

Noh Mul and the City of Gid

By Joanie Glandon © 2018

On the Ground with the Hill Cumorah Expedition Team Noh Mul, Belize 2014

One of the research goals of the Hill Cumorah Expedition Team is to search for evidence supporting the connection between modern archaeological sites and Book of Mormon cities. We then look at the body of evidence to help substantiate or update the information on the Book of Mormon map developed by Neil Steede.

When we traveled to Belize in July of 2014, we were seeking modern identities and locations for the Book of Mormon cities captured by Amalickiah and eventually liberated by Captain Moroni (Alma 23:28-32). We were especially hoping to find evidence for the City of Gid.

The Book of Mormon identifies the City of Gid as the location where Lamanites were keeping Nephite prisoners (Alma 23:32). Captain Moroni sent spies to the Lamanites guarding the prisoners. The spies, who pretended to have escaped from the Nephites, had “strong” wine which they shared with the unsuspecting Lamanite guards.

That night, while the guards were in a drunken sleep, Captain Moroni sent

soldiers into the city, and they silently “cast in” weapons to the Nephite prisoners. The Lamanites awoke the next morning to find armed prisoners within the city walls and Captain Moroni’s soldiers surrounding the city on the outside. The Lamanites were quick to see the wisdom of surrendering. Captain Moroni liberated the Nephite prisoners and regained the City of Gid without bloodshed or loss of lives.

This account lists two physical structures which, if they still existed, could help identify the Book of Mormon City of Gid: a city wall and some type of prison area. Many Mayan sites have stone walls surrounding them so a wall could be an easy clue to find, and could provide helpful, but not conclusive, evidence. A prison structure would be more challenging to find and identify, but would provide stronger evidence for the location of the city.

Neil theorized that the modern site of Noh Mul was a strong possibility for the City of Gid. Noh Mul is the largest Maya site in Belize and existed during the correct time period to have been a Book of Mormon city during the time of Captain Moroni. It had been partly exca-

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Sharing Our Good News

By Neil Steede © 2018

In today’s world, we are constantly bombarded with information that attempts to separate humanity from its belief in the spiritual and metaphysical. The adversary is doing everything he can to convince us that our belief in the unseen is nothing more than superstitions left over from a time when we needed something to relieve our anxieties of what happens to us after we die. This article is a collection of experiences, small and seemingly insignificant, yet it conveys the importance of why we need to share our testimony of the Divine; even though reason can’t explain why at the moment.

The Stranger at Walgreens

Earlier this month, my poor wife, Trudy was ill. On this particular day we had several medical items and medicines to pick up at Walgreens. I had called a friend and asked her to take me to Walgreens where I could order the medicine and create the purchases. Outside of medicines that I already had on order, I

had to pick up a new one for Trudy that had been prescribed by her doctor the previous day.

I had given the prescription to the pharmacist and then proceeded to do some of my shopping. Among all of the “necessities” I included a half dozen of White Castle cheeseburgers. I then went to the pharmacy counter and sat in a chair to await the filling of Trudy’s prescription.

As I sat waiting a woman next to me noticed the cheeseburgers in my cart. She smiled and pointed saying, “Those look

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Noh Mul and the City of Gid *continued*

vated in the 1930s, and again in the 1980s, but had never been developed for tourists.

In 2013 the largest temple at Noh Mul was almost totally destroyed by road crews to provide gravel for road



This is an ancient pyramid structure being demolished by heavy equipment in order to clear land for modern farming.

construction, so as we started out to look for the site we didn't know if we would find anything that could help us.

We drove through the countryside and over gravel roads for what seemed like a long time—perhaps driving over the gravel remains of the Noh Mul temple. The road became rough and unmarked. We asked directions from a man riding a bicycle in the hot sun; he helped us, and we gave him a bottle of water in thanks. Finally, in the middle



The access road that winds thru the fields of sugar cane.



The "end of the road" as seen thru the front window of the van.

of a huge sugar cane field, the road ran through an area of jungle with tree-covered stone structures. We had found Noh Mul.

We parked in the jungle shade and began to explore the site. Mike Brown was driving, and he and several team members who were having issues with the heat remained near the van, so David Brown and I were the only ones climbing on the ruins.

A little distance from the road was a tall, steep ruin ("pyramid") that may have once been a temple or tower, but was now covered with soil and overgrown with trees and underbrush. A small path went toward the top, where I could see some bare stonework rising above the brush.

While I had been taking pictures David had already gone up the pyramid and was out of sight. I started crawling up the steep slope, using small patches of grass for footholds. The soil on the path was very light and powdery. When I was about two-thirds of the way up the pyramid the loose soil gave way, and I began to slide down the slope, going almost all the way to the base before I could stop myself.

I brushed off most of the dirt and began to crawl up the path again. I had gone a short distance when I saw one of my camera batteries slide past me, going down the slope. I checked my camera bag—the pocket containing all my spare batteries had come unzipped as I was sliding down—and all my batteries were gone!

I went back down to the spot where the battery had stopped. There in the dust, partially hidden in the leaves, I saw all my other camera batteries lying next to it. How amazing was that?! I truly knew that God had restored those batteries to me. Relieved and thankful, I cleaned them as much as possible (considering I was rather grimy, myself, by now) and repacked them in my camera case.

I looked at the top of the structure and wondered if the climb would really be worth the effort since all I would



Parking in the shade next to the pyramid.

probably see when I got to the top would be some bare stones and brush. At that point God spoke to my mind. "You have climbed every other pyramid on this trip. What if the most exciting discovery is at the top of this one?" I started to crawl up that path for the third time.

I soon realized that the little clumps of grasses I had used for footholds had been dislodged from the loose soil as I slid down the path. Now I had to reach into the vegetation beside the path to find handholds and footholds. This made the climbing somewhat more difficult, but my primary concern was what might be lurking unseen in the grasses. Even though I was wearing gloves, my arms were bare. I hoped that I was making enough noise to scare away any snakes, and I tried not to think about the huge spiders....

As I climbed I realized that the path ended below the bottom of the stonework, which then rose straight up about another five feet. I could not see steps or footholds. I knew I would not be able to pull myself straight up the side of those stones from where the path ended below them.

I couldn't see David, but when I called he heard me and answered. I told him I needed help getting to the top. He said that he been to the top and moved on to another area, but he would go back and help me. David pretty much hauled me up the last five feet, and I was finally on top of that pyramid!

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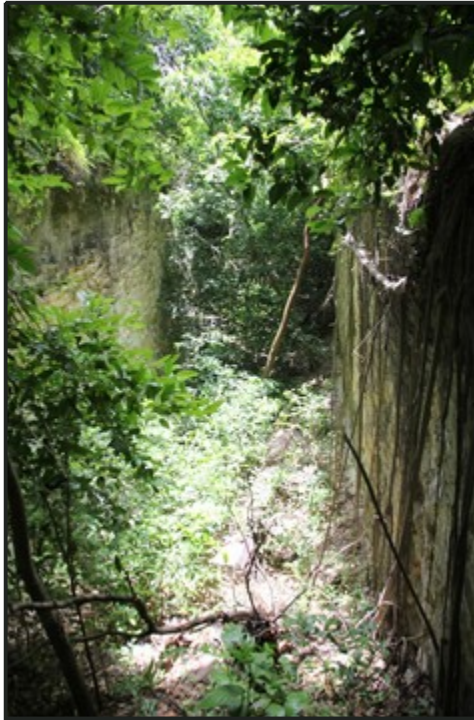
Noh Mul and the City of Gid *continued*

I stood up and looked around me. I saw jungle, more underbrush and what appeared to be the remnants of a stairway emerging from the dirt to connect with the top stonework. Nothing out of the ordinary...oh, well.

I began taking pictures, and then David asked, "Do you see something through those trees that looks like stone? Do you think it could be a wall? Do you think we should look at it?" Well, yes, probably we should.

We made a more or less controlled slide down a curving path on the back side of the pyramid, avoiding a deep drop-off (defensive feature?) on one side. Then we walked out onto a narrow strip of earth, like a walkway, that led away from the pyramid.

At our feet, running the entire length of the walkway (probably about twenty feet), was a stone pit. The walls looked to be twenty (or more) feet deep, and although we could see some pitting, erosion and staining on the stone surface, they were still very solid. Years of jun-



This pit lies at the base of a pyramid at Noh Mul in Belize. The straight walls and 20-foot depth are a perfect configuration for a prison. Further, the pit also gives a more accurate meaning to Alma's phrase of "casting-in" the weapons to the prisoners.

We walked along the mounded earth above the side wall and made our way down to the enclosure opening. David stood in the pit on top of the accumulated debris of leaves and soil. The walls above the debris level were still three times his height so we knew they were at least twenty feet high.

We had been out of sight of the van for a considerable time and could hear Mike blowing the horn at intervals in case we needed the sound to find our way back. We decided that rather than returning to the road the same way we had come, we would cut straight back through the jungle to see if we could find a city wall...which we did!

By the time we reached the van we were really stoked—we had found both of the physical clues for the City of Gid that are provided in the Book of Mormon account. Combined with the other information that Neil had used to develop his map we could make a justifiable assumption that this was the City of Gid and formulate a clearer picture of these events.



gle debris had collected in the enclosure, covering the bottom with several feet of leaves, soil, and branches. Thin trees had sprouted up and then fallen over when they could not find an anchor.

The sides of the pit were longer, possibly forty to sixty feet or more. The earth above the side wall farthest away from the pyramid was mounded up, making the distance from the floor of the pit to the top of the earth even higher than it was where we stood. There was no wall at the far end of the pit, and the ground sloped slightly down and away from the enclosure opening.

We stared in amazement, and then the realization began to dawn on us that this pit could have easily held prisoners. They would have had no chance of escape up the steep walls. What about the open end of the pit? David suggested that a barricade with guards could have prevented anyone from escaping. Guards...of course...if this was the prison in the City of Gid the guards could have been posted there.



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good.”

Smiling I said, “These are the favorite part of my medicine!”

She laughed and we begin talking. Within minutes I had told her that I was an archaeologist. She found this interesting and asked, “What had I been doing lately?”

I responded by telling her about the Great Heavenly Sign. I told her that it had happened the month after the Solar Eclipse in 2017. I described it to her and then told her that it came about just as it is described in the 12th Chapter of the Book of Revelations in the Bible.

At this point she leaned close to me and whispered, “Do you believe in God? Do you believe that Jesus is about to come again?”

I answered emphatically, “Yes!”

She said, “I believe in those things too. I don't know why, but I know Jesus is coming very soon. However, I am afraid of the apocalypse.”

I said, “Do not be afraid. There is nothing of which to be fearful.”

She said, “I am so glad that I met you, thank you!”

Trudy's Friend

On my birthday, October 20, 2018, my wife Trudy and my son all went to Denny's for breakfast. As we sat down, the table behind us said “hello” to Trudy. They had known her for many years. I did not know them. As most readers know, I am very cripple, very blind and very deaf. My back was turned toward them and I did not try to make any eye contact as it would be in irrelevant for me to do so.

After a while several of the group left but two elderly ladies stepped over to the table to speak again with Trudy. I asked them to sit down and join us which they did. The main woman of the conversation claimed that she had met me before and was aware of my work with the Book of Mormon. I then stated that I had many new things happening if she was interested. Her response was that she wanted to know more.

I was able to inform her about my four-day vision that I had while recuperating from my broken hip. And then I informed her of the Great Heavenly Sign that occurred on September 23, 2017. She was not aware of the signs and then I quoted several passages from the Book of Revelations Chapter 12

concerning the sign.

After all of the above, I then informed her about the new excavations that we will be doing at Jalapa de Diaz in Mexico. I told her of the arrangements that we were making and she expressed a desire to be kept informed about all of this stuff. We had now spoken for about an hour. As she got up to leave, she leaned over to me to quietly say the following:

“I want to thank you so much for having shared all of this with me. My husband died about 20 years ago and I have not had such a fulfilling talk about church items since he passed away. The church doesn't talk about them anymore. So, I want to thank you so much for all that you have said and how you have said it. Again, thank you!”

I said to her, “Quite the contrary, I must thank you for you have fulfilled my birthday very greatly by giving me an opportunity to share my testimony.”

Sergio's Appreciation

In the spring of 2018 several members of the Hill Cumorah Expedition Team accompanied me for a visit to Teotihuacan. My main plan on this trip was to provide Sergio some ESRS funding, and to inform him of several insights that I had concerning the Teotihuacan tunnel that he was excavating. David Brown and I sat with Sergio in the restaurant to fulfill these obligations in private. After having given the funds we begin to explain our comprehension of the Popol Vuh story that was being symbolically expressed in the tunnel. He agreed with our findings.

This transaction had only taken about 15 minutes and I then wanted to give him a quick synopsis of recent archaeological findings concerning the Book of Exodus. However, as I began to explain that I and three other archaeologists had actually found archaeological remains of Joseph with the Coat of Many Colors, Sergio interrupted me to ask, “Who is this Joseph with the coat of many colors?”

Thus, I spent another 20 minutes giving him a quick synopsis of the Book of Exodus. When I finished, Sergio touched my arm and said, “Thank you for explaining all of that to me, while here by ourselves and do not in front of all of your friends. I'm a Catholic and was raised in a Catholic

country. I would hate for your friends to believe that I have not known this Bible story. However, my family never taught me any of this. Moreover, I attended a Catholic school and they neither taught me any of this.”

I was well aware that all of our friends waiting outside in the patio had waited for about 40 to 45 minutes. I was aware that they would be somewhat exasperated. However, as we were walking outside to join our friends Sergio remarked that he had an archaeological friend who told him several days before that he had found an Egyptian statue from the Middle Kingdom of Egypt. That is the precise era about which we were speaking regarding the Joseph story in Egypt.

Sergio told us that he had not believed his friend and had told him so. So, then and there he called him by telephone and requested that he forward pictures of the statue. Indeed, it did look exactly like Middle Kingdom art.

This experience informed me of why I had shared the Exodus story with Sergio. By doing so, it was the perfect opportunity for Sergio to share information that I otherwise would have never heard. This was a great blessing.

Alejandro's Reconversion

I believe that it was in May of 2016 that David Brown and I had gone to Teotihuacan for a visit. We got a ride with Alejandro, Head Archaeologist of Teotihuacan in Mexico City. Alejandro had already expressed his discontentment with the Mormon religion. He had divorced his Mormon wife, and although he had gotten his doctoral degree from Brigham Young University, he stated that he no longer believed in that religion. So, I was aware that he was well-versed in “Mormon beliefs” concerning the Book of Mormon. Therefore, I inquired, “Have you forsaken your belief in the Book of Mormon?”

Alejandro answered, “Yes, I have.”

I then stated, “You know that I believe in this book, don't you?”

“Yes, I know,” he answered.

“Do you think I am a fool?”, I asked.

“No, I really don't. I haven't ever tried to explain why to myself.” said Alejandro, “The studies that you produced over the Pyramid of the Sun's

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Adventures In Scriptures

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ZEEZROM

Zeezrom's story is about redemption. He is saved from illness and turns an enemy into a friend.

It starts in the city of Ammonihah where Alma and Amulek were preaching.

Zeezrom was a lawyer who tried to turn the people against Alma and Amulek. He wanted Amulek to stop sharing his testimony of Christ. Zeezrom even offered him money to stop, but Amulek was not tempted, he loved God more than money.

The city of Ammonihah was in chaos because the Lamanites had come to destroy the city. After Alma and Amulek were thrown into prison, Zeezrom escaped the city and fled to the land of Sidom.

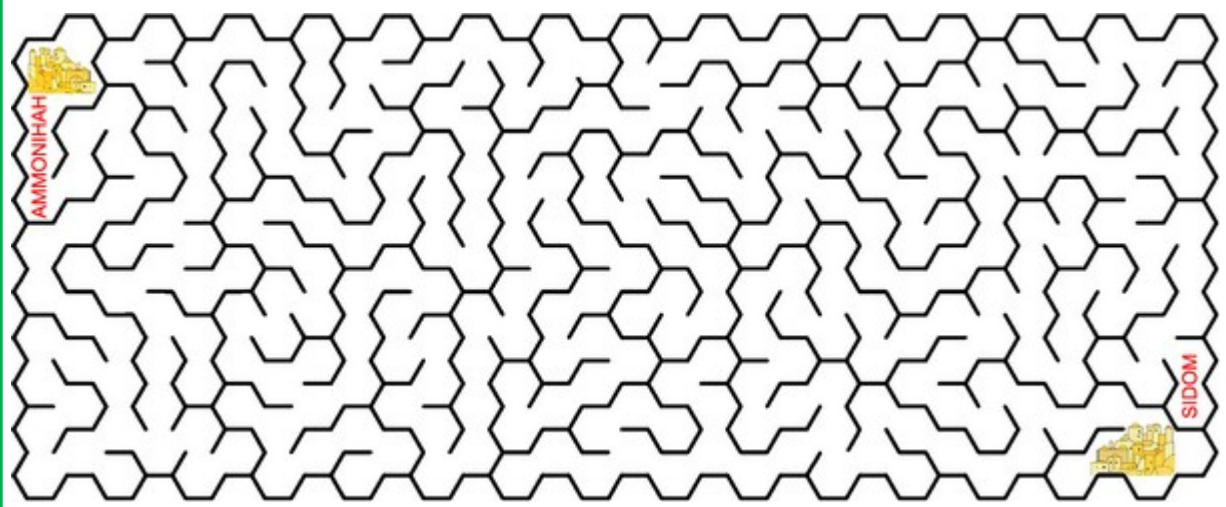
Zeezrom felt bad because he had tried to mislead the people of Ammonihah. Also he was sad because he thought Alma and Amulek had perished in prison. His guilty conscience made his health bad; he even had a fever. When he heard that Alma and Amulek had escaped and were now in Sidom, he sent for them, hoping they would forgive and heal him.

Alma came and took Zeezrom's hand. He asked if he believed in the power of Christ unto salvation. Zeezrom answered "Yes, I believe all the words that you have taught." Alma cried to the Lord for mercy and healing for Zeezrom. After Alma asked God for a healing, Zeezrom leaped upon his feet healed; and began to walk.

Alma then baptized Zeezrom. He became friends with Alma and Amulek and traveled with them preaching the gospel of Christ.

Alma 8:64-77 & 10:90-102

Help Alma and Amulek find their way from Ammonihah to Sidom.



R	Y	M	B	L	F	S	D	N	E	I	R	F	S
E	N	G	A	K	R	L	L	Q	B	H	M	P	A
D	M	Q	P	Z	O	K	E	L	U	M	A	Z	L
E	G	L	T	E	S	T	I	M	O	N	Y	I	V
M	R	L	I	E	V	I	G	R	O	F	M	N	A
P	M	S	Z	Z	J	E	S	U	S	N	S	S	T
T	I	P	E	R	G	I	V	E	S	F	E	V	I
I	D	Y	V	O	A	U	S	M	O	R	G	Y	O
O	E	S	D	M	P	E	A	C	E	N	M	J	N
N	T	D	L	R	Q	Z	Y	N	I	E	O	H	P
A	P	A	K	S	Z	I	L	L	N	E	S	S	Y
T	M	E	R	C	Y	N	A	E	V	S	M	R	T
Z	E	X	E	C	N	E	I	C	S	N	O	C	N
H	T	L	A	E	H	Z	M	N	R	E	V	E	F

Word search


ZEEZROM

- ALMA
- AMULEK
- BAPTIZE
- CONSCIENCE
- ENEMY
- FEVER
- FRIENDS
- FORGIVE
- HEALING
- HEALTH
- ILLNESS
- MERCY
- MONEY
- REDEMPTION
- SALVATION
- TEMPTED
- TESTIMONY
- ZEEZROM

All words in the Word Search can be found in the article

Find the hidden message in the word search puzzle and write it in the spaces provided below.

J Q Z R Y S X O K A H C M T L B N E V D G I W P U F



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Use the key above to read Psalms 30:2

8 15 8 4 20 13 5 21 8 20 ,

22 12 4 22 18 20 25 17 14 8

14 11 18 18 , 10 17 20 14 11 8 25

11 10 6 14 11 18 10 15 18 20 13 18 .

Sharing Our Good News *Continued*

tunnel were impeccable. Even Sergio has accepted all of your studies, while only griping about your Book of Mormon belief.”, said Alejandro.

“Well, you did read my article in the pre-Columbiana, which talked about the inscriptions on Colossal Head #1 from La Venta, didn't you?”, I inquired.

“Yes, I did,” he responded. “However, what would that article have to do with your religious beliefs?”, he asked.

“That translation has the whole Jaredite King list”, I responded.

Alejandro exclaimed, “There was no translation in that article. It was only a transliteration (letter by letter). You gave no text.”

“That is correct”, I admitted. “However, if you look at the transliteration closely you will see that the string of letters are actually the Jaredite King list. You see, in ancient languages no punctuation was used. Therefore, the names follow one another with no commas between them. Moreover, no vowels were used. So, what you see is the 42 consonants of the 16 names in a row. That is why it seems impossible to read.”

Alejandro, being the intellectual that he is only took a few moments to re-examine the text and I could see the “revelation” take hold. He looked at me and stated, “You have made me a believer again!”

The result of this incident is that Alejandro will be the archaeologist that I hire to excavate at Jalapa de Diaz.

It is critical that we relate all the good news we can. People are yearning to have their spirits lifted, and the testimony that we have of God working to fulfill His purposes in these latter-days is so important to share.

Upcoming Events *By David B. Brown*

The Hill Cumorah Expedition Team, Inc. is pleased to announce that it is working to support Neil Steede in his efforts to initiate an archaeological dig in Jalapa de Diaz, Mexico. Because of Mexican requirements for funding, and due to the religious ties that accompany HCETI, we will be providing funding for this dig directly to Early Sites Research Society (ESRS) who has a long history of archeological dig support beginning with its funding of the L'Anse aux Meadows dig in Newfoundland in the mid-1960s.

Neil Steede is the President of ESRS and will be accepting these funds that will be earmarked for the upcoming dig. Neil has already contacted, held multiple conversations and has verbally contracted Alejandro Sarabia to be the archaeologist in charge of the project. Alejandro spent the last fifteen years as the Head Archaeologist of Teotihuacan located just outside of Mexico City. Under the auspices of ESRS, Neil has performed several projects and provided reports for Alejandro, including a report on the stone chimes found in the tunnel beneath the Pyramid of the Sun and also a report on what the Pyramid of the Sun represents, it being an integral part of the Celestial Star Chart found at Teotihuacan.

The initial report that Neil has developed is requesting \$100,000.00 to initiate the project. This is the amount anticipated to cover the start up of the project through the first dig season. In February of 2019, Neil Steede and Da-



Trudy Steede, Neil Steede, David Brown and Alejandro Sarabia enjoying a meal during a visit to Teotihuacan in October 2017.

vid Brown will be meeting with Alejandro in Mexico City and traveling to the site in Jalapa de Diaz to assess the site, develop a scope of the project, assign a funding requirement and then initiate the permitting process.

All of this is very exciting news and we are looking forward to being able to provide you with exciting information in the coming year.

As part of the effort to raise corporate funds to move ahead with this project, we are selling inspirational calendars again this year. These will be available through Hill Cumorah team members and we hope to have these beginning the second week of November. We believe the cost will be \$10 per calendar again this year, but we will certainly

accept any donation that is provided since we have a lofty goal to meet with a specific project in mind.

These are exciting times and there will be more to share in the months to come as this project develops.



**We're on the web at
www.hceti.org**

The Hill Cumorah Expedition Team, Inc is a Missouri not-for-profit corporation dedicated to the study, research and dissemination of information as it pertains to the Book of Mormon. Our primary focus is to research and assemble archaeological and other related information to help establish the historical feasibility of the Book of Mormon.

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Noh Mul and the City of Gid *Continued*

Since the City of Gid had originally been a Nephite city, Captain Moroni was presumably familiar with it. If the layout was the same then as it is now, it would have been a very daring venture to take weapons to the prisoners, even with the Lamanite guards in a drugged sleep.

The city wall, the tall pyramid structure in front of the pit, the mounded earth on the side, and the deep drop-off close to the walkway were tight security features and would have made an emergency escape very difficult if Captain Moroni's men had been discovered. No wonder they maintained a "profound silence" during this covert operation (Alma 25:43).

My mental picture of this prison had been walls that went up, but these walls went down. This totally allowed for weapons to be "cast in" to the prisoners, as described in Alma 25:42. In my mind the most likely (easiest) place for that to



Joanie Glandon by the equipment-damaged pyramids of Noh Mul.

have occurred was right where David and I stood when we first looked into the pit. The veracity of the Book of Mormon account and the incredible courage and wisdom of Captain Moroni form a reality in my mind.

These discoveries do not "prove" the Book of Mormon; rather, they are like the pyramids we climb. Stone by

stone, insight by insight, they form a structure upon which we can stand and have a clearer, more expansive view of God's work among His people then and now.

As I have considered this experience God has spoken again to me: "Sometimes there is backsliding. You may have to retrieve things that have been lost. You may have to reach out of your comfort zone. You may have to ask for help. You may need to go back to help someone else. You may need to look more than once to find what you are seeking. You may find what you are seeking when you go back to help that other person. Your paradigm may have to change. You may not see Me, but I will answer if you call to Me for help."

Most of all, when the climb seems difficult I remember that God has promised there will be good things at the top.