

# The Witness

The Book of Mormon Foundation  
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## Supporters Reduce Building Mortgage to \$22,700

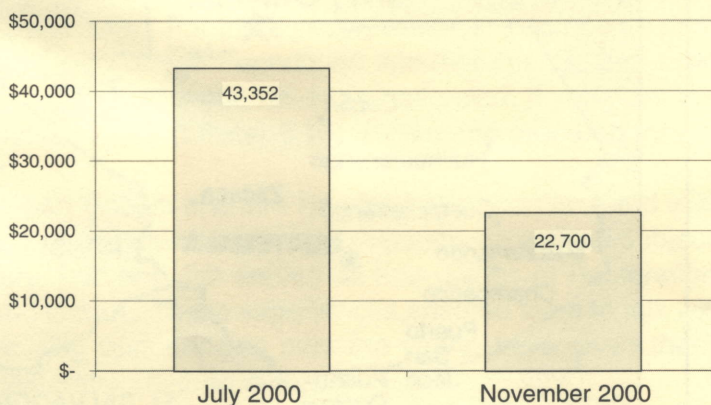
In the last issue of *The Witness*, we invited all Book of Mormon believers to join us in accepting its challenge for our day. The response has been tremendous! Some of you have registered for classes sponsored by the Foundation. Others have volunteered time and effort in the internship, library, special projects, building maintenance, Book of Mormon Day for Kids and congregational Book of Mormon Days. Many have offered prayers on our behalf.

Some of you who responded to our request for financial support contributed to the Foundation for the first time, while others renewed your giving from previous years. Those gifts have come in all sizes, ranging from a few dollars to thousands of dollars. Every gift is important to help us reach our goal. As promised, we are using your contributions, designated to pay off the mortgage, for that purpose. Since our July 2000 newsletter requesting support, we have received over \$16,000. Your contributions plus our regular monthly payments have reduced the current balance to approximately \$22,700. We are making progress, but there is still more to be done. All we need to reach our goal is 23 supporters to each give \$1000 or 230 supporters to each give \$100. These are just examples; any amount is appreciated. Additional gifts have also been donated to assist



with repairs to the building and to fund programs. We praise God for his goodness and thank each of you for your dedication and generosity.

### Building Debt Reduction Comparison



Your support has enabled us to move forward aggressively with the schedule of classes at The Book of Mormon Foundation Learning Center. (See the list of activities included in this issue, or visit our website at [www.bomf.org](http://www.bomf.org)).

We encourage you to continue to accept The Book of Mormon challenge for our day in the dedication of your time, talent and resources. Most importantly, may the Lord bless you as we are all found united together in mighty prayer, fasting and study for His work.



# A Great and Spacious Palace

A three-story limestone Mayan palace was recently discovered at the ancient city of Cancuen, a name meaning "place of serpents." Archaeologists have counted more than 170 rooms arranged around 11 courtyards built over an area of 26,000 square meters (85,300 square feet). Arthur Demarest, an archaeologist from Vanderbilt University who is leading the Cancuen expedition, says, "No one has found anything like this since the turn of the century" The Cancuen palace complex is similar in size to the central acropolis at Tikal, another well-known Mayan site. It is characterized by the absence of pyramid-shaped temples, typical of Mayan cities like Tikal and Mirador in Guatemala and Copan in Honduras.

The discovery of this palace lends support to The Book of Mormon accounts concerning the construction of great palaces. We read:

*"And he also built him a spacious palace, and a throne in the midst thereof, all of which was of fine wood, and was ornamented with gold and silver, and with precious things." (Mosiah 7:12)*

*"And it came to pass that he went in unto him into the king's palace, with his brethren, and bowed himself before the king..." (Alma 13:32)*

The building of spacious palaces in the Americas was not known at the time The Book of Mormon came forth unto the world. In 1830, the native peoples of this continent were perceived as nomadic hunters and gatherers with no large, developed urban centers.

Archaeologists have also determined from deciphering the inscriptions on walls, steps and monoliths, that Cancuen was the seat of a regional government. These Mayan glyphs parallel similar accounts in The Book of Mormon concerning government organization. Some examples, with emphases added, are:

*"And thus Ammon was carried before the **king who was over the land** of Ishmael; and his name was Lamoni; and he was a descendant of Ishmael." (Alma 12:32)*

*"Therefore I go to the land of Middoni, that I may flatter the **king of the land**; and he will cast thy brethren out of prison." (Alma 12:185)*

*"And it came to pass that as Ammon and Lamoni were journeying thither, that they met the father of Lamoni, who was **king over all the land**." (Alma 12:190)*

*"For after he departed from the land of Middoni, he*

*was led by the Spirit to the land of Nephi; even to the house of the **king which was over all the land**, save it were the land of Ishmael and he was the father of Lamoni." (Alma 13:31)*

We can easily see that the references to "king of the land" and "king over all the land" speak directly to a form of organization and government. The discovery that Cancuen is a regional seat of government supports The Book of Mormon claims concerning this type of governmental organization structure.

Researchers said Cancuen's origin can be traced back to 350 B.C., with the city being built some 150 years later, and reaching its peak between 600 and 800 A.D. The text of a stele from Tres Islas, a small site north of Cancuen, has been a key to interpreting the Cancuen inscriptions. The stele reveals links between Cancuen and the Mexican center of Teotihuacan, as well as its status as a thriving trading spot. It also identifies the existence of a second capital named Machaquila some 50 kilometers (31 miles) away.

The stele inscriptions show that Cancuen had at least 19 leaders by the early 5th century. Another stone panel details the city's last era, the story of its last leader circa 800 A.D., and the political alliances established with nearby kingdoms. For more information on Cancuen, visit [www.ngnews.com](http://www.ngnews.com) or [www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com) and search for articles entitled "Maya Palace Emerges from Guatemalan Jungle" and "Slowly, Glyphs Reveal History of Lost Mayan City".

Ten interns representing six states, and three staff members





# Winter-Spring Calendar of Events

## Class Schedule 2001

### Linda Wilson

Fourteen-week program. Mondays from January 8 through April 9. 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**New Testament - Life and Times of Jesus Christ.** Linda's ministry primarily began as a storyteller. She has done extensive research in order to accurately develop scripts and present materials that are historically correct. Linda is currently serving on the Elders Conference Women's Council. She teaches religion classes at Oak Valley Day School and Lexington Restoration Branch. Linda also provides ministry at camps and reunions.

### Glenn Scott

Three-week program. January 11, 18 and 25. 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Archaeological Insights and Studies.** Glenn dedicated his life to the study, research and teaching *The Book of Mormon*. After retirement, Glenn went to work to earn a degree in anthropology and made seven trips exploring and studying archaeological sites throughout Mesoamerica before writing his book *Voices From the Dust*.

### Verneil Simmons

Thursday, February 1. 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Zenos and the Parable of the Olive Tree.** Verneil has been a student of *The Book of Mormon* since her teenage years. Verneil's husband, Wayne, was the first appointee Latin American missionary for the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ in 1950. While living in Mexico City, Verneil began intensive research into the archaeology of Mesoamerica. She took courses at the National University and attended many hours of lectures at the Instituto Nacional de Arqueología e Historia. She has taught Book of Mormon classes throughout the church and has written several publications including: *People, Places and Prophecies; The Holy One of Israel; Zenos and the Parable of the Olive Tree; and The Tender Twig*.

### Robert Bobbitt and James Reeves, Jr.

Three-week program: February 8, 15 and 22. 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

**Preregistration is required for this class.** Attendance limited to 16 students.

**Restoration Apologetics.** How well do you know your faith? Can you defend what you believe if called upon to do so? Do you have a personal testimony of Jesus Christ? Do Latter Day Saints believe in salvation by grace alone, or by works? If you would like to have answers to these questions and others, then this is the class for you. For three years, this class has been a part of the training for the Youth Missionary Corp and The Book of Mormon Foundation summer interns, and now it's available to the general church. This is a class unlike any other you have ever attended. If you want to learn how to express to others "a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15), then come prepared for nine intensive hours of study.

Robert Bobbitt and Jim Reeves have been involved in the field of restoration apologetics for over eight years and have published several materials on various subjects regarding Restoration teachings. Early in their ministry, Bob and Jim served as tour guides at Restoration sites, Bob at Nauvoo, Illinois, and Jim at the RLDS Auditorium. These experiences enabled them to talk with many people of various faiths and, coupled with witnessing opportunities over the years, have given them a desire to help others in their desire to share the Restoration faith to others.



## Ray Treat

Four-week program. March 1, 8, 15, and 22. 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**The Seven-Year Period: The Pattern of the Two Covenants.** An examination of the reign of Judges, Isaiah and other types for the seven-year period(s). Ray established Zarahemla Research Foundation in 1975. Ray travels throughout the United States lecturing on The Book of Mormon and Book of Mormon archaeology to anyone who is a Book of Mormon believer. In 1999 ZRF published the Restored Covenant Edition of The Book of Mormon.

## James Daugherty

Three-week program. 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

April 12, 2001 - **Methods of Analyzing Literature to Evaluate Historical Accuracy**

April 19, 2001 - **A Correlation Between Events in American History and Church History**

April 26, 2001 - **What Difference Does The Book of Mormon Really Make?**

Jim has a rich heritage in the Restoration gospel. He is a retired journeyman plumber. Jim has a life-long love of history and enjoys sharing the gospel. He and his wife Laura, attend Butler Restoration Branch where he is currently the pastor.

## Congregational Book of Mormon Days

Chilhowee Restoration Branch/Chilhowee, Missouri	January 14, 2001
Mt. Ayr Restoration Branches/Graceland Book of Mormon Club	February 11, 2001
Odessa Restoration Branch/Odessa, Missouri	February 25, 2001
South Chrysler Restoration Branch/Independence, Missouri	March 11, 2001
Warrensburg Restoration Branch/Warrensburg, Missouri	March 18, 2001
Butler Restoration Branch/Butler, Missouri	April 22, 2001
Farview Restoration Branch/Independence, Missouri	June 10, 2001

Congregational Book of Mormon Day programs offer ministry that includes archaeology, speakers, classes, dramas, special music, testimonies and children's classes. If you are interested in scheduling a Book of Mormon Day, please contact The Book of Mormon Foundation.

## BMF Internship 2000

Renewal Weekend

January 27 & 28, 2001

The interns will meet for classes and fellowship on January 27 at the BMF Learning Center at 210 West White Oak, Independence, Missouri. Saturday classes are for the 2000 BMF Interns only. On Sunday, January 28 the interns will provide ministry during the 11:00 a.m. worship service at Colbern Road Restoration Branch.

## The Book of Mormon Foundation

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# Internship 2000

by Bonnie Anderson, Internship Director

spent six weeks together in the summer of 2000 in study, prayer, fasting, worship, service and fellowship, resulting in lifetime friendships. Even more important was the renewed commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Every day during the internship, we began and ended with prayer. In between, we prayed over virtually everything. By the end of six weeks, everyone was more comfortable with vocal and silent prayer. We also felt it was very important to fast as group once each week.

Monday through Wednesday we had a variety of classes, primarily on Book of Mormon subjects. Monday through Wednesday. Knowledgeable teachers were willing to share their time and gifts with young people in the classes. We were challenged by dedicated teachers to really come to an understanding of what it is to "feast" on God's word. On Thursday we went into the community to provide service.

We moved a library and did other needed tasks for one of the Restoration schools. In addition, we helped dig out a ditch that kept overflowing in a family's yard, painted and

cleaned up around The Book of Mormon Foundation building, cleaned out an overgrown trail at a reunion grounds, and visited an adult facility for the mentally impaired. In the evenings, we visited several branches, camps, and reunions where the interns performed their play, provided the ministry of music, and shared heartfelt testimonies with young and old. We also traveled to Palmyra, New York, to visit church historical sites and watch the Book of Mormon pageant. We returned

home by way of a Junior/Senior High Youth Camp at Erie Beach, Canada, where more friendships were made. Today's older youth are capable of offering wonderful ministry, and the BMF Internship gives them a place to grow, learn, and serve. Many people make the internship possible—knowledgeable teachers, women providing lunches,

individuals and branches supporting us financially and prayerfully, branches allowing us to share our music and testimonies, camps and reunions giving us opportunity to witness as well as work, and The Book of Mormon Foundation leadership placing a high priority on this ministry. The internship has been an important part of the Foundation for nine years and will continue to be so in the future.



## The Book of Mormon Foundation Contribution Form

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

Please accept my 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: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_



# The Witness

Number 99 December 2000

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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.

## Unto Us Is Born

As we think of the birth of Jesus Christ, it is interesting to listen to the various descriptions of Him. Today, with increasing frequency, we hear people identify Him as only a great teacher. Sometimes we hear Him described as just a good man or a great historical person. Unfortunately, these conclusions can even be heard from those who consider themselves to be enlightened Christians.



One of the great truths found in the Book of Mormon is its unwavering declaration that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, our Savior and Redeemer. Eternal life comes only through Him. There is no other way. It is a witness of His divinity and testifies boldly of His birth, life, crucifixion and resurrection. Nephi writes:

*"Yea, even six hundred years from the time that my father left Jerusalem, a prophet would the Lord God raise up among the Jews, even a Messiah; or, in other words, a Savior of the world. And he also spake concerning the prophets, how great a number had testified of these things, concerning this Messiah, of whom he had spoken, or this Redeemer of the world. Wherefore, all mankind were in a lost and in a fallen state, and ever would be, save they should rely on this Redeemer.... And the Son of God was the Messiah who should come;"*

(1 Nephi 3:4-5,25)



May we, as Book of Mormon believers, be found proclaiming the true message and identity of Jesus Christ during this Christmas season.

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**THE BOOK OF MORMON FOUNDATION**  
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