

# MIGHTY SUMMONS

A quarterly report to Helaman's Two Thousand

Vol. 5 No. 3

Foundation For Research On Ancient America

July 1992



Don Beebe

## Branch/Congregation Book of Mormon Days

The change in format from all-day seminars on The Book of Mormon to giving presentations at branches and congregations during the entire Sunday morning has generated a valuable increase of members in Helaman's Two Thousand. As FRAA goes into the branches and congregations and shares new insights, testimonies, music, drama, and videotapes, people become excited about being a part of FRAA. They want to become part of this latter day army and be "instruments in the hands of God, to bring about this great work"(Alma 14:82).

It's been thrilling to the staff and members of FRAA to see the

enthusiasm and support from other believers in The Book of Mormon.

Beginning in April of this year, conferences have been held in Butler, Missouri, Wichita, Kansas, Atherton, Missouri, and Independence. South Chrysler Restoration Branch will host one on July 19, and the Lexington and Bates City, Missouri branches join together to sponsor a conference on August 23 at Lexington, Missouri.

If you would like to have one of these exciting seminars in your area, please contact Don Beebe, chairman of the conferences, at (816) 461-FRAA (3722).

## Book of Mormon Internships for Students Begin Summer of 1992

In June, eight students between the ages of 18 and 23, spent 20 hours a week for a period of six weeks working on Book of Mormon projects. Among other things, they worked to prepare study materials to be used in classroom situations, particularly for teenagers. Students had an opportunity to not only learn about The Book of Mormon through research and interaction in the activities and conferences of FRAA, but a chance to earn summer income for the school year in a meaningful and productive way. FRAA plans to make this an annual endeavor. Funds for the internship came from special donations and the regular contributions of members from Helaman's Two Thousand.



## Hours for the Information Center

The hours of the information center/library are 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, and 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. on Saturdays.

FRAA now has a FAX machine. The number is (816) 461-5850.



## Survey Results

In March a questionnaire was sent to approximately 270 randomly selected members of Helaman's Two Thousand. The response of these potential users of FRAA's new information center/library provided guidance and helpful suggestions in the planning of acquisitions and programs. Based on the survey, a document of objectives along with long and short-term goals was prepared. If you would like a copy of this, please request one by calling or writing.

The survey asked what subjects respondents were currently studying. Their answers reinforced the editorial format of *The Witness*, which has about 27% archaeology articles and approximately 24% on theology. In addition, some of the topics being

### *Biblical archaeology rated important by many*

studied gave good ideas for future articles.

The rating of what subject areas to include in the information center did suggest an emphasis not previously considered as important. Meso-american, as was expected, received the most choices in the archaeological section, but biblical archaeology followed as a close second. Biblical and Hebrew topped the list in the theology and linguistic areas, with Mesoamerica second. Presently, the library's collection of books and materials is weak in the biblical area. The acquiring of new materials will be guided by the results of the survey as well as the needs of the core users (FRAA committees) which are not included in the survey.

Access to maps tallied high, not only for research but purchase. Avenues and ways to do this are being

explored.

In regard to what types of services were most desired, two areas had the same number of responses: answers to quick questions and subject bibliographies. The number wanting subject bibliographies was surprising, but the staff already recognized this need. Work has begun on preparing these.

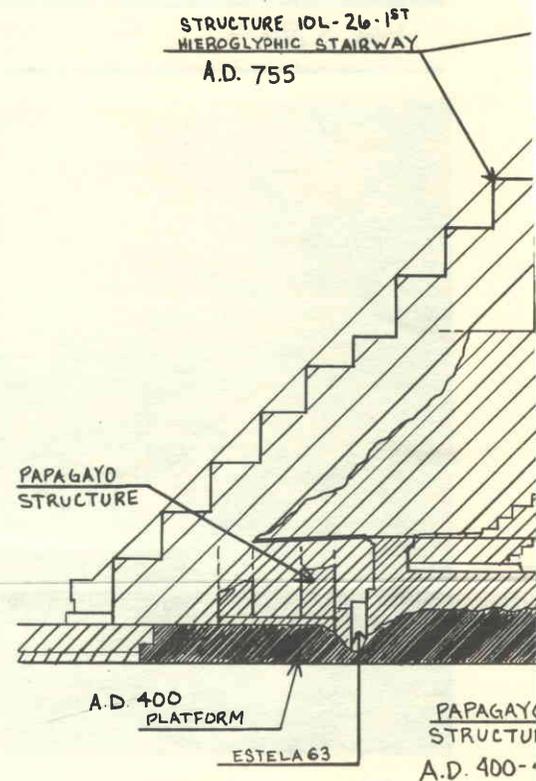
If you added your name and address to the survey and indicated you wanted copies of title pages from new journals, we will begin to provide this service in August.

An unexpected number of people said they would like access to the library's catalog (database) via their home computer. Fulfilling this may take a year or more, but it certainly is the desire of the staff to make this service possible.

Of course, a main concern is financing the library. Question nine of the survey asked "What do you think is the best way to provide the necessary funds to support the information center?" Contributions far outnumbered any other way mentioned. A few suggested some creative ideas for raising funds that will be considered.

The additional comments question provided not only encouragement for what is currently being accomplished, but proposed avenues which we hope to explore, such as having a list of people knowledgeable in specific areas willing to be contacted; availability of pictures, posters, etc. for classroom display; and an in-depth study class on learning to read Maya hieroglyphs.

Thank you for cooperating with us in this way to make YOUR Book of Mormon information center/library a vital and pertinent resource. Please don't hesitate to contact us if we can help in your Book of Mormon study and research.



## Where

As of June 30, 1992:

Enlisted in Helaman's Two Thousand

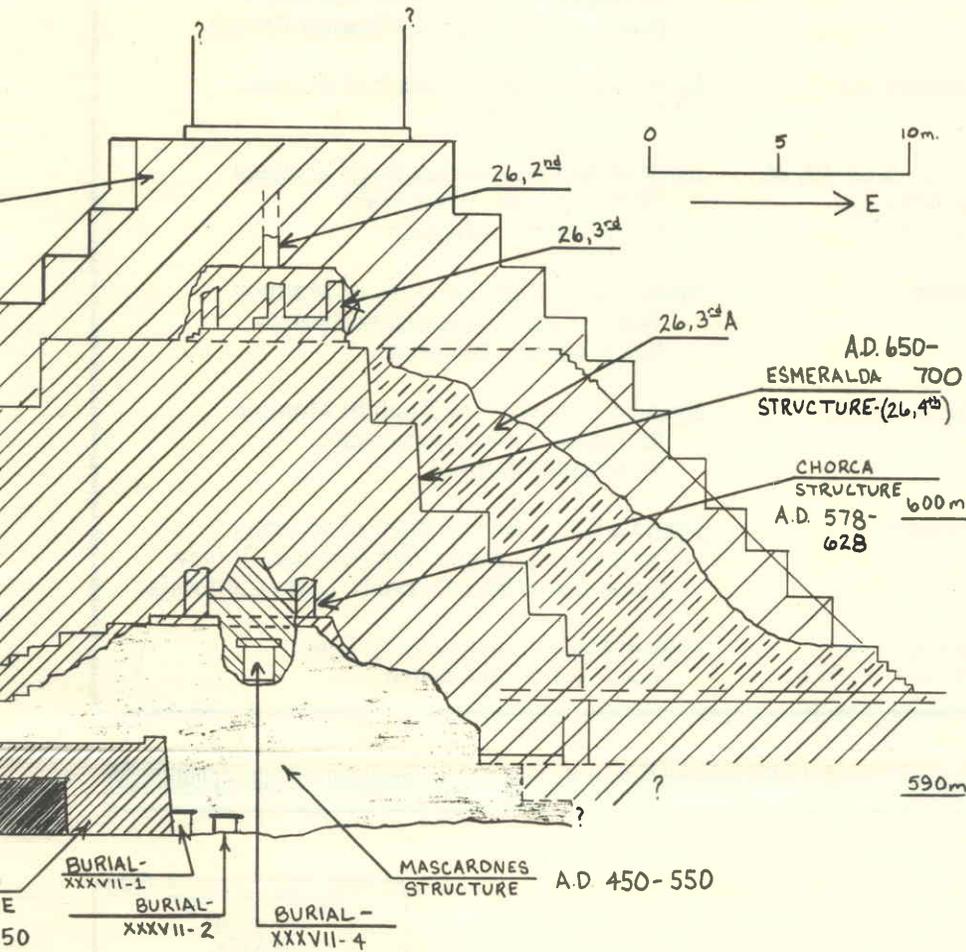
Income from Helaman's Two Thousand  
January

Income for 1991 from Helaman's  
(excludes other income)

This year, YOU, members of Helaman's Two Thousand, were generous! Our income through June has exceeded the monthly average. This has allowed us to purchase equipment for the library, and purchase other equipment such as the fax machine. Once again, THANK YOU!

# Archaeology News

Lyle Smith  
Illustration by Aaron Smith



A question often asked about archaeology is "how do archaeologists date ancient cities and ruins?" There are, of course, many answers to this question. Identification of different building phases is one method. A prevalent practice of the Maya was to build structures over earlier buildings.

The accompanying drawing of structure 10L-26, better known as the pyramid of the hieroglyphic stairway at Copan, illustrates this concept.

We are fortunate that the Maya used a building tradition different from ours, i.e., rather than tear down an existing structure and build a new one, they many times covered over the former one with a new layer of rubble and erected a bigger pyramid over the older one. Structure 10L-26, seen today in a ruined condition, was dedicated about A.D. 755. The hieroglyphically engraved risers of the stairway's steps record the history of Copan for the prior 250 years. A series of tunnels dug in recent excavations inside the pyramid allowed archaeologists to find and date the previous structures.

Note that the earliest identified building phase of this pyramid, labeled platform in the drawing, took place in A.D. 400. This is proof that this pyramid, like most of the structures in Copan, was built after the end of The Book of Mormon. Earlier dates on other hieroglyphs at Copan have, however, been recently translated as 321 B.C. and A.D. 159. These may indicate that the city was in existence in Book of Mormon times.

News about ongoing excavations at Copan appeared in the October 1989 *National Geographic*, the newly published (1991) book *Scribes, Warriors and Kings* by William L. Fash, and ten articles in the "Special Section: The Archaeology of Ancient Copan," *Ancient Mesoamerica*, Volume 3, Number 1, Spring 1992.

Hieroglyphic Stairway at Copan



David Macomber

## We Are

and	1,084
ousand	\$69,152
Two Thousand	\$95,800

's Two Thousand, have been most  
been \$4,000 a month over last year's  
expand outreach, provide automation in  
to handle the business more effectively,  
ANK YOU!



Edited by the  
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*God is marshaling his army  
For the rescue of his truth;  
He is calling now to battle  
Both the aged and the youth.  
You can hear his mighty summons  
In the thunder of his word;  
Let us then be valiant soldiers  
In the army of the Lord!*

The Hymnal #321

## Coming Up

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| August 23   | Spend a Day with The Book of Mormon<br>Lexington and Bates City combined<br>held at the Lexington, Missouri Branch            |
| September 20  | Spend a Day with The Book of Mormon<br>Detroit, Michigan  |
| October 5, 12, 19, 26<br>November 2, 9<br>7:30 P.M. | Book of Mormon/Archaeology Lectures<br>FRAA, 210 W. White Oak<br>Independence, Missouri                                       |
| October 11  | Spend a Day with The Book of Mormon<br>Waldo Avenue Restoration Branch<br>Independence, Missouri                              |
| October 25  | Spend a Day with The Book of Mormon<br>St. Joseph Restoration Branch<br>St. Joseph, Missouri                                  |
| November 8  | Spend a Day with The Book of Mormon<br>Southern California, San Fernando Valley<br>Independent Branch, Eagle Rock, California |
| December 26<br>January 6, 1993                      | Annual FRAA Archaeology Tour<br>The Yucatan and Belize  |



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