

THE WITNESS

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And awake! And arise
from the dust, O
Jerusalem! Yea, and put
on thy beautiful garments,
O daughter of Zion!

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Cover: Oaxaca, Mexico - Intern Trip
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210 West White Oak • Independence, MO 64050

(816) 461-3722 • www.bomf.org

Foundation email: bmfoundation@live.com

Internship email: bmfinternship@gmail.com

Unity of Faith in Christ Intern Program 2025



Unity—Jesus calls us to unity. The stories and examples in scripture, such as Alma at the Waters of Mormon, show us what oneness looks like. (Mosiah 9:54-55)

Love—When we love one another, we become unified. God's love is the tree of life, the source of our love for others. (1 Nephi 3:64)

Belief and Sacrifice—The Anti-Nephi-Lehis were so moved by the love of God unto belief in Christ that they sacrificed their lives out of love rather than take the lives of their brothers. As a result, many more were converted to Christ. (Alma 14:117-118)

Humility and Service—Service requires humility, setting aside pride and preferring another over ourselves so we might rejoice and be filled with the love of God. (Mosiah 2:20-27)

Peace—After Christ's appearance in the Americas, we see a clear picture of peace and unity. The children of Christ had no contention because of the love of God among them. (4 Nephi 1:17-20)

Mercy—Jesus Christ, our perfect Savior, lived His life as an example for us of humility, service, sacrifice and love, so that we may be subject to the mercy of the Father and partake of His salvation. (2 Nephi 11:96-97)

Jesus!—Let us always look to Jesus in our desire to be unified. Only through Jesus can we become unified as the children of God, being filled with the pure love of Christ and becoming like Him. (Moroni 7:53)



Believe the Words

There shall be many which shall believe the words
which are written; and they shall carry them forth
unto the remnant of our seed.

2 Nephi 12:80

by Marlin Guin

For almost 200 years, generations of Book of Mormon believers have been praying about sharing the Book of Mormon with the remnant peoples. It seems the Lord has placed a spiritual veil between the Restoration churches and the exact identity and location of the Book of Mormon peoples. To minister to the Lamanites in Book of Mormon times, one only needed to walk south until you were captured and put in prison. Today, it's not that simple, as their identity and location have not been so clearly defined. We have to wonder: Why? After all, taking the Book of Mormon to them has been a commandment from the beginning of the Restoration. There may be many reasons. Perhaps one is because the Restoration has taken the Book of Mormon and the former commandments lightly. (D&C 83:8a-b) This has left us in a position of seeking further revelation by asking:

Who are the Lamanites today?

Where does the Lord specifically want us to go to minister to them?

Who will be the servants the Lord sends to the Lamanites and what does He want shared with them?

We are told the Book of Mormon must be taken back to them in truth, according to the true points of doctrine contained within.

For thus it behooveth the Father that it should come forth from the Gentiles, that He may show forth His power unto the Gentiles for this cause: that the Gentiles—if they will not harden their hearts—that they may repent and come unto Me and be baptized in My name and know of the **true points of My doctrine**, that they may be numbered among My people, O house of Israel. (3 Nephi 9:92)

Yea, and I will also bring to light my gospel, which was ministered unto them, and, behold, they shall not deny that which you have received, but they shall build it up, and shall bring to light the **true points of my doctrine**; yea, and the only doctrine which is in me. (D&C 3:15b)

The Book of Mormon contains the true points of doctrine that must be taken to them in purity and with convincing power. Moroni told Joseph Smith it contained the fullness of the gospel as delivered by the Savior to the ancient inhabitants of this continent.

Recently, I received a call from a good friend and brother who found a testimony on his desk written by someone we have not met. He doesn't know how the testimony got there and doesn't remember receiving it. This unusual situation caused me to wonder: Did the Lord put it on his desk as an answer to our prayers? Following is this testimony in its entirety.

I was invited on a trip to North Carolina in 2017 as Hurricane Irma was moving inland from Florida. I had just finished my third 40-day fast of no food and only water to drink. The fasting was not just an exercise of going without food, but was a time to seek God's face with all my heart and truly come into His presence. This was a very intense and profound time for me. I received many marvelous experiences during these fasts and marveled that the Lord had spoken to me so plainly and clearly on so many things. It was truly a humbling experience.

While in Cherokee, North Carolina we visited the Cherokee Museum. Once we entered the museum my friends and I split up. We were wandering around reading different displays as interest dictated. I rounded a corner and saw a large mural depicting a village of homes, children playing, women working and families living their daily lives. Suddenly I was engulfed in an overwhelming sense of sadness, loss and wasted life. I sat on a bench to look at the mural. I was fighting mightily not to burst into open sobbing as the tears flowed, so great was the sadness the Lord was sharing with me. I prayed, "Lord, I don't understand. Why am I feeling this great overwhelming sadness while looking at such a happy scene?"

The Lord said to me, "These are My covenant people. I once walked among them. They were a delightful and righteous people for over 200 years and now they no longer walk in truth and righteousness; but they embrace the lies and half-truths of Satan." He compared them to the church today that is also holding onto misguided stories and half-truths. I sat there for over 45 minutes and my heart wept bitter tears.

Later as I was wandering around, I saw a display about a woman that was a mighty warrior as a young woman, but later became a strong spiritual leader among her people. Her name was Nancy Ward. I felt very strongly and inexplicably drawn to her.

Later, my friends and I went to Clingman's Dome where we were told a Cherokee legend of a Great Spirit who called the spiritual men of that time to the top of a mountain. There they were met with a burning bush much like Moses. After they were given instruction, they took some of the fire and brought it down the mountain to a mound where it was kept as an eternal flame. All of the fires of the surrounding community were to be lit from that sacred fire, and extinguished and relighted once a year.

We then went to the mound where that flame had been maintained continuously as sacred and holy fire. We arrived about 4:00 p.m. There were large rocks around to prevent people from driving out onto the mound. I sat alone on one of the rocks and while sitting there I prayed, "Lord, why did You show me those things at the museum? I am nobody. I am a woman—a broken woman at that! No one wants to hear from a woman! No one wants to hear from me...I have no connections...I have no way of traveling or sharing this...Of all the people You could have shared this with, **why did You share that with me?**" I know God does nothing haphazardly and **to whom much is given much is required**...I could not begin to conceive the purpose or plan of this experience given to me.

As I sat on the rock at 4:00 p.m. on a sunny afternoon, pouring my heart out to God, seeking His wisdom and direction, I was suddenly taken in a vision to another time. It was pitch black. I was aware it was a dark, moonless night. In the distance I could see a fire on the mound, and I could hear the drums and the singing and see many figures dancing around the fire. I was given knowledge that these people had a great desire to return into the presence of the Great Spirit, but couldn't. Then I became aware of a woman sitting next to me on the rock. I couldn't see her and yet I knew she was dressed in her native clothing. She was beautiful, not in the beauty of carnal man, but a quiet inner beauty of a humble heart and in the strength of the Lord. We conversed and shared thoughts and knowledge.

She told me, "These are my people. They have a great desire to get back into the presence of their God but cannot without the truth found in the Book of Mormon." I asked her several questions and she answered me. I said, "That is why we need Zion." I could sense her frustration that I didn't understand and I was in a sense putting the cart before the horse. She said that Zion would happen...God was in control. However, the Book of Mormon had to be taken to her people with power and passion first and NOT with the head knowledge of the white man. It had to be taken with power and passion! Her people understood the real power of God because they saw it in nature—in storms, lightning, winds and earthquakes. They understood passion as a raging fire (not the dying embers of a dead fire) that caused men to do exploits greater than anything they could do on their own. What they lacked was the fullness of truth. The head knowledge of the white man was of the white man. It was just words of little or no value to them. I was given to understand the head knowledge of the white man would only hinder the work of taking the Book of Mormon to God's covenant people. They needed only the truth of the Book of Mormon at this time—all else from the white man would be rejected.

Then she was gone and it was daylight again. I was left with an understanding that the covenant people of the Lord are very precious to Him. He desires the truth of the Book of Mormon to go forth in power and passion so they can return back to Him.

This experience was as if I were there in real time. I was seeing, hearing, feeling; and I was given a depth of insight and understanding that can only be described as miraculous. I wish I could say I experienced it calmly, but I didn't. This shook me to the very core of my being. As stated before, **To whom much is given much is required.** I had just been given much and I was greatly concerned about what would be required of me.

It has been brought to my attention lately that the example of this experience—how it will work and how it has worked before—is found in the Book of Mormon in the account of Ammon and King Lamoni. My experience is only a second witness to the plan of God for these last days.

For all those that desire to further God's work amongst His people, I would urge you not to put your trust in your own understanding...but seek God's plan, God's perfect plan. And may all be done for the glory of God.

I couldn't contact the sister who shared this testimony, but I believe it speaks to things worthy of our prayerful consideration. After reading it, I couldn't help but remember my own experience in 2023. While working on my deck, I asked the Lord these questions:

Lord, why has there been little success among the house of Israel—particularly those we believe to be Lamanites?

Why have they not taken their rightful place in this great work as promised?

The Holy Spirit bore record to me with these things:

Because you don't fully believe the words in the book. (2 Nephi 12:80)

Because you don't speak with a familiar spirit. (Isaiah 29:4, 2 Nephi 11:84)

Because you don't carry a convincing power in your ministry. (3 Nephi 13:41)

Because those you share with do not see in you and your church a true reflection of the words written by their forefathers.

Because of these weaknesses, they reject the messenger.

I had the opportunity to teach the Book of Mormon interns this summer. I challenged them to pray, study and fast about five questions. I feel it would also be beneficial for everyone in the Restoration to consider them as well.

What is the Restoration and what is it supposed to accomplish?

What is truth and where is it found?

What is the Book of Mormon and what is its purpose?

How does your church fit into the answers to these questions?

How does your personal life fit into the answers to these questions?

These are questions that must be answered in a way that's pleasing to the Lord. Sometimes we just reiterate the traditional answers passed down to us through family, friends, priesthood and church leaders without giving them much prayerful thought. I shared with the interns that people will know if you truly believe what you say when you share with them. It's extremely important to make sure you have a personal conviction for the things you share, based on personal revelation from God. Don't automatically believe something is true just because someone you love and respect says it.

Perhaps the time has begun for the Lord to raise up those who believe the words of the Book of Mormon and former commandments. Perhaps the time has begun to bring forth Book of Mormon believers from the darkness and out from under the condemnation according to the words which are written. (D&C 83:8a-b) I don't know who it will be or how long it will take to accomplish it, but I know the Lord has promised the day will come when His covenants must be fulfilled and His mercy and forgiveness will be given to those who hearken to His voice and repent. He said in Exodus:

And the Lord descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the rebellious; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation. (Exodus 34:5-7)

It was made known to me in September, 2023 that this time of mercy, forgiveness and raising up has begun for those who hearken and repent. I was standing in a parking lot in Kirtland, Ohio when I received news that Wallace B. Smith had died that Friday, September 22, 2023. He was the biological fourth generation of the

Smith family and RLDS church leadership. He was the fourth generation of leadership since the church had been warned for treating the Book of Mormon and former commandments lightly. His death on September 22, 2023 was significant as it marked exactly the month/day that Moroni appeared to Joseph Smith in 1823 and the following four years. It also marked the exact month/day the Book of Mormon plates and interpreters were given to Joseph in 1827. I don't believe his death on that date was a coincidence. I believe it reflected the divine nature of the coming forth of the Book of Mormon and also the beginning of fulfilling the scripture in Exodus 34:5-7 for our day. I believe his death signaled the beginning of coming out of darkness and out from under condemnation for those who repent of those things.

What we should learn from this is that the Lord speaks, moves and intervenes when necessary to fulfill His word. Who else has the power to do those things and to whom will the people listen that will deliver us from our current condition? We often quote Isaiah 29:25-26 as a single event for the Restoration, but it's actually a spiritual principle that has been applied many times in the scriptures. We can be assured it will be applied again now or in the future.

For behold, I Am God and I Am a God of miracles; and I will show unto the world that I Am the same yesterday, today and forever; and I work not among the children of men, save it be according to their faith. And again, it shall come to pass that the Lord shall say unto him that shall read the words that shall be delivered him: **Forasmuch as this people draw near unto Me with their mouth and with their lips do honor Me, but have removed their heart far from Me and their fear toward Me is taught by the precept of men, therefore, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people,** yea, a marvelous work and a wonder; for the wisdom of their wise and learned shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent shall be hid. (2 Nephi 11:145-147, Isaiah 29:25-26)

To emphasize this as a spiritual principle and not just an event, here are a few examples of this restoring principle. They are presented in the form of questions whose answers should be easily discerned:

How long would Adam and Eve have stayed in the garden after their rebellion if God had not intervened and removed them?

How long would the world have continued to be full of wickedness if God had not intervened and commanded Noah to build a boat for the flood?

How long would the Israelites have remained in slavery if God had not intervened and spoken to Moses to deliver them from bondage?

How long would the Jews have followed the law of Moses, always waiting for the true Messiah, if Christ had not intervened and come to the earth?

How long would the Book of Mormon peoples or the other tribes of Israel have followed the law of Moses, always waiting for the true Messiah, if Christ had not intervened and come to the earth?

How long would the Nephites have remained in apostasy if God had not intervened and sent Abinadi and called forth Alma to restore the church at the Waters of Mormon?

How long would the world have lived in apostasy if God had not intervened to restore truth in the latter days?

How long will the divided Restoration today go without accomplishing its purpose if Jesus does not intervene, manifest Himself and speak?

I don't know the method or how long it will take but God always moves to fulfill His word. He doesn't allow His purposes to come to naught and be frustrated. We should remember that prophecy has a beginning and an ending—the Lord doesn't wait forever to intervene and restore.

I think we all get the point. What do we do to prepare for the great things coming upon the earth? Who is the Lord raising up now? Who will the Lord raise up in the future? Who will repent and come out of the darkness and out from under this condemnation according to the words which are written? Who will hearken to His voice when He manifests Himself and speaks? May the Lord bless us as we consider these things.

PROPHECY WATCH

Only a Book of Mormon believer will appreciate the true significance of the event described in the following article. Although this event may seem trivial and hardly worth our notice, I believe the event reported in this article may be a precursor to the fulfillment of many of the great and marvelous events foretold in the Book of Mormon. This event occurred in September, 2021 and was reported as follows. (Because of space limitations, only portions of the article are quoted. The scriptural references are provided to enhance appreciation of the possible long-term ramifications of the described proceedings.)

Alabama Cherokee Tribe Establishes Ties with Israel, Recognizes ‘Undivided’ Jerusalem

*“We have chosen to identify with a people as a people,”
said Chief Larry Smith of the Northeast Alabama Cherokee.*

The Northeast Alabama Cherokee held a ceremony on September 25 [2021] in Guntersville, Alabama to establish a relationship with Israel. There, the tribe presented a resolution unanimously passed by the Tribal Council, recognizing the sovereign Jewish nation of Israel with Jerusalem as its eternal undivided capital. “We vow our full support in the pursuit of the peace of Jerusalem and the nation of Israel by whichever means may be necessary,” the resolution said.

Know ye not that the testimony of two nations is a witness unto you that I Am God? That I remember one nation like unto another? Wherefore, I speak the same words unto one nation like unto another. And when the two nations shall run together, the testimony of the two nations shall run together also. (2 Nephi 12:59-61)

Chief Larry Smith began his remarks by noting that “if there’s a people that can understand how the Jews feel, it’s the Cherokee,” which received an “Amen” from the audience. “We have chosen to identify with a people as a people,” he added.

Seth Penn, the deputy representative of the Red Wind Tribal District, said “The nation of Israel has a lot in common with the Cherokee people—they have been removed from their homeland, came back, and have to fight for their homeland.”

“Some historians even argue we can find our DNA roots in Israel,” Penn said. “I’m not saying that’s true.”

Smith echoed that, saying “Are we the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel? Debatable.” But he added, “There are so many of our ceremonies, so many of our celebrations that coincide with Jewish traditions and the Jewish holidays.”

The first white settler in what is now Montgomery was Jewish: Abraham Mordecai. He traded with the local tribes and was so convinced of their Jewish origin that he kept addressing them in Hebrew, hoping to receive a similar response.

And then shall the remnant of our seed know concerning us—how that we came out from Jerusalem—and that they are a descendant of the Jews. (2 Nephi 12:81)

Laura King, co-founder of the Alabama-Israel Task Force and former national chair of the Jewish Federations of North America's Network of small Jewish communities, made a presentation on behalf of the Israeli Consulate in Atlanta.

King expressed "deep apologies" from Consul General Anat Sultan-Dadon for not being able to attend. "She really wanted to be here today; it was really important to her." But the event being on Shabbat in the middle of Sukkot made it impossible.

In a letter to the tribe, Sultan-Dadon wrote: "Your friendship and support, beautifully expressed through this proclamation from the Cherokee Tribe of Northeast Alabama, are invaluable and greatly appreciated." She added that "like the Cherokee Tribe, the Jewish people have an undeniable and unbreakable bond to our native land. During centuries of dispersion, the Jewish people never severed nor forgot its bond with our historic homeland."

And notwithstanding that they have been carried away, they shall return again and possess the Land of Jerusalem; wherefore, they shall be restored again to the lands of their inheritance.
(2 Nephi 11:20)

He [Smith] noted that at one point "the United States didn't want the Cherokee to be around, and 'the ones they couldn't kill, they were going to assimilate,' but we're still here. We're growing and we're stronger."

Yea, I say unto you that in the latter times, the promises of the Lord hath been extended to our brethren the Lamanites; and notwithstanding the many afflictions which they shall have, and notwithstanding they shall be driven to and fro upon the face of the earth and be hunted and shall be smitten and scattered abroad, having no place for refuge, the Lord shall be merciful unto them; and this is according to the prophecy that they shall again be brought to the true knowledge—which is knowledge of their Redeemer and their great and their true Shepherd—and be numbered among His sheep. Therefore, saith the Lord, I will not utterly destroy them, but I will cause that in the days of My wisdom, they shall return again unto Me, saith the Lord.
(Helaman 5:102-104, 107)

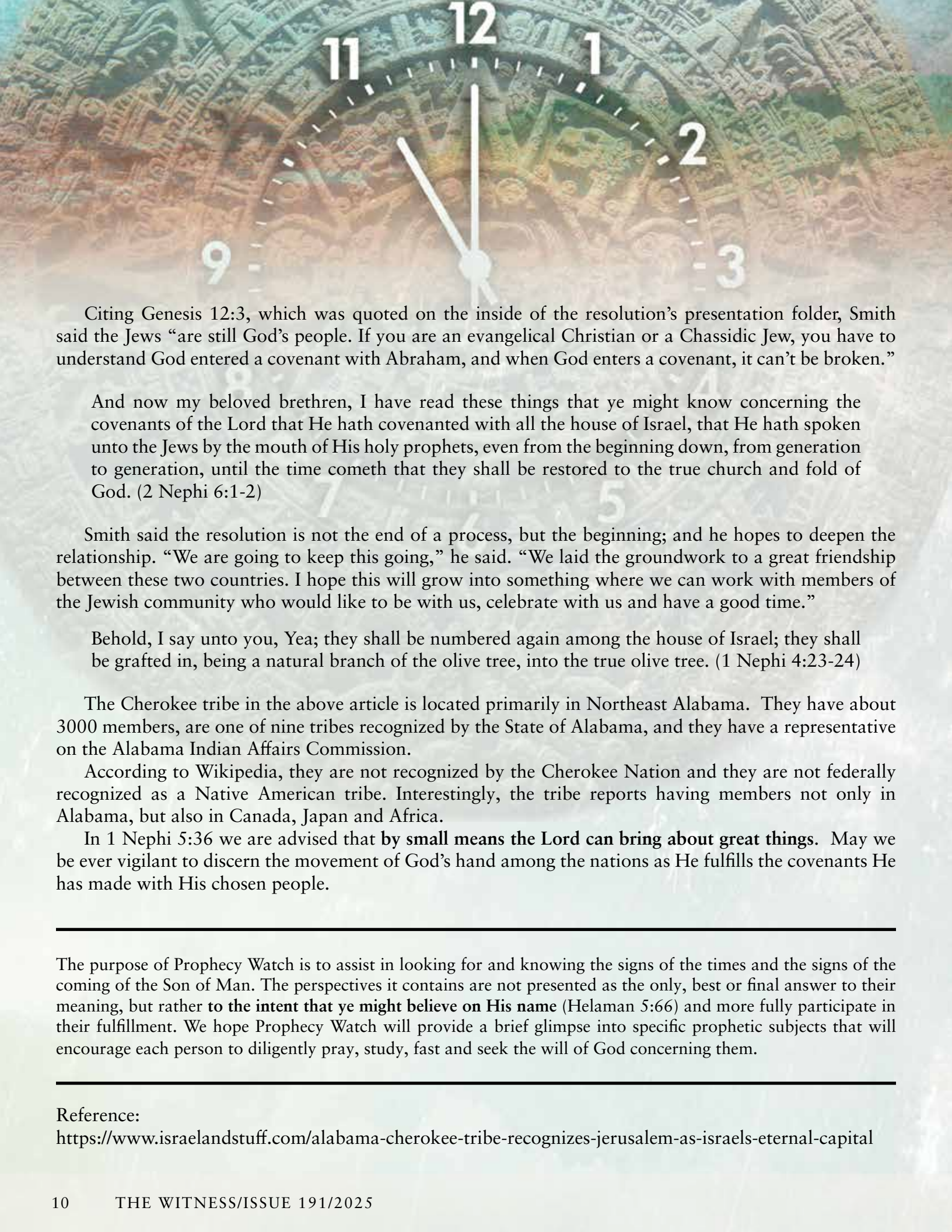
Penn said the message of "declaring our sovereignty as a tribal nation in support of another sovereign nation 'is' very significant, even more so than we may realize."

Now ye may suppose that this is foolishness in me; but behold, I say unto you that by small and simple things are great things brought to pass, and small means, in many instances, doth confound the wise. (Alma 17:35)

A God-given Responsibility to Steward Sacred Lands

John Buhler, AITF co-founder...said Israel and the Cherokee are both "indigenous people who have a very deep sense of a God-given responsibility to steward sacred lands."

But, said [Lehi], notwithstanding our afflictions, we have obtained a Land of Promise, a land which is choice above all other lands, a land which the Lord God hath covenanted with me should be a land for the inheritance of my seed; yea, the Lord hath consecrated this land unto me and to my children forever. (2 Nephi 1:6-8)



Citing Genesis 12:3, which was quoted on the inside of the resolution's presentation folder, Smith said the Jews "are still God's people. If you are an evangelical Christian or a Chassidic Jew, you have to understand God entered a covenant with Abraham, and when God enters a covenant, it can't be broken."

And now my beloved brethren, I have read these things that ye might know concerning the covenants of the Lord that He hath covenanted with all the house of Israel, that He hath spoken unto the Jews by the mouth of His holy prophets, even from the beginning down, from generation to generation, until the time cometh that they shall be restored to the true church and fold of God. (2 Nephi 6:1-2)

Smith said the resolution is not the end of a process, but the beginning; and he hopes to deepen the relationship. "We are going to keep this going," he said. "We laid the groundwork to a great friendship between these two countries. I hope this will grow into something where we can work with members of the Jewish community who would like to be with us, celebrate with us and have a good time."

Behold, I say unto you, Yea; they shall be numbered again among the house of Israel; they shall be grafted in, being a natural branch of the olive tree, into the true olive tree. (1 Nephi 4:23-24)

The Cherokee tribe in the above article is located primarily in Northeast Alabama. They have about 3000 members, are one of nine tribes recognized by the State of Alabama, and they have a representative on the Alabama Indian Affairs Commission.

According to Wikipedia, they are not recognized by the Cherokee Nation and they are not federally recognized as a Native American tribe. Interestingly, the tribe reports having members not only in Alabama, but also in Canada, Japan and Africa.

In 1 Nephi 5:36 we are advised that **by small means the Lord can bring about great things**. May we be ever vigilant to discern the movement of God's hand among the nations as He fulfills the covenants He has made with His chosen people.

The purpose of Prophecy Watch is to assist in looking for and knowing the signs of the times and the signs of the coming of the Son of Man. The perspectives it contains are not presented as the only, best or final answer to their meaning, but rather **to the intent that ye might believe on His name** (Helaman 5:66) and more fully participate in their fulfillment. We hope Prophecy Watch will provide a brief glimpse into specific prophetic subjects that will encourage each person to diligently pray, study, fast and seek the will of God concerning them.

Reference:

<https://www.israelandstuff.com/alabama-cherokee-tribe-recognizes-jerusalem-as-israels-eternal-capital>

2025 Interns

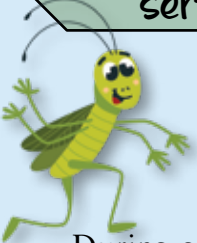


Noah Alaniz



Throughout the Internship, God was teaching me and shaping me into a better servant for Him.

Throughout the Internship this year, God has been trying to teach me and shape me into a better servant for Him. At the beginning of the program, I thought I was doing fine in my spiritual walk with Christ. Then God allowed me to go through an experience that showed I had not fully yielded my heart to Him. Every morning of the Internship, Jon gave a devotion. The central theme he chose to use throughout the Internship was on yielding our hearts to God (Helaman 2:31). I listened every morning as he spoke more on the topic, but I didn't put too much thought into it. One evening as I was driving home from an Internship activity, I started to experience a temporary health scare. After the initial feeling passed, I felt I was doing okay, but I also felt that I should ask for administration. I don't remember ever intentionally asking for administration, but I felt the Lord calling me to give my fears and worries over to Him and allow Him to be in control of my life. I was eventually administered to, and it was a huge blessing to me. I felt the Lord's Spirit was now with me in a greater portion. Through this experience, the Lord humbled me by showing that He is in control and that we need to turn to Him. I was shown that we do need to call upon the elders in God's church in times of need. After this experience, I remembered the devotions we had heard on yielding our hearts to God. This further showed me that God's hand is in everything.



Makhilla Gerkin

During our trip in Oaxaca, Mexico we were on our way to lunch with a friend of Rosa Elena's (our guide). Our driver, Rafael, asked about the Internship. Emma, Anna and I had the opportunity to witness to him. I was able to share a little bit about the Internship and what we do during the six-week program. Then one of us suggested singing some campfire songs for him. I know at some point it really touched him because I could see that as we sang, he seemed to relax. It was nice to see that we were doing some good, even if we couldn't remember all the words or verses to all the songs we sang. Later, on the way to serve at an orphanage, Emma asked Rafael if there was anything he needed for us to pray for him. He said he could use prayers for his job. Later in the week, as we were leaving Oaxaca, Rafael was one of the drivers who took us to the airport. As he dropped us off, I asked if he had any luck with getting a job or starting one, and he said he would start a new job in two weeks! He thanked us again for singing and praying for him. It was a small reminder of how much of a blessing it is for us to be a blessing to others.



It is a blessing to be a blessing to others.

Caleb Keller



It's nice to see how quickly friendship grows when it's centered around Christ.

The Internship was really informative and taught me many new things about the Book of Mormon. In the beginning, I didn't know what to expect from it. On a personal level, it has been the first time in my life that sharing testimonies and my beliefs with the people around me is accepted and actually encouraged! It is nice to be able to interact with people who think differently from me but still generally believe the same things. It has helped me grow as a person and grow spiritually. Even though I knew that nothing bad would happen by putting God first, it is actually hard to do when that has not been a normal part of your life. The interns in our group this year all had their own individual interests and unique personalities, but we learned how to interact with everyone and enjoyed one another's company. It was nice to see how quickly our friendship can grow when it's centered around Christ. This is something I haven't experienced much in my life, and it's definitely something that has made me glad to be part of the Internship this summer.



Vanessa Tandy

As a child in Colombia, South America, I lived in foster care from the time I was a month old until I was twelve. Through the foster care program, I was able to visit the United States and stay with one family, and later I was adopted by a different family. The first few years were challenging, but I was able to learn the English language and get used to the culture in the United States. I didn't realize that my adoption was a testimony until a few years ago. Even though I miss my culture in Colombia, I have had opportunities to do things in my life that otherwise wouldn't have been possible. Throughout my life, I have struggled with lack of confidence and self-doubt. I joined the Internship to help me get out of my comfort zone, to grow in my walk with God, and to better learn to share God with others. The Internship has definitely helped me in these areas. During the summer, several of the interns asked for prayers to help with self-doubt. At least once during our trip in Mexico, I was able to share with someone about the Book of Mormon. We also spent time with children at an orphanage. This was impactful for me. Since I grew up in foster care, I have been through some of the same things those kids are going through. At the orphanage, I helped teach the children some songs in Spanish because I was the intern who knew Spanish best. One time when we had some extra food to share, I was able to go up to a stranger to share the food and ask how we could pray for them. During the Internship we prayed every day, and I feel that this will improve my personal prayer life going forward. The experiences in the Internship have given me the confidence to share God with others.



The Internship improved my prayer life, helped me grow in my walk with God and helped me learn to share God with others.

Heather Wentzell-Potts



The Internship solidified my faith and ignited a passion within me to serve God fully.

I know that God had a “divine appointment” for me to be in the Internship this summer. I am utterly convinced that Satan launched a full-scale attack against me before the Internship, trying every tactic to keep me from stepping into that divine appointment. He whispered doubts, stirred up fears, and created obstacles in the attempt to derail what God had planned. I made excuses for why it wouldn’t be a good idea for me to do the Internship. I was scared, but God is stronger. During the Spanish service we had before our trip, He whispered to my heart, “Follow Me and I will show you the way.” He told me the same thing in Mexico. My response to Him was, “Okay Lord, You work it all out and I will follow You all the days of my life!” In the midst of serving, my heart was awakened to a calling I’d never considered for myself: missions work. I’m forever grateful for this experience that has changed my life. It solidified my faith and ignited a passion within me to serve Him fully. My walk with Christ has grown immensely as a result of being in the Internship.



Anna Wiseman

I used to think that to be a witness, I needed the perfect words and unshakable confidence. But I’ve learned there is beauty and peace in simply trusting God and planting seeds of His love, even if they might feel small, vulnerable and imperfect. One evening, our interns were eating dinner in Oaxaca, Mexico. A young man came in. I couldn’t shake the feeling that I was supposed to talk to him. The thought of randomly chatting with a stranger would normally be terrifying, so I experienced an internal battle. I wanted to ask Peyton to talk instead, but the Lord spoke to my heart, “I would have told Peyton if I wanted him to do it, but I told you.” Still, I was unsure and prayed for a sign. I asked for red and blue lights to appear on the wall if God wanted me to do this. As I prayed, I realized I would feel disappointed in myself if the Holy Spirit was nudging me and I failed to heed. I decided to go ask the man if he had any prayer requests. Then I saw the sign I prayed for—red and blue lights on the wall! So, I went. The conversation seemed painfully awkward, but I asked if he needed prayers. He said he was in Mexico for three weeks and requested prayers for safety. I assured him we would pray for him and fled to my table! Despite my anxiety, I felt God’s reassurance. If I had waited a few more minutes to respond to God’s voice, it would have been too late! I’d have missed the opportunity to witness for Christ. I’ve always imagined that when I witness to others, it would be a “greater” experience than this. But I believe God often opens up little ways to plant seeds of His love in the lives of others, if we are even slightly open to listening to the nudges of His still small voice. It’s the act of practicing obedience to Him in little things, and truly loving His people and His creation that lasts. I may never know if this small moment was a blessing to Angus, but I trust that if it is God’s will, my little seed of faith will contribute to a garden of blessings in his life.



There is a beauty and a peace in simply trusting God.

Peyton Anderson

I would like to share how God used this Internship to bring love back into my heart as He showed me what is most important—my relationship with Him. Several months prior to the summer I had been in deep study of the scriptures, but almost in an academic sense. I did not have a true relationship with my Father. I was almost trying to prove Him by using my brain. I'm not saying that studying God's word is bad, but I had shut out the Spirit and relied on intelligence to know God instead of simply dwelling with my Creator. This lack of relationship was evident as I noticed low levels of love and empathy for those around me. Typically, I would have been checking in on my friends and looking out for those around me who were hurting. However, I had become very self-centered and did not even want to talk to those that were reaching out to me. When I was asked to staff the Internship—something that was not even on my radar—things began to change. I believe it was a divine appointment. My initial reaction was to say “no,” but I felt convicted by the Spirit to give God my “yes.” Throughout the summer, through prayer, fasting and focusing my thoughts on the Lord, God shed His love into my heart (1 Nephi 3:64), and the love and empathy I had for others returned. I now find myself wanting to reach out to people, pray for others and focus my thoughts externally. It's amazing how, when we give God our “yes” and focus on a relationship with Him, He blesses us with His love to share with others.

Emma Gilmore

God has moved and worked in my life in so many ways through my two summers with the Internship. This summer, He taught me so much about how to trust Him, no matter the circumstances. God showed me that I'm not the one in control—He is—and that's truly the best thing. Our flight was canceled the night before we left for Mexico and I remember feeling so overwhelmed, wondering what would happen next. I knew I needed to pray. As I prayed, God placed Psalm 23 on my heart. As I sat down to read it, I was reminded that He alone is in control. I needed to surrender and trust Him. God provided another flight for us and we made it to Mexico the next day as planned. Rafael was one of the men that drove us around in Mexico. One day as he drove us, I felt the need to ask if he had any prayer requests. I made excuses in my mind about why I didn't need to say anything to him. When we stopped for lunch, I got out of the car and decided if God was leading me, I didn't want to ignore His prompting. I wanted to step out in faith and trust God with the outcome, so I asked Rafael if he had any prayer requests. He asked for prayers for his job and that he'd be able to make enough money. When we got back in the car later, I asked Anna if she would pray for Rafael and she did. The morning we left Mexico, Rafael told us at the airport that he had a new job and it would be starting soon. He thanked us for praying for him. It was such a blessing to hear his testimony and to see how God moved so we could hear his testimony before returning to America. Through each situation I've faced this summer, I've had to make an intentional choice to trust God—there is so much peace to be found in the surrender. God keeps showing up; all I need to do is to step back and watch. I've been so blessed to spend this summer with these amazing people, to go on this adventure with Jesus, and to learn to trust Him every step of the way.



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Oaxaca, Mexico

How Do You Witness of Jesus Christ?

by Peyton Anderson, Intern Staff

How do you witness to someone of Jesus Christ? This was a question the group had to answer as we went through the summer Internship, but particularly during our out-of-country trip. We had the privilege of traveling for a week to Oaxaca, Mexico, where we spent time meeting with families, providing service projects, and learning about the culture and local artisans. Some of the families we visited are members of the church and others are interested in the Book of Mormon and the gospel. We explored the archaeological sites at Monte Albán and Mitla and visited the cultural museum in Oaxaca, which houses many ancient artifacts from Mesoamerica. It was a fantastic week immersed in a new culture, meeting new people and trying new things (including eating grasshoppers)! The trip grew our relationship with each other and with our Heavenly Father. We learned that to be a witness for Jesus, we first need to have Jesus in our countenances. People can tell if you truly believe what you say, and a big first step in witnessing is to show a true joy that can only come from a relationship with Him. This relationship is built by spending time with God in prayer and quiet listening. By focusing on things above, our eyes were opened to see people around us and we had the courage to approach them, despite the language barrier. It was beautiful to see the group learn to trust God's promptings and to experience the answered prayers that occurred within the short time we were in Mexico. We also noticed that when we pray for God to put us in situations where we can share His love, He is faithful and always ready to help us do so. Even if it makes us feel uncomfortable, the joy we find in doing God's will is far greater than the uneasy feelings we have beforehand. To be a witness for Jesus, we must first know Him and desire to make Him known, and He will supply the power and courage to witness.



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