

The Witness

Book of Mormon Foundation
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Foundation for Research on Ancient America
Has Renewed Mission - New Name

THE BOOK OF MORMON FOUNDATION

"For after the book of which I have spoken shall come forth, and be written unto the Gentiles, and sealed up again unto the Lord, there shall be many which shall believe the words which are written; and they shall carry them forth unto the remnant of our seed. And then shall the remnant of our seed know concerning us, how that we came out from Jerusalem, and that they are descendants of the Jews. And the gospel of Jesus Christ shall be declared among them; wherefore, they shall be restored unto the knowledge of their fathers, and also to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, which was had among their fathers. And then shall they rejoice; for they shall know that it is a blessing unto them from the hand of God..."

II Nephi 12:80-83

Accept the Challenge

We at the Book of Mormon Foundation have decided to accept the challenge! The Lord has made great promises concerning the Book of Mormon. Those promises represent a challenge to all Book of Mormon believers. They relate not only to the coming forth of the Book of Mormon to the Gentiles in the latter days, but also to the carrying forth of its words by the Gentiles unto the remnant of the house of Israel. The challenge to Book of Mormon believers today is twofold. As the book came forth first unto the Gentile nations, we have a duty to continue the process of sharing the message of the Book of Mormon with the Gentile nations. Second, the Lord has promised that the words of the book shall go forth from the Gentiles unto the covenant people.

We live in the day in which the great promises concerning the Book of Mormon are being fulfilled. We have carefully reviewed our mission statement, our programs and all that we are about. We have identified areas in which we believe changes need to be made. We have identified areas where we believe we are doing things right; those areas will be continued in essentially the same form they have been in the past. In those areas where we believe changes need to be made we are moving forward aggressively to implement change.

In order to more accurately reflect the scope of the work in which we are engaged, we're changing the name of the Foundation from the Foundation for Research on Ancient America (FRAA) to the Book of Mormon Foundation (BMF). We believe this more accurately reflects what we are truly all about. We are eliminating some of our programs. We are changing others. We are adding still other programs to meet needs we have identified.

Again, we accepted the challenge, and we invite you to join us in this great calling. In this day and age it is easy to be consumed by the concerns of day-to-day living. In doing so however, we neglect the greater purposes of life. We can forget or lose sight of why we are really here. We at the Foundation have found it necessary to step back and reassess what we are about. That is why you have not heard from us for a number of months. We invite you to step back and reassess what you are all about. We were not satisfied that we were doing all that we could to fulfill the work of the Lord. How do you feel you are doing? We have decided that it is necessary for us to refocus, renew and redouble our efforts. We invite you to join us in this renewed effort.

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In the coming days and months you'll see additional changes. We have devoted an entire article in this issue of *The Witness* to our programs. The new format of *The Witness* itself is a testimony to the changes we are making. We have decided that our limited resources can be better spent on other programs. Therefore, *The Witness* will come in this new format until such time as we have adequate financial resources to once again expand the publication.

As those of you who have stopped by the Foundation or tried to call us in the past year have found, we have not had sufficient financial resources to maintain a full-time staff person at the Foundation. We are pleased to announce that due to a generous gift, made for this specific purpose, we now have sufficient funds to once again hire Linda Guin to work full-time at the Foundation. We hope to supplement her efforts with the efforts of many volunteers such as yourself.

A former tenant, the Tree of Life Bookstore, has now moved to a new location. We now have the space to implement additional programs and activities utilizing the full capabilities of the Foundation building. In order to continue in this wonderful facility and maintain a full time staff person, however; we will need your financial assistance.

We recognize that the Foundation in and of itself can accomplish nothing. The Foundation is simply a tool, a way to organize, systematize and unite our efforts so that we, as individual Book of Mormon believers, can unite and join our efforts in response to the call of God to us in these the latter days.

We thank you for your patience as we have reevaluated and reassessed our efforts. Now we ask you to join with us so that together we can fulfill the grand and glorious challenge of our Lord for Book of Mormon believers today.

Dale Godfrey - BMF Chairman

The Programs

by Brenda Lewis

The Book of Mormon Foundation is looking forward to providing a variety of programs which will meet the needs of those who are seeking greater understanding into the truths offered within the pages of the Book of Mormon. Following is a list of the programs which are currently being offered or will be offered in the very near future:

Book of Mormon Internship Program - This program is designed to enhance the spiritual growth and development of each intern, and to prepare them to become spiritual leaders in their homes, congregations and communities. Each one has the opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding from a variety of individuals who have insights on a particular topic. Beyond gaining knowledge, each has an opportunity to testify to others, become service focused, develop leadership skills, and build confidence in speaking before groups of people. Ten students have been selected for the Summer 2000 Book of Mormon Internship Program.

Spanish Classes - Individuals who greatly desire to witness to the heritage people of the Book of Mormon may desire to learn Spanish in these classes along with other missionary-minded individuals.

Classes at The Book of Mormon Foundation building - The Book of Mormon Foundation will be providing a variety of classes for adults ranging from spiritual insights, to archaeology, to enhancing their knowledge and understanding of The Book of Mormon. Regular Book of Mormon story times are being planned for children.

Congregational Book of Mormon Days - Many rich gems from the Book of Mormon are shared with congregations through the sharing of testimonies, dramas, teaching presentations, and more. Children's activities may be included.

Children's Book of Mormon Days - This is a fun-filled, informative day in which the beauty of The Book of Mormon is introduced to children through the use of drama, games, activities, storytelling, and more.

Give It To The World Program - Missionary Book of Mormons are provided free of charge for witnessing to individuals or groups about the Book of Mormon.

Mission Statement

To promote the Book of Mormon and its purpose "Which is to show unto the remnant of the house of Israel how great things the Lord hath done for their fathers, And that they may know the covenants of the Lord, that they may not be cast off forever. And also to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God, manifesting Himself unto all nations."

The Book of Mormon - Title page 6,7 - Restored Covenant Edition

The Pledge Program

As you know, there are many voices in the work of the Lord requesting financial support. We are one of those voices. We are trusting that the need for the continuation of the unique ministry offered at The Book of Mormon Foundation (formerly Foundation for Research on Ancient America) will inspire you to consider the following proposal in order to insure that it will progress over the long term.

Current Situation: For many reasons, our financial support has steadily decreased over the past few years. This seems to be true for many other church organizations that also rely upon your generosity. This trend has caused us to reduce expenses significantly by cutting costs on *The Witness* magazine and administrative functions. The existing programs have enough funding to progress forward for this year. At this point, the critical need is to occupy and maintain the building at 210 West White Oak, Independence, MO. It is a focal point for worship services, meetings, classes, library resources and fellowship.

One source of income that previously helped us meet the mortgage shortfall was the rental income from a tenant leasing part of the building. The tenant has now moved to a new location. This reduction in monthly income creates a tremendous financial challenge for us to continue as a viable ministry to the Restoration.

Proposal: We feel that the mortgage payment on the building is our most significant expense. The current balance is about \$45,000. It will be extremely beneficial for the Foundation if we can retire the mortgage debt. Our desire is to gather enough pledges/contributions from the Book of Mormon believers

to pay it off and allow future contributions to be spent on programs rather than facilities. This would allow us to enhance and expand the programs that are already providing positive results to the saints, especially among the youth.

How can you help? Printed below is a pledge/contribution form to allow you to make a pledge/contribution to specifically pay off the mortgage. I know that each of you reside in a different financial position, but we all know that many hands make light work. For example, if we could get 450 Book of Mormon believers to give \$100, then we would meet our goal. Some can give much more and some can give less. Each one is equally important in the total.

Prayerfully consider becoming a participant. If you are able to contribute today, please send your contribution with the attached form. If you want to contribute at a later date, please complete the pledge form below and return it to the Foundation. We will apply all pledges/contributions directly to the mortgage. Please contact us with any questions or comments.

The Future: We deeply appreciate your commitment in prayers and support. We are excited and filled with hope for the future. The message of *The Book of Mormon* is still valid for our day and continues to call us to a remembrance concerning its purpose. The Book of Mormon Foundation is committed to be a voice in the Restoration for understanding our unique stewardship of The Book of Mormon as a people. May the Lord bless you as you consider your part in this ministry.

Marlin Guin - BMF Vice-President

The Book of Mormon Foundation Pledge Form

Mail to: 210 West White Oak, Independence, MO 64050

Please accept my pledge/contribution for \$ _____

I/we understand that this money will be used to pay off the mortgage on the BMF building.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: (____) _____

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

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

A contribution to The Book of Mormon Foundation is tax deductible.

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The Book of Mormon Internship Program - Summer 2000

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Visit BMF in the internet to learn more about our programs.

THE BOOK OF MORMON FOUNDATION

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