

Seek a Personal Testimony



Fall 1994

WITNESS

No. 86

"If Ye Shall Ask with a Sincere Heart..."

Moroni 10:5

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The WITNESS

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NUMBER 86

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Through research, publications, seminars, and related projects, members of FRAA seek to assist in bringing forth the light contained in the ancient scriptures of the Book of Mormon. A contribution to the Foundation for Research on Ancient America is tax deductible.

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Cover . . .

In unexpected moments, God's light breaks through, calling us into the light of Christ. The cover photograph, taken on the eastern coast of Scotland, captures such a moment.

Photo credit: Lory Miller / David Lawson

TESTIFY UNTO THE LORD

Of Your Belief in the Book Of Mormon
by Reading it in the Next Six Months

F.R.A.A. is offering a challenge to all those who believe in the Book of Mormon. We are asking you to read the Book of Mormon in the next six months as a testimony to the Lord that you are thankful for this gift of additional spiritual direction, that you believe in its message, and that you are committed to making its principles a part of your life.

Each person who commits himself to this task, both old and young, will stand as a witness much like the people who responded to Moroni's "title of liberty." As they remembered the blessings of the Lord, so shall we.

In the summer issue of *The Witness*, F.R.A.A. will print the names of all those who write to us and tell us they have completed reading the Book of Mormon. We need your response by May 1st to include it in our summer issue. If you receive a special testimony as a result of this, please share it with us. We are hoping that this banner of our belief will encourage and inspire others to testify unto the Lord.

Begin now to read the Book of Mormon to your children and encourage your congregation, friends and families to take up this challenge. We believe that your response will bless you and testify of your commitment to him.

Upon completion, list each member of your family and write to:

FRAA/TESTIFY
210 W. WHITE OAK
INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI 64050

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Message from FRAA

Obtaining a Personal and Powerful Testimony

Recently an article from a western newspaper came to my attention. In it a man was being interviewed who belonged to a church which claimed its heritage from 1830 and had traditionally used as its doctrinal basis the three standard books: the Bible, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Book of Mormon. When questioned on the emphasis on scripture, the man replied, "The Bible is probably an 8 on a scale of 1 to 10, the Doctrine and Covenants a 1.5, and the Book of Mormon a 0.5."

The statement troubled me. I had always believed that these three books represented the "word of God," having been inspired by the power of the Lord. As such, they held equal importance in my life.

I reflected on these thoughts on a recent vacation that offered me quiet moments to reread the Book of Mormon. In doing so, several passages came to my attention. In I Nephi 3:202 the Lord said that we (the gentiles) could be numbered among the house of Israel, but he noted that his commandments must be adhered to. Second Nephi 12:44 cautions: *And my words shall hiss forth unto the ends of the earth, for a standard unto the people which are of the house of Israel.* I knew then that we will be judged from each book of scripture that he has blessed us with. As we see in III Nephi 13:2, *...out of the books which have been written, and which shall be written, shall this people be judged...* I noted further that Alma admonished that... *the portion of his word, which he doth grant unto the children of men (is) according to the heed and diligence which they give unto him* (Alma 9:16).

I sat looking at this book, a book in which all generations of my family from Nauvoo until now, have believed. It is a book for which thousands of unnamed men and women have given their lives so that we would have a knowledge that they knew Christ. It is a book in which, according to their faith, God by his power revealed his gospel as a blessing upon all who would possess this land (Doctrine and Covenants 3:11-12).

My eyes then fell upon still another passage, *...deny not the power of God; for he worketh by power, according to the faith of the children of men, the same today and tomorrow and forever* (Moroni 10:7).

I turned the page, noting that these were some of the last words which Moroni would urge upon us... *I exhort you to remember these things... for you shall see me at the bar of God, and the Lord God will say unto you, 'Did I not declare my words unto you, which were written by this man, like as one crying from the dead?' And God shall show unto you, that that which I have written is true* (Moroni 10:22-23, 26).

The Book of Mormon is a true and powerful witness of Jesus Christ. Yet often through neglect, inadvertence, or simply lack of diligence, it becomes a 0.5 in our lives. Then the testimonies and spiritual direction it could give are diminished. This issue contains the testimonies of numerous individuals bearing a witness of Jesus Christ and his message as found in the Book of Mormon. Moroni's words, reaching out over hundreds of years, urge all of us to *come unto Christ* and witness of him. Each of us can do this and obtain a personal, powerful testimony by committing ourselves in the next six months to reading or rereading the Book of Mormon. By this act, we testify unto our Lord that we have believed his words, and they have found place in our hearts.

Michael Gatrost
President FRAA

Calendar

November 19-20	Book of Mormon Day Followers of Christ Church, Woodbine, Iowa
November 20	Student Intern Testimonies South Chrysler Restoration Branch, Independence, Missouri
January 7, 1995	Student Intern New Testament Seminar
January 8, 1995	Book of Mormon Day Restoration Branch of Jesus Christ, Lexington, Missouri

Foundation

News

Testify to the Lord

On December 1, 1994, FRAA will initiate an exciting project for all who love the Book of Mormon. For the next 6 months, until May 1, 1995, FRAA is asking everyone, both young and old, to read the Book of Mormon. No matter that you have read the Book of Mormon dozens of times or not at all. For these 6 months anyone who reads it will have his or her name printed in the summer issue of *The Witness*. We hope that each of our readers will take this opportunity to "testify to the Lord" of your belief in the Book of Mormon. Start now, and be sure to write and tell us of your successful completion.

Christmas Children's Book Project

To celebrate the true meaning of Christmas, FRAA is promoting its Christmas Children's Book Project. Designed to allow members of congregations to reach out to the community around their churches, FRAA is providing thousands of Bible storybooks. Congregations will witness of the birth of Jesus Christ and his ministry by giving storybooks to households which have children or grandchildren. Each recipient will be encouraged to read the books on Christmas eve or Christmas morning. If your congregation would like to participate, please call FRAA without delay.

Student Intern New Testament Classes

On January 7, the 1994 student interns will be reunited, to study and learn about the New Testament. Classes will focus on the life and ministry of Jesus. Several instructors will bring important lessons and principles which the interns can incorporate into their own lives.

Volunteers with library experience needed to work with FRAA research books and materials.

Through the efforts of F.R.A.A., the witness of Jesus Christ in the Book of Mormon is being carried to thousands of people. Help us accomplish this great work by sending your contribution in the envelope provided in the centerfold of this issue.

Summer Internship

1994

In the finer moments of life, when we push aside all the time consuming, mundane tasks, our hearts are left searching for something, something that feels honest and true, something that lasts in this throw-away world, something that brings fullness and completeness into our fragmented and shallow lives. That something which eludes so many is a testimony of Jesus Christ, that he lives as a redeeming savior, the Son of God. With that testimony comes the power to overcome mediocrity and a measure of hope and joy which fills our empty hearts.

The summer interns of 1994 found themselves on this quest to know Jesus Christ and to learn of the testimony of him in the Book of Mormon. Like the high school and college-age students in the two preceding years, these 12 young latter-day-saints contended with God, each other, and themselves in a journey of tremendous importance. For in knowing Christ and understanding his word, they find themselves, who they are and who they are destined through Christ to be.

Summer mornings were filled with classes, lectures, and discussions on principles of the gospel, witnessing, geography, archaeology and many other topics related to the Book of Mormon. Afternoons were spent in team-building group projects and individual research on selected topics in the Book of Mormon. Students also helped on work projects and witnessed at camps, reunions, and Book of Mormon days. We scheduled services and outreach to several community organizations that offer help to the aged and poor. We travelled to church historical sites and to the graves of several of the Book of Mormon witnesses to read their parting words of testimony on the validity of the Book of Mormon. All these many activities prepared the students to allow God to move



Monument to Alexander Doniphan, early defender of the Saints, at Richmond, Missouri

Searching for a Personal Testimony of Jesus Christ

by Tom Mitchell

strategically within their lives. As always, God did not let them down.

Each summer there seems to be a turning point when the interns begin to focus their energies and make tremendous growth. Last year it was the Kirtland/Palmyra trip and the testimony service at senior high camp. Again this year at senior high camp several of the interns committed their lives more fully to Christ. I will never forget the light in Angel McKee's eyes the morning she shared her testimony of the

Book of Mormon which she had received at camp. Nor will I forget the enthusiasm of Adam Gard. During the interns' testimony service Tuesday night, he told of his experiences as co-director of a youth camp in Woodbine, Iowa, and how sharing a Book of Mormon with a young woman had made a difference in her life.

Another turning point for many was a congregational Book-of-Mormon day at the Hill Cumorah restoration branch. Because of other commitments, I was not scheduled to be there, but something inside told me to make the time to go have prayer with them before the activities began. As we gathered and prayed together, I felt the spirit of God moving among my friends. They had worked hard on their presentations and in preparing their testimonies, and when I had to leave, I knew I should hurry back for their testimonies. When I returned, I was amazed at the distance many of these young men and women had come in a few short weeks. The testimony that touched me that morning was Chad Rouff's. He had always shown the attributes of a strong leader, but something had changed within him. His

focus in life had been redirected to a higher call. That same call came to the other interns as they shared during the summer: through Misty Maybee's dramatic interpretations; the musical talents of Shana Kreutner, Ruth Bailey and Angel McKee; the steadiness of Shawn Noland and Becky Leitzinger; the scholarship of Julie Combs and Mike Watson; the generosity and kindness of Laura Slaughter; the artistic nature of Adam Gard and the righteous desires and humor of Kathryn Burdick. Each of them received a testimony in unique ways which brought all of them closer to the Lord. Fellow saints, I look forward with anticipation to a time when we can have a program for a hundred young people. There is an increasing need for opportunities to learn, grow and serve. But that time will only come when our desire to provide opportunities for spiritual growth overcomes the limitation of funds, faculty and facilities. From the staff and students of the 1994 internship program, I thank all of you who have made this program possible. Many have donated time and money and offered prayerful support. Godspeed to all until the days of the Foundation's summer internship program come again.

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Old Saints' Cemetary, Richmond, Missouri



David Whitmer Grave, Richmond, Missouri



Powerful Personal Testimonies of Christ in the Book of Mormon... *Part 2 of 2*

By John W. Welch
(Professor of Law, Brigham Young University)

One most important function of the Book of Mormon is to convey to the modern world powerful testimonies of the divine mission and essential attributes of Jesus Christ, *to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal god* (Preface).

The Book of Mormon is a convincing witness for Christ because its writers freely shared their personal testimonies of him. Building upon a foundational testimony, each Book of Mormon prophet accented certain attributes of Christ based on his own spiritual experiences, callings, and individual circumstances... (thus) revealing things about Christ and also about himself.

(Part I of this article can be found in the 1994 summer issue of The Witness.)

ALMA THE YOUNGER

Alma, the judicial and religious defender of the freedom of belief (ca. 100-73 B.C.), taught faith in Jesus Christ, the master of personal conversion. He had tasted the transforming joy that came when he called upon the name of Jesus for mercy (Alma 17:16 cf. Mosiah 11:150-207).

In his subsequent sermons, Alma described how the "image of God" might be "engraven upon your countenances" (Alma 3:36-37) and the word of Christ planted in each convert's soul, where, if nourished, it would spring up as an everlasting tree of life (Alma 16:169; 16:196-200). Indelibly changed by his joyous conversion and rescue as he stood at the brink of God's destroying judgment, Alma personally knew of the mercy of God (which he mentions more than sixteen times), of the deliverance of God (mentioned more than twelve times), of God's "plan of redemption" (mentioned eight times), of the joy of conversion (more than twenty times), and of the inevitability that God will judge all people (more than ten times).

As chief judge, Alma was particularly interested in God's justice. He gave the only discourse on the relationship of justice and mercy (Alma 19) as well as the most complete de-

scription of the evidence that the divine judge will assess in making that judgment: "Our words will condemn us, yea, all our works will condemn us; we shall not be found spotless; and our thoughts will also condemn us" (Alma 9:23-25). Alma was also the only writer in scripture to attribute to God the quality of "equity" (three times: Alma 7:40, 8:30, 9:73).

After leaving his political, judicial, and military posts as the head of the Nephite state, Alma devoted himself to testifying of Christ. He found that only by "bearing down in pure testimony" could he hope to "pull down, by the word of God, all the pride and craftiness and all the contentions which were among his people" (Alma 2:26-27).

Alma tried to appeal to all segments of Nephite society -- to the faithful in Gideon, to the apostates in Ammonihah, to the inconstant in Zarahemla, and to the poor in Pantionum. His terminology reflects a broad orientation.

He also used a wide range of names for Christ, names that speak of him christologically, personally, or redemptively; phrases that reflect his sonship, divinity, rulership, and deliverances of Israel; titles that acknowledge him as the Creator

who remembers all his creations; and as the good shepherd who leads his people.

AMULEK

Amulek, one of Alma the Younger's most celebrated converts, was a wealthy man who had acquired prestige and riches by his own industry. He was the master of a large household (Alma 8:16-17), and after his conversion he was proud of his illustrious Nephite lineage (Alma 8:3-5).

He was evidently quite literate, perhaps providing many of the books (which would have been costly) that were burned when the women and children of the faithful were incinerated in Ammonihah. I assume that some were among those who "had been taught to believe in the word of God" and who were accordingly martyred (Alma 10:45-46); and undoubtedly he was a close friend of many of the martyrs and men with whom he was cast out.

Amulek saw the awful annihilation of the apostate city of Ammonihah. He lost all of his earthly possessions as the city was destroyed by the sword, burnt by fire, and reduced to a heap (cf. Deuteronomy 13:16). Notwithstanding these developments, and perhaps because of them, Amulek turned more ardently than any other Book of Mormon prophet to superlative descriptions of the infinite scope of the

(Continued on page 11)

My gift to you is

***1 Free Story
about Jesus***

(redeemable anytime)

As a special gift to you...

***I will try to tell you
My True Feelings
in the best way I can***

*(because I know you care about
me and that we should be close)*

My gift to you is...

**To help shovel
snow from
the driveway**

I promise you that...

***I will do
my best
to be a good
steward***

(and to listen to your advice)



My present to you is...

***I will keep
my room
clean***

(for more than 5 minutes)

My gift to you is
***1 free
snowball fight
with hot chocolate
afterward***

My gift to you is...

***To help
clean up
the house***

(anytime you need me)

My gift to you is...

***To help with
the dishes***

*(when you are tired
and need a rest)*

**This Christmas season, we
encourage you to spend quality
time with your family reflecting
on the true celebration of
Christmas. Please, use these
coupons which remind us that
the best gifts are those which
come from the heart.**

Have a safe and wonderful holiday, from everyone at F.R.A.A.

My gift to you is...

***To help with
the laundry***

(when it starts piling up)

My gift to you is...

***A fun story
about the future,
and what I want
to be when I
grow up***

10

Big Hugs

(all at once)

... whenever you need them.

(coupon can be used over and over... forever!)

My gift to you is...

***A
"Special Day"***

***when you and I can relax
and have nothing but
fun together***

atonement of Jesus Christ. Nothing else would ever be commensurate with the "great and last sacrifice"

that would be "infinite and eternal."

No form of human revenge or avenging would ever bring back the lives that were lost in the atrocity of Ammonihah.

Amulek's testimony of Christ shines in the light of his background and experience. He is the only one to refer to the atonement of Jesus Christ as the "great and last sacrifice" (five times). For Amulek it is the magnitude of the atonement that is impressive. Not once does he mention the suffering of Christ, for mortal suffering, no matter how extreme, is still of finite duration. Amulek, therefore, made no attempt to explain or depict the mechanics of the great, last, infinite, and eternal sacrifice to "atone for the sins of the world" (Alma 16:206-207; see also 8:96). To Amulek, who himself had been exposed to terrible risks of harm and torture, it was especially pertinent to describe the atonement as encircling people "in the arms of safety" (Alma 16:217; emphasis added), a phrase unique to him in all scripture.

Coming unto Christ, in Amulek's admonition, requires faith and patience (Alma 16:202). Amulek had learned patience, suffering many days in prison in Ammonihah.

He also emphasized the urgency of repentance, singularly urging people not to procrastinate the day of their repentance (Alma 16:233-234), for he had seen the fate of his fellow citizens in Ammonihah who had failed to repent in time. When Amulek spoke of the certainty that the unrepentant "must unavoidably perish" (Alma 16:208-209) and face "that awful crisis" (Alma 16:231-232), for God would not dwell "in unholy temples" (Alma 16:235-236), he testified from spiritual knowledge and actual experience.

Having seen the consequences

of greed and materialism, it is not surprising that Amulek, formerly a wealthy man, would tell even the

Without repentance and charity all are hardened;...

poorest of the Zoramites that if they wanted God to have mercy on them and to hear their prayers, they must not "turn away the needy, and the naked, and visit not the sick and afflicted, and impart of your substance, if ye have, to those who stand in need" (Alma 16:223-224).

Amulek is the only person in scripture ever to use the word "charitable" (Alma 16:225). He knew that without repentance and charity, "all are hardened;...and must perish except it be through the atonement which it is expedient should be made" (Alma 16:208-209,225).

Amulek's favorite and most distinctive name for Christ is "the Son," or "the Son of God" (eight occurrences). He also used the name "Christ" (eight times), "the Lamb" (once) and "the very Eternal Father of heaven and of earth, and all things which in them are" (once, Alma 8:94-95). But above all, for Amulek, Jesus was "the Son of God." Depicting Christ in his familial relationship with the Father may have been especially tender to Amulek, to whom lineage and family were important and whose own sons might have been among those children who perished in the fire in Ammonihah.

MORONI

It is hard to imagine that Moroni's life circumstances were very pleasant. His childhood saw the inexorable deterioration of society. His father, Mormon, must have spent most of his time tediously preparing what he knew would be the final testimony of his collapsing world. Moroni's young manhood was spent in war, as he led a division of ten thousand into a hopeless slaughter.

His last thirty-six years were spent wandering, alone and hunted

like an animal for his refusal to deny Christ. He was the keeper of the words of Christ and the preserver of the prayers of Jesus, which Moroni included in the record only after

he knew that those words would be safe from the hands of apostates and infidels. During those lonely years of wandering, Jesus Christ appeared to Moroni in plain humility, speaking with him face to face in Moroni's own language (Ether 5:40).

Moroni's testimony of Christ, like the testimonies of his predecessors, mirrors the conditions that surrounded him. He saw the only good in the world existing in Christ; he affirmed that all that is good does not deny Christ (Moroni 10:6), just as he had staunchly refused to deny Christ even at the peril of his life.

Moroni repeatedly beckoned his readers to come unto Christ and deny ungodliness, which was rampant in the world that he knew. By contrast, holiness was a main attribute of Christ mentioned by Moroni (Mormon 4:60-64), Jesus being identified as a "holy being" (Mormon 4:60-62), and as the "Holy One" (Mormon 4:74).

Moroni used very few titles for Christ reflecting Jesus' official station (such as "Lord," or "Lord God," or "Father of heaven and earth," etc.). Moroni's texts never use such titles as "Redeemer" or "Savior," and they scantily mention such words as "Lord," "Father and Son," or "Lamb."

More distinctly than any other Book of Mormon writer, Moroni used the two-part name of "Jesus Christ" (sixteen times), the name that figures especially in the sacrament prayers and priesthood ordinances, which Moroni treasured and preserved. Moreover, Moroni showed his own acquaintance with Jesus, calling him by the simple name of "Jesus" eight times, far more than any other Book of Mormon prophet. This intimacy bespeaks the fact that Moroni had indeed walked many years with Jesus as

(continued on page 14)

SHARED PERSONAL TESTIMONIES

from the
1994 Summer Interns

KATHRYN BURDICK

The testimony I received this summer is about the Book of Mormon. I have always claimed to believe in it, but I never had my personal testimony that would erase my faith and turn it to knowledge.

Several weeks before I became an intern, I began praying for a testimony. A good friend directed me to the sixteenth chapter of Alma and helped me to understand the difference between faith and knowledge. I knew that I needed that knowledge in order to be unshakeable in my beliefs.

I prayed with a fellow intern, and within a couple of days, she received her testimony. On the verge of discouragement, I asked an elder to arrange an administration where the three of us would pray, fast and prepare. That night, the Lord assured me that I would receive a testimony of the Book of Mormon.

In about a week's time, I received it. I had gone to church that night and one of the first hymns sung was "I Have Found the Glorious Gospel." I have sung this hymn countless times, but it never touched me the way it did that evening. In the third line are the words "No longer faith, but knowledge, in true and sweet accord, has the precious Angel Message brought to me." At that moment, the Spirit completely flooded my soul. The Spirit spoke to me, and I instantly thought, "Book of Mormon." I asked for confirmation of my testimony and right after the service, I received it.

Praise God! He lives and works with us today!

ANGEL McKEE

This past summer I had the privileged opportunity to work at FRAA as a summer intern. I received many blessings and testimonies (including my testimony of the truth of the Book of Mormon) during my internship. The testimony I want to share with you actually started before I even applied for the job.

The summer of 1993 was when I first heard about the FRAA internship. It sounded like an exciting thing to do, but I was only 15 years old. You have to be between the ages of 16 and 22 to apply. I tried to find out as much as possible about it through the next year. I picked up an application at the FRAA building and began to fill it out. Thoughts of a busy summer including basketball camp, 4-H camp, and 4-H Congress deterred me from completing the application. I shoved it aside and concentrated on sports, academics, and future college plans. Sometime in February I received an application from the program stating an extended deadline for applications. I thought, "This must be a message from the Almighty God telling me I need to apply." But stubborn me, I once again set aside the opportunity to serve God among my fellow brethren.

One night while sleeping in bed, I had a dream. I dreamed I saw the list of those who had been accepted. My heart sorrowed because I realized my name was not on the list. I ran from the crowd, gazing to see who was chosen to do the Lord's will. I ran 'til I was consumed by darkness. I huddled in a corner and wept. I awoke the next morning with a vivid account of that dream. Most dreams I have are fuzzy, but I remembered that one. I couldn't realize why my name wasn't on the list. I soon realized why my name had been left off. I had not applied yet. I sat down that morning and filled out the application form and mailed it the following day. I did not know if I would be accepted or not, but at least they would know that I wanted to serve my Lord. The Lord answered the prayers of my deepest concern. I had been praying a long time for an answer. I was persistent in calling upon the Lord in prayer. He has answered many of my prayers. I would like to close my testimony with something I've told many people. Pray often. The Lord hears your prayers and he'll answer them. Do as the Lord states in the scriptures: pray unceasingly.

BECKY LEUTZINGER

This summer I was given the most memorable and useful experience of my short life: an opportunity to participate in the 1994 Internship Program. For the first time, I was able to spend an entire summer focused on learning to exist as God instructs. The results were impressive! As the days passed and I came to know the other interns, I began to realize the level of happiness that is reached when a united body of people actively seeks to follow the Lord. My joy still overflows each time I think of the past summer. Additionally, the knowledge of Christ and instruction in serving him are more precious to me than mere words can express. The very most I can say is... Thank You!!

A TESTIMONY FOR KRISTEN

by
JulieGatrost

It had been a wonderful yet very tiring week at Senior High camp the summer of 1993. The experience was tremendously uplifting and beautiful as we watched young people feel the abundant love of God, many for the first time in their lives. When we arrived home on Saturday afternoon, we were exhausted. We greeted our children with hugs and kisses. My husband, Michael, then reminded me that we had an FRAA Book of Mormon Day scheduled at Resthaven the next morning. I was burdened with this added responsibility and wondered why we had scheduled this event so close to the camp.

The next morning as we awakened, still weary, Michael suggested that I could remain behind with the children. I had to admit that his suggestion sounded inviting. Even with a good night's sleep in my own bed (with air conditioning), I was still tired. We agreed that I should stay and rest. As he prepared to leave, our oldest daughter, Kristen, spoke up and said, "Dad wait. I will go with you." Seemingly within seconds she dressed, and out the door she went with her father.

As I cleared away the breakfast dishes, my two other children and I began to wonder about the service at Resthaven. We decided we could quickly dress and still arrive in time. Soon we were on our way to Independence.

The program had already started when we arrived. A tender spirit greeted us as we entered. We took our seats, and it was not long before I felt surrounded by the many years of service and dedication that were represented by the elderly saints around me.

I watched as the FRAA interns bore their testimonies. I know many of them were just as tired as

we were since they had been at camp also. Still, their countenances glowed and they warmly embraced the residents. I sat, enjoying the morning, and began to reflect on our week at camp and the young people we had come to know. Many of them, I knew, carried burdens of broken homes, of low self esteem, of empti-

Lord, Please don't let my children grow up without knowing you...

ness, and of temptations which they felt ill equipped to handle. Tears came to my eyes as I thought of their trials and the sorrow in their lives. I knew in my heart that the emptiness they felt, and their lack of direction, was because they did not know God loved them. My thoughts turned back to those around me, and I rejoiced as I watched the interns move among the elderly men and women of Resthaven. I knew that they had gently touched them with a kind word or a hand on an arm or shoulder and joyful countenances. I knew also at this moment they were experiencing the love that is so necessary for our existence.

Suddenly, I poured out my heart to God, interceding for my own children. *Lord, I said, Please, don't let my children grow up without knowing you!* The service came to a close, and I walked to the back of the chapel. Kristen, who had been sitting in front with the interns, ran back to me. She tugged at my dress, and as I looked down into her eyes, she said, *Mom, I know it's all true!* Questioningly, I asked, *What do you know is true?*

Excitedly she said, *Everything! Everything they [the interns] said!* I immediately knew what she was talking about. It was my prayer! The heartfelt prayer, that only moments ago had been offered, had been answered by God. I inquired further, *How do you know it's true?* She struggled for words to describe what she was feeling and replied, *I don't know how; I just know it's all true.* As she spoke these words, tears filled her eyes. She was only 10 years old, but she knew God was real, and she knew that the Book of Mormon was true. I continued and asked, *Did you feel God's Spirit?* Sweetly she shook her head yes and butted her face in my dress. I held her as we both cried tears of joy and thankfulness for his great love for us.



CHAD RUOFF

Greetings from the 1994 FRAA Internship Program! The summer was a great success, filled with new friendships and great experiences that will be treasured for a lifetime.

The program started off with a weekend retreat, allowing the interns and staff to become better acquainted. Our daily routine consisted of three classes in the morning and individual and group projects in the afternoon. During the weekends we traveled to area congregations to put on Book of Mormon Days, the highlight coming when we took a weekend trip to Nauvoo and put one on for the RLDS congregation.

For me, the internship program has been a life-changing experience, a change that has brought me back to Christ, with a renewed interest in the scriptures and in witnessing for my Lord.

I would encourage people to continue to support programs for our youth. For we are the next generation of leaders in the church, and if we do not provide such opportunities, we may lose this leadership.

Your brother in Christ,
Chad Ruoff

JULIE COMBS

I thank the Lord for the opportunity to participate in the 1994 FRAA Internship Program. I learned more in six weeks than I could have ever thought possible. Our morning classes were "Witnessing of the Book of Mormon," "Principles of the Gospel," and "People, Places and Prophecy." Our afternoons were spent in research on several different topics relating to the Book of Mormon. Some of our other daily activities included small prayer groups which met twice a day. We participated in several Book of Mormon Days, including one in Nauvoo, IL. I very much appreciate those who gave of their time to share with us this summer. I pray that young people for many years to come will have the opportunity to participate in this program.



For 1995 program information and applications, write or call:
FRAA 1995 Student Internship Program
210 West White Oak
Independence, MO 64050
(816) 461-3722

Powerful Personal Testimonies (continued from page 11)

his only companion, evidently on a first name basis.

Moroni's last exhortations were for people to come unto Christ and be perfected (or finished) in him (Moroni 10:29-30). As the finisher of the Nephite records, Moroni identified clearly with the role of Christ as the finisher of human righteousness. "Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, ... that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ" (Moroni 10:29).

CONCLUSION

Through the spiritual experiences of its writers -- many of whom were eyewitnesses of Christ's glory -- we can see that the Book of Mormon communicates clear personal knowledge of Jesus Christ.

The book is an intimate scripture. Its purpose is to bring individuals to Christ. It exhorts each reader, personally, to "come unto Christ, and lay hold upon every good gift" (Moroni 10:27). Individual readers can identify vividly with the testimonies of Christ found in the Book of Mormon largely because those testimonies themselves are projections of eternal realities through the personal lenses of noble characters.

Arising out of the testimonies examined above, several concluding observations can be made:

1. These testimonies are true to life. They are corroborated by the credentials of authentic personal experience and complex individual diversity. They make sense historically, and they emerge distinctly even

from widely scattered primary sources within individual authors.

2. The testimonies become linguistically more definite as time progresses. Lehi at first spoke of Jesus being "a Messiah," "a prophet," "a Savior" (1 Nephi 3:4; emphasis added) or "this Redeemer" (1 Nephi

3:5; emphasis added), but this designation soon crystallized in Nephi's abridgment as "the

Messiah" (1 Nephi 3:7, 11-12; emphasis added).

It is also evident that Lehi was not explicit at first about the meaning of the "redemption" of this Messiah. Was it to be a spiritual redemption in the next life or a physical redemption of the land, now or later? This question was raised at least twice by Laman and Lemuel (1 Nephi 4:50; 7:1-2) and finally answered by Nephi: it would be both (1 Nephi 7:5-6).

3. The record often indicates when and how important details about Christ were revealed. The name "Jesus Christ," for example, was revealed to Nephi; the extended name, "Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of heaven and earth, the Creator of all things from the beginning," was first given to the people by King Benjamin, to distinguish them above all people led out by the Lord. Nephite knowledge of Christ, like all other facets of revealed knowledge, grew "line upon line" (2 Nephi 12:36-38).

...come unto Christ and be perfected in Him,...

Letters to the Foundation...

I wish to thank all those at F.R.A.A. who were involved in the decision to shift the emphasis of its efforts and energies away from the "physical evidences" towards the "spiritual evidences" contained in the Book of Mormon.

In my own experience, I've found that internal evidences and external evidences concerning the authenticity of the Nephite record have their greatest value and benefit in the hands of those individuals who have already sought and received confirmation by the Holy Spirit that the record is truly divine. Physical evidences can best be used as supplements, effective in generating interest and increasing awareness, but which do not, by themselves, have the power to convince or convert.

Evidences for or against any subject, especially scientific, are often contradictory and inconclusive, but the evidence obtained through the confirmation of the Holy Spirit is certain and undeniable.

Just as no amount of money, research or digging will bring forth the promised additional records until the Lord sees fit to deliver them into our hands, no valiant testimony concerning restoration of the fullness of the gospel can be offered based solely upon the money, research and digging that have already been employed.

Your decision concerning a change in format has caused me to rededicate myself to developing the skills necessary to bear valiant testimony of what I know is true, and I thank F.R.A.A. for dedicating its resources to doing what I know is right.

Joe Booker (Alabama)

We appreciate very much the wonderful work being done.

Mr. & Mrs. Ray Jackel
(San Antonio, TX)

God Bless Your Efforts!

Love, Eleanor Heady
(Independence, MO)

The last issue of *The Witness* was the one to bring to me the ministry needed.

I appreciate the good changes made in the publishing of *The Witness*. So often it was "over my head" so to speak.

Thanks so much. May you all be blessed in your efforts to spread the gospel.

Lucille Fetz
(Independence, MO)

Powerful Personal Testimonies (continued from previous page)

4. As times and conditions changed, some words used in describing Christ dropped out of the Nephite texts, whereas others became more frequent. Words such as "Messiah," "Lamb of God," and "Holy One of Israel" were used often by Lehi, Nephi, and Jacob but rarely by later writers. The earlier writers tend to connect the Lord more with Israel than do the later authors.

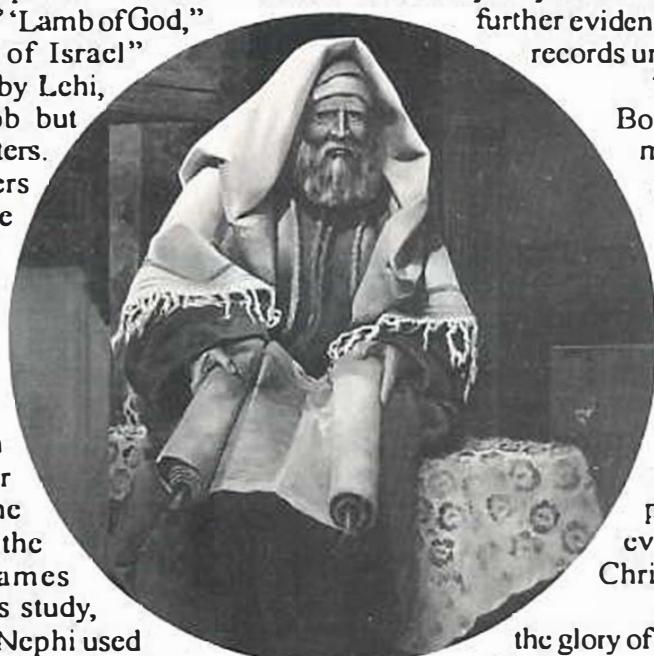
5. The earlier Book of Mormon writers use greater variety in their names for Christ than do the later writers. Of the sixty-seven names researched in this study, Lehi used fifteen, Nephi used thirty-two, and Jacob, nineteen. Nephite religious speech was evidently more fluid in the earlier generations when the revelations were new. As Nephite religious practices and culture became more

established, standardized forms and conventions of discourse evidently prevailed.

6. Significantly different names for Christ are used by the various writers of the Book of Mormon. Of the sixty-seven names used, thirty-seven are used by only one of the ten prophets under examination. That is further evidence of the multiple authorship of the ancient records underlying the Book of Mormon.

7. The names used for Christ in the Book of Mormon are important conveyors of meaning, content, and power. Typically, names in antiquity bespoke the character, individuality, and qualities of the person. Knowing and personally taking upon oneself the name of God was a sacred and vital function in ancient Israel and in the Book of Mormon: "And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them" (Numbers 6:27); "There is no other name given whereby salvation cometh" (Mosiah 3:10-11). From the profiles left in their written words, it is evident that these prophets bore the name of Christ personally upon their hearts and souls.

As Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon saw the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ, they exclaimed, "And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him: That he lives!" (D&C 76:3g). Well does their modern testimony mention that many testimonies have been given of him.



(End Part 2 of 2)





The 1994 summer interns enjoy a beautiful afternoon in Nauvoo.

The WITNESSES

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