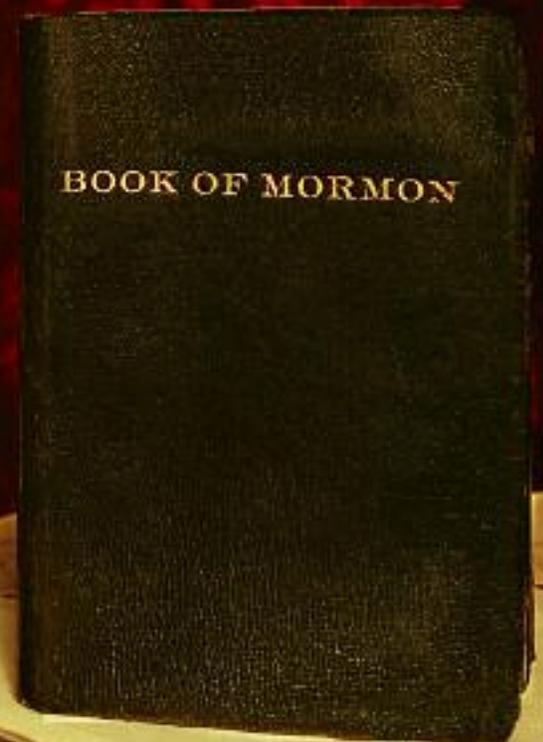
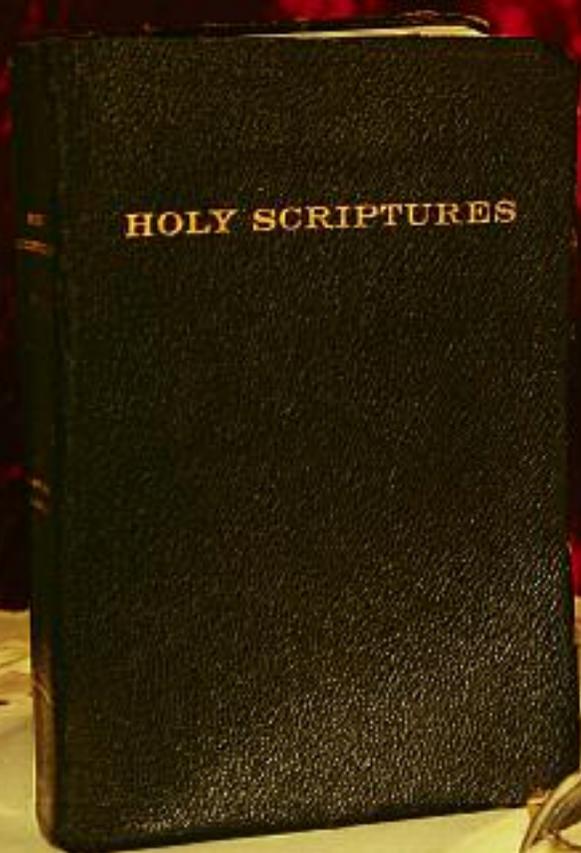




# THE WITNESS

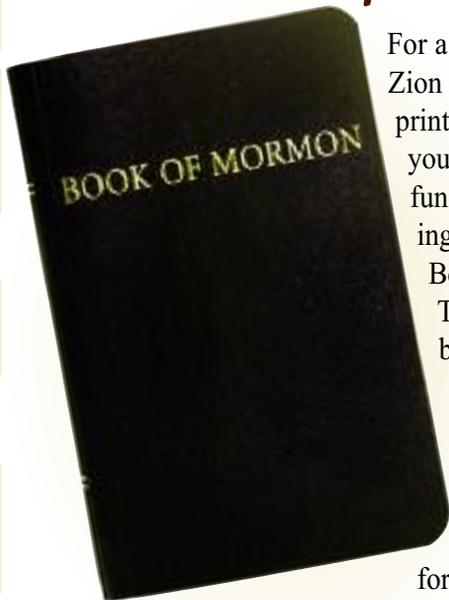
A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION BY THE BOOK OF MORMON FOUNDATION  
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Cover Photo: Dale Godfrey

## Pocket-Size Book of Mormon



For a number of years, Zion Bound has been printing t-shirts for youth camps as a fundraiser for printing a pocket-size Book of Mormon. That project has become a reality, and these new pocket-size Books of Mormon are now available for purchase at The Book of Mormon Foundation.

Although small, approximately 3 x 5 inches, the text is easily read in dual columns. An all-new introduction answers questions commonly asked by those searching for the truth. This 1908 version of The Book of Mormon also contains a concordance of over 1,000 words. These professionally printed and bound books come in a high-quality paperback or genuine leather.

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# THE CALL

by Dale Godfrey

The call came in the early morning hours. I awoke to the sound of the persistent ringing from a distant room. I had been up late the night before and was looking forward to sleeping a while longer. I found it easy to lie in my warm bed and only wonder who could be calling so early in the day. Should I get up and answer or just let it ring? It could be anyone—someone wanting to renew the warranty on my old car, a friend in need, or a loved one calling to lift my spirits. It could be work or a wrong number. Again the question raced through my mind—should I get up and answer or just let it ring? Surely if it's important, they will call back. So I let it ring and went back to sleep. Several days passed and I never found out who made the call. Since then, I have realized that one missed call represents a world of possibilities forever gone. It causes me to consider the opportunities that may never again come my way.

There have been other kinds of calls. One such call came in April 1829 by divine revelation. It was a call from God to men on the earth who were seeking to do His will. The call from the Lord was a simple request: "*Now, as you have asked, behold, I say unto you, Keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion:*" (D&C 6:3a RLDS)

This call has been the topic of much discussion. Books and articles have been written, and many sermons have been preached about this call through the intervening years. Despite all of the attention, little seems to have been accomplished for its fulfillment. Zion, the purpose of this call, seems as remote today as it did in 1829.

This may be because many who have received

the call have failed to understand it or respond to it. The call is not to build a physical city of bricks, boards and

mortar, although that may be a result. The call to establish the cause of Zion requires a different response. (D&C 97:4d; 140:5c RLDS)

The "cause of Zion" is not the ultimate goal. The call is actually to seek to bring forth and establish that which will bring about the ultimate goal of Zion. It is a call to action. Another way to phrase this call is to say "seek to bring forth and establish that which will cause Zion, or seek to bring about that environment or situation which will bring Zion into existence. There are many scriptures which support this interpretation. I suggest you study the explanation in 1 Nephi 7 found later in this article and the study guide in this issue of The Witness.

In (D&C 83:1b RLDS), the Lord explains the very reason why He brought the church back into existence in the latter days.

". . . The word of the Lord concerning his church, **established in the last days for** the restoration of his people, as he has spoken by the mouth of his prophets, and for the gathering of his Saints to stand upon Mount Zion, which shall be the city New Jerusalem;"

It is reasonable to expect that the call given to Joseph Smith early in the life of the restoration regarding Zion, was the same call which existed



for the church. As we see in Section 83, the call was twofold. First, it was to bring about the restoration of his people as spoken by the mouth of his prophets; second, for the gathering of his saints to Mount Zion.

The restoration of his people is an ancient covenant made with Abraham about 4,000 years ago. The call to the church in these latter days is to bring to pass the fulfillment of that divine covenant. In other words, one of the church's missions is to be the instrument by which the Lord will fulfill his promise to Abraham. That promise is found many places in the scriptures, but was first made to Abraham as recorded in Genesis 12:2 (IV) [Genesis 12:3 (KJ)]." . . . in thee shall the families of the earth be blessed." There are numerous references to this covenant, such as Genesis 22:22; Genesis 26:4; Genesis 28:4; Acts 3:25 and (1 Nephi 4:29 RLDS) [1 Nephi 15:18 LDS], to list a few. As we examine the scriptures we find this blessing to the families of the earth is in fact the restoration of his covenant people, the house of Israel. (Zechariah 10:6-12, Ezekiel 26:24-34), (1 Nephi 7:7-25 RLDS) [1 Nephi 22:4-12 LDS], (3 Nephi 9:67-68 RLDS) [3 Nephi 20:29 LDS] None of these are more telling than 1 Nephi 7.

*Wherefore, the things of which I have read, are things pertaining to things both temporal and spiritual: For it appears that the house of Israel, sooner or later, will be scattered upon all the face of the earth, and also among all nations, And behold there are many who are already lost from the knowl-*

*edge of those who are at Jerusalem. Yea, the more part of all the tribes have been led away; (the ten northern tribes were led away by the Assyrian armies in approximately 722 BC) And they are scattered to and fro upon the isles of the sea; And whither they are, none of us knoweth, save that we know that they have been led away. And since they have been led away, these things have been prophesied concerning them, and also concerning all those who shall hereafter be scattered and be confounded, because of the Holy One of Israel; for against him will they harden their hearts; Wherefore, they shall be scattered among all nations, and shall be hated of all men. Nevertheless, after they have been nursed by the Gentiles, and the Lord has lifted up his hand upon the Gentiles and set them up for a standard, and their (House of Israel) children have been carried in their (Gentile) arms and their daughters have been carried upon their shoulders, behold, these things of which are spoken, are temporal: for thus are the covenants of the Lord with our fathers; And it meaneth us in the days to come, and also all our brethren who are of the house of Israel. And it meaneth that the time cometh that after all the house of Israel have been scattered and confounded, that the Lord God*

*will raise up a mighty nation among the Gentiles, yea, even upon the face of this land (United States of America) And by them shall our seed be scattered. And after our seed is scattered, the Lord God will proceed to do a marvelous work among the Gentiles, (restoration of the Gospel through the Book of Mormon, establishment of the Church and the restoration of priesthood authority) which shall be of great worth unto our seed; Wherefore, it is likened unto their being nourished by the Gentiles, and being carried in their arms, and upon their shoulders. And it shall also be of worth unto the Gentiles: And not only unto the Gentiles, but unto all the house of Israel, unto the making known of the covenants of the Father of heaven unto Abraham, saying, In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. (Gen 12:2) And I would, my brethren, that ye should know that all the kindreds of the earth can not be blessed unless he shall make bare his arm in the eyes of the nations. (see 3 Nephi 9:65-73) Wherefore, the Lord God will proceed to make bare his arm in the eyes of all the nations, in bringing about his covenants and his gospel, unto those who are of the house of Israel. Wherefore, he will bring them again out of captivity, and they shall be gathered together to the lands of their inheritance; (gathering to Jerusalem and Zion) And they shall be brought out of obscurity, and out of darkness; (obscurity because they do not now realize their ancestry and heritage and darkness because they are in spiritual darkness and do not know Jesus Christ their Savior) And they shall know that the Lord is*

*their Savior and their Redeemer, the mighty one of Israel.*

(1 Nephi 7:5-25 RLDS)

[1 Nephi 22:3-12 LDS]

*(material in parenthesis has been added by author for emphasis, explanation or as additional reading)*

The nourishing of the scattered peoples means bringing them out of darkness and to a knowledge of Jesus Christ. Enabling them to gather means to bring them out of obscurity where they no longer live in the world as the “lost” tribes. This is specifically the call to the church found in Section 83.

This interpretation is confirmed by Christ in (3 Nephi 7: 28-29 RLDS)

[3 Nephi 16:4-5 LDS]

*. . . These sayings which ye shall write, shall be kept, and shall be manifested unto the Gentiles, that through the fullness of the Gentiles, the remnant of their seed who shall be scattered forth upon the face of the earth, because of their unbelief, may be brought in, or may be brought to a knowledge of me, their Redeemer. And then will I gather them in from the four quarters of the earth; and then will I fulfill the covenant which the Father hath made unto all the people of the house of Israel.*

When his people are again restored to their lands of inheritance and to a knowledge of Jesus Christ, then shall the covenant with Abraham be fulfilled by way of the church fulfilling its divine calling in the latter days.

*The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall*

*see the salvation of God.*

(3 Nephi 7:45 RLDS)

[3 Nephi 16:20 LDS]

It is the recovery of the house of Israel to their Lord, which is the true “cause of Zion.”

*But if they (Gentiles) will repent, and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant, and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance, and they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob; And also, as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem; And then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem.*

(3 Nephi 10:1-3 RLDS)

[3 Nephi 21:22-24]

The twofold purpose of the church found in Section 83: “for the restoration of his people . . . and for the gathering of his Saints,” will be

fulfilled in the church’s faithful response to this one call.

The call was made to us early in the life of the Restoration. Will we choose to let the call go unanswered, or will we arise and faithfully respond?

The faithful answer to that call will not be found in a city of bricks, boards and mortar, it will be found in a people responding spiritually to the message of the gospel in their lives.

*Zionic conditions are no further away nor any closer than the spiritual condition of my people justifies; but my word shall not fail, neither will my promises, for the foundation of the Lord standeth sure.*

(D & C 140:5d RLDS)

If you want to get up and answer the call, then set your life on the path of righteousness and service to your Heavenly Father. The building blocks of Zion are the spiritual lives of a called and commissioned people. That which will cause Zion is a people of righteousness diligently engaged in the work of fulfilling God’s covenant to Abraham, which is the calling of the church in the latter day.



# THE CALL

Many of the saints ask for scriptural references following our classes on The Book of

Mormon. It is encouraging for us to witness their desire to diligently study the scriptures as they seek to know the word of God more fully. This study becomes critically important for our effective participation in a larger vision of this great and marvelous work.

To assist in this ministry, we are offering a detailed study guide on the purpose of the church. It includes references from the Bible (Inspired Version), The Book of Mormon (RLDS & LDS) and the Doctrine and Covenants (RLDS) plus significant historical events and study charts. It also contains resources that help us understand the Lord's covenants with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Israel) and the House of Israel. These same covenants have carried forward to our day. Also provided are references and materials that identify Isaiah as a scriptural bridge between the Bible and The Book of Mormon. Please make sure you first read the

article entitled "The Call" in this issue of The Witness (pg 3). You will find this study guide to be helpful in further exploring the insights presented in the article.

Our hope is you will soon enter a period of intense study using this resource as your study guide. The length of the study will depend on your level of interest and diligence. Time and space do not allow a complete index of references so the list may not include some of your favorites. Just add them to the study guide and use them to further enhance your study experience. Consider expanding your personal study to also include other small groups and your Sunday school class.

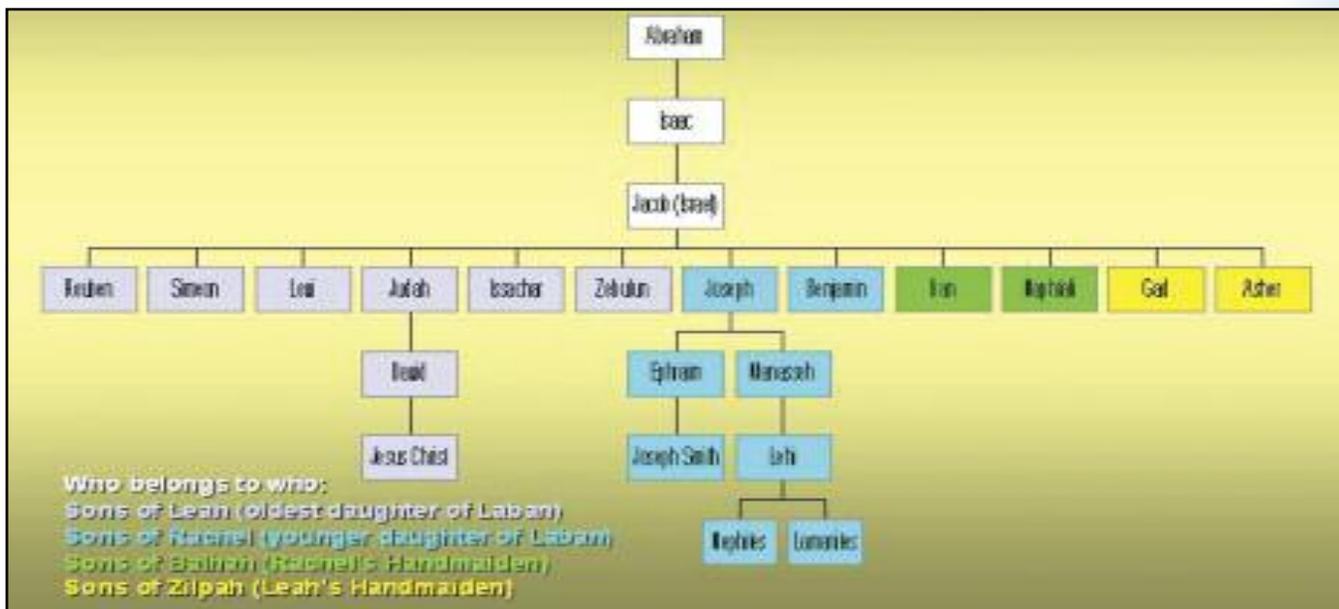
We believe the vision of the church is captured in these references and a corporate understanding of this purpose is needed among God's people. May the Lord richly bless you in your journey of study, prayer and fasting as the revelation of God prepares you for the call now before us.

## SUGGESTED ORDER OF STUDY:

You may find it helpful to study these subjects in the following order:

- 1. THE BIBLE:** Study the Bible references in this study guide and understand the history of the House of Israel and the covenants of God to them through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Israel).

## THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL



## 2. IMPORTANT HISTORY EVENTS:

Become familiar with the historical events that have a significant connection to the scattering, restoration and gathering of the House of Israel. Listed below are some of the important events.

### About 4000 BC - Calling of Abram (Abraham)

Abraham is a man of faith called of God and put to a test many would not pass. Because of this great faith, the Lord made covenants with him and his seed forever.

### 721 BC - Assyrians conquer northern kingdom of Israel

The Assyrian Empire conquers the northern kingdom of Israel. They force many out of Israel and bring in foreigners. History loses track of these 10 tribes as they are taken into slavery and scattered into the world.

### 586 BC - Babylon destroys Jerusalem and the temple

Babylon attacks Judah. The Babylonians destroy Jerusalem and the temple Solomon built. The Jews are taken captive to Babylon, and some choose to return 70 years later when allowed to do so by the conquering Persian ruler, Cyrus.

### The Coming of the Messiah

Jesus manifests himself first unto the Jews as foretold by the prophets. It's important to remember Jesus Christ also manifests himself to all the tribes of the house of Israel and they recorded it.

### 34 AD - The Gospel to the Gentiles

Jesus manifests himself second to the Gentiles as foretold by the prophets. He does this through the apostles, the testimony of the saints and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

### 70 AD - Rome destroys Jerusalem and the temple

Rome attacks Judah because of their rebellion. The Romans destroy Jerusalem and the Temple. The Jews are taken captive and scattered into the world.

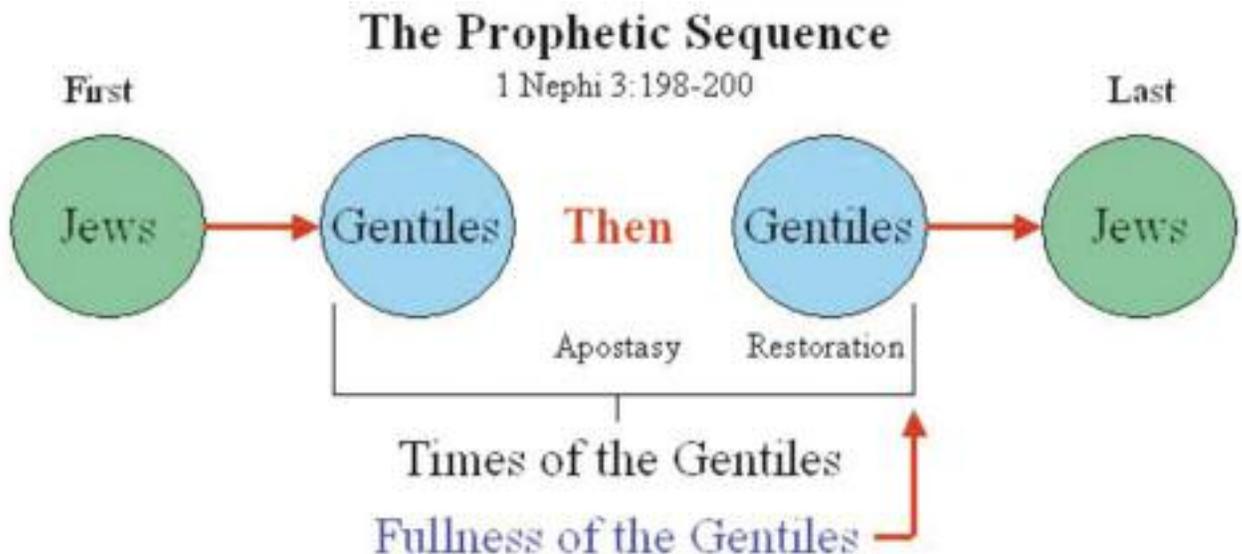
### Dark Ages - Apostasy

The church no longer produces good fruit as described in the Parable of the Olive Tree (Jacob 3 RLDS) (Jacob 4-5 LDS).

## RESTORATION

Jesus manifests himself through the Restoration to close out the times of the Gentiles. Jesus also manifests himself through the Restoration to the Jews for the last time. It's important to understand Jesus Christ will restore all the tribes of Israel, beginning with the seed of Lehi, as prophesied. This will be according to the covenants the Lord has made with the House of Israel. It is the last step of the prophetic sequence listed in the graph below (step #3).

- 1820 - Joseph Smith has a vision in the grove
- 1823 - Joseph Smith is visited by Moroni
- 1827 - Joseph Smith receives the plates from Moroni
- 1830 - The Book of Mormon is published  
The Church of Christ is organized  
The first missionaries are sent to the Lamanites



**RESTORATION (CONT'D)**

- 1841 - Orson Hyde travels to the Holy Land to dedicate it for the gathering of the Jews  
 1948 - The modern nation of Israel is established

**3. THE PROPHETIC SEQUENCE:**

Study how Jesus Christ, who is the fullness of the gospel, manifests himself to the world and will “save all men, if they will hearken unto his voice” (2 N 6:45 RLDS) [2 N 9:21 LDS]. This is the single purpose of God for all His creation. Other scriptures that beautifully describe this purpose are: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish; but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16) and “...for this is my work and my glory, to bring to pass the immortality, and eternal life of man” (D&C 23:23b). The church is the instrument called by the Lord to implement His will according to the covenants. Scriptural and secular history has demonstrated the truthfulness of this prophetic sequence. This sequence is important in understanding where we now stand in the stream of prophetic time. (For a more detailed explanation, review *The Witness*, June 2003, #108, page 3)

*And the time cometh that he shall manifest himself unto all nations, both unto the Jews, and also unto the Gentiles; And after he has manifested himself unto the Jews and also unto the Gentiles; then he shall manifest himself unto the Gentiles, and also unto the Jews, And the last shall be first, and the first shall be last. (1 Nephi 3:198-200 RLDS) [1 Nephi 13:42 LDS]*

**4. CHURCH HISTORY:**

Study the pamphlet entitled “Joseph Smith Tells His Own Story.” You can also find this account in RLDS Church History, Vol 1, beginning on page 9. Research how Moroni’s quotes from the Old Testament speak to the restoration of the House of Israel that was about to begin. (See *The Witness*, Fall 2007, #124, page 3)

**5. ORSON HYDE’S DEDICATION PRAYER:** Study this prayer as Orson Hyde was commanded of the Lord to go to the Holy Land and dedicate it for the gathering of the Jews in the latter days. (RLDS Church History, Volume 2, page 552)

**6. THE BOOK OF MORMON:** Study the references in this study guide. Learn and appreciate the clear explanations in the chapters before and after major quotes of Isaiah. They can be called “chapters of explanations.” Understand how they relate to the House of Israel and the latter day purpose of the church.

**A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE BIBLE AND BOOK OF MORMON:** Isaiah provides a scriptural bridge between the Bible and Book of Mormon. This makes an important connection between the records of the tribe of Judah and the tribe of Joseph (2 Nephi 12 RLDS) [2 Nephi 28-30 LDS] and (Ezek 37). One of these remnants (Lehi) was taken to the Land of Promise (Americas) by the hand of the Lord. What are some of the chapters/verses from Isaiah that are quoted in the Book of Mormon?

**COMPLETE CHAPTERS:** Isaiah 49-51, 2-14, 29, 52  
 (quoted by Nephi and Jacob).

**MAJOR QUOTES:** Isaiah 53,54,55 (quoted by Abinadi and Jesus Christ).

**TOTAL:** About 1/3 of the 66 books of Isaiah are quoted in  
 The Book of Mormon.

## SOME MAJOR THEMES FROM ISAIAH:

The coming of the Messiah.

The rebellion of the House of Israel and their being smitten and scattered.

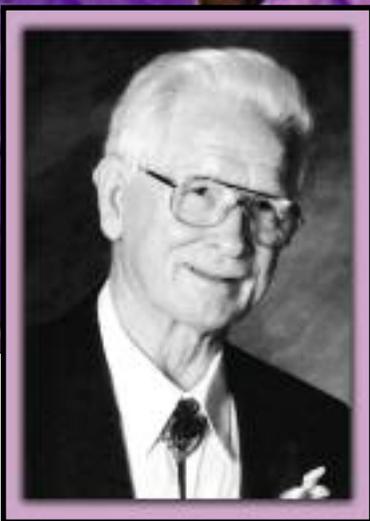
The restoration and gathering of the House of Israel in the latter days.

**Give special attention to the prophecies of Jesus Christ in 3 Nephi 7, 9, 10 which also include major quotes from Isaiah.**

## 7. THE DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS:

Study the references in this study guide and see how God brought forth The Book of Mormon and direction for understanding the purpose of the church.

<b>Bible (Inspired Version)</b>	<b>Book of Mormon (RLDS)</b>	<b>Book of Mormon (LDS)</b>	<b>Doctrine &amp; Covenants (RLDS)</b>
Gen 12:1-2	Title Page	Title Page	2:6
Gen 13:12-15	Testimony of Three Witnesses	Three Witnesses	3:10-18
Gen 15:12-13,21	Testimony of Eight Witnesses	Eight Witnesses	12:5
Gen 17	1 N 3	1 N 10-14	16:2a
Gen 21:1-11	1 N 4 (Chapter of Explanations)	1 N 15	17:2
Gen 22:20-22	1 N 6	1 N 19:22-21:26	18:3b-c
Gen 25:11	1 N 7 (Chapter of Explanations)	1 N 22	26:2
Gen 26:1-5,24	2 N 2	2 N 3	27:3
Gen 27:28-29	2 N 8 thru 10	2 N 11-24	31,32
Gen 28:1-4	2 N 11 (Chapter of Explanations)	2 N 25-27	34:6
Gen 32:28	2 N 12 (Chapter of Explanations)	2 N 28-30	42:5a
Gen 35	2 N 13	2 N 31	43:7a-b
Gen 48 thru 50	Jac 3	Jac 4-5	45
Isa 2 thru 14	3 N 7,9	3 N 15-21:21	49:5
Isa 29	3 N 10:1-7	3 N 21:22-28	52:1
Isa 49 thru 55	3 N 14	3 N 30	83:1b,8
Ezek 37	Mormon 3:24-33	Mormon 7:2-10	87:3c-d
John 10	Ether 1:29-35	Ether 2:7-12	108:3-6
Rom 10,11	Moroni 10:27-31	Moroni 10:30-34	



Delbert Smith  
June 28, 1922  
April 2, 2008



B. Mildred Smith  
January 3, 1918  
October 4, 2007

## Special Memories

by Linda Guin

When asked to name someone who has made a significant difference in my life, my mind usually is a complete blank. Where do you start? Delbert and Mildred are, without a doubt, two people who have had a major impact on me and my family. What a blessing it was when Delbert came to Southeast Missouri in the mid-1970s to bring his unique style of ministry!

His love for life and the joy he found in the gospel was contagious. My children, who were in grade school, couldn't wait to arrive at church for the series Delbert taught. He was always whistling and singing praises. One of his favorites was *It's a Happy Day*. We spent many road trips singing his song:



It's a happy day, and I thank God for the weather  
It's a happy day, and I'm living it for my Lord  
It's a happy day, and things are going to get better  
Living each day by the promises in God's word



Approximately 20 years later, I mentioned to my daughter that I would be seeing Mildred and Delbert at a meeting at The Book of Mormon Foundation. She said, "Would you please tell Delbert he was my favorite minister when I was a little girl?"

Mildred accompanied Delbert to southeast Missouri on occasion. I remember being so nervous the first time she came to my house for dinner. She was there to teach a class on the word of wisdom, and, as a bonus, shared cooking tips with us. She was an expert in the kitchen. I didn't know what to prepare. Would my cooking meet her expectations? Being a convert to the church and a babe in my studies, I had no idea what we would talk about. Mildred was, of course, a very gracious guest. We became instant friends, and she said my banana pudding was the best she had eaten. I'm certain I was not the only young mother she put at ease in her many years of service. I'm just thankful I was blessed to share the experience with her.

Like my daughter, I was so excited 20 years later to have an opportunity to renew my friendship with both Delbert and Mildred. Mildred shared with me a couple of years ago that when her grandson asked her if she knew my husband, she told him, "He's one of our boys." At 56 years old, I felt like a child. To be one of Delbert's and Mildred's is indeed an honor.

Delbert and Mildred served on the board of directors for a number of years at The Book of Mormon Foundation, formerly the Foundation for Research on Ancient America. They wrote articles and taught many classes at the Foundation. During the last few years, Mildred was always available to help me with research and material for The Witness. Her last article was published in the Spring 2007 #122 issue, entitled *How the Book of Mormon Came Forth*.

Their family and friends continue to miss them, but we all have been blessed with special memories to keep them alive in our hearts.

# Book of Mormon Conference

by Gary Livingston

## Northwest Region

During the weekend of September 14-16, 2007, our Northwest Region was treated to a wonderful weekend of learning and fellowship through a Book of Mormon conference as presented by The Book of Mormon Foundation. This conference was held in Vancouver, Washington, and was well attended by those throughout the region.



I was looking forward to this conference with a great deal of anticipation because I have had a special love for The Book of Mormon since I was a young teenager. I didn't know exactly what to expect, as I had never attended a Book of Mormon Conference before, but I knew I wouldn't be disappointed. The saints in my home congregation in Salem, Oregon, as well as those in the rest of the region, were also really looking forward to it.

As the weekend progressed, I became more and more excited about what was taking place. Not only did we have a goodly number of members of our restoration movement attending this conference, but we also had in attendance those who were exploring our restoration faith as well as those in attendance who were of other faiths. This conference was well received by those who were present.

I was so pleased to see how this conference was centered around our love for Jesus Christ. Those of us who are students of The Book of Mormon know how beautifully The Book of Mormon testifies of Christ, but many who are of other faiths don't understand this. The focus of this conference wasn't aimed at trying to prove The Book of Mormon, but rather to show our love of Jesus through the message of The Book of Mormon. I was thrilled knowing that those who know very little about this sacred record walked away from the weekend with a clear understanding of how beautifully The Book of Mormon portrays this glorious gospel of Jesus Christ.

Not only were the adults treated to wonderful ministry, but the Book of Mormon Foundation also provided quality age-appropriate classes for our youth. I was thoroughly impressed with the Internship program that was presented. My teenage daughter thought so highly of it that she has made it a personal goal to use the remaining time she is in high school as an opportunity to prepare herself for a possible internship after she graduates.



I think I can speak on behalf of our entire Northwest Region when I express my gratitude to the Book of Mormon Foundation for providing such a wonderful ministry to our area.

# Book of Mormon Symposium

by Gary and Sandy Whiting



The Book of Mormon Foundation was featured at a symposium held at Zion's Outpost Branch in Park City (Wichita), Kansas, on October 13 and 14, 2007. The Foundation was represented by Marlin and Linda Guin, Dale and Rita Godfrey, Richard and Paula Rowland, Don Newman, Sarah McLean and Emma McLean.

The symposium began on Saturday, October 13, at 9:00 a.m. with introductory remarks and worship. Rich Rowland presented a class on the Plan of Salvation. From the rich treasures of The Book of Mormon, Brother Rowland explained the fall of man and the intervention of Jesus Christ through the atonement made on the cross.

Dale Godfrey followed with two classes. The first was a review of the Parable of the Olive Tree. This parable is found in Jacob (RLDS chapter 3 and LDS chapter 5) in The Book of Mormon. Jacob credits the prophet Zenos with writing this parable. The history of Israel and their return to the Father is discussed in this prophetic passage. Brother Godfrey reviewed the general details of the parable while offering interpretations of its parts and applications to the age in which we live.

Following the lunch break, Brother Godfrey discussed the archeology evidence for The Book of Mormon. He used classic examples and recent finds to show that there is good evidence to support The Book of Mormon.

Marlin Guin taught a two-hour class on The Book of Mormon prophecies about the last days. Brother Guin showed plainly that the work of restoring Israel is a major part of God's plan for the last days. Using passages from 3 Nephi, he emphasized Jesus' teaching when He visited this group of His "other sheep" after His ascension into heaven. (Acts 1:9, 10)

After a supper break, we gathered at 7:30 p.m. to

view an excellent movie, *The Testaments of One Fold and One Shepherd*. The movie tells the story of a family in the New World after the sign of Christ's birth through the visit of Christ. Their story is portrayed around glimpses of the ministry of Jesus, His death and resurrection in Jerusalem. The movie concludes with the appearance of Jesus in the New World. We enjoyed the movie very much. It has great missionary potential.

Sunday, October 14, began with a prayer meeting. This was followed by an excellent class by Brother Guin. He offered insight about The Book of Mormon and the purpose of the Church of Jesus Christ in the last days. Building on the material from Saturday, he emphasized that the work of the Restoration Church is to seek the restoration of the House of Israel.

We were blessed by the preaching of Brother Rowland during the morning worship. We also enjoyed the singing of his wife, Paula, and the McLean sisters.

The branch sponsored a potluck lunch after the service. Sharing a meal together allowed us to thank the Foundation for their fine ministry. It also allowed a final chance to fellowship with our friends from The Book of Mormon Foundation.

The Book of Mormon is a very precious gift which the Lord has bestowed upon the saints of the last days. It daily becomes more valuable to us as the events of history clearly unfold according to the prophecies of scripture. We deeply appreciate the efforts of The Book of Mormon Foundation to encourage and inform the saints about The Book of Mormon's message and usefulness. We are counting the days for our next opportunity to have them visit us again.



# Winter Retreat

# 2008

by Kelli Pedersen

Every retreat brings new faces to mingle with the veteran campers. Sometimes, however, the number of faces is so few that one is left to wonder if truly there will be more than a handful for the next year. In these discouraging times, I know that it is our responsibility to remember who our God is, and that *He* is still calling His children together. These few will carry on until the valley is surpassed and a summit is reached. One could surmise that such a concept is only an exercise in trusting Him. He *is* in control of the future.

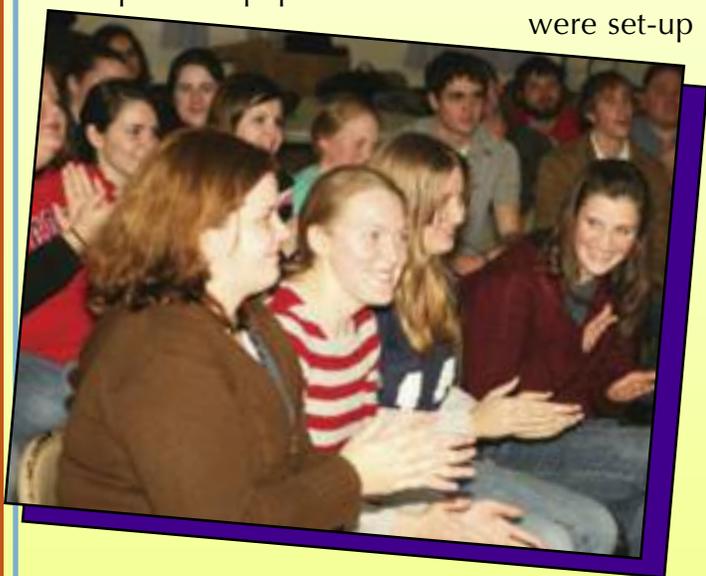
Many understood this when it was said that around 80 campers were to attend the 2008 Book of Mormon Retreat! *Eighty* campers! Excited hands reached for another piece of paper as additional cabins were set-up

to house all of the participants. The atmosphere was joyful as youth, ages 17-24, gathered together, some for the first time. Seeing and hearing my friends assured me that God would be with us that weekend. I knew this because we did meet in the name of our Savior, and He did bless us.

One of the special qualities of an older youth group,



such as we have, is that we are not at camp to be fed only, but rather we are there to serve and to be an instrument for the Spirit. This was apparent when we saw how those on the cusp of leaving older youth for other ministry were preparing others, through their own actions, to become leaders as well. Campfires have always been special to me, yet they are more so when I see my friends exercising their talents and leading them. It is a ministry to me, and I know that it is a witness to younger generations.



As I am coming to the edge of my older youth years, my respect for the efforts that directors and teachers put into a retreat greatly increases. Someday, the campers of our retreat may be directing it, and they will remember certain attributes about the directors from their youth. This year, one may look back and recall how our director was flexible in the face of stress. Two of our teachers were not able to teach their classes for Saturday. When David Gilmore told us about the restructure to the schedule, my guess was



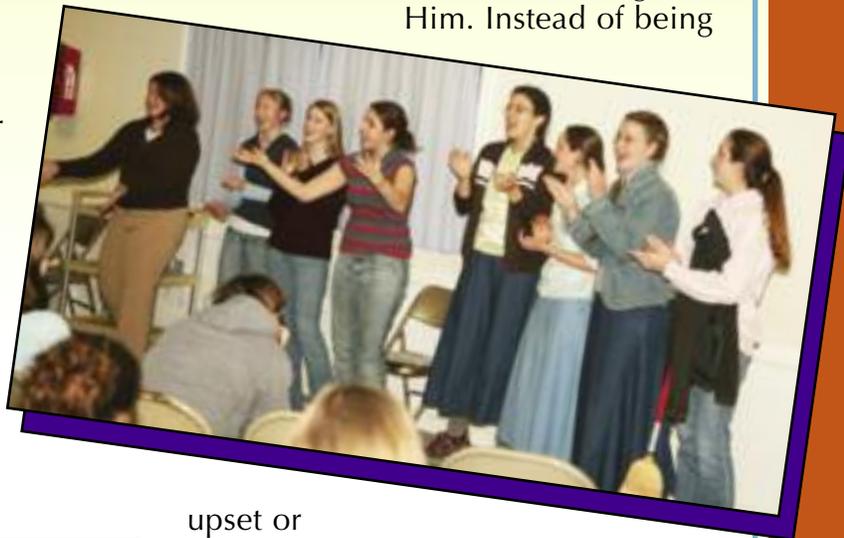
I began to look at my own life and could see blatant spaces where there was no such trace of it. Soon, I will be graduating and moving into a realm of life with which I am not familiar. No matter how much excitement I have about this, there is more fear lurking beneath my outward show. It was easier to ignore my fear than to face it. Instead of trusting my Lord, I fearfully occupied my mind elsewhere.

All of this was weighing my spirit down. It was not until I watched, as those around me demonstrated their faith in God, that I understood what I had been withholding from Him. Instead of being



that we would have some sort of a prayer service to fill the time. I fully expected David to personally have the job of filling over two hours worth of class, but I was surprised when we arrived to the first session and were told of two others who would fill the vacant positions.

As I sat under the ministry brought during our three class periods, I kept thinking about how that very day was a great exercise in faith—not only for our director, but also for the teachers who volunteered their time at such short notice. When I thought about their faith,



upset or nervous about the dramatic change in our schedule, assurance was given to our director *because* he had faith that God would be in control of the weekend.

Even now, as I recall this experience, my faith is made stronger with the knowledge that God is a fortress with which nothing can contend, not even graduation.





# The Book of Mormon Round Table

The Book of Mormon Foundation received a warm invitation to teach a Book of Mormon class at the April 2008 meeting of The Book of Mormon Round Table. They meet once a month, except during the summer, at the Stone Church in Independence, Missouri. The Book of Mormon Foundation participated in a learning program which

offers Book of Mormon classes on various subjects. Many teachers, representing diverse knowledge and experiences, contribute to these classes during the year.

Dale Godfrey, who currently serves on the BMF board, taught a class entitled “Parable of the Olive Tree” to those gathered. There was good attendance and wonderful fellowship as we shared our common bond found in The Book of Mormon and its message to the world. We are pleased to have been considered for this opportunity and hope to participate again in future meetings.

## 2008 Interns

- Caleb Baumgart, Blue Springs, MO
- Angela Cappatocio, Kansas City, MO
- Shantelle Cruickshank, Independence, MO
- Raeann Edson, Hollister, MO
- Jared Eggenberger, Freeman, MO
- Katie Ellis, Lee’s Summit, MO
- Crystal Guthrie, Excelsior Springs, MO
- Jared Lind, Warrensburg, MO
- Rachel Premoe, Independence, MO

- Maeanna Stahlaman, Sibley, MO
- Glenn Wiskur, Butler, MO

Staff:  
Monica Reed  
Mark Benforf

Director:  
Bonnie Anderson

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