



## FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH ON ANCIENT AMERICA

THELONA D. STEVENS, CHAIRMAN / 202 SOUTH PENDLETON AVE. / INDEPENDENCE, MO. 64050

NEWSLETTER No. 26

April 19, 1977

Greetings, Members and Friends,

A very special meeting of the Foundation for Research on Ancient America is being called for this coming May 1, at 3:00 P.M. in the sanctuary of the Stone Church. This meeting is for the purpose of setting apart a young man, Thoric Cederstrom, who is going to Israel to enter into a year's study and research in which the Foundation is vitally interested.

For sometime we have felt the need for doing research in the Middle East in support of Book of Mormon claims. We feel that Thoric is ideally qualified to undertake this work for us, as at the same time he pursues his own studies in archaeology.

At our annual meeting in February the matter was discussed. The response was overwhelmingly in favor of assisting this worthy young man who would not be able to fulfill his aim to study in Israel without financial assistance. Hence, by vote it was decided that the Foundation would raise \$2500 toward his expenses for next year's study in Jerusalem. It was most gratifying to witness the response of those present. Two individuals contributed \$500 each, one \$150, another \$100, and there were numerous checks for lesser amounts. One member promised that if we could raise the required amount, he would contribute the cost of transportation. The wonderful spirit of giving made the entire meeting a joyous occasion, attesting to our belief that the Lord was blessing us for the proposed project.

Although generous giving that day amounted to about \$1700, we still have need for more contributions, not alone to help Thoric as promised, but also to continue other phases of our work. Therefore, you are invited to participate in this effort in any amount you may wish, if it be no more than your \$2.00 membership dues for the current year. Anything you may contribute will be accepted with thanksgiving.

Thoric is to leave in a few weeks for Israel, and it is our intention to present him at this special May 1 meeting that our members and friends who do not know him may become acquainted with him. Also, we are calling for all who desire to do so to come in fasting and prayer as this young man is set apart for this important undertaking under



the hands of Evangelists Charles R. Hield and Roy E. Weldon. Do come and share in the joy of the occasion.

The special speaker for this meeting will be Roy E. Weldon, whose long years of research in behalf of the Book of Mormon is well known. It is primarily through his suggestions and promotion that we are undertaking our research project in the Middle East. Speaking on "Whispering From the Dust," he will relate his subject to the 17,000 clay tablets brought to the world's attention last year. (See our last newsletter, Feb. 2, 1977.) The New York Times, October 25, 1976, called the finding of these clay tablets by two Italian archaeologists "sensational . . . the greatest archaeological discovery." The tablets, dating back to the third millennium B.C., are in the Cuneiform and Semitic languages. Among Bible names already deciphered are Sodom, Gomorrah, Ur, Israel, Yahew, Jerusalem. Dr. Mathiae declares, "We have found the civilization that was the background of the Old Testament to verify the Bible." Far-flung implications regarding the Jaredite and the Nephite records in relationship to these findings will be discussed by Brother Weldon. You will not want to miss what he has to say.

Below we are passing on to you Thoric's own statement regarding his academic background and his reasons for desiring to study in Israel, followed by a listing of courses which he has taken which are related to this particular project. We add that he has studied Hebrew for three years, and although he is unable to speak the language, he does read it. By association with the people of Israel, doubtlessly he will quickly acquire the ability to speak with them without difficulty. His knowledge of Hebrew is obviously a great asset in this project.

Thoric, son of Bishop Carl and Verna Cederstrom, has another undisputable asset--that of being reared in a Christ-centered home. From earliest childhood Thoric's home training has in large measure helped him mold his ideals to fit him for this day of further training for how great a work for Christ only the Lord himself can say. --T.D.S.

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ACADEMIC BACKGROUND  
and  
INTENT OF STUDY IN ISRAEL

I was graduated from Blue Springs High School in January 1974. That same month I entered Longview Community College for two semesters of general studies. In September 1975 I transferred to the University of Missouri-Kansas City where I concentrated on History and Jewish Studies. In December 1975 I left the United States and registered in the Anthropology Department at La Universidad de las Americas, Cholula, Mexico. I studied there for two years during which time I completed





my B.A. in Anthropology and began my studies toward a Master's Degree in Mesoamerican Archaeology. Political problems (a teacher's strike) closed down the Anthropology Department at the University of the Americas and I was forced to return to the United States before finishing my studies. Currently I am enrolled at the University of Kansas as a Graduate student in Archaeology. If financial opportunities provide I would like to do my Doctorate work at Tulane University, New Orleans, in Mesoamerican Archaeology and Ethnohistory.

While studying at the University of the Americas in Mexico I worked on the Puebla Preclassic Project under the direction of Dr. Melvin Fowler of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and sponsored by the National Science Foundation. I worked on the project and lived in the laboratory for two years. I did such work as cataloging ceramics, mapping and drafting, field survey, and excavation. During January to June 1976 I worked for the Fundacion Alemana para Investigaciones Cientificas, (German Foundation for Scientific Investigations) on another archaeological project. The project was called the Huexotzingo Archaeological Project directed by Dr. Peter Schmidt. The work involved was similar to the first project and included art work also.

Through my studies of archaeology and actual fieldwork in the same subject, I am convinced that Mesoamerica was the recipient of culture contact. Through my church upbringing, I know that certain groups of people arrived to Mesoamerica from the Middle East area. It is my hope and desire to go the Middle East (Israel) and try to analyze, through formal studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the type of relation that existed between the Ancient Middle East and Ancient Mesoamerica. However the past is not the only reason I desire to go to Israel. The present and the future are very important factors influencing my hopes of going to Israel. My belief in Zion, both here and in Israel, has led me to become a student of Jewish history. While in Israel I would like to learn what the Jews are doing to build Zion and how. I hope also to be able to share with them some ideas held by the Restoration concerning Zion. As a member of the House of Israel I look forward to the day when we, both Jew and those adopted members, can say "Am Ehad," "We are one people," united in the service of Jesus Christ for the cause of Zion,

Respectfully,

Thoric Nils Cederstrom

P.S. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Foundation for Research on Ancient America for deciding to help me with my educational plans and for research in the Middle East. I can assure all members of the Foundation that the research that I will do will be of a high scholarly nature. The evidences in support of the Book of Mormon will be earnestly sought and analyzed. God bless you for your concern in this worthwhile cause, for surely the Book of Mormon has a great contribution to give to the world.

SUMMARY OF COURSE WORK (related to project)

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Course</u>
University of Missouri-Kansas City	Historiography
"	History of the Middle East
"	Medieval Jewish History
University of Wisconsin-Extension	Modern Hebrew I
"	Modern Hebrew II
Universidad de las Americas	Anthropological Theory
"	Cultural Anthropology
"	Ancient Mesoamerica
"	Physical Anthropology
"	Social Organization
"	Culture Change and Processes
"	Old World Prehistory
"	Indians of South America
"	Indians of Modern Mexico
"	Anthropological Linguistics
"	Ancient Oaxaca
"	Introduction to Archaeology
"	Prehispanic Art of Mexico
"	History of Mexico
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Graduate Credit	
University of the Americas	Culture and Personality (Psychological Anthro.)
"	Research Design (Thesis Development)
"	Archaeological Field Techniques
"	Nahuatl Language (Aztec)
"	Seminar: Ancient Mesoamerica
University of Kansas	Archaeological Lab Techniques
"	Analytical Archaeology
"	Human Paleontology: Homo Erectus to Homo Sapiens
"	Ancient Civilizations of the Americas: The Central Andes
"	Linguistics: Phonetic Transcription
"	Folk Cultures of Latin America
"	Ethnographic Research Methods
"	North American Archaeology





Research papers written and publications-

Theoretical Developments in Anthropology  
The Mochica: Their Cultural Adaptation to the Environment  
The Mochica: Their Religious System  
Yancuitaalpan: A Nahuatl Indian Community  
The Evolution of Tombs in the Valley of Oaxaca  
The Shang and the Olmec: A Comparison of Art Styles  
The Mexican Concept of the Mother  
Early Man in America: A Review of Fact and Speculation  
Theoretical Considerations of Early Contact between Mesoamerica and the  
Central Andes  
Diffusion vs. Independent Invention: Theoretical Implication for Book  
of Mormon Believers

Currently in research-

The Mexican Concept of the Mother Reviewed  
Evidences of Quetzalcoatl Religious Symbols in North America  
Film: Yancuitlalpan: One Day in the Life of a Nahuatl Indian

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Perhaps it is because of Thoric's going to Israel that interest in the study of the Hebrew language has been stimulated, plus the consciousness that we are under commandment to "become acquainted with languages, tongues, and people" (Doc. & Cov. 87:5b). At any rate, a number have expressed the desire to study Hebrew, and Verna Cederstrom has made some investigation for us as to what is necessary to organize a class and bring a teacher from Kansas City. Some details will have to be worked out later, depending upon how many respond, but these things we can report:

The course would be ten 2-hour sessions, making it a 20-hour course, probably beginning about June 1.

The textbook decided upon by the teacher would be a necessary tool, which would represent a cost of about \$5.00. This would make for a reference and review source later.

In order to form a class, at least 15 members would be required.

It would be either a daytime or an evening class, depending upon the choice of those who would want the course.

Should there be enough for two classes, there could then be both a daytime and an evening class offered.

The cost of the course will be kept to the lowest possible figure, but at this time it is impossible to state definitely what it would be without knowing for sure that we do wish to have such a class, after which contact would be made with a teacher who would have to name the price of tuition for each member.





Payment in full in advance will be a requirement.

Such a course could be considered an investment as a college course.

Hebrew is a difficult language, and it is urged that only those who are seriously willing to enter into its study indicate your willingness. Our Jewish friends make good students, and they expect those who organize a class to carry through to its completion, with no time spent in foolishness, but who would come prepared for intensive study. We would want no dropouts, please. To begin and not complete the work would cause a reflection on us as a people.

Such a course as this could lay the foundation for further study, such as that of reading Biblical Hebrew.

If you are truly interested in launching into such a study as this, please call our secretary, Linda Baker, 252-9075.

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