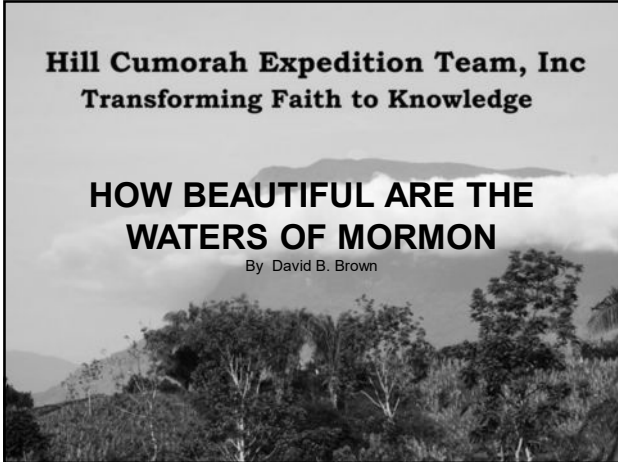


Hill Cumorah Expedition Team, Inc
Transforming Faith to Knowledge

HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE WATERS OF MORMON

By David B. Brown

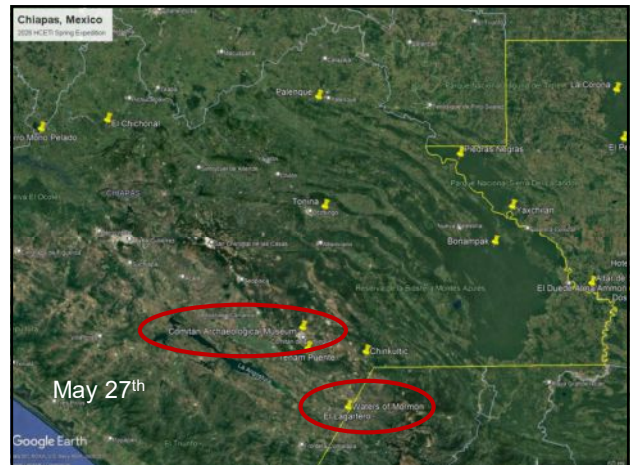
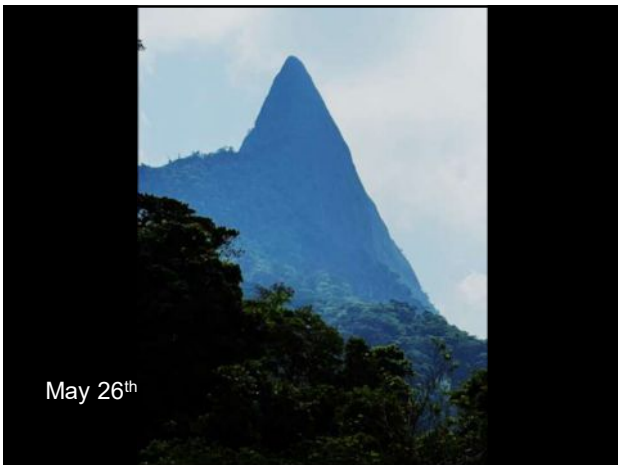
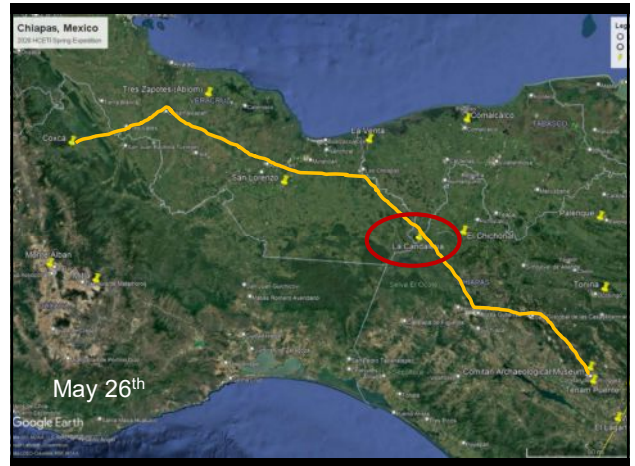
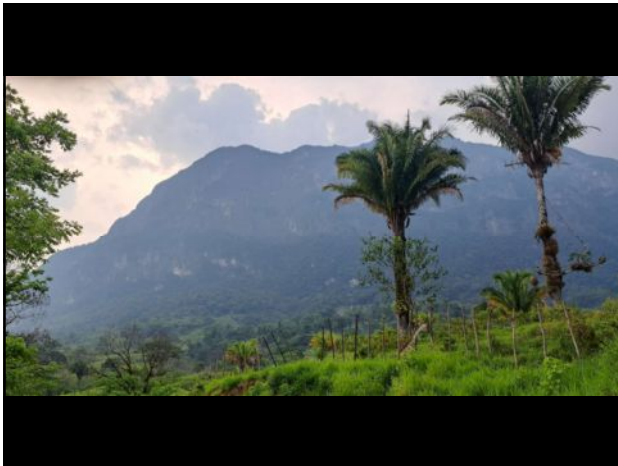


**THE HILL CUMORAH EXPEDITION
TEAM TRAVELED TO MEXICO
FROM MAY 23rd THRU JUNE 4TH OF
2026. OUR INTENT WAS TO
REVISIT SITES THAT WE HAD
ALREADY IDENTIFIED AS BOOK
OF MORMON RELATED, AND TO
INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITIES FOR
NEW DISCOVERIES.**

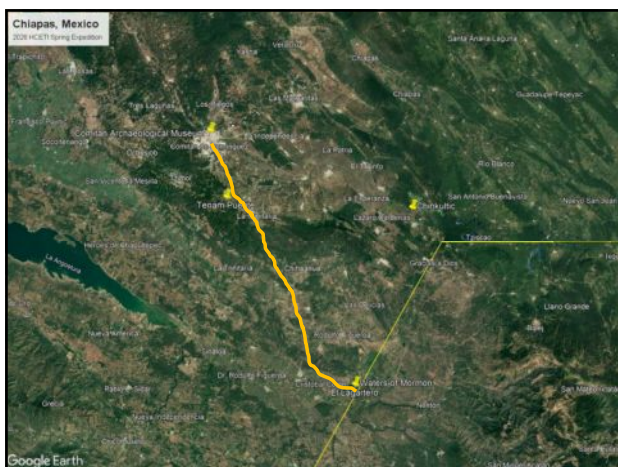
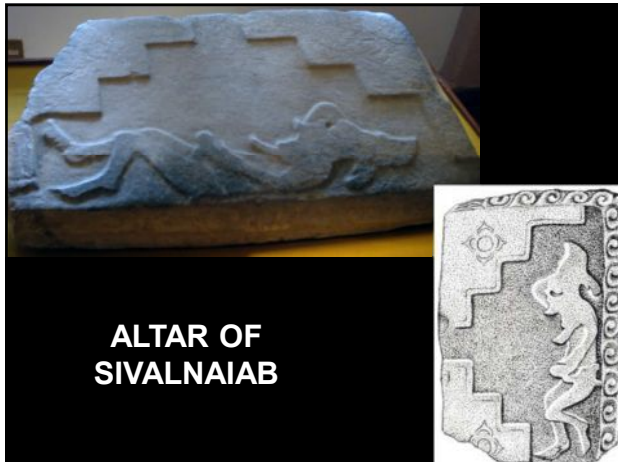
**OUR FIRST DAY IN MEXICO WAS
SPENT VISITING THE SITE OF
TEOTIHUACAN. WE INTRODUCED
NEW TRAVELERS TO THE
CONCEPT THAT TEOTIHUACAN IS
A STAR CHART THAT MARKS THE
BIRTH OF JESUS.**



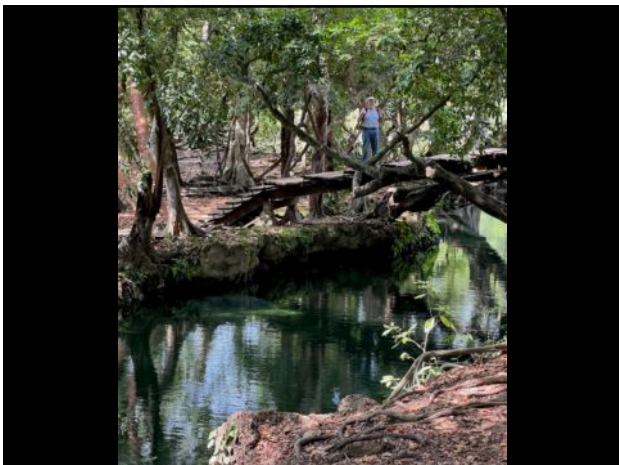


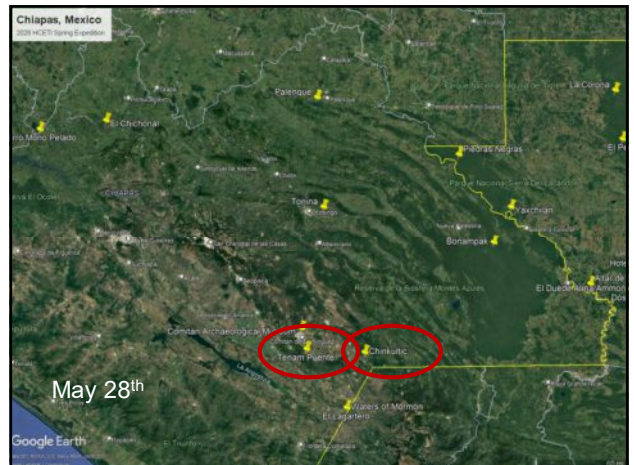


**WE VISITED THE COMITAN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM,
WHICH FOCUSES PRIMARILY ON
CHINKULTIC, TENAM PUENTE
AND SMALL REGIONAL SITES.
THERE ARE IMPORTANT STELAE
HOUSED AT THIS MUSEUM.**



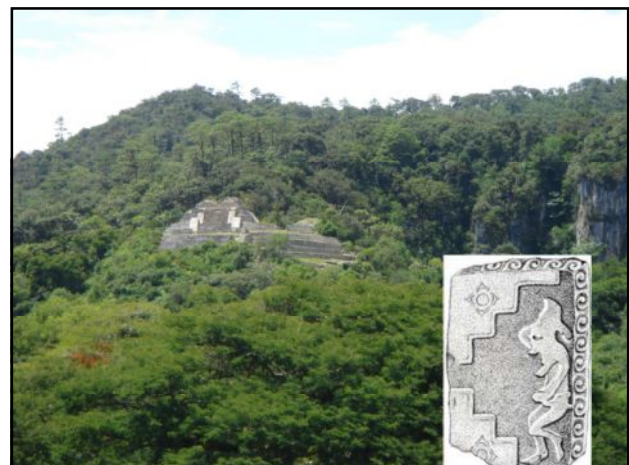
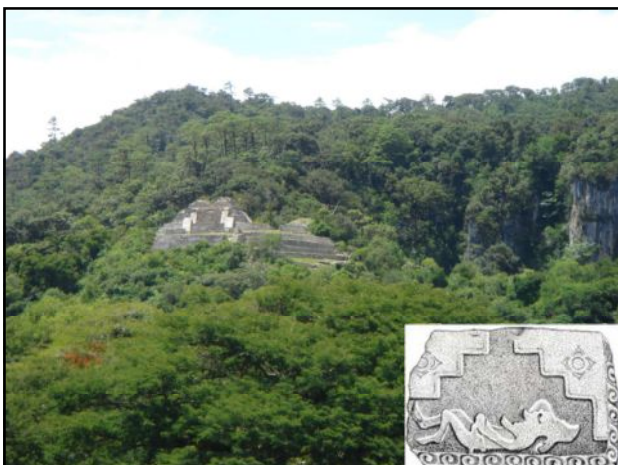
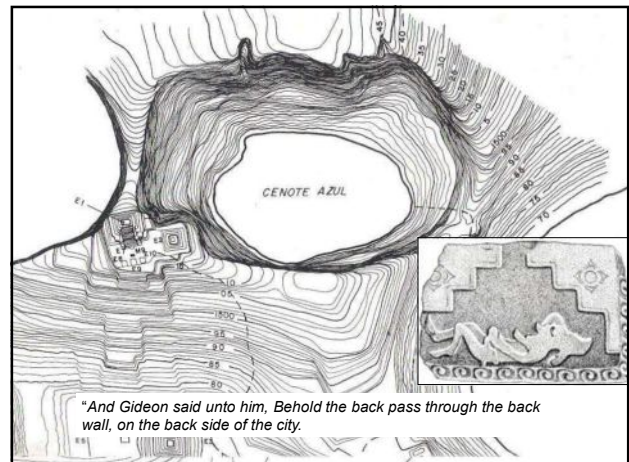
**EL LAGARTERO IS A NEW SITE
THAT CAME ONTO OUR RADAR
BECAUSE WE WERE LOOKING
FOR POTENTIAL LOCATIONS TO
FIT ALMA'S DESCRIPTION OF THE
WATERS OF MORMON. NOTHING
DOES MORE TO EITHER CONFIRM
OR DISPROVE A THEORY THAN
ACTUALLY VISITING THE SITE.**

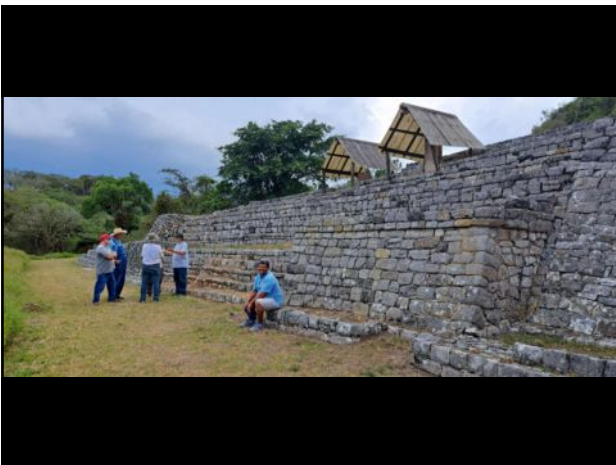
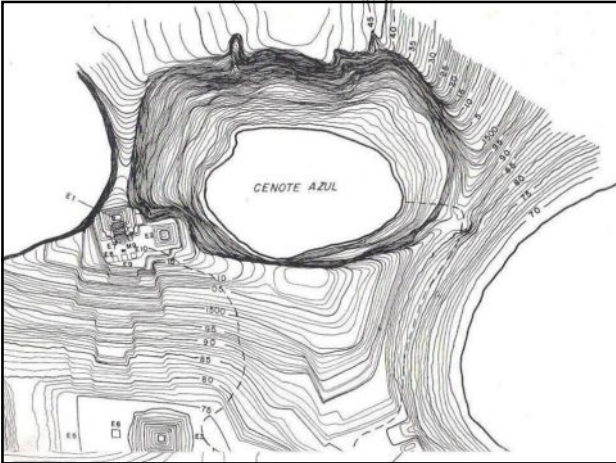




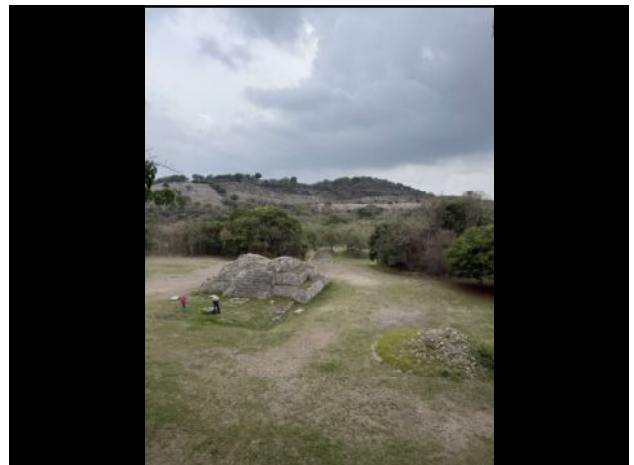
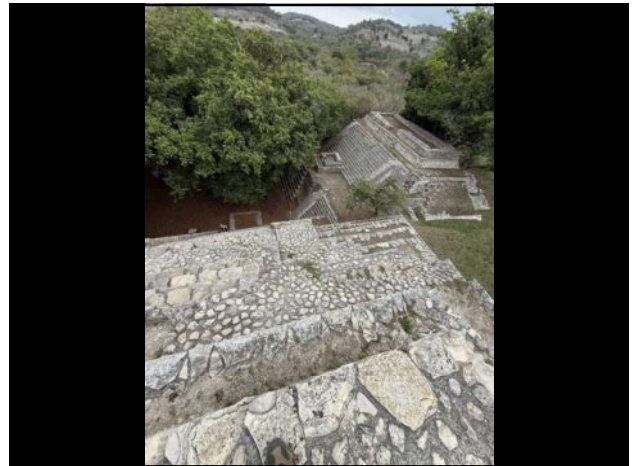
CHINKULTIC IS THE SITE THAT NEIL STEEDE LONG AGO IDENTIFIED AS THE CITY OF NEPHI. EVIDENCES HERE ARE ABUNDANT. THE PASS BEHIND THE TEMPLE ON THE BACK SIDE OF THE CITY; SEVERAL STELAE THAT REFERENCE BOOK OF MORMON STORIES; AND, CARVINGS THAT ARE SPECIFIC TO PASSAGES FOUND IN THE BOOK OF MORMON.

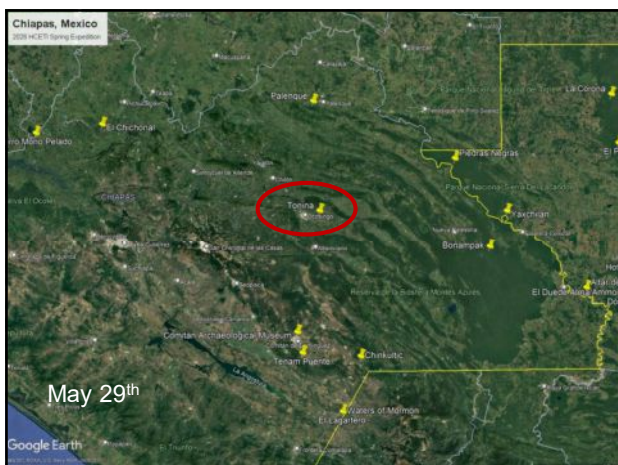
Mosiah 10:8 "And Gideon said unto him, **Behold the back pass through the back wall, on the back side of the city.** [9] The Lamanites, or the guards of the Lamanites, by night are drunken; therefore, let us send a proclamation among all this people that they gather together their flocks and herds, that they may drive them into the wilderness by night. [10] And I will go according to thy command and pay the last tribute of wine to the Lamanites, and they will be drunken; and we will pass through the secret pass on the left of their camp when they are drunken and asleep; [11] Thus we will depart with our women and our children, our flocks and our herds, into the wilderness; and we will travel around the land of Shilom."





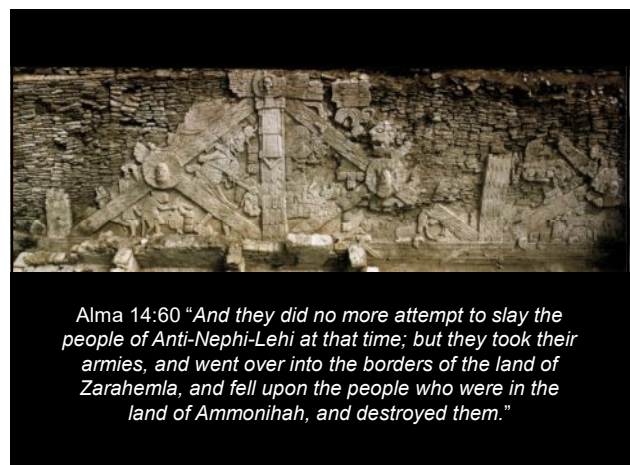
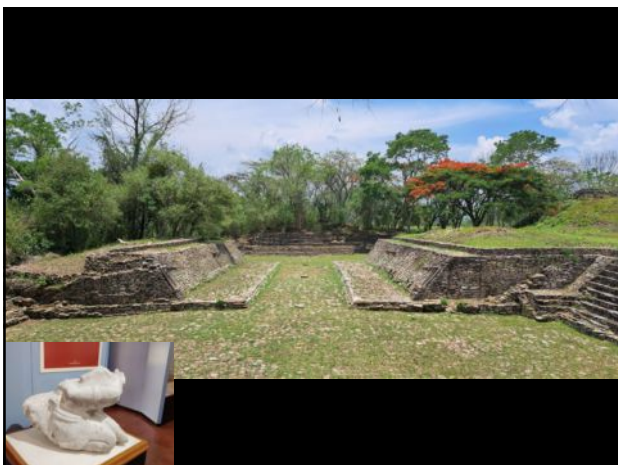
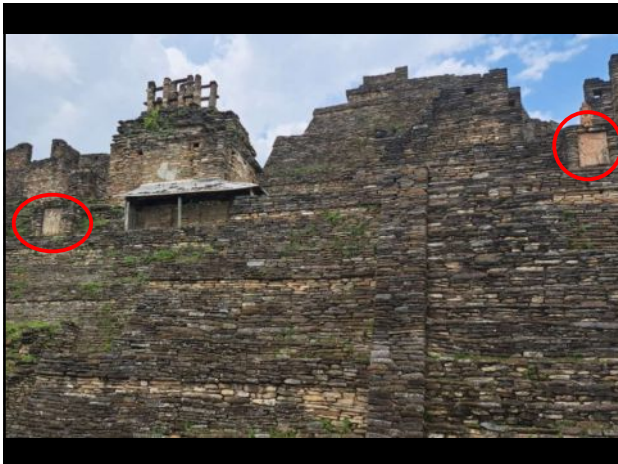
NEIL STEEDE HAD ORIGINALLY IDENTIFIED THE SITE OF TENAM PUENTE AS JERUSALEM WHERE AARON HAD MET WITH GOVERNMENTAL RESISTANCE AND WAS SENT OUT OF THE LAND BECAUSE THE PEOPLE OF JERUSALEM WERE PRACTICING AN AMALEKITE RELIGION.

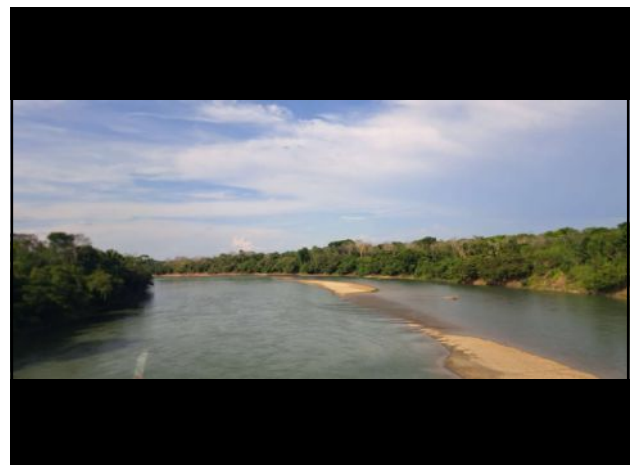
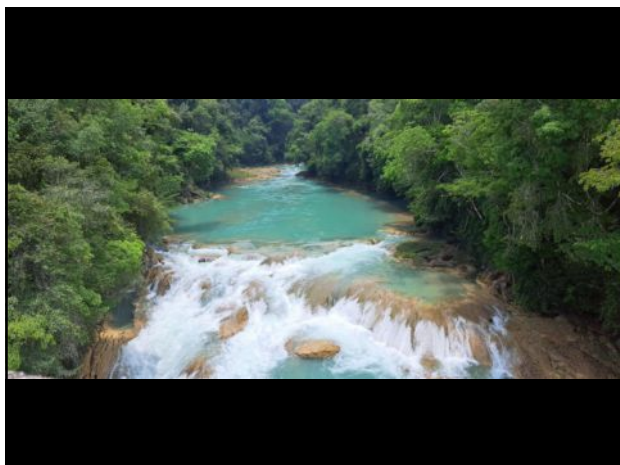
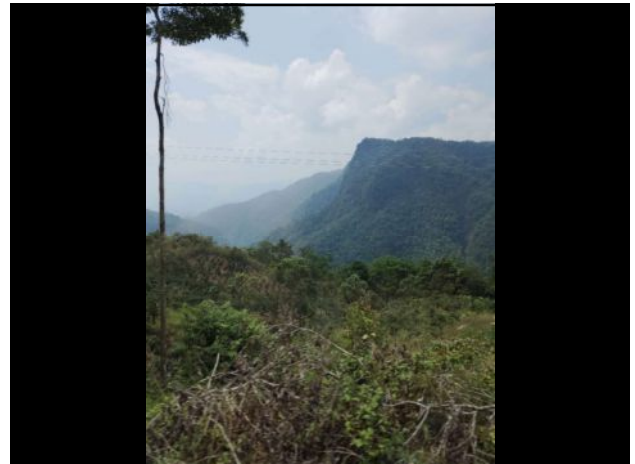
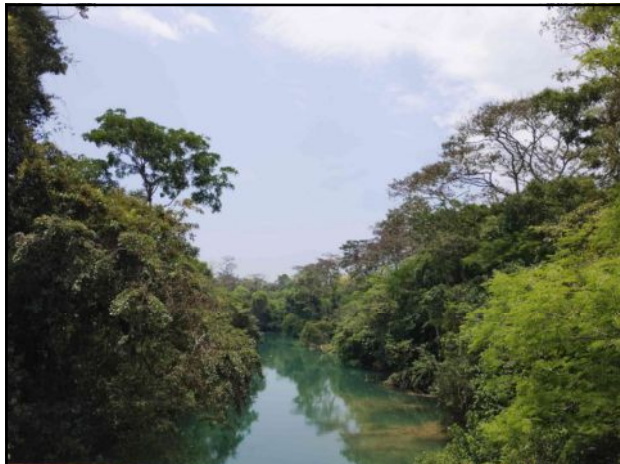


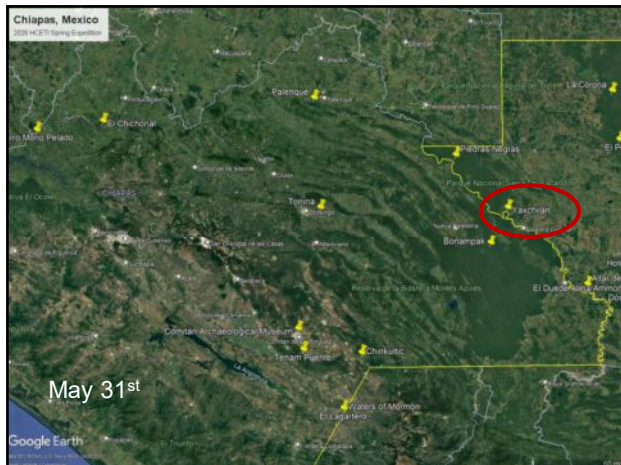


YEARS AGO, NEIL STEEDE DEFINITELY IDENTIFIED TONINA AS THE BOOK OF MORMON CITY OF AMMONIAH. TONINA HAS ALL OF THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF AMMONIAH FROM TWO VISITORS WHO ARE TAKEN CAPTIVE TO A BALL COURT WITH MARKERS THAT INDICATE THE REJECTION OF THE GOSPEL AND DESTRUCTION FROM AN INVADING ARMY.

THIS YEAR WHILE VISITING THE SITE, WE NOTED THAT THE MUSEUM HAD CARVED STONES OF THE TWO VISITORS WHO WERE HELD CAPTIVE, AND THAT THESE TWO STONES WERE ORIGINALLY FOUND ON A HIGH PLAZA NEAR THE TOP OF THE CENTRAL STRUCTURE.



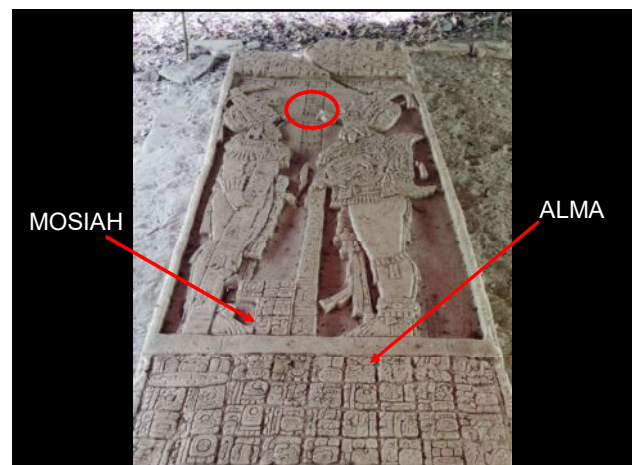


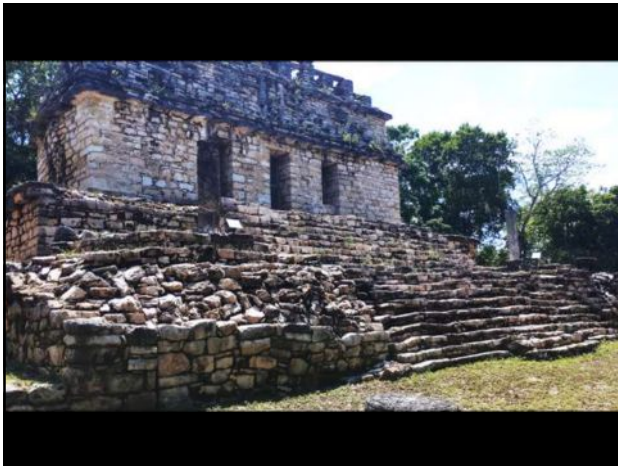


YAXCHILAN AS THE CITY OF ZARAHEMLA WAS THE FIRST FIRM DISCOVERY NEIL STEEDE MADE AND IT LED TO HIS MOSIAH/MAYA MATRIX WHERE HE CROSS-REFERENCED MULTIPLE YAXCHILAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVENTS OF THE MAYA KING SHIELD JAGUAR WITH THE HISTORICAL ASPECTS OF THE BOOK OF MORMON KING MOSIAH.

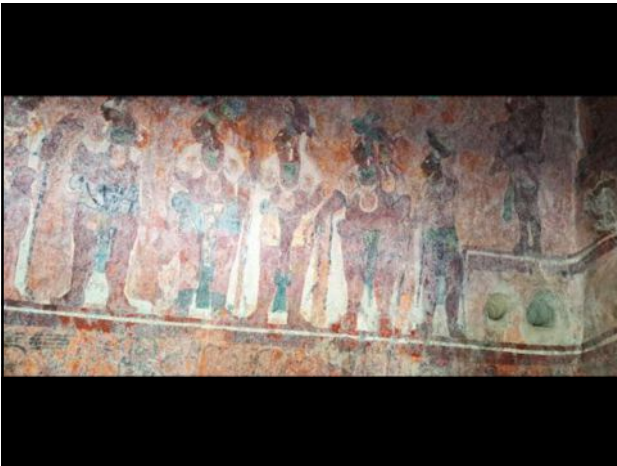


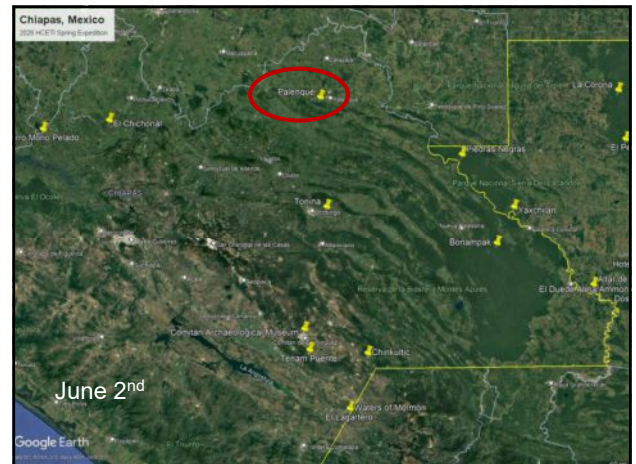
THE GRAND PLAZA LOCATED AT THE BASE OF THE SITE AND JUST ABOVE THE USUMACINTA RIVER, IS LITTERED WITH STELAE ABOUT THE TRANSFER OF POWER BETWEEN THOSE WHO HAVE CHARGE OVER THE SACRED RECORDS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE. MOST OF THESE ARE REFERRING TO MOSIAH II AND ALMA II CHANGING FROM KINGS TO JUDGES.





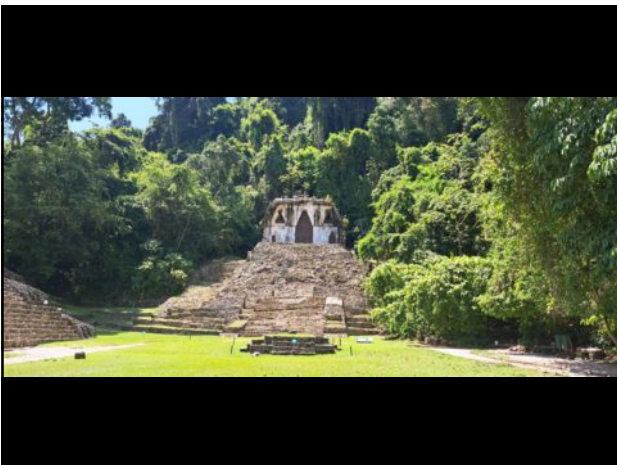
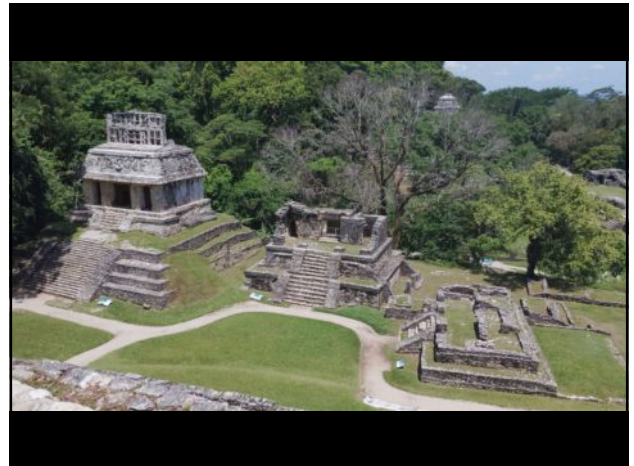
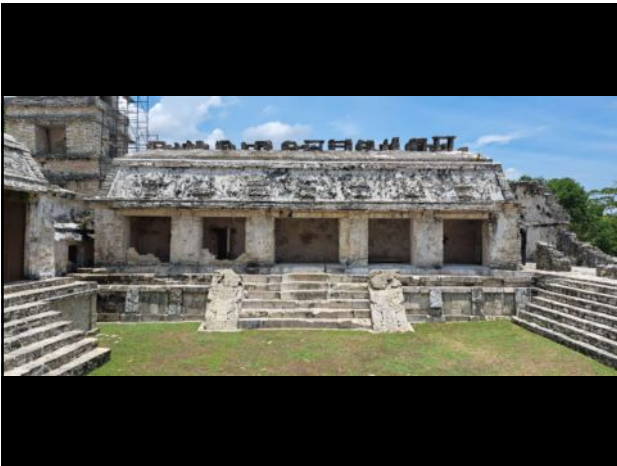
BONAMPAK IS A SITE THAT NEIL STEEDE IDENTIFIED AS THE CITY OF MELEK FOR TWO REASONS; FIRST, THE MURALS AT BONAMPAK IS THE CONVERTED LAMANITE STORY, AND SECOND, THE CITY IS GEOGRAPHICALLY CLOSE TO ZARAHEMLA SO THAT THE NEPHITES COULD BETTER PROTECT THE LAMANITE CONVERTS.





PALENQUE WAS ALSO ONE OF THE FIRST BOOK OF MORMON CITIES THAT NEIL STEEDE IDENTIFIED; IT IS THE CITY BOUNTIFUL WHERE CHRIST VISITED THE REMNANT NEPHITES. THE TESTIMONY OF CHRIST HERE IS OVERPOWERING: THE CROSS COMPLEX, TEMPLE XIX, TEMPLE OF THE INSCRIPTIONS, TEMPLE OF THE RED QUEEN, AND THE PALACE WITH ITS ICONIC TOWER.

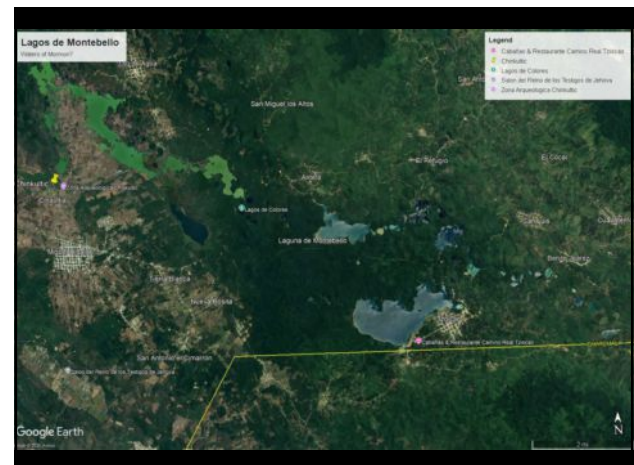
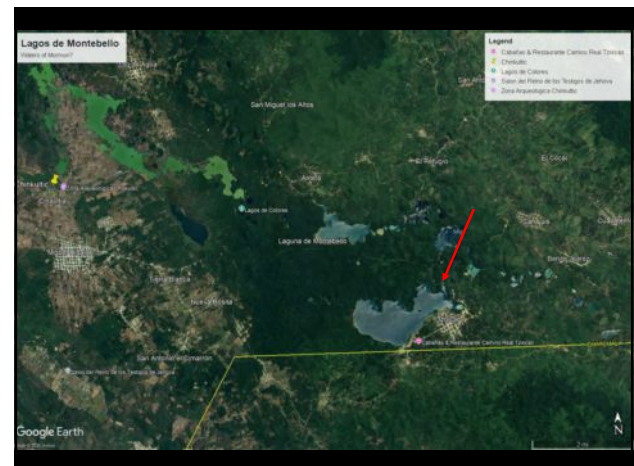


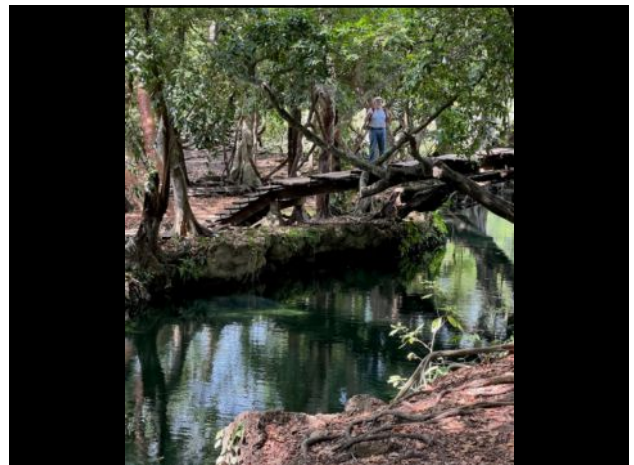
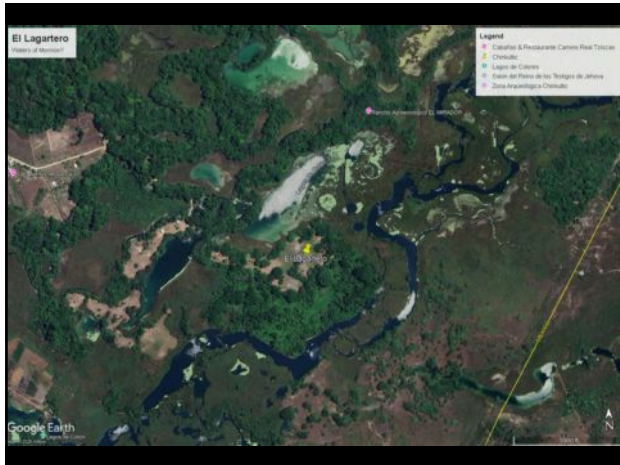


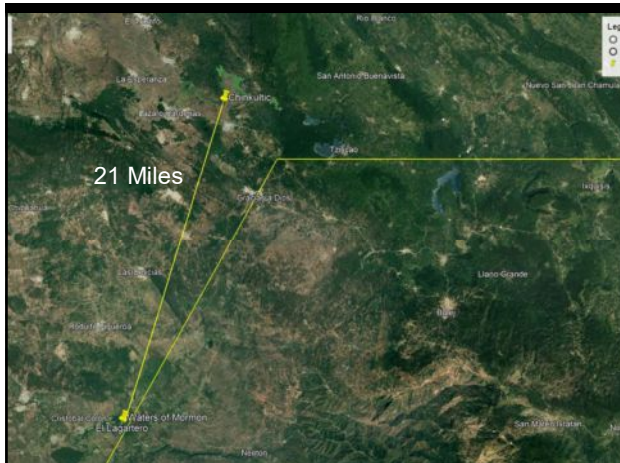
PALENQUE WAS THE LAST SITE WE VISITED WHILE IN MEXICO. JUNE 3RD WAS SPENT DRIVING BACK TO MEXICO CITY AND THEN WE FLEW BACK TO KANSAS CITY ON JUNE 4TH.

UNLIKE OUR EXPEDITION LAST FALL, WE WERE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH EVERYTHING WE SET OUT TO DO THIS TRIP. WE VISITED MANY SITES THAT NEIL HAD POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED AND WERE ABLE TO DISCOVER FURTHER DETAILS THAT SUPPORTED PREVIOUSLY MADE BOOK OF MORMON CITY IDENTIFICATIONS.

ONE OF MY PRIMARY GOALS FOR THIS TRIP WAS TO VISIT AREAS THAT WERE POTENTIAL LOCATIONS FOR THE WATERS OF MORMON DESCRIBED IN THE BOOK OF MORMON TEXTS. TWO LOCATIONS WERE IDENTIFIED AS HAVING STRONG POTENTIAL FOR BEING THE WATERS OF MORMON: LAGOS DE MONTEBELLO AND EL LAGARTERO.







Mosiah 9:32 “And it came to pass that as many as did believe him did go forth to a place which was called Mormon, having received its name from the king, being in the borders of the land having been infested by times, or at seasons, by wild beasts. [33] Now there was in Mormon a fountain of pure water, and Alma resorted thither, there being near the water a thicket of small trees, where he did hide himself in the daytime from the searches of the king. [34] And it came to pass that as many as believed him went thither to hear his words. [35] And it came to pass after many days, there were a goodly number gathered together to the place of Mormon to hear the words of Alma.”

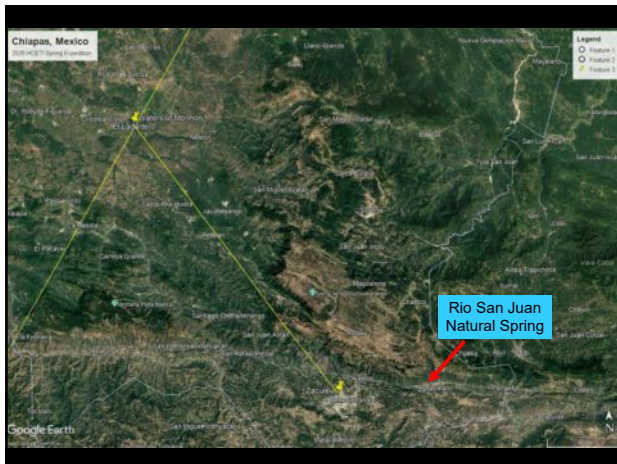
Mosiah 9:64 “And they did walk uprightly before God, imparting to one another, both temporally and spiritually, according to their needs and their wants. [65] And now, it came to pass that all this was done in Mormon, yea, by the waters of Mormon, in the forest that was near the waters of Mormon; [66] Yea, the place of Mormon, the waters of Mormon, the forest of Mormon—how beautiful are they to the eyes of them who there came to the knowledge of their Redeemer; [67] Yea, and how blessed are they, for they shall sing to his praise forever.”



Mosiah 9:69 “But behold, it came to pass that the king, having discovered a movement among the people, sent his servants to watch them. [70] Therefore, on the day that they were assembling themselves together to hear the word of the Lord, they were discovered unto the king. [71] And now, the king said that Alma was stirring up the people to rebellion against him; therefore, he sent his army to destroy them. [72] And it came to pass that Alma and the people of the Lord were apprised of the coming of the king's army; therefore, they took their tents and their families and departed into the wilderness. [73] And they were in number about four hundred and fifty souls.”



Mosiah 11:1 “Now Alma, having been warned of the Lord that the armies of King Noah would come upon them, and had made it known to his people, therefore, they gathered together their flocks, and took of their grain, and departed into the wilderness before the armies of King Noah. [2] And the Lord did strengthen them, that the people of King Noah could not overtake them to destroy them. [3] And they fled eight days' journey into the wilderness. [4] And they came to a land, yea, even a very beautiful and pleasant land, a land of pure water. [5] And they pitched their tents, and began to till the ground, and began to build buildings, etc.; yea, they were industrious and did labor exceedingly.”



THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT AT THIS POINT IN TIME, WE HAVE IDENTIFIED THE SITE OF EL LAGARTERO AS THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE WATERS OF MORMON. IT IS LOCATED IN THE BORDERS OF THE CITY OF NEPHI, FAR ENOUGH SOUTHWEST THAT IT MIGHT ALSO BE CALLED THE BORDERS OF THE LAND OF MORMON.

ADDITIONALLY, OF THE TWO POSSIBILITIES WE HAVE IDENTIFIED, EL LAGARTERO IS THE ONLY WATER SITE WITH SIGNIFICANT PYRAMID CONSTRUCTION TO SYMBOLIZE THE SPIRITUAL IMPORTANCE OF THE BOOK OF MORMON STORY, INCLUDING A LARGE BALL COURT WHICH SYMBOLIZES THAT SPIRITUAL BATTLES OCCURRED HERE.

OUR DISCUSSION WITH THE STAFF AT COMITAN CONFIRMED THAT THERE ARE NO KNOWN MAYA STELAE OR CONSTRUCTIONS AT LAGOS DE MONTEBELLO SITES. UNTIL FURTHER INFORMATION IS FOUND TO INDICATE OTHERWISE, THE INTIMATE SITE OF EL LAGARTERO WITH ITS SMALL POOLS AND WATERFALLS IS THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE WATERS OF MORMON.

