



# MIGHTY



# SUMMONS

A quarterly report to Helaman's Two Thousand

Vol 6 No. 4 Foundation for Research on Ancient America October 1993



## Journey to Israel

February 26 - March 13, 1994

FRAA is sponsoring a two-week trip to Israel with two days in Rome. Under the leadership of Lyle Smith, archaeology chairman for FRAA, the group will fly from Kansas City to Tel Aviv. Preliminary plans include: **Caesarea** (major Roman port and city at the time of Christ), **Nazareth**, **Tiberias**, **Capernaum**—cities around the Sea of Galilee, **Caesarea Philippi** (where Peter recognized Jesus as the Christ), **Jericho**, **Qumran** (where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found), **Bethlehem**, **Masada**, several days in **Jerusalem**, the archaeological site of **Arad**, and **Rome** visiting early Christian and Roman ruins.

**Cost for the 16-day tour: \$3200 per person**

*(Includes airfare, all ground transportation, accommodations, and two meals a day.)*

**Deposit of \$500 needed now!**

**Final payments due January 5, 1994.**

Send to:

Israel Tour/Lyle Smith

210 W. White Oak

Independence, Missouri 64050

(816) 461-3722 (FRAA)

(816) 229-5192 (Lyle Smith home)

## Survey Overview

*Just want to say thank you for your earnest efforts to promote The Book of Mormon through the years. As the organization continues to glorify the Lord and not people, the Lord will bless.*

This comment appeared on one of the returned FRAA survey forms. Its reminder to do “*all things with an eye single to the glory of God*” (D.&C. 81 4:g) is well taken.

Tucked in the April 1993 issue of the *MIGHTY SUMMONS* was a survey which members of Helaman's Two Thousand were asked to fill in and return. The purpose of the survey was to find out what YOU think about FRAA—what you like, what you don't like, suggestions for improvements, and so on. We need your input to help direct the planning of activities and the establishment of priorities as we look to the future. Unfortunately, we only received 33 of the more than 800 sent. Nevertheless, we appreciate those of you who took the time to respond.

It is still not too late to tell us how you feel. If you can't find the issue of the *MIGHTY SUMMONS* with the survey form (April 1993, Vol. 6, No. 2), give us a call or write and we will send you one. We're depending on you!

Briefly presented here are the results and some general observations.

*(Continued)*

## Purpose and Mission of FRAA

The general consensus was that FRAA's purpose is to keep people informed about "the latest information and developments in The Book of Mormon area." This encompassed three basic parts: external evidences such as those found in archaeology, internal evidences, and the message of the book itself—its witness of Christ. You also wrote FRAA should "increase knowledge about The Book of Mormon, teach people and help all understand it better, promote its study, and spread the news about it." One of you said our task was "to keep The Book of Mormon alive."

### The Witness

In answer to "What do you like about The Witness?" twelve wrote that you enjoyed it all. Sixteen respondents said you liked news about discoveries or current findings in archaeology and research. Five specifically mentioned liking the quality of materials and the appearance of the magazine.

When asked what might be changed or included, seven said "nothing." You liked it as it was. One asked that it be published bimonthly. Others asked for

**more varied articles and testimonies;**

**more internal spiritual truths to balance the very nice archaeology.**

One wrote, "I would like to see the *Junior Witness* expanded to include more pages and be an actual magazine for and by children." The idea of the *Junior Witness* being a separate magazine was already in the works.

### Book of Mormon Days

Here you provided a variety of answers on what you liked about FRAA's Book of Mormon conferences:

**New concepts and understanding;**

**The chance to stop and appreciate its [The Book of Mormon] truths—a special reminder of its great significance;**

**Information being presented for children, as well as adults.**

## Keep The Book of Mormon Alive!

The area of visual presentations, such as slides, movies, videos, and drama appealed to many of you.

One of you shared this interesting observation: "To appear in person invites confidence and credibility."

Suggestions for changes or inclusions in future meetings:

**Possibly a class called "Let's mark The Book of Mormon together." Each one would mark scripture references on a missionary copy and later shares that copy with someone.**

**Personal testimonies of people who have not only made personal study but to whom God has brought experiences of the truth of The Book of Mormon.**

**Encouragement of locals to do more publicity in newspaper ads, etc., and perhaps develop sample ads that could be used.**

### Information Center/Research Library

The question on the survey about the library was "What do you like about the FRAA library and research supports?" Eight responded that you hadn't seen or used it. Others, however, were enthusiastic about its potential. You said:

**I love it to help me understand The Book of Mormon better.**

**It is a resource that is different.**

**You have a great potential for greater insights in both geography and archaeology.**

**I think it is great that there is such a place where those who want to do research can go.**

Recommendations for bettering the library included: home computer access to the library's resources; bibliographies on particular subjects or archaeological sources; maps; and printed lists of categories or types of materials available.

### Bookstore

There was no doubt how you felt about the opening of a bookstore! Almost all thought it a good idea. A few cautionary notes were given, however, such as the following. "It takes FRAA funds to purchase materials and if not sold, it is FRAA's loss. People sacrifice to donate and their funds should be used with all caution." This will certainly be carefully considered. Some of you wanted the store to carry maps (which it does), and some said do not duplicate materials available in other bookstores.

## Where We Are

As of September 23, 1993

Members of Helaman's Two  
Individuals  
Organizations (like  
which include ma

Contributions from members  
January 1, 1993 -  
Last year the same

You can see we are running \$14,661 in  
gifts made by members of HTT to the  
matching grant are not reflected in the  
the difference between last year and th

## Involvement with Helaman's Two Thousand

To the question "Why did you become a part of Helaman's Two Thousand?" most of you answered that you joined because of your love for *The Book of Mormon*. You see FRAA as an agent which can promote and share the book in a broader context than you can personally. One of you succinctly wrote, *To help in some way to bring The Book of Mormon 'out of the dust' and into the lives of people.* About eight reported you became members to support FRAA's research for evidences about The Book of Mormon and in order to keep abreast of the new information.

Some of you gave good ways to expand membership in HTT (which will be implemented soon) as well as indicating you would be willing to help recruit others to become part of this mighty army for the Lord.

### Timeliness of Information

Comments were made about receiving out-of-date information. We have found that those in other states, especially on the coasts, sometimes do not receive The Witness until up to two months after it has been bulk mailed. Those in the Independence area, however, receive the material within a week. Therefore, what appears as out of date information to some of you is pertinent to others.

Thousand	1091
branches (by people)	18
of HTT	
September 23, 1993	\$62,915.35
time period	\$77,577.32

behind last year's contributions. Designated internship program or the Ella Coile use figures. Therefore, this may account for this year.

## Accounting for Monies

Another concern mentioned on the survey was that FRAA should inform its supporters of where its money goes. To some extent, this is done through the *MIGHTY SUMMONS* by reporting on the activities of the Foundation. The first issue (January 1993, vol 6. no. 1) this year gave a summary of how monies were spent last year, 1992. A more detailed accounting can be obtained from the FRAA business office, 210 W. White Oak, Independence, Missouri 64050, or call (816) 462-3722.

### Additional Things You Would Like FRAA To Do

**Offer more lectures or classes.**  
**The Maya hieroglyphic workshop sounds great!**

**Have a way to help those who are adults to do what the intern program does for the youth.**

**Provide a study outline to be used in teaching The Book of Mormon.**

**Develop study material on Book of Mormon for adults and children.**

**Offer cassette testimony and information (new) on what is being discovered archaeologically.**

**Entice promising artists and writers by offering contests.**

### Conclusion

We sincerely thank those who took the time to return the survey. The comments were not only encouraging but most helpful. If you did not return the survey and would like to add your opinion about FRAA and its programs, please write or call. We welcome your ideas. We also encourage you to write us your testimony concerning the truthfulness of The Book of Mormon for possible use in *The Witness*.

## Archaeology News

**Lecture at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) -** On November 2, 1993 (see **Coming Up** on the back page), Dr. K. Anne Pyburn, assistant professor of anthropology at Indiana University, will give a lecture called "The Discovery of Chau Hiix: An Ancient Maya City."

One of the few unlooted Maya cities still in existence, Chau Hiix, is near the local village of Crooked tree in northern Belize. The first full-scale excavation of the site began in summer 1993.

The lecture is free to the public and reservations are not required.

Two items of interest appeared in the recent *Pre-Columbian Art Research Institute* newsletter (August 1993, Number 17).

**Palenque**—Visitors to the site should not miss the

*fantastic new Palenque museum below the site (on the highway). The landscaped and spacious museum complex includes exhibits of archaeological material from Palenque, a display of regional ethnographic material, a gift shop, restaurant, library and administrative offices. Also, not to be missed (but not easy to find!) is a beautiful "new" pathway flanking the river, complete with a footbridge and easy access to swimming, which links the site and the museum complex.*

**Merle Greene Robertsons' Rubbings of Maya Sculpture** database is now available on ten CD-ROM disks for \$500. This contains images of over 1200 rubbings of Classic Maya monuments from nearly 90 different sites. If any of you have a Macintosh computer and are interested in the database, call or write and we will send you information about it and the system requirements.

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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

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| October 4, 11, 18, 25<br>November 1, & 8<br>7:30 P.M. | Book of Mormon/Archaeology Monday<br>Night Six-Week Lecture Series at<br>FRAA, 210 W. White Oak,<br>Independence, Missouri                                       |
| November 2<br>7:00 P.M.                               | "The Discovery of Chau Hiix: An<br>Ancient Maya City," lecture by Dr.<br>Pyburn. Pierson Auditorium,<br>University Center, University of<br>Missouri-Kansas City |
| December 23, 1993 –<br>January 1, 1994                | FRAA's Seventh Annual Archaeology<br>Tour to Oaxaca and Mexico City Area   |
| January 16, 1994<br>3:00 P.M.                         | FRAA Annual Meeting<br>Center Place Restoration School<br>Waldo Avenue, Independence, Missouri   |
| February 26 –<br>March 13, 1994                       | FRAA Sponsored Tour to Israel and Rome   |



FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH ON ANCIENT AMERICA  
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