

THE WITNESS

A Quarterly Publication of



The Book of Mormon Foundation

**Go ye into all the
world and preach
the gospel to every
creature; and he
that believeth and is
baptized shall
be saved.**



ISSUE 195 / FALL 2026

THE
WITNESS
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Cover: Retreat in Kenya, June 2026, sponsored by
The Book of Mormon Foundation
(Mormon 4:86)

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FOUNDATION

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Published quarterly by The Book of Mormon Foundation

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Pray to Know

A Call to Prayer

Thank you for your prayers as we continue to receive requests to join the Book of Mormon Prayer Group. We need your prayers! Specifically, we are praying that the Lord would reveal the answers to these four questions:

1. Who are the Lamanites today?
2. Where are they?
3. Who will the Lord send to them?
4. What should be shared with them?

We invite prayer warriors all over the world to join us in seeking answers to these questions. We are praying and pondering individually in our quiet times, in our homes, as well as when we come together for Wednesday evening prayer service. If you are willing to be counted among those pledged to make an ongoing effort in prayer for the Lord to reveal the answers to these questions, and you would like to receive future updates on the effort, please sign up at bomf.org/pray-to-know/ (see QR code below). See “Ponder the Prophecy of This Gospel Going Back to the House of Israel” in Issue #193 of *The Witness*:

The prophets of the Book of Mormon labored diligently to preserve the records with the promise that one day their record would be the cause of their posterity to come to the knowledge of their Redeemer. The torch has been passed to us. May we labor just as diligently. May God bless you as you ponder this promise and may He bless you as that pondering turns to doing what He places on your heart.

We anticipate what the Lord will do if, collectively, we make this a priority in our pondering and prayer time.



LOST & FOUND

by Dale Godfrey

Have you seen my keys? Could you help me look for my glasses? Does this sound familiar? Have you ever heard someone share an experience regarding misplacing or losing an object? The “object” could be nearly anything—keys, glasses, a purse or wallet, an article of clothing, a tool, a book, a car in the parking lot, or even a child in a store. After an extensive search, a person may have been unable to find the item. So in desperation, they pause and offer a prayer asking God to assist in the search; and soon thereafter, the missing item is found. When you hear a story like that, have you ever thought to yourself, *I wonder if that was really God aiding them or was it just a “coincidence”?*

Perhaps I am the only one, but I know I have had that question in my mind many times. I can readily believe it was divine intervention if the object is something of major significance, such as a child or perhaps a car. But other times I wonder if the item is too inconsequential for God to spend time becoming involved, such as when the missing object is a pencil or a comb, etc. At other times, I have doubt because I unkindly think, *If I were God, I would get tired of my children coming to me in sincere prayer only when they need help finding something.*

Having wondered about this issue for some time and on numerous occasions, I finally decided to seek an answer in God’s Word. I was amazed at all the relevant information available in the scriptures.

Nothing Is Too Insignificant for God

I’d like to address the thought that perhaps our lost objects are too insignificant for God’s attention.

Alma 8:103 tells us **there shall not so much as a hair of their heads be lost, but all things shall be restored to its perfect frame, as it is now, or in the body.** In the book of Matthew it is described in a slightly different way:

Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing?
And one of them shall not fall on the
ground without your Father knoweth it.
And the **very hairs of your head are all
numbered.** Fear ye not, therefore; ye are of
more value than many sparrows (Matthew
10:26-27).



Those two scriptures make the point that there is nothing about us that is too insignificant for God’s attention.

Perhaps our skepticism regarding God’s level of interest is because we know He is the Creator of all things and we cannot comprehend that He would “have time” to be mindful of all our missing objects or “take time” to direct us to where they may be found. The Psalmist encapsulated this concept:

When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; **What is man, that Thou art mindful of him?** and the son of man, that Thou visitest him? (Psalm 8:3-4).

And yet, multiple scriptures make it clear that God is aware of even the most minute details pertaining to each of us. Isaiah says God knows our names:

But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and He that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not; for I have redeemed thee, **I have called thee by thy name; thou art Mine** (Isaiah 43:1).

In the book of Jacob, we find that God is aware of much more than lost things or even the hairs on our heads. Jacob, in speaking to his people, assures them, **But behold, hearken ye unto me and know that by the help of the all-powerful Creator of heaven and earth, I can tell you concerning your thoughts . . .** (Jacob 2:5). Jacob was able to speak to his people concerning not only the sins they were committing, but also the sins they were just **thinking** about committing and the very desires of their hearts (Jacob 2:4-6).

There is nothing about us of which God is not aware. Even our deepest secrets are known to God. The hymnist, George Rawson, explained our struggle in understanding the breadth and depth of God's infinite love for mankind when he wrote: **We limit not the truth of God to our poor reach of mind** (*Hymns of the Restoration*, #213, verse 1). Suddenly, it's much easier to believe that God is aware of the whereabouts of that lost object, isn't it?

Miracles by Small Means Bring Marvelous Works

There is another reason why God may assist in the recovery of a missing object. The Lord, in many cases, intentionally uses small things to demonstrate His mighty works and His personal love for each

of us. Nevertheless, because those miracles were worked by small means, nevertheless it did shew unto them marvelous works (Alma 17:75). Sometimes God performs miracles on a grand scale, such as the flood which covered the earth, the parting of the Red Sea to rescue the children of Israel from the Egyptians, or even the protection and delivery of the infant State of Israel from its foes when it was attacked by five neighboring nations in 1948. Miracles on that scale are less personal, but they bear witness to God's interest in and love for all mankind. But the scripture from Alma 17:75 tells us that those miracles performed by small means are also **marvelous works** even though they may only impact or be witnessed by one, or just a few people. Those miracles performed by **small means** bear a personal testimony to the persons involved regarding the intimate relationship God desires to have with each of us. I believe anytime God stoops to bless His children in their time of need, whether it is a blessing unto many or just one, it is a miraculous event and speaks to God's personal love for each of us. There is divine purpose in God blessing us through small means. **The blessing we receive when God directs us to a lost object is not really so much about reuniting us with a lost possession as it is about reuniting us with our God.**

There are occasions when—either with or without prayer—we may find an object which has been lost. Whether those recoveries are the result of divine intervention or not, we may never know. However, I also believe there are occasions when, as the result of our prayers, we are absolutely divinely directed to a missing object. Thus, a **marvelous work** is performed on our behalf. Interestingly, many people have reported having experiences when, after looking for an object, they pray and then find it in a location where they had previously looked.

The Book of Mormon does not record any instances of God directing the ancients to a missing article of clothing or a missing child in the marketplace. However, there are accounts of God's divine direction regarding where to find game (food) (1 Nephi 5:20-38) or where to intercept an enemy army (Alma 20:26-27).



God Can Remove Our Possessions

In the Book of Mormon we do, however, find additional tangential support for the concept that God may direct us to a missing object. That support comes from the fact that from time to time God **removes** things from our possession as a means of punishment or as a means of advising us that we have allowed ourselves to stray from God's presence or the strait and narrow path we are called to walk. This lends credence to the idea that God may, on occasion, be involved with missing objects. The Book of Mormon includes several accounts of God removing possessions due to disobedience. Here are some examples:

And behold, if a man hideth up a treasure in the earth, and the Lord shall say, **Let it be accursed because of the iniquity of him that hath hid it up—behold, it shall be accursed** (Helaman 4:65).

And these Gaddianton robbers which were among the Lamanites did infest the land, insomuch that the inhabitants thereof began to hide up their treasures in the earth, and **they became slippery because the Lord had cursed the land, that they could not hold them nor retain them again** (Mormon 1:19).

For I will, saith the Lord, that they shall hide up their treasures unto Me; and **cursed be they who hideth not up their treasures unto Me; for none hideth up their treasures unto Me save it be the righteous; and he that hideth not up his treasure unto Me, cursed is he, and also the treasure, and none shall redeem it because of the curse of the land** (Helaman 5:24-25).

Yea, in that day shall ye say: **O that we had remembered the Lord our God in the day that He gave us our riches! And then they would not have become slippery, that we**

should lose them. For behold, our riches are gone from us (Helaman 5:45).

And now there began to be a great curse upon the land because of the iniquity of the people, in the which if a man should lay his tool or his sword upon the shelf or upon the place whither he would keep it, **and behold, upon the morrow he could not find it**, so great was the curse upon the land (Ether 6:35).

Additional examples may be found in Helaman 5:41 and 5:48. Helaman 5:45 establishes that God gives us our riches and may cause us to lose them.

Someone recently shared a testimony with me regarding a man who had been called to the priesthood. Over time he had fallen into the ways of the world and no longer sought to bring ministry to others nor to receive ministry from the word of God. Eventually, he sought to return to the Word but when he did, he discovered he could no longer find his books of scripture.

It is clear from the scriptures displayed above that God may use our possessions as a means of blessing us as well as an avenue to punish our iniquity and to recall us from our disobedience. The restoration of our possessions is a means of blessing. (While I have used terms like "our possessions or objects" in this article, it is important to recognize that all which we possess, save it be our sins, actually belongs to God and only by His blessing is it in our custody.)

God Can Restore Our Possessions

Following this article are two testimonies from dear friends which bear witness that, beyond a shadow of a doubt, God may intervene on our behalf to restore our possessions to us when we pray in faith believing.

I hope what you take away from this article is not, *Now I know how to always find what I have lost*, but rather, I hope you see and appreciate the incredible love and personal attention God bestows on you each and every day. Each **small means**

miracle God uses to bless you is a testimony of His abiding love for you. It witnesses of His desire that you turn to Him in all things, both great and small, in order that He may bless you in all aspects of your life so your life may be brought into harmony with His will.

And it shall come to pass, saith the Lord of Hosts, yea, our great and true God, that whoso shall hide up treasures in the earth shall find them again no more because of the great curse of the land, save it be a righteous man and shall hide it up unto the Lord (Helaman 5:23).

My Wedding Ring Testimony

by Brennan Anderson

On July 4, 2025, God started me on a journey where I would have to put my faith in Him. The day set out to be a really good day. I was at my in-laws' house swimming in their pond with the family. As time went on, my brother-in-law started picking mud off the bottom of the pond and throwing it at me. Being the good brother-in-law that I am, I started throwing mud back. We had been swimming about an hour when I realized I was no longer wearing my wedding ring. I immediately said, "I lost my wedding ring!"

My first reaction was panic and sadness—Molly and I had only been married two weeks. But my lovely wife said, "It will be okay, we'll find it." I asked if everyone could circle up and pray right there in the pond. My brother-in-law, Aaron, prayed and I had hope that we would find my ring.

Prior to swimming in the pond, Molly's dad, Brian, said he wanted to drain the pond soon, dig it out and put more fish in it. So when he found out I lost my wedding ring, my father-in-law said he would start draining the pond. Later that night,

I went to the dock at the pond to pray and spend time with God to ask for His help in finding my ring. God told me to have faith in Him. The song "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" came to mind—specifically the lyric, "All I have needed Thy hand hath provided." So God assured me that my ring would be found and that His plan was perfect.

I asked our youth group and my family to pray that the ring would be found. As the day went on and the week began, Molly and I prayed mightily. I prayed that God would show us a miracle and that our faith would be increased. That Wednesday night at prayer service, a lady shared that she had lost an expensive pair of earrings and how God blessed her in finding them. Then on Friday, before we looked on Saturday, Molly said a woman at the pool where she worked lost her wedding ring in the pool and found it. God was giving us hope that I too could find my ring. On Saturday, July 12, Molly and I went to her parents' house, hopeful that my ring would be found. Some of Molly's family and my family, along with some friends, joined us in our search. When we arrived, I said a prayer that God would help us find my ring and that our faith would be increased in doing so. When we first started

searching, we wandered around in the drained pond. At this point, it was a mud pit, with our feet sinking in about 12 to 14 inches. We were scattered around in the mud and I was discouraged that there was no possible way we could find the ring in this giant mud pit.

My mom suggested we get in a line and pass our metal detectors back and forth to gain more ground. At this point, the metal detectors hadn't picked up any more

than one or two beeps. I was becoming impatient and upset, finding myself losing hope. Then Molly's mom and her cousin started singing, "Our God is so big, so strong and so mighty, there's nothing my God cannot do—for you!" That song uplifted me and caused me to pray and ask God for forgiveness. I had lost hope and started to doubt, so I prayed again that my faith would be increased and that



we could find my ring. As we were walking in the mud, I started drawing in it. When I had the metal detector, I'd pray; when I gave it to the next person I would draw in the mud. I drew a cross and got the detector back. Then I passed it to the next person and wrote, "God." After I used the detector again, then passed it on; I wrote, "God is good!" When I passed it off again, before I could write anything else, we heard a beep. Right next to me, Molly's mom had picked up a beep with the metal detector. So, I took the pin pointer and put it in that spot.



It started beeping a lot! Molly's cousin reached her hands in the mud about 8 to 10 inches and pulled out my ring!

We started cheering and praising God. We were shouting up to heaven! I was brought to tears for the goodness of God. We circled up and my dad said a prayer of thankfulness. This was by far the coolest testimony I have ever had.

God Can Restore Lost Things

by Beth Spencer

I was blessed with an opportunity to go to Africa in 2025 to teach classes at the African Restoration Ministries Women's Retreat. While there, we were able to attend Dean and Shirley Odida's wedding. On the 45-minute journey from Awasi (where we stayed at Doug and Judi Smith's) to the wedding outside of Kisumu, I put my head out the window of the Land Rover. When we arrived at the wedding, I realized my right hearing aid was missing. I have an app on my phone that works like Life360—it will show the location of each of my hearing aids on a digital map. Assuming it was in the Land Rover, I checked my app. My heart sank. The app showed my left hearing aid was with me near Kisumu, but my right hearing aid was just outside Awasi—about the location where I put my head out the window. I told Judi she didn't need to check the car; my hearing aid was laying on the road outside Awasi, probably run over by now. Judi checked the car anyway, just to make sure. I was heartsick. I knew

I would have a great deal of difficulty hearing the Kenyan people. (In addition, my hearing aids cost about \$6000.) My friends, Judi and Becky Stayton, began to pray with me that somehow God would intervene and I would be able to hear the people I had come 7500 miles to visit. That evening, I called my husband and asked for people in Missouri to pray with us and ask that God would provide a miracle. I had no idea how He would choose to do this, but I know **with God all things are possible** (Mark 14:40). Becky and I said our usual evening prayers and once again asked for God to provide a way for me to hear while in Africa. I went to bed that night **leaving it in God's hands** (1 Peter 5:7).

The next morning, Becky and I prepared to attend our first church service in Kenya. I was the first person to climb into the Land Rover and there—laying on the back floorboard in plain sight—was my right hearing aid! There's no way it should have been there. There is no reasonable explanation for it. I even had scientific proof: my hearing aid app clearly showed my right hearing aid should have been laying on the road outside of Awasi. And just to make sure, Judi had looked in the car. Yet there it was in the Land Rover. **God provided the way** for me to hear my brothers and sisters in Kenya and to be able to communicate better with them!



My friend Bonnie Anderson shared this simple truth: When we are in a place in our lives where we have no choice but to go to the Lord, ask for His help and rely on Him, things happen. I experienced this firsthand in Kenya: beautiful things—miraculous things—happen! I give God the glory for this blessing and for the example He gives to us of His great love. **God takes care of us; He provides for us** (3 Nephi 6:6-12).

INTERNSHIP 2026

Enoch Gard

Independence, Missouri



Favorite story:

Lehi's Vision

Favorite scripture:

Moroni 7:52

The Book of Mormon has been part of Enoch's entire life. Through his time with the Internship, he hopes to gain a deeper knowledge of Christ and to grow closer with Him. Through

the classes and experiences which accompany the Internship, Enoch desires to learn how to be effective in sharing the gospel to people who have never had the opportunity to hear it.

After the Internship Response: I definitely feel I met my goals and expectations! The Internship has taught me many things including 1) to have more confidence in talking to new people and letting the love of Christ cast out the fear within me; and 2) to have a deeper understanding of what I believe in and how to share it. Since the Internship, I have already noticed a difference in my attitude and look forward to taking what I've learned and continuing to grow.

Makhilla Gerken

Warrensburg, Missouri



Favorite story:

Nephi and the Brass Plates

Favorite scripture:

Mosiah 8:82

Makhilla drew especially close to God during her summer as an intern in 2025. She wanted to rekindle this closeness, so she agreed to be a staff member with this year's Internship. She desires to strengthen her relationship with God, learn to trust Him more, lean on Him, and listen to His voice.

After the Internship Response: I definitely feel like I was able to trust and lean on God more. Due to things going on in my life, I was able to see His hand at work in all the chaos.

Ángel Santos Velásquez

Oaxaca, Mexico



Favorite story:

The Jaredite Barges

Favorite scripture:

3 Nephi 5:31

Ángel learned about the Book of Mormon when his sister introduced him to Rosa Elena.

Choosing to join the Internship this summer meant losing his current (great) job

and expending additional expenses to travel from Mexico. Yet he had a great desire to come and chose the Internship over his job. Through the Internship experience, he hopes to become a better person and to learn how to love his neighbor as himself.

After the Internship Response: This Internship has been more than what I expected and I definitely have accomplished my goals. I learned so much on how to have a deep connection to the Lord, and also how to love my neighbor. I definitely became a kinder person now that I've been here. I learned how to become a better person—more caring and kinder toward all the people around me. People here are just so kind and have taught me so much. I feel I have learned a lot about how to be a good person.

Simeon Wiseman

Independence, Missouri



Favorite story: Nephi's Vision of the Tree of Life

Favorite scripture: Moroni 7:53

Simeon learned about the Book of Mormon from his family and wants to share it with others. Through his experience with the Internship, he wants to build a closer relationship with God and others, and learn how to talk to people about God. He looks forward to giving away a Book of Mormon and seeing how it will impact lives. Simeon wants to be a convincing voice that encourages people to read the Book of Mormon and discover its great worth.

After the Internship Response: I believe I met my goals because I spoke to my coworker about the Book of Mormon. She wasn't interested, but I still shared with her. I wouldn't have done that before the Internship.



Fátima Santos Velásquez

Oaxaca, Mexico



Favorite story: The Sons of Mosiah

Favorite scripture: Mosiah 2:17

Fátima is a chemical engineer who is passionate about the environment and eco-technology. She accepted the Book of Mormon when Rosa Elena shared with her, and she took classes from Rosa to aid her understanding. She feels blessed that her first trip abroad is part of a holy study and hopes to gain a sense of direction from her experience with the Internship. Fátima believes focusing on the word of God will help guide her next steps in her path of life.

After the Internship Response: I think everyone taught me something really valuable, and now I think I know what I have to do with my life. It was the best summer of my life—definitely one of my best experiences. I will keep studying the scriptures because

now I know how to do it. I feel nothing but grateful to God and for everyone who had a part in my Internship experience.

Natasha LaGrece

Independence, Missouri



Favorite story: The Stripling Soldiers and Their Mothers

Favorite scripture: Alma 16:10

Being taught the Book of Mormon as a young child, Natasha grew to love the ancient words, and being a part of the Internship has been a dream she's carried since kindergarten. She wants to build a love of the Book of Mormon that is all-encompassing, develop a caring heart for others and gain a deeper understanding of the Church of Jesus Christ. She desires to help others come to know Christ and see God move in a big way!

After the Internship Response: I feel blessed to have been a witness to others and for so many people to witness to me. I have a deeper understanding of the Book of Mormon and a deeper love for what the people experienced and how they endured all that they did. God has definitely moved with the Internship group this year and we have been truly blessed.



Phillip Hawley

Independence, Missouri



Favorite story:

The Brother of Jared Sees the Lord

Favorite scripture:

2 Nephi 11:96

Philip was an intern in 2024 where he loved the atmosphere and enjoyed being surrounded by people of similar beliefs. Having the opportunity to have Christ-centered fellowship and conversations are always important experiences for Phillip, so he accepted the position as staff member for this year's Internship. He hopes to grow in his own faith, to gain more knowledge about sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to find answers to some questions he's had.

After the Internship Response: I feel like my faith has grown a lot after the Internship! I learned—and relearned—a lot about witnessing in general, and the classes really helped answer the questions I had. Overall, the Internship has helped me be more knowledgeable in my walk with Christ. It's made me eager to learn even more!



Reflecting on the Internship

by Jon & Tammy Tandy, Directors

We were again blessed this summer to participate with the Book of Mormon Internship. It is gratifying to watch these young adults develop as individuals in their walk with the Lord and to become one in love for each other as a united team and a family. During the Internship trip last summer to Oaxaca, Mexico, we spent time with several young people there. We were excited that two of our new friends from Oaxaca were able to apply for and participate in this year's Internship!

We ventured to New York for our trip this year and took in several church history sites, witnessed the beauty of God's creation, visited with saints, and spent time in New York City. In addition to the classes and other activities, the Book of Mormon Internship program stresses the importance of our witness for Christ. Several interns had opportunities this summer to share the gospel and the light of Christ with others. While we may never see the fruit of our labor, we plant seeds and pray that they will be nourished.

We would like to relate a few experiences that were meaningful to us and to the group. In 2024, Jon and a friend met a Jewish rabbi in Brooklyn, gave him a Hebrew Book of Mormon, and talked about the Hebrew origin of the Native Americans. This summer, the interns were invited to the rabbi's home for about three hours and discussed his Jewish culture and some of our shared hopes, including the coming of the Messiah. On the way to his house, the Lord opened a door to talk with two young men from Israel and we gave them a Hebrew Book of Mormon. Please pray for these individuals, and for all the House of Israel, that they will awaken to the knowledge of Jesus, their Messiah.

The interns' program this year talked about reaching the Tree of Life by clinging to the Rod of Iron despite the noise and confusion of the world. This can only be accomplished through the exercise of unwavering faith and listening to the voice of the Savior. We pray that the interns will continue to develop a deeper testimony of Jesus Christ as they strive to be witnesses of Him.



BOOK OF MORMON

CONTEMPLATIONS OF A TEAM LEADER

by Zach Wilson

In having the opportunity to travel to Kenya this summer, I am reminded that the Lord's work will never be frustrated. I have always heard this growing up, but throughout this trip I was constantly reminded that He is in control and we are just along for the ride.

PLANNING A BOOK OF MORMON RETREAT IN KENYA

In December 2025, I began to think of different ways to serve. One night as I thought about the different experiences I have had as a kid, I realized many of the most impactful events occurred at reunions/camps/retreats. I reflected upon my upbringing and exposure to great events such as Vacation Church School, reunions, retreats, and the Book of Mormon Days for Kids. For some reason, the last event did not leave me. I considered one of the testimonies in the Book of Mormon which has most impacted me: when Alma and Amulek entered the city to preach the word of God and they were rejected (Alma 10:44). I have had similar feelings, as our scriptures remind us that **all is well in Zion** (2 Nephi 12:25), and yet we know it is not. Our youth are tempted at a greater degree, and we see the hearts of men (and women) have grown cold.

I find hope in the promise which explains that **blessed are all they who do hunger and thirst after righteousness** (3 Nephi 5:53). Many of the above thoughts were circling in my head all at once. Recognizing the importance of spreading the word of the Lord and getting the Book of Mormon into the hands of others has been a goal of mine for a long time. As I made it a matter of prayer, with many of these thoughts circling my head, I thought, *Maybe we need a Book of Mormon Day for Kids*



to strengthen our young people overseas, perhaps in Kenya, Rwanda, or the Philippines! This quickly changed into holding a Book of Mormon Retreat in Kenya. As I shared this thought with others, I was surprised at how many people appreciated and encouraged the idea. In January, I brought this suggestion to the Book of Mormon Foundation board meeting. I needed time to organize a team and begin preparations. I was given a green light to proceed by the Board—this was a big testimony to me. Having never organized an event of this magnitude, I pressed forward.

STEPPING OUT IN FAITH

Growing up, I have always been taught, the importance of stepping out in faith and seeing how the Lord would provide. Without a doubt, this is true, and His work will never be frustrated. In my naivety, I had assumed putting together a team and teaching classes about the Book of Mormon would be an easy task to plan. However, there were many barriers I had not considered as I approached

RETREATS IN KENYA

people: lack of paid time off, others who had previous experience in going to Africa had recently gone or were planning to go again relatively soon, or other's jobs did not allow them the ability to take the needed time to go on a trip. As March came, I had reached out to several people, but nothing had come to fruition. I still did not have a team. But the Lord's timing is perfect. Sam Jordison called me and shared that his brother, Josh Jordison, may be interested along with Nicole Capps and Emma Gilmore. When we spoke again, he confirmed all three would be interested—they were supposed to go in April but that trip had fallen through. All were former interns. Sam also expressed that the funding planned for the April trip would be available for us to use for a Book of Mormon Retreat in Kenya. The Lord provided the



people needed for this trip. Together, we planned the retreat and made it a matter of fasting and praying. Through our planning, one retreat became two retreats! We chose our theme—Steadfast and Immovable—which could not be a more important theme or concept for us in the gospel. In these latter days, the Lord is calling each of us to be steadfast and immovable.

What a blessing it was to work with the Book of Mormon Foundation, which provided initial funding and encouraged the exploration of a retreat in Kenya. The blessing continued when financial support for a second retreat became available through the coordinated efforts of Colbern Road Restoration Branch, Lexington Restoration Branch, the Youth Council, and African Restoration Ministries, who worked together to ensure this trip occurred.



sadness in this moment but I immediately said a prayer—we were all praying. We were able to have our flights adjusted and made it into Kenya with two hours to spare.

When leaving Kansas City, we experienced a layover, and it appeared we would miss the entire first retreat. I felt frustration and

INSIGHTS ON SHARING THE BOOK OF MORMON

by Judi Smith

This past June, Kenya welcomed four missionaries from the United States to present Book of Mormon retreats. The travelers were Zach Wilson, Emma Gilmore, Nicole Capps and Josh Jordison, all from Missouri. They served on the western side of Kenya to the people in Awasi, and then traveled across the country to serve on the coastal side to teach the people who gathered to the Ramisi area. This was the first time there had been a focus teaching primarily about the Book of Mormon, and as the late Tom Nyawere said, “The Book of Mormon speaks for itself.” This was surely the case with this opportunity.



gospel, and even though they had awareness of the Book of Mormon and its importance in our Restoration beliefs, it was so new to them that they had hesitated to really incorporate it into their lives. This retreat time opened their eyes to the valuable witness of Jesus Christ within the book and gave them a whole new vision of how the Book of Mormon can add so much to their growth with Christ! They were well familiar with the Bible, so it was easy for them to look to it; but now they have found more! Mary from Ramisi, a teacher by profession, said the retreat was so helpful, now she has no fear in using the Book of Mormon with the children from their congregation at Ramisi.

The classes were rich with knowledge and love of our God, and all who were present were blessed with a new and greater understanding of the Book of Mormon!

Their time was limited, so they spent two days at Awasi and four days on the coast. The coastal congregations are new to the Restoration

Among the coastal congregations, it is well known that the ones who have embraced the Restoration teachings did so because of the love they found within it's fellowship. That love continues to grow among the saints, not only in the Ramisi area, but across Kenya. This opportunity to share about the Book of Mormon has added to that fellowship of love!



EXPERIENCING THE RETREAT

by Nicole Capps

As Emma, Josh, Zach and I prepared for the trip to Kenya, we met over Zoom multiple times to pray and discuss plans. We talked about the classes we would each plan to teach and the activities to prepare. It was amazing to see God's hand at work in how smoothly everything went together once we arrived at the retreats.



were: 1) repentance/forgiveness; 2) praying for the church in Kenya and across the world; 3) praying for our enemies; 4) praying for the kingdom; and 5) praying for those who don't know God. Everyone had the opportunity to pray at each station and hearing the prayers—even in a language I don't speak—was beautiful.

The Spirit was so present! Having the opportunity to slow down, spend time talking and listening to God, and implementing the lessons on prayer that



I prepared a few classes and also felt led to prepare fun and more serious activities that could be used for the retreats if needed. We were able to play Book of Mormon Jeopardy at both retreats and it was great to see the people looking up scriptures and using the Book of Mormon Overviews.

On the last afternoon of our second retreat, Emma taught a class on prayer and we decided to follow it with the prayer walk I had felt led to plan. We had five stations and the people split into groups and rotated to each one. The prayer stations



Emma had shared in her class is something I'll always remember. I am incredibly grateful for God leading us in the classes and activities we prepared. It was a blessing to help those who attended the retreats learn more about our Heavenly Father and the Book of Mormon.



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