



# MIGHTY SUMMONS



A quarterly report to Helaman's Two Thousand

Vol. 6 No. 1 Foundation for Research on Ancient America January 1993



*Under the direction of interns Shane Robinson and Aaron Smith, the children gathered to watch and discuss the animated video.*

## Sunday Morning Study with The Book of Mormon at Eagle Rock, California

On November 8, 1992, more than 100 people gathered for the San Fernando Valley, California, Independent Branch Regional Book of Mormon Day. This represented the eighth such program presented by FRAA in 1992. Other conferences have been held in Wichita, Kansas; the Detroit, Michigan region; St. Joseph, Missouri; and the Independence, Missouri area.

Generally, the programs include showing an animated videotape produced by Living Scriptures, scholarly presentations, testimonies, and an introductory slide presentation about FRAA. The children usually have a special program during regular class time. Staff members and volunteers associated with FRAA, along with the summer interns, participate as they are able. In California, interns

Shane Robinson and Aaron Smith taught the children's class and shared their testimonies.

As many of you know, FRAA formerly held a day-long conference on a Saturday once a year. Several thousand Book of Mormon enthusiasts would attend. Changing the format to Sunday mornings, however, has enabled us to reach into the lives of some who do not know very much about The Book of Mormon. This gives FRAA a greater opportunity to witness. It also generates more members for Helaman's Two Thousand.

If your area or congregation would like to sponsor A Sunday Morning with The Book of Mormon, please contact Don Beebe, chairman of the Sunday conferences, at (816) 461-FRAA (3722).



## 1992—A Good Year

What an exciting year it has been for FRAA! Such a change to have a headquarters where visitors can come and business can be centrally located. Since the dedication of the building on April 6, hundreds of people have come to work, volunteer, study in the library, participate in classes, and just stop by to say hello.

Grown we have, in terms of members, contributions, volunteers, and projects! In many ways, however, keeping up with the demand has been difficult because 95% of the work is done by volunteers, many of whom work at other employment.

We want to use this issue as an annual report to share with you highlights from the year.

On the administrative side, two major changes have taken place. A restructuring of the governing body created an advisory board of up to 20 members. To become one of the 15 directors of the board, one must first serve as a member of the advisory board.

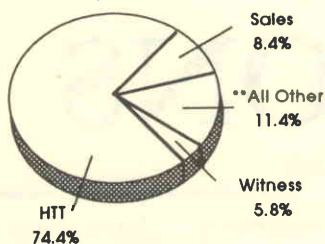
The second change, a major step forward for FRAA, was the addition of a second part-time, paid staff member (see *MIGHTY SUMMONS*, October 1992). Increasing demands placed on the Foundation necessitated having consistent, steady help.

Another improvement this year was the computerization of our financial records. This greatly

*continued on p. 2*

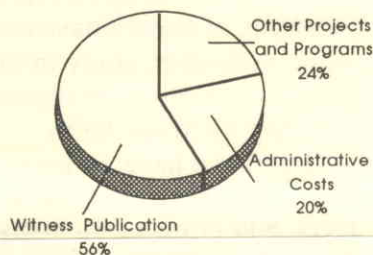


## INCOME 1992



\*\* Special Offerings; Book of Mormon Days; Rent; Interest; Book Stewards

## EXPENDITURES 1992



helps to monitor the flow of monies. See the accompanying charts which delineate expenses and income. On the income pie, clearly Helaman's Two Thousand is the lifeblood of the Foundation! It provides those very necessary funds needed for administration as well as particular projects.

Concurrently, expenses continue to escalate as more and more people discover the Foundation and what it can do for them. *The Witness* remains the major expense. Although we have worked diligently to cut the mailing cost by sorting into cate-

gories with lower rates, the savings has been gobbled up by a large increase in postage.

Along with the initiation of the Sunday morning Book of Mormon conferences (see story on page 1), a summer internship program was begun this year. Investing in youth who spend their summers working on Book of Mormon related projects cannot be measured by the cost of the program.

These young men and women not only learn about The Book of Mormon, but many gain testimonies concerning its truthfulness. These types of experiences help keep them faithful to the gospel all their lives. We look to them to provide leadership in promoting and sharing The Book of Mormon. Helaman's Two Thousand made this project possible, and we look forward to continuing it in the coming years.

The FRAA information center/research library, though, is the cornerstone of FRAA activities. Its purpose is to provide essential information which contributes to the accomplishment of the organization's goals. Without access to information, the archaeology committee could not keep you current on happenings relative to The Book of Mormon, nor could presentations be given at Book of Mormon Days without the resources provided by the library. Neither could we answer the many requests for information we receive. In fact, some of these we can't fulfill because we lack the resources. These are only a few reasons why it is crucial to maintain and acquire a strong base of materials.

Twenty years ago, an official of the Mormon church told the faculty of Brigham Young University, "The Lamanite-Nephite culture means much more to the people of the church, and properly so. Here at BYU, should we not have the greatest collection of artifacts, records, writings, concerning them in the world?"

What about FRAA? Should we not have the most comprehensive collection of materials concerning The Book of Mormon here in Independence-Zion since the reason FRAA exists is to promote The Book of Mormon and its message of Jesus Christ?

Donations of books, magazines, journals, slides, photographs, manuscripts, and art works help develop our library. Please consider the FRAA library when deciding what to do with your collections.

One project diligently worked on which will be completed the first of 1993 is the publication of a children's book with audio-cassette. Written by Edward Slaughter and illustrated by Robert Farley, *The Brass Plates* should be ready for purchase by March 1993.

## Where

As of December 31, 1992

Enlisted in Helaman's Two  
Individuals  
Groups

Income from HTT

Total income for the year

Expenses



We would like to publish many other items, such as the timeline produced by the summer interns, a compilation of archaeology-related articles from *The Witness* in one book, and other children's books. Publishing, though, requires extensive funds; yet the materials are desperately needed. If you want to specifically help underwrite these projects, please so designate on your contributions.

Some major purchases this year include the following items.

- Computer hardware and software for the information center—(monies specifically given for this).
- Laser printer—(funds specifically donated).
- FAX machine—Wow! What a tremendous difference this has made in making tour arrangements!
- Large screen video projector.

An immediate need facing us is the purchase of a new copy machine for about \$5,300.

Yes, it has been an exciting year! We look forward to growing and expanding even more this year. As a member of Helaman's Two Thousand, YOU can make it happen!



## We Are

Thousand

	1088
	19
	\$96,744
	\$132,423
	\$127,605



## New Logo

### In-kind Contributions

From time to time, professional people donate their time and talents to help the Foundation. We would like to thank Aaron Presler of Presler

Designs who worked with the staff to create a new logo and look for our letterhead and other publications. Aaron's design—the FRAA acronym engraved on plates and its incorporation into a border reminiscent of Mexican and Chinese patterns—gives FRAA a new look, one which is meaningful in relation to its mission.



### Archaeology News

One of the best ways to stay up-to-date on the most current archaeological activities is to attend seminars and conferences. An important side benefit is meeting and sustaining contact with those actively working in the field. The Foundation contributes toward expenses.

In February, Lyle Smith, chairman of the archaeology committee and tour coordinator, and Sherrie Smith, librarian and editor, attended a mini-conference on the La Mojarrá Stela 1 held at the University of California-Davis.

In March, the entire archaeology committee went to the symposium and XVI Maya Hieroglyphic Workshop at the University of Texas-Austin taught by Linda Schele. Then in December, Lyle and Sherrie Smith participated at the Annual Anthropological Association's annual meeting in San Francisco.

An unexpected encounter with underwater archaeology

happened to Lyle Smith while in Guatemala on business. During the second weekend of December, Lyle flew to the Peten and spent the day with an underwater archaeology team headed by Dr. Richard Hansen of UCLA. The team was exploring on the island of Flores in Lake Peten Itza and diving to map and investigate for ruins on the bed of the lake.

The following day, Dr. Donald Forsythe of BYU, a member of the team, and Lyle went to the ruin of Yaxha. Some of you will remember Don Forsythe as a speaker at the Fourth Annual Spend a Day with The Book of Mormon in 1988. He shared slides and information about the work at El Mirador. This spring Forsythe returns to Nakbe.

So much is happening in Mesoamerican archaeology. Keeping up presents quite a challenge. The archaeology committee would like to see the Foundation be active in supporting actual excavation and research in Mesoamerica. Again, only money limits what we can accomplish!



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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

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| February 14                           | Spend the Morning with The Book of Mormon<br>Colbern Road Restoration Branch   |
| March 7<br>3:00 P.M.                  | FRAA Annual Meeting<br>Waldo Restoration Branch  |
| March 13                              | Youth Spend a Day with The Book of Mormon<br>Jointly sponsored by FRAA and Restoration<br>Camping, Inc. (RCI); held at the Waldo<br>Restoration Branch |
| March 21<br>9:00-12:00 &<br>1:30-2:30 | Spend the Day with The Book of Mormon<br>Oak Grove, Missouri Restoration Branch  |
| April 25<br>9:00-12:00 A.M.           | Spend the Morning with The Book of Mormon<br>Chilhowee Restoration Branch  |
| December 23-<br>January 1             | Mesoamerican Tour  |



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