



One testimony the Lord has given me from this Internship is about trusting in His timing. I really never wanted to become a Book of Mormon intern. I knew the Internship required meeting a lot of new people and sitting through a lot of classes, and these ideas made me very nervous and uncomfortable. I felt weak in my faith and very socially awkward to the point where I was terrified of interacting with people. However, when I went to the Book of Mormon retreat in January, I was reminded of the Internship, and people were very excited about who might be in the upcoming group. I let the thought go through my brain, then immediately dismissed it, because I live three hours away from Independence, and I knew I would be spending the next three months out of the country for a semester abroad. Adding the Internship to the summer would mean being away from home for the first time for not only three months, but five. I really didn't like that idea, and I still didn't really want to be an intern, so I moved on and ignored it.

At the end of the retreat, however, it was still nagging at me, so I asked my sister about the application information, just in case. On the three-hour drive home, I asked my mom about it, and was shocked to find she was really supportive of the idea, even though that meant I would be gone longer. I asked my dad when we got home that evening and found that he, too, thought I should pursue it. I kept thinking about it and couldn't quite get the Internship out of my mind, so I eventually applied and later interviewed, still pretty uncertain about the Internship and whether it really would be something I would enjoy or benefit from, I didn't see how it could be detrimental to my faith, so I went ahead with it. A week after being selected, I flew to Paris.

What I didn't realize then was how much the Lord was already working to take care of me. The Internship asks that all participants read through the Book of Mormon before the Internship starts, so I took a paper copy with me to read from beginning to end in Paris. I started on my first morning there and finished the day I left. All the while though, I found God was the only thing that got me through some tough times away, and I was really grateful for the dedicated study I continued abroad. Without a committed goal, I am not sure I would have continued in the Word, and I would have been floundering alone in a very foreign place.

As far as the Internship itself, however, the Lord was very aware that this was the year I was meant to participate. He prepared me in ways I didn't even know, giving me new confidence and knowledge while I was abroad that helped me be ready for the Internship's social requirements and need for steadiness in my faith walk. Had I been in the Internship even a year ago, I would have avoided extra social events and continually hid my personality out of fear, and I would never have had the faith or confidence to witness of Christ or the Book of Mormon. It is only because God saw the larger plan and knew how I would be shaped, that I have been able to have an incredible experience in this Internship and walk away with a greater knowledge of the Lord and a true understanding of what Christian fellowship can feel like with a group of incredible Christ-centered peers. Even though I thought this Internship couldn't have come at a worse time, the Lord knew exactly when I would need it most.