfire. I put down my backpack to get matches out, and soon we had the campfire going, and singing was starting. I then went to my car and grabbed my blanket to sit on. After campfire, I folded my blanket into its backpack form and headed inside the Memorial Student Center, (MSC) for some fellowship and pizza with the youth there. When that was done, I headed to my room for some sleep. When I woke up and went to breakfast, I saw some ominous clouds, but ate breakfast and then changed to go to the baptismal service. An hour later, as the baptismal service concluded, we walked back to the MSC for the dedication service, while it continued to rain. After the dedication service, we went to lunch and then packed up to leave. When I got home, I started unpacking and suddenly realized I didn't have my backpack or my scriptures. I then stopped and prayed, "Lord in Heaven, if there is any way you can protect my scriptures that were in my backpack in the rain all day, I pray that you would protect them. I would like to have them back because I have valuable information in them and I don't want a new set, Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen." When we went to church Sunday, we talked to the Reunion pastor, who then called Brad Carr, who works at Graceland, to look for the backpack with the scriptures. When I got home that Wednesday, I saw my backpack on the entry way table with a Sudoku book I had forgotten was in there, I picked it up to find it completely soaked, and my heart sank. Then I picked up the 3-in-1 and King James Version, and neither were even slightly damp. I share this testimony to tell you all that the Lord cares about every little thing and will answer prayers even before they are asked. That is one of the reasons the power of prayer is so strong.

Mindy Reynolds — I have received so many blessings through the Internship. It's hard to narrow it down to one. For me, one of the blessings that made the most lasting impression occurred while I was in Belize. I have struggled with celiac disease and IBS for quite a few years now. I have to be very careful about what I eat and how I eat it, or I get very sick. The main problem is gluten. This substance is like poison to me. It's always very difficult for people to understand just how sensitive I am to the tiniest crumb or even molecules you can't even see. I'm also not as strong and resilient as I used to be, which is incredibly frustrating sometimes. So, when we were preparing



for Belize, we were all very concerned. Bonnie Anderson contacted the owners and cooks of the hotel where we would be staying. It was decided that I would bring as much food from home as I could, go grocery shopping in Belize and cook most of my own meals.

Even with this plan, I was a little worried. I always get sick when I travel, even if I'm with my parents, and we're all being super careful. I somehow always get sick at some point in the trip. I love traveling sooooo much, though, that it's worth the pain. This trip would be no different. I knew God had led me to the Foundation, and this trip would be not for my own pleasure, but rather for the building of His Kingdom. I was on God's errands, so I knew He would get me there and back in one piece, and I would be able to do the things I had been asked to do.

All of the interns prayed heartily for our health during the weeks leading up to the trip. I packed as much food as I could to take on the trip. Amazingly, Customs didn't seem to mind at all. Then, we trekked across Belize in our big van and truck for a long while and finally arrived at the hotel. It wasn't very long before supper was ready. I brought a can of soup to the table but, before I opened it, I thought I'd check to see if there was anything else I might be able to eat. I looked at the table full of food and thought to myself, "You know... I think I can eat just about everything in this meal." I ate and was completely filled, and I didn't get sick! I was surprised, but I brushed it off as a one-time-only coincidence. The next morning, I brought down my cereal but, as I went to prepare it, I noticed there were plenty of things I could eat there, too. It turned out that I was filled at every single meal and never had to get into my own food. I had some nuts to snack on a couple times, but I never walked away from a meal hungry. And, what was most amazing, I never once got sick or even felt the slightest bit of pain. I felt better there than I did in the States! I found out that the cooks were using separate griddles and silverware and such on my food. They somehow knew how to feed someone with sensitive food allergies, which was so amazing to me. God gave them a perfect knowledge of my needs, and they did a fantastic job. I couldn't believe it. Not only did I not get sick, but I had plenty of strength to make it through all the work days, and I got to go see all the sights. Even during the rest of the Internship before and after the trip, God gave me the strength to go to every single class and every work day. I have been given such a blessing this summer, and I am so thankful to be able to see God's hand working in my life.

Jamie Spencer — In the second week into the Internship, the Lord prompted me to seek out a personal experience with Him. I had lots of testimonies about the Lord's love and grace and goodness, yet I didn't have a solid experience of the Lord. I had had this desire for a long time, but was beginning to think maybe the smaller testimonies should suffice, or maybe the Lord was calling me to live on faith alone. It wasn't until the Internship, however, that I started earnestly praying about it and seeking out a testimony. Pat Chadwick had talked about praying mightily and diligently, so I decided to try it out—maybe if the Lord knew I desired a testimony enough to diligently seek for one, then He would bless me with one in His time.

About a week after I started praying for this, we had a prayer and fasting service in which Marlin Guin presided. The idea he gave us to pray about was having a personal testimony of Christ. He stressed the importance of such a testimony and the importance of a desire for a testimony. It was as if the Lord was trying to tell me that He was hearing my prayers, and that I needed to continue to seek Him out, and He would bless me in the end.

That night, we interns put on a service for Devon Park. I shared my testimony of how I felt the Lord directing me to this point of seeking out a testimony, and finished it by speaking of how I know the Lord will fulfill this desire, in His time.

After the service, two sweet ladies came up to talk to me and, in the midst of our conversation, they said they appreciated my desire for a testimony. They said they would be praying with me as well that the

Lord would grant me a personal testimony. I so much appreciated their desire to be prayer warriors!

The next day in class, David Gilmore mentioned the need for a personal testimony. Then, the following Sunday, the interns put on a service at Living Hope and, during the Sunday school class, Dayne Cederstrom spoke of having a personal testimony of the Book of Mormon! I really felt the Lord was telling me something! For the service, I

again shared my testimony of my search for a personal testimony. The Lord

blessed us immensely in the service and, afterwards, Richard Neill

came up and said he had something to share with me when I had a moment. I was so excited, because I could feel that what he was going to tell me might be something of the Lord, but we didn't have a chance to talk after church.

That night, at the summer series, I found Richard after the service. He shared with me what had been on his heart. The Lord had impressed upon him a message for me! I was incredibly shocked and excited—no one had ever been impressed upon by the Spirit to tell me anything before! Everything he told me were struggles or situations I had been praying about for over a year. He even had a specific phrase that the Lord had heavily impressed, in which He called me by name. I had been praying that the Lord would show me that He does know me by name and has a plan set out for



me and, through this experience, He showed me the truth in this. The Lord is so amazing to care about each and every one of us, if we just diligently seek Him out! It may not be right away, and I'm still searching for a strong testimony in other ways that has yet to come, but the Lord desires so much to bless each person with a testimony, if they will only make it a matter of mighty prayer.



Aaron Thomas — I decided to apply for the Book of Mormon Internship in the fall of last year. I knew that it would be a spiritually fulfilling experience if I took the time to apply and go through the course. After I applied, I began to question if I should sacrifice my summer for something I did not have a testimony about. Eldon and Bonnie Anderson encouraged me to apply, but there was a director change, and they were no longer in that position with the Internship. The torch had been passed to Sugar and Lynn Baumgart, and I had no idea who they were. I began to be concerned about taking the leap of faith and spending six weeks with people I didn't know, in an area that I didn't know, doing things that I had no prior knowledge of. I decided that I would apply for a different job this summer. I went to the website and just as my cursor was over the apply button the phone rang, it was Bonnie. She wanted to call and make sure that I didn't have any questions about my interview process that was right around the corner. Up until that point, Sugar had been doing all of the coordinating about the Internship with me. I decided if the Lord's timing was that exact about the Internship, that the Lord would bless me and direct my paths if I dedicated my summer to Him. It has been my testimony that the Book of Mormon Internship has been more of a blessing to me than I could have ever imagined.

The first week I was in the Independence area, I was asked to preach. We had been encouraged to ask our fellow interns for prayers if we had any concerns. I was hesitant about asking people that I hardly knew for prayers about a preaching assignment. When I finally did, they not only said they would pray for me, but they also said they wanted to go and hear me preach. Needless to say, this raised the stakes by quite a bit. It was then that I realized I was at the right place at the right time. There were times we were all tired, sweaty, sore and mosquito-plagued. However, the same sense of overwhelming support I had a sense of at week one was just as strong at the close of week six.

Belize Ministry

The trip to Belize this year was AMAZING! God poured so many blessings on us while we were there.

The weather was perfect for each day. Our first three days in which we painted were partly cloudy and warm, yet with a nice breeze, which helped dry the paint faster. The rest of the week was not too hot, with temperatures mostly around the 80s F.

Also, we were able to finish painting the schools in record time. At the first school, we painted a mural, which we finished in a day and a half. Amy Friend, our chief artist, who had just graduated with a degree in art education, said she was surprised at how fast the progress went with the mural. At the second school, we barely finished painting the building a sky blue color and a light tan for the doors and window boards by 3:00 p.m.—our latest designated stopping time. The extra work crew who would have finished anything left the next day were very happy!

After our painting, we did a campfire for the youth of the local church and had a youth retreat the next day. We also invited the kids from the Remnant Church in Belize and worshipped and played together. The youth retreat was a huge success, despite the language barrier. The kids gradually opened up and became more and more comfortable with us and, by the time the last class rolled around, they were enthusiastic and full of joy! Later, we played games with them. The older guys played an intense game of soccer while the younger kids played games like duck-duck-goose, different variations of tag and a game called "the dog and the bowl." I will remember those kids with happy feelings forever!

-Reported by Savannah Etter



The Book of Mormon Foundation
210 West White Oak
Independence, MO 64050

Change Service Requested

Nonprofit
Organization
US. Postage
PAID
Kansas City, MO
Permit No. 1016

The Red Sky Series

Classes Presented by
The Book of Mormon Foundation

Part I	The Red Sky Parable	Dale Godfrey
Part II	Signs of the Times	Marlin Guin
Part III	What is Our Response?	Rich Rowland

Matthew 16:1-5

Contact Sue Manning at The Book of Mormon Foundation to schedule classes at your congregation or retreat. Classes have been scheduled at Waldo Restoration Branch from October 9 through November 20th at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.