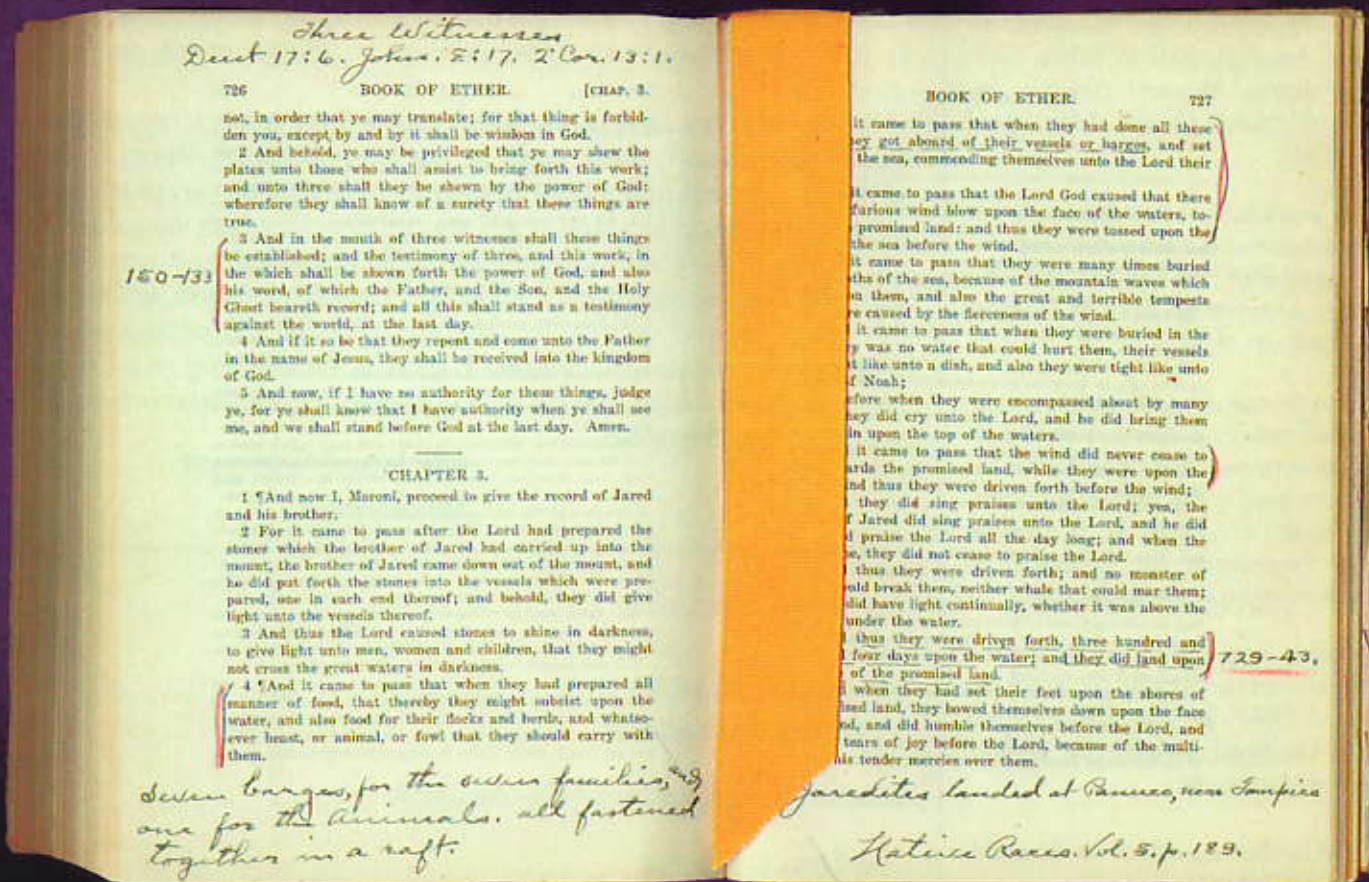


The Witness

Testify to the Lord

SUMMER/FALL 1995

ISSUE 88



The Seed Is Planted
The Word Became Flesh



Foundation for Research on Ancient America

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The Foundation for Research on Ancient America 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 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...

The Book of Mormon

"...written to the Lamanites, who are a remnant of the house of Israel; and also to Jew and Gentile;..."

Message from FRAA

God's Desire Is for You to KNOW Him

People often comment on their hurried and harried lives. Technological advances, workplace pressures, children's activities — all contribute to feelings that we do not have time to read the scriptures. I also have felt this way but recently took the time to open the scriptures to a section of the Book of Mormon in which Jacob, speaking to the Nephites, says, *All ye that are pure in heart, lift up your heads and receive the pleasing word of God* (Jacob 2:50). The words sank deeply into my heart with the knowledge that life passes quickly without our ever truly taking the time to know our heavenly father. Then we find ourselves ill equipped to handle life's trials, not to mention ultimately having to stand before the Lord.

A preacher once remarked that "People come to hear the Word on Sunday, and the following Sunday they come to hear again. But never do they actually *do* the Word." He continued, "People are justified by God not when they *hear* the Word but when they *do* it." It is a simple truth but one with eternal significance. In the 50th verse, Jacob goes on to say that you will *feast upon his love . . . if your minds are firm for ever.*

A year ago, as part of the Testify to the Lord project, my wife and I made time almost every night to read the Book of Mormon to our children. I cannot adequately convey this experience except to say that each of us looked forward to this special time in which we would read the words of the Lord. Our children often reminded us it was "time to read the Book of Mormon." I know that his spirit touched each of us. In this issue, you will read the names of more than 500 people who took time out of their busy schedules to receive the pleasing word of God. May you be embraced by the love expressed in their testimonies as they sought to "do the Word."

Michael Gatrost
President

Contents . . .

Message from FRAA	2
<i>by Michael Gatrost</i>	
Internship Applications Now Available	3
The Seed Is Planted	4
<i>by Dale Godfrey</i>	
The Word Became Flesh	6
<i>by J. Michael Friend</i>	
FRAA Book Store Features and Order Form	8
Testify to the Lord	10
FRAA Recognizes Supporters	14

1996 FRAA Book of Mormon

Internship Applications Now Available

If you are between the ages of 16 and 22 and would like to spend your summer in an exciting, challenging Book of Mormon program, contact FRAA today. For more information and an application, call (816) 461-3722 or write FRAA, 210 W. White Oak, Independence, MO 64050.

The deadline for submitting applications is April 1, 1996.



1995 FRAA Interns

All subscriptions paid for in 1995 will be effective through 1996.

Due to changes in staff, magazine format and launching a children's magazine, FRAA published only two issues of *The Witness* in 1995 (Winter/Spring and Summer/Fall).

We thank you for your patience and support.

The seed is planted

by Dale Godfrey

More than 520 of you reported that you had accepted FRAA's challenge to read the Book of Mormon in six months. For those who have completed the reading, your effort is a wonderful testimony to God of your belief in this marvelous book. For those who started with good intentions, but for some reason set the book aside and did not finish, a rewarding experience awaits you, one on which you can build. Let your desire grow within you and try again.

The deadline is past and the challenge ended, but those of us who participated must now ask ourselves "Am I done?" Regardless of whether you read the whole book or just a few pages, the question is the same: "Where do I go from here? What comes next?"

The Book of Mormon prophet Alma gives us the answer. He addressed this issue using a wonderful allegory as he spoke to the Zoramites. The Zoramites had come to him after they had been cast out of their synagogues because they were poor. They were concerned about how to worship without a synagogue. Alma rejoiced as he saw their humility and said: *But behold, if ye will awake and arouse your faculties, even to an experiment upon my words, and exercise a particle of faith; yea, even if ye can no more than desire to believe, let this desire work in you, even until ye believe in a manner that ye can give place for a portion of my words* (Alma 16:151).

Give place for a portion of my words was Alma's call to the Zoramites. He knew, however, that simply hearing his words would not be enough. Many people read scriptures or hear the word of God preached and are unaffected. So he

called upon them to do more than just hear his words. He instructed them to do several things: 1) awake; 2) arouse their faculties even to an experiment; and 3) exercise a particle of faith, even if it was not true faith but just desire. He said for them to let this desire work in them. Alma was essentially saying: Wake up to your circumstances. Realize the actual state of your relationship with God. Don't be blinded by the foolish prayer you offer thanking him for electing you to be saved. Break out of your traditions and test the word of God. Exercise even a little faith, and if you can't do more than just desire for something more than you have now, let that desire work in you. If you want your life to be different, want to be a better person, want to have more hope and joy; if all you can do is desire these positive changes in your life, let this desire be your motivation to experiment on my words.

Having issued this challenge, Alma launches into his allegory: *Now we will compare the word unto a seed* (Alma 16:152). He instructs the Zoramites to give place that a seed might be planted in their hearts. But he tells them they must do more than just hear the word; they must take it into their hearts and consider it. He is saying: Reason it out. Then try it. Don't lie. Don't steal. Love those who are unkind to you. Pray to God. Actually test these things in your life. In other words, *Give place for them in your heart*.

The next step Alma describes is not to cast out the seed by unbelief. That is, don't fail to do these things because you aren't convinced they will work or because they aren't important enough to give your time to. Don't neglect to do them because

THE NOURISHED WORD BECOMES A MIGHTY OAK



Photo by Tom Mitchell

others around you aren't doing them or because someone thinks you are strange for doing them. Don't resist the spirit of the Lord.

If the word in your heart is good, you will begin to see changes in your life: differences in the way you treat others, differences in what you consider important, differences in how you feel about yourself and differences in how you feel about God. When you begin to see these changes, your faith in the word will increase.

As you continue to give place for the word and it increasingly influences your life, you will not just believe it is true and good, but your faith will turn to knowledge. You will have conducted the experiment and tried out the word. You will know it is good, and you can benefit from its application in your life.

Alma recognized that many of us stop at this point. We know that God's word is true, and we know it can help us when we apply it in our lives. But we never let the tree do anything more than sprout. We never let it grow into a mighty oak that can fill our being. We are content to keep it a

scrub on a windswept, barren plain. We want the tree, but we don't want it to be big enough or strong enough to get in the way of other things we desire.

Alma says it is essential that the tree be nourished carefully if we want it to get root, grow up and bear fruit. He warns that if we neglect the tree and take no thought for its nourishment, it will not develop roots and when the scorching sun bears down, it will die.

Many things can kill the word within us: lives too busy to allow time for study, prayer and meditation; peer pressure or the scorn of the world; unholy priorities and so on. When any one of these things gets in the way, the word is weakened and may even wither completely over time. Then the day comes when we are faced with a difficult decision that calls for us to choose between good and bad or right and wrong, and many decisions do. We find that the word fails us because we have failed it and allowed it to wither and die. When this happens, it is not because God's word was not good. It's not because his word couldn't have helped us through the difficult situation. Alma says, *Now this is not because the seed was not good, neither is it because the fruit thereof would not be desirable. But it is because your ground is barren, and ye will not nourish the tree; therefore ye can not have the fruit thereof* (Alma 16:167-168).

Alma calls the tree growing within us *the tree of life*. Nephi explains: *And I also beheld that the tree of life was a representation of the love of God* (1 Nephi 3:69). This tree, which Alma challenged the Zoramites to plant and which grows within a person and ultimately, if nourished, bears fruit, is actually the love of God manifest in the life of the individual.

Two words Alma uses repeatedly to describe the nourishing of the tree are *diligence* and *patience*. The very object he selected for his allegory, a seed, suggested to his hearers that the growth of the word within them was to be a process, indeed, a lifelong process.

With today's fast-paced lifestyle, we are not accustomed to waiting or being patient, much less taking time for prayer, study and meditation. Everything must be fast. From our travel, to our meals, to our communication, everything is geared to immediacy.

(Continued on page 15)

The Word Became Flesh

by J. Michael Friend

Almost a year ago, FRAA presented all of us with a challenge (individuals as well as families) to read the Book of Mormon by the end of June. Some of us accepted that challenge and found ourselves enriched by the message of the gospel contained in the record of the Nephite and Lamanite peoples.

The word of God has always been a blessing to those who would obey its message. In the record of Judah, John testified, *In the beginning was the gospel preached through the Son. And the gospel was the word, and the word was with the Son, and the Son was with God, and the Son was of God* (John 1:1). John continues by saying *...as many as received him [Jesus], to them gave he power to become the sons of God; only to them who believe on his name* (John 1:12). From this account it is clear that the word of God as revealed in and through the Son has always (from the beginning of time) been a paramount issue. Further, when Jesus came to the Jews in the flesh, he transformed that word into a living, breathing reality among men. Unfortunately, many were not familiar with the word, and so his coming in the flesh had little effect on their lives. In fact, so little was the impact that the worldly aspirations of greed, self-centeredness, lust, haughtiness and so forth ultimately crucified both the word and the flesh.

Six hundred years prior to Jesus' coming to the Jews, the prophet Lehi listened to God's command and departed out of Jerusalem into an unknown territory. He left in order to escape the spiritual degradation and final destruction of Israel.

What a commission he was given, and what a sacrifice was required in order to fulfill what the Lord was commanding him to do. But in faithful obedience, Lehi took his family, forsaking all that he owned (and he evidently was a wealthy man), and departed into the wilderness to fulfill his Father's bidding. Many, including two of his sons, thought Lehi was a foolish old man who was living out his vain imaginations at others' expense. They did not



The Birth of Jesus by Carl Bloch.



Original at the Chapel of Frederiksborg Castle, Denmark.
Used by permission of the Frederiksborg museum.

believe God had directed him to do anything — it seemed ludicrous to them that God would require such a thing of anyone. In reality, Lehi was so familiar with the word of God that not only had it become *flesh* to him, but he himself was making it *flesh* by his faithful obedience, in spite of the incredible personal cost to him and his family.

The world cannot be the same as a result of Lehi's

actions. It may not recognize the full import of what he did, but those of us who have read and believed his testimony, and the testimony of all succeeding generations recorded in the Book of Mormon, we certainly cannot be the same. In fact, I would not be writing this article if it were not for Lehi making *flesh* the word of God and recording it for you and me living many generations later.

The question before those of us who have read the Nephite record is how are we to make what we have read become *flesh* in our day and time? We, like many of the early Jews who read the record of Judah, can say we are familiar with the Book of Mormon and its contents. In fact, many of us can quote much of it. What we now do with such knowledge, however, is the real key to making its message *flesh* in our personal and collective lives. The Sanhedrin (the religious leaders of Jesus' time) also knew and could quote the letter of the law as it had been recorded and passed down from one generation to another. They, indeed, were familiar with the word. But the real business of the gospel somehow got lost in their perfunctory religious performances and their self-righteous, pompous style of living.

This was also true in Book of Mormon times. The second chapter of the Book of Helaman records one of many instances in which the church lost sight of its primary purpose, and the word no longer had any effect on the lives of its members. They, in essence, had lost the *flesh* (reality) of Christ's message.

Now this great loss of the Nephites, and the great slaughter which was among them, would not have happened had it not been for their wickedness and their abominations which was among them; yea, and it was among those also who professed to belong to the church of God: And it was because of the pride of their hearts, because of their exceeding riches, yea, it was because of their oppression to the poor, withholding their food from the hungry, withholding their clothing from the naked, and smiting their humble brethren upon the cheek, making a mock of that which was sacred, denying the spirit of prophecy and of revelation, murdering, plundering, lying, stealing, committing adultery, rising up in great contentions,.... And because of this their great wickedness, and their boastings in their own strength, they were left in their own strength; therefore they did not prosper, but were afflicted and smitten,....until they had lost possession of almost all their lands.

— Helaman 2:44-46

(Continued on page 15)

Testify to the

I had never read the entire book as a unit before...there would be times when I could not lay the book aside.
Vivian Dyke, Tabor, IA

Yes! I have completed reading the Book of Mormon.

Abbott, Cecil, Blue Springs, MO
Abbott, Wilma, Blue Springs, MO
Abney, Carmen L. Blue Springs, MO
Allen, Helen, Pleasant Hill, MO
Allinder, Barbara, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Allinder, Katy, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Anderson, Jared, Blue Springs, MO
Anderson, Kathy, Blue Springs, MO
Andrews, Shirley, Starke, FL
Anger, Jeff, Independence, MO
Atwood, Matt, Eagleville, MO
Augenstein, Kim, Independence, MO
Augenstein, Lowell, Independence, MO
Bagwell, Joy, Valley of the Sun, AZ
Bailey, Aaron, Independence, MO
Bailey, Angela, Independence, MO
Bailey, Becky, Independence, MO
Baker, Alice, Oak Grove Branch, MO
Baldwin, Barbara, Kewaunee, WI
Baldwin, George, Kewaunee, WI
Ballinger, Bette, Grain Valley Branch, MO
Ballinger, Forrest, Grain Valley Branch, MO
Ballinger, Telena, Grain Valley Branch, MO
Barrett, Mike, Belton, MO
Bauman, Ilah F, Independence, MO
Baumgarden, Aaron, Kansas City, MO
Baumgarden, Leola, Kansas City, MO
Baumgarden, Lisa, Kansas City, MO
Baumgarden, Norman, Kansas City, MO
Beem, Carol, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Beem, Steven L, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Bell, Stacy, Blue Springs, MO
Benedict, Esther A, Independence, MO
Berry, Jack, Belton, MO
Berry, Kathy, Belton, MO
Bert, Tom, Sebring, OH
Blair, Melba, Lamoni, IA
Blakely, Hope, Phoenix, AZ
Blanchard, Marion L, Ft Wayne, IN
Blosser, Beth, San Luis Obispo Study Gr, CA
Bolingbroke, Gerald, Lamoni, IA
Bolingbroke, Pat, Lamoni, IA
Boswell, Janice, Center Branch, MO
Bowles, Mertie, RLDS of Highland, IN
Bradley, Virginia C, Independence, MO
Brockman, Dorothy, Stewartsville, MO
Brockman, Doyne, Warrensburg, MO
Brosam, Nelda, Lone Jack, MO
Brotherton, Darcy, Oak Grove, MO
Brotherton, David, Oak Grove Branch, MO
Brotherton, Helen, Oak Grove Branch, MO

Brotherton, Jared, Oak Grove Branch, MO
Brotherton, Jordan, Oak Grove Branch, MO
Brown, Bea, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Brown, Jean C, New Albany, IN
Brown, Marie, Center Branch, MO
Brown, Ralph, Center Branch, MO
Browne, Donna, Independence, MO
Browne, Scott, Independence, MO
Browne, Rebecca, Independence, MO
Brunson, Earl, Independence, MO
Buckles, Bethany, Oak Grove, MO
Buckles, Raylene, Oak Grove, MO
Buckles, Ron, Oak Grove, MO
Buckles, Sara, Oak Grove, MO
Burgett, Harold, Phoenix, AZ
Burgett, Shirley, Phoenix, AZ
Burkart, Annette, Grain Valley Branch, MO
Burkart, David, Grain Valley Branch, MO
Burkart, Joe, Grain Valley Branch, MO
Burkart, Tiffany, Grain Valley Branch, MO
Burns, Lorraine, Oak Grove Branch, MO
Burt, Charles, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Burt, Georgia, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Cameron, Cindy, Sibley, MO
Campbell, Jane, Ft Wayne, IN
Canfield, Bill, Moore, OK
Cargyle, Dorothy, Kansas City, MO
Carlson, David, Duluth, MN
Carver, Mary, Center Branch, MO
Cawley, Marion, Oak Grove Branch, MO
Cerise, Melissa, Hollister, MO
Chalmers, Clint, Ft Worth Branch, TX
Chatburn, Arline, Lamoni, IA
Chesnut, Nellie, Grandview, MO
Christmas, Jean, Belton Branch, MO
Clarke, Loyd E, Macon, MO
Cline, Edythe, Euclid, OH
Cline, Thelma, Independence, MO
Clute, Cheryl, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Cohrs, Audrey, Logan, IA
Coleman/Moores, Peggy
Collier, Toni
Collin, J, Douglas, Kirtland, OH
Combs, Amanda, Grain Valley, MO
Combs, Julie, Independence, MO
Coney, Jean, Independence, MO
Cook, Edith, Independence, MO
Cook, Melba J, Humboldt, NE
Copus, Carole, LaBelle, FL

Countryman, Henry, Hill Cumorah Br., MO
Countryman, Opal, Hill Cumorah Br., MO
Crago, Sylvia, Harrisburg, PA
Crinklaw, Ruth, Independence, MO
Crosley, Gary, Lee's Summit, MO
Crosley, Janet, Lee's Summit, MO
Crosley, Sara, Lee's Summit, MO
Crosley, Stephanie, Lee's Summit, MO
Crosley, Steven, Lee's Summit, MO
Cruickshank, Cheri, Independence, MO
Cruickshank, Keith, Blue Springs, MO
Curtis, Edna Fern, Cameron, MO
Daggett, Doug, Rose City, MI
Daggett, Doug, Rose City, MI
Davis, Florence M., Mtn, CA
Davis Jr., George, Mission, KS
Day, Charles W, Independence, MO
Day, Janet I.
DeNio, Frances, Independence, MO
DeNio, James, Independence, MO
DeRolf, Owen, RLDS of Highland, IN
Dickson, Bob, Ft Worth Branch, TX
Dickson, Jennifer, Ft Worth Branch, TX
Dickson, Patrick, Ft Worth Branch, TX
Dickson, Sherry, Ft Worth Branch, TX
Dollins, Don, Grain Valley Branch, MO
Dollins, Sis, Grain Valley Branch, MO
Dorsche, Cecil, Ft Worth Branch, TX
Dorsche, Ginny, Ft Worth Branch, TX
Drope, Al, Norwalk, CA
Drope, Sharon, Norwalk, CA
Durham, Jack, Oak Grove Branch, MO
Durham, Lela, Oak Grove Branch, MO
Dyck, John, Center Branch, MO
Dyke, Vivian, Tabor, IA
Eastin, Lisa, Grain Valley Branch, MO
Eastin, Mya, Grain Valley Branch, MO
Eastin, Scott, Grain Valley Branch, MO
Eastin, Tim, Grain Valley Branch, MO
Eberle, Rosa, Center Branch, Indep MO
Edwards, Doris, Lamoni, IA
Edwards, Len, Lamoni, IA
Elliott, Dan, Belton Branch, MO
Elliott, Jacob, Belton Branch, MO
Elliott, Joshua, Belton Branch, MO
Elliott, Lana, Belton Branch, MO
Elliott, Rebekah, Belton Branch, MO
Elliott, Sariah, Belton Branch, MO
Ellis, Mildred, Lamoni, IA
Emslie, Erin, Blue Springs, MO
Emslie, Sue, Blue Springs, MO

I have been uplifted in knowing that God will remember his covenant with the seed of Joseph and bring this wonderful account of their roots and of the full gospel to them.
Erlene Robinson,
Sault Ste. Marie, Canada

Lord

We (our family) plan on continuing in study... One area of the Book of Mormon could be the study and pronunciation of the many names! We do have so much to study, but it's exciting.
Janet Crosley, Lee's Summit

Engelbrecht, Frank, Oak Grove, MO
Evans, Aaron L, Atlanta, GA
Evans, Brenda, Tallahassee, FL
Evinger, Amanda, Hill Cumorah Br., MO
Evinger, Darla, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Evinger, Joe, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Fetz, Lucille, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Fields, Eugene, RLDS of Highland, IN
Fiscel, Joyce, NE Des Moines Branch, IA
Fiscel, Ron, NE Des Moines Branch, IA
Fishel, Mae, Vancouver, WA
Fishel, Ralph, Vancouver, WA
Flowers, Bob, Independence, MO
Flowers, Norma, Independence, MO
Ford, Adam, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Ford, Roxanne, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Francisco, Russel, Oklahoma City, OK
Friend, J. Michael, Blue Springs, MO
Friend, Jennifer, Oak Grove, MO
Friend, Kate, Oak Grove, MO
Friend, Katie, Oak Grove, MO
Friend, Michael, Independence, MO
Friend, Myrtle, Independence, MO
Friend, Rachael, Oak Grove, MO
Fuller, Elizabeth A, Kirdand, OH
Gard, Adam, Springfield, MO
Gard, Anna Mae, Independence, MO
Gard, Edgar D, Independence, MO
Garfield, Beverly, Independence, MO
Garrett, Jeremy, Independence, MO
Gatrost, Ashley, Lee's Summit, MO
Gatrost, Devin, Lee's Summit, MO
Gatrost, Julie, Lee's Summit, MO
Gatrost, Kristen, Lee's Summit, MO
Gatrost, Michael, Lee's Summit, MO
Gibler, Dianna, Independence, MO
Gibler, Maurice, Independence, MO
Gilbert, Roger C, Sherman, TX
Glaser, Ed, Belton Branch, MO
Glaser, Paul, Belton Branch, MO
Glenn, Lois, Sulphur, OK
Godfrey, Dale, Oak Grove, MO
Godfrey, Joel, Lone Jack, MO
Godfrey, Julie, Oak Grove, MO
Godfrey, Mark, Oak Grove, MO
Godfrey, Rita, Oak Grove, MO
Goold, Bill, Belton Branch, MO
Goold, Danny, Belton Branch, MO
Goold, Eleanor, Belton Branch, MO
Goold, Linda, Belton Branch, MO
Gross, George, Lee's Summit, MO
Gross, Leona, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Gross, Polly, Lee's Summit, MO
Guin, Linda, Oak Grove, MO
Gulick, Hazel, Tucson, AZ

Halfhill, Clara, Center Branch, MO
Hallier, Charles, Independence, MO
Hallier, Mary, Independence, MO
Hamilton, Cyndi, Blue Springs, MO
Hampton, Brad, Ft Worth Branch, TX
Hampton, LaVonne, Ft Worth Branch, TX
Hampton, Vanessa, Ft Worth Branch, TX
Handy, Albert, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Handy, Mabel, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Hanson, Leonard, Hill Cumorah Br., MO
Hanson, Verona, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Hardy, Maydean, Independence, MO
Harlacher, Larry, Grain Valley Branch, MO
Harlacher, Nancy, Grain Valley Branch, MO
Harper Jr., Francis, Woodbine, IA
Harpole, Martha, Center Branch, Indep MO
Harrison, Gordon, Sharon, PA
Hartmann, Ailsa, Clairton, PA
Harter, Garrett, Betty
Hartung, Hazel, Lima Branch, OH
Hatton, John, Woodland Hills, CA
Heady, Pat, Independence, MO
Helzel, Sally, Grand River, IA
Hendrix, Grace, Ft Scott, KS
Herron, Helen, Lee's Summit, MO
Henson, Todd, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Hewitt, Jeanette, Kansas City, MO
Hiles, Mark, Center Branch, Indep MO
Hinderks, Vera, Stewartsville, MO
Hnatuik, Leona, S S Marie, Ontario
Hollenbeck, Terry, Grain Valley Br., MO
Holmes, Andrew, Belton Branch, MO
Holmes, Brian, Belton Branch, MO
Holmes, Gary, Belton Branch, MO
Holmes, Mark, Center Branch, Indep MO
Holmes, Roxanne, Belton Branch, MO
Holt, Eugene, Vancouver, WA
Hopkins, Gena, Blue Springs, MO
Hoover, Betty, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Hoover, Jesse, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Hoover, Velma, Independence, MO
Hoversten, Holly, Independence, MO
Howard, Kathey, Ft Worth Branch, TX
Howen, William, Independence, MO
Hunt, Robert, Independence, MO
Hurshman, Guy, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Hurshman, Jewell, Hill Cumorah Br., MO
Jamison, Beth, Oak Grove Branch, MO
Janssen, Marilyn, Buckner, MO
Jerome, Christina, Blue Springs, MO
Jeschke, Mary Lynn, Burbank, CA
Jess, Beth, Independence, MO
Jess, Greeta, Independence, MO

Johnson, Andrew, Independence, MO
Johnson, Charles, Independence, MO
Johnson, Dale, Omak, WA
Johnson, Erica
Johnson, Ethel, Omak, WA
Johnson, Samuel, Independence, MO
Johnston, Charlotte, NE Des Moines Br., IA
Johnston, Rick, NE Des Moines Branch, IA
Jones, Kenneth, Independence, MO
Jones, Margie, Independence, MO
Kahtava, Janet Lee, Sault Ste Marie, MI
Keairnes, Helen, Independence, MO
Keairnes, M.W, Independence, MO
Keller, Erin, Blue Springs, MO
Key, Dennis, Grain Valley Branch, MO
Key, Michael, Grain Valley Branch, MO
Kilgore, Rebecca, Riesel, TX
Kluck, Patsy, Ft Worth, TX
Kluck, Wilson, Ft Worth, TX
Koonce, Shayla, Preston, MO
Koop, Marilyn, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Kroesen, Brian, Oak Grove, MO
Kroesen, Danny, Oak Grove, MO
Kroesen, Marla, Oak Grove, MO
Kroesen, Sam, Oak Grove, MO
LaGrece, Terry, Center Branch, Indep MO
Lamb, Sandy, Oak Grove Branch, MO
Landes, Ed, Center Branch, Indep MO
Landes, Jan, Center Branch, Indep MO
Lane, Lois, NE Des Moines Branch, IA
Langfield, Lynn S, Anchorage, AK
Laray, Beulah, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Larsen, Debra, Kansas City, MO
Larsen, Mitch
Larson, Dorothy B, Blue Springs, MO
Larson, Laura, Dayton, IA
Lassen, Evelyn R, San Jose, CA
Lee, John N, San Luis Obispo Study Grp, CA
Leutzinger, Rebecca, Silver Lake, KS
Levengood, Kreg, Timblin, PA
Levengood, Tracy, Timblin, PA
Lewis, Jennie, Oak Grove, MO
Lewis, Velma, Oak Grove, MO
Lidberg, Michael, Oak Grove Branch, MO
Lidberg, Ronald, Oak Grove Branch, MO
Lidberg, Sheila, Oak Grove Branch, MO
Liggett, Forrest, Bates City, MO
Loeding, Bonnie, Independence, MO
Ludwig, Austin, RLDS of Highland, IN
Lundy, Terri L, MacArthur, Frank J, Portland, OR
McCormick, Jay, Independence, MO
McCormick, Lorene, Independence, MO
McCross, Irene, Lomita, CA
McCurry, Agie, Blue Springs, MO
McCurry, Bill, Blue Springs, MO
McIntosh, Helen, Blue Springs, MO
McKee, Angel, Cameron, MO
Madden, Jeri, Center Branch, Indep MO
Mann, Alice S, Harcourt, IA
Markham, Murty Wald

I read it every year and find it the most interesting of our scriptures. I am 87 years old and appreciate the good things life has to offer. The Restoration Gospel is the best gift that anyone can have and it is free!
Melba Blair, Lamoni, IA

Testify to the Lord

My whole life has changed by rereading the Book of Mormon...I was led to seek out the words "rejoice, joy, sing, praise and happiness in the Lord." These have helped me shift gears spiritually to give God a blank check for my life for him! He definitely is Lord in the Book of Mormon. Hope M. Blakely, Phoenix, AZ

This was the first time for a long while that I had read the Book of Mormon from cover to cover. I found that the most familiar parts were just as fresh and "new" as those I had not read for awhile. I would sit down to read for 15 minutes and put it down reluctantly an hour later. Audrey Colvers, Logan IA

I felt a great and profound sense of peace come upon me and the burdens of my public service...were made light. William E. Yaeger, Independence, MO

I received a testimony of the validity of the Book of Mormon in my conversion experience in 1955...Each time I reread (it), more enlightenment comes and my faith is strengthened. Agie McCurry, Independence, MO

I believe that the Lord is waiting to adorn His saints with countless testimonies and blessing if we will be true to His call for us to study His word. Bob Dickson, Fort Worth, TX

Marsh, Jim, Oak Grove, MO
Martens, Beth, Belton Branch, MO
Martens, Joel, Belton Branch, MO
Marvin, Roberta G, Aurora, IL
Merriott, Jean, Apple Valley, CA
Middlebrook, Boyd, Valley of the Sun, AZ
Million, Mary, Temple City, CA
Mills, Donna, Warrensburg, MO
Mitchell, Mary E, Independence, MO
Mitchell, Tom, Independence, MO
Mitchell, Vern B, Independence, MO
Moe, Dennis M, Independence, MO
Moerke, Joe, Oak Grove, MO
Moerke, Liz, Oak Grove, MO
Moore, Burton D, Woodbine, IA
Moore, Mike, Woodbine, IA
Mottlet, Shari, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Neidholdt, Pamela, Pitkin, CO
Nelson, Everett, Tekamah, NE
Nesbitt, Nola, Center Branch, MO
Newton, Audrey, Kansas City, MO
Nichols, Bruce A Sr., Denver, CO
Noland, Derek A, Independence, MO
Noland, Shawn, Independence, MO
Norcross, Cindy A, Ft Worth Branch, TX
Norcross, David, Ft Worth Branch, TX
Norcross, Jessie, Ft Worth Branch, TX
Norcross, Peggy J, Ft Worth Branch, TX
Norcross, Tammy, Ft Worth Branch, TX
Nordyke, Dalton L, Independence, MO
Nordyke, Marie R, Independence, MO
Norman, Aaron, Oak Grove Branch, MO
O'Brien, Alan, Belton Branch, MO
O'Brien, Ronda, Belton Branch, MO
O'Brien, Scott, Belton Branch, MO
O'Brien, Tomas, Belton Branch, MO
O'Neil, Stephanie, Corbett, OR
Openshaw, Brandon L, Ft Worth Br., TX
Openshaw, Erin Michelle, Ft Worth Br., TX
Openshaw, Patsy A, Ft Worth Branch, TX
Orth, Donna, Independence, MO
Padgett, Vinita, Kansas City, MO
Palmer, Mike, Independence, MO
Parsons, Martha, Blue Springs, MO
Pease, Cindy, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Pease, Mildred S, Port Hope, MI
Peaton, Carol, Ft Worth Branch, TX
Petrie, Marian, Center Branch, Indep MO
Piatt, Marie, Lamoni, IA
Pleasant, Patsy, McDermott, OH
Pointon, Margaret, Center Branch, MO
Pratt, Bonney, Grain Valley Branch, MO
Pratt, Yvonne, Grain Valley Branch, MO
Pritchard, John L, Center Branch, MO
Pritchard, Mickey, Center Branch, MO
Pruss, Margaret, Inman, NE
Purcell, Sherry, Port Huron, MI
Quick, Harold, Valley of the Sun, AZ
Quick, Nellie, Valley of the Sun, AZ
Raley, Mary, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Rawlins, Beverly, Independence, MO
Rawlins, Fred, Independence, MO
Ream, Alan, Sedalia, MO
Ream, Shari, Sedalia, MO
Reddell, Edna Rose, Independence, MO
Reed, Gloria Drier, Ft Worth Branch, TX
Reed, Sinclair T., Jr, Ft Worth Branch, TX
Resch, Barbara, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Resch, Cristianne, Hill Cumorah Br., MO
Riddle, Frieda, Independence, MO
Riddle, John, Independence, MO
Robey, Gerry, Belton, MO
Robey, Jason, Belton, MO
Robey, Susan, Belton, MO
Robey, Tim, Belton, MO
Robison, Jean, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Robison, Skip, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Robinson, Dot, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Robinson, Erylne, S S Marie, Ontario, CAN
Roller, Robin, Ft Worth Branch, TX
Roller, Steve, Ft Worth Branch, TX
Rose, Harold, Oak Grove Branch, MO
Rose, Mabel, Oak Grove Branch, MO
Rowland, Keith, Buckner, MO
Rowland, Kevin, Buckner, MO
Rowland, Kyle, Buckner, MO
Rowland, Paula, Buckner, MO
Rowland, Rich, Buckner, MO
Rowlett, Jerry E, Norfolk, NE
Ruble, Alice, Independence, MO
Ruble, Ronald, Independence, MO
Ruby, Alice, Council Bluffs, IA
Ruby, Bart, Council Bluffs, IA
Ruggles, Barbara, Hill Cumorah Br., MO
Savana, Nola, Center Branch, Indep MO
Sawyer, Carol, Lee's Summit, MO
Schlotman, Betty, Center Branch, MO
Schlotman, John, Center Branch, MO
Schroer, Jane, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
Scofield, Virginia, Hill Cumorah Br., MO
Sessions, Cosette, Costa Mesa, CA
Shank, Marie, Independence, MO

Shotton, Evelyn, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
 Shotton, Jim, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
 Shives, Delphine B, Denison, IA
 Sickles, Linda, Center Branch, Indep MO
 Sickles, Stephen, Center Branch, MO
 Sinclair, Ruthel, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
 Sinclair, Vern, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
 Skotak, Faye, Ft Worth Branch, TX
 Slaughter, Ed, Blue Springs, MO
 Slaughter, Marilyn, Blue Springs, MO
 Smith, Alycia, Ft Wayne, IN
 Smith, E. Allen, Ft Wayne, IN
 Smith, Inez L, Independence, MO
 Smith, Rochelle, Kansas City, MO
 Smith, Steve, Kansas City, MO
 Smith, Suzanne, Oak Grove Branch, MO
 Sollenberg, Beth, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
 Soper, Ernest R, Independence, MO
 Soper, Selma A, Independence, MO
 Spencer, Beth, Pleasant Hill, MO
 Springstons, Heath, Belton Branch, MO
 Springstons, Heather, Belton Branch, MO
 Springstons, Jim, Belton Branch, MO
 Springstons, Phyllis, Belton Branch, MO
 Srader, Grace, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
 Srader, Larry, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
 St. John, Carole, Independence, MO
 Stafford, Dale, Belton Branch, MO
 Stafford, Nick, Belton Branch, MO
 Stafford, Penny, Belton Branch, MO
 Stice, Michael L, Independence, MO
 Stilwell, Peggy, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
 Story, Austin, Gallatin, MO
 Story, Eugene, Gallatin, MO
 Story, Keira, Gallatin, MO
 Story, Mary Jane, Gallatin, MO
 Stowe, Della, Center Branch, MO
 Strecker, Hazel, St Joseph, MO
 Strychacz, Sariah Faith, Bates, City, MO
 Suchan, Dorothy, Omaha, NE
 Sullivan, Barbara, Kansas City, MO
 Sutton, LaVane, Fostoria, MI
 Sutton, Robert L, Fostoria, MI
 Sutton, Roger, Fostoria, MI
 Sutton, Lillie Mae, Independence, MO
 Strecker, Hazel
 Telljohann, Marsha, Lima Branch, OH
 Terrill, Jean, Warrensburg, MO

Testerman, Kristi, Eagleville, MO
 Thomas, Jeanette, Sedalia, MO
 Thomas, William, Portland, OR
 Thompson, Barbara, St Charles, MO
 Toliver, Steve, Blue Springs, MO
 Trimble, Elsie, Independence, MO
 Trimble, Linda, Blue Springs, MO
 Tucker, Kathryn, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
 Ultican, Helen, Blue Springs, MO
 Vallier, Dorothy, Council Bluffs, IA
 Vallier, Floyd, Council Bluffs, IA
 Vanlandingham, Iris L, Lamoni, IA
 VanMeter, Naoma, Blue Springs, MO
 VanCannon Jr, Carl, Blue Springs, MO
 VanCannon, Leta, Blue Springs, MO
 Ward, Sarah, Independence, MO
 Ware, Lillian, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
 Warren, Shelia
 Watkins, Stephen, Kansas City, MO
 Weddle, Donna, Independence, MO
 Weeks, Zada, Independence, MO
 Wenke, Helen
 Wheatley, Harold L, Centerview, MO
 Wheatley, Shirley, Centerview, MO
 Wheatley, Virginia, Centerview, MO
 Wheatley, Warren D, Centerview, MO
 Wheeler, David, Center Branch, MO
 Wheeler, Manon, Center Branch, MO
 Wheeler, Nonie, Belton Branch, MO
 White, Devin, Independence, MO
 White, Jennifer, Independence, MO
 Whiteaker, Ethel, Leeton, MO
 Wilkinson, Barbara, NE Des Moines Br, IA
 Wilkinson, Ella, NE Des Moines Branch, IA
 Williams, Karen, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
 Williams, Ruth S.
 Wilson, Pat, San Luis Obispo Study Grp, CA
 Wilson, Fred, Center Branch, Indep MO
 Wilson, Joyce C, Livonia, MI
 Wilson, Pam, Raytown, MO
 Wilson, Ron, Raytown, MO
 Wilson, Zora, Center Branch, Indep MO
 Winegar, David, Center Branch, MO
 Wismer, Dale, Ft Wayne, IN
 Wood, Cecil, Grain Valley Branch, MO
 Wood, Florence, Grain Valley Branch, MO
 Wood, Margaret S, Warrensburg, MO
 Woods, Marlene, Center Branch, MO
 Worth, Bill, Independence, MO
 Worth, Violet, Independence, MO
 Wyand, Roberta, Hill Cumorah Branch, MO
 Yaeger, William E, Independence, MO
 Yellman, Jason, Grain Valley, MO
 Yellman, Seth, Grain Valley, MO
 Zabel, Cheryl, Lee's Summit, MO

I have heard no loud trumpets nor any other special sign, but I know in my heart that every word is true. Beth Jess, Independence, MO

Thank you, FRAA, for this challenge to read the Book of Mormon again! ...My reading and studying were done with a clear mind, and it was a blessing to find the time to read and to not be weary the days after staying up late to read. Beth Spencer, Pleasant Hill, MO

Never have I read the Book of Mormon without the power of the Lord bearing witness that the book is divine. I thank God I have been privileged to accept this, another witness of Jesus Christ, in my life. Shirley Andrews, Starke, IA

...it certainly applies to the times...and (is) a very sincere warning that we must repent and warn our friends and neighbors... Sylvia Crago, Harrisburg, PA

The beautiful language and the clarity of the book have always impressed me. It is so easy to understand the principles of the gospel as expressed in the Book of Mormon. Helen Ultican, Blue Springs, MO

We have a study class each Wednesday morning at church, a group of 10 ... (we) are studying the Book of Mormon page by page and are all most enthusiastic about it. Roberta Marvin, Aurora, IA

Appreciation Banquet Draws 300 to Auditorium



Photo by Tom Mitchell

FRAA Recognizes Supporters

– Banquet at RLDS Auditorium –

The evening of September 30, 1995, nearly 300 people gathered at the RLDS auditorium in Independence, Missouri, for FRAA's first-ever appreciation banquet to honor its Helaman's Two Thousand members and guests.

Helaman's Two Thousand members have played a pivotal role in the tremendous growth that FRAA has made in promoting the Book of Mormon. Through their faithful support, FRAA has been able to establish a research library, offices, a book store with more than 1,300 titles and the largest selection of Book of Mormon-related books and materials anywhere in the region. In addition, FRAA's *Witness* magazine, which reaches into 18,000 homes, brings readers new insights about the Book of Mormon, beautiful testimonies and much more. *I Witness Kids*, the Foundation's newest publication, is a children's magazine that is helping young people — and not so young too — grow in the wonderful faith-building stories in the Book of Mormon. Finally, thousands of people across the United States have learned more about the Book of Mormon first hand through Book of Mormon Day conferences held in their congregations.

Vice President Dale Godfrey reviewed these and many other accomplishments. Special tributes were paid to Dorothy Cargyle, board member, for her unwavering support and to Audrey Stubbart, who celebrated her 100th birthday this summer. Audrey has served on the board since FRAA's inception in 1968.

Marlin Guin summarized the evening when he expressed appreciation for the dedicated efforts of Helaman's Two Thousand members. He challenged all who love the Book of Mormon to join together, and encourage others to join, so that the Book of Mormon and its witness of Christ can go forth in years to come with even greater power and light.



Photo by Tom Mitchell

**Dorothy
Cargyle**



Photo by Tom Mitchell

**Audrey
Stubbart**

The Seed is Planted

Alma's message to the Zoramites is that the growth of the word within us is a lengthy process, one which must be accomplished with diligence and patience. His allegory echoes the message sounded by nearly all Book of Mormon writers, that is, the need to endure, or be faithful, to the end.

Nearly one hundred years after Alma's exhortation to the Zoramites, Jesus Christ, speaking to the multitudes, tells them of a sower who went forth to sow. In this parable, Christ also compares the word to a seed as he describes the various ways in which the word is received into people's lives (Matthew 13:3-21).



THE UN NOURISHED WORD

Each of us who accepted the challenge to read the Book of Mormon, whether we completed it or not, is like the Zoramites of old. We have given place for the word to be planted in our hearts. And just as the Zoramites, standing on the hill Onidah, listened to the voice of God's prophet many centuries ago, we are challenged today to experiment upon the word. If you have already conducted that experiment and found the word to be good, then nourish it with all diligence and patience. In time you shall reap the fruit of God's love within you. Alma describes the fruit as that . . . *which is most precious, which is sweet above all that is sweet, and which is white above all that is white; yea, and pure above all that is pure* (Alma 16:171).

If you will accept Alma's invitation and will try the experiment, *if ye will awake and arouse your faculties, even to an experiment upon my words, and exercise a particle of faith; yea, even if ye can no more than desire to believe, let this desire work in you, even until ye believe in a manner that ye can give place for a portion of my words* (Alma 16:151); then if you persevere, Alma promises . . . *ye shall feast upon this fruit, even until ye are filled, that ye hunger not, neither shall ye thirst* (Alma 16:172).

The Word became Flesh

Each of us can look around and see many evidences of how necessary it is for the gospel to be lived out in the flesh. We also know, at least in part, numerous ways in which we are individually (and as a church) negatively contributing to all those worldly, daily events that are distracting us from the central purpose for which God created us. Christ and his message must become real to us. Indeed, we are called to worship him and to fill our time of probation with godly acuity, such that we can learn to live and dwell with him throughout all eternity. Having said that, I understand we are all preoccupied with the business of daily living, and in the midst of accomplishing what we must,



J. Michael Friend

addressing the issue of eternally living with God is the last thing on our minds. Before we go too much farther down the road of living, however, let us remember that the word of God can either be a detriment to us, much like it was for the forgetful Nephites,

or it can be a tremendous source of strength, guidance and release.

God bless each of you who accepted the challenge to read the Book of Mormon. May your lives be deeply enriched with the power and authority of God's spirit as you accept this additional challenge to allow its message to live and more abundantly bear fruit in your daily lives.

"And last of all, this is the testimony that we give of him, that he lives, for we saw him on the right hand of the Father."

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