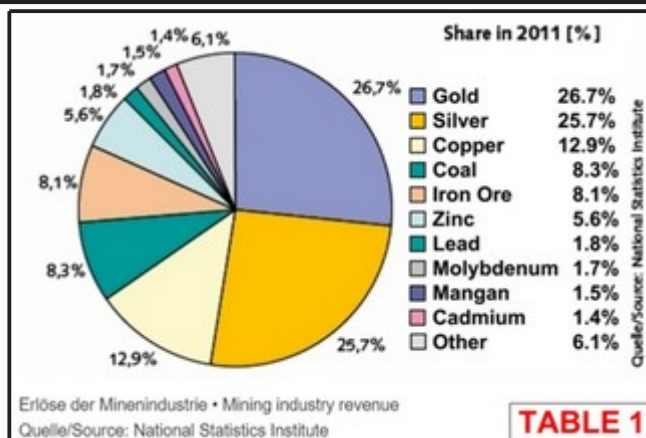


Book of Mormon Metals

By Terry Scott © 2019 (First of two parts)

Did the Olmec and Maya work with metal as the Book of Mormon states? To answer this question, several other questions must be answered. Did they have access to the metal ores mentioned in the Book of Mormon? If yes, did they bring the metals with them, did they trade for them or did they have access to local ore deposits? Lastly, is there any evidence in the form of artifacts that show they used metals.

I think we can rule out the idea that they brought any significant amount of metals with them. Their supply would have soon run out since precious metals are referred to throughout the Book of Mormon time line. I Nephi, II Nephi, Jacob, Jarom, Mosiah, Alma and Helaman all mention gold and silver. They could, however, have obtained



these metals through mining or trade. Only Ether talks about digging in the ground, so it appears they at least mined their ore or at least some of it. Let us see where the evidence takes us.

From II Nephi 4:21 [5:15 LDS] we read “*And I did teach my people to build buildings, and to work in all manner of wood, and of iron, and of copper, and of brass, and*

of steel, and of gold, and of silver, and of precious ores, which were in great abundance.” And from Ether 4:71[10:23 LDS] “*And they did work in all manner of ore, and they did make gold, and silver, and iron, and brass, and all manner of metals; and they did dig it out of the earth; wherefore, they did cast up mighty heaps of earth to get ore, of gold, and of silver, and of iron,*

Continued on Page 3

Everything is Changing

By Tim Brown © 2019

There is one particular hymn I love to sing. The opening words are “We are living, we are dwelling in a grand and awful time.” The second stanza says “Worlds are changing, old forms crumbling”. How prophetic this is for the day in which we live. Yet those words were penned in the late 1800’s. I’m sure they were as amazed at their changing world as are we. Their old forms of transportation and communication that had existed for thousands of years were giving way to the iron horse and the internal combustion engine. The telegraph, telephone and electricity were helping

people to communicate almost instantly. The birth of the industrial age, electrical power grid and mass production were all part of their changing world. How exciting it would have been to live with one foot in the past and one foot in a new and changing world. Even with all of those changes, they never could have imagined the world in which we live today.

I am overwhelmed to see how God is moving in so many areas and using whosoever He chooses. I want to focus on the archeology aspect of change. I’m no expert by any means, but even I can see God’s hand in the

things that are happening today. God is setting the stage for a grand incredible witness of Jesus as the risen Savior. Let me explain. We recently watched a movie called “Patterns of Evidence, Exodus”. Producer Timothy Mahoney goes on a quest to discover if there is any archeological evidence to validate the Exo-

Continued on Page 2

Inside this issue:	
Book of Mormon Metal Cont.	3 & 4
Everything is Changing Cont.	2
Cumorah Excavations	4
Adventures in Archaeology	5 & 6
Revelations From Archaeology	7 & 8

Everything is Changing *continued*

dus story as recorded in the Bible. Because the Bible places the location of the Hebrews at the City of Rameses, the experts assume that the dating for the City of Rameses must be the era when the events of Exodus took place. Because of where the “experts” place the time frame in which the incidents they say must have occurred, they can’t find any correlating evidence. Nothing fits. Because nothing fits the time when they were supposed to have happened, many Biblical scholars and theologians conclude that the Exodus account recorded in the Bible never happened. Many of the “experts” now believe the Bible is just stories without substance.

Mr. Mahoney continued asking questions. What he discovered was astounding. Beneath the City of Rameses is an older city named Avaris, which is believed to be about 400 years older than the City of Rameses. By moving the Exodus timeline back 400 years from where the experts placed it, Timothy Mahoney found a treasure of evidence. Everything fit perfectly. There was a mountain of evidence. The experts had made assumptions about where to place the timeline that were wrong. I highly recommend this movie. Now why talk about the Bible and the Exodus story? Because this is identical to what is happening in Mesoamerica.

The “experts” place the Maya Classical Period somewhere between 300 and 900 AD. It was around 900 they say the civilization fell apart for some unknown reason. They place a lot of weight on carbon dating. If you have a stable climate with no variables it would be a reliable measurement. However, Central America has anything but a stable climate. What about the many volcanoes in the area some of which could have contained “radioactive” materials? Radioactive volcanoes have been recorded in other parts of the world. That would totally skew any carbon dating analysis. Many well-seasoned Restoration scholars have said the Maya were too late to be the people spoken of in the Book of Mormon.

The Book of Mormon claims the destruction of their civilization took place around 386 AD. This places the end of the Golden Age (Classical period) described in the Book of Mormon at around 300 to 400 AD. The present-day cultural timeline places the Maya

too late to fit the Book of Mormon cultural timeline. But it is only the currently assigned Carbon-14 dating scale that is used for evidence to support the cultural placement on the timeline. There is no supporting archeological evidence in their time frame. Yet what we have found is if you move the needle back about 500 years, there is a mountain of evidence. Everything fits to a tee. The Book of Mormon stories are written and illustrated in stone. The cities and stone monuments are in the very places they should be as recorded in the Book of Mormon. The Lord inspired Timothy Mahoney to produce a movie to open the minds of the people to realize mistakes can and have been made even by the experts, especially in assigning dates. All archeological assumptions are built around the dating factor. We have seen with our own eyes the events recorded in the Book of Mormon

III Nephi 12:3 *“And when they shall have received this--which is expedient that they should have first to try their faith--and if it shall so be that they shall believe these things, then shall the greater things be made manifest unto them.”*

carved on stone stelae. They tell of important events that happened where the stelae are located. City after city, site after site, it is all there if you study the Book of Mormon and use it as a reference tool. We have found so much evidence; someone would have to be blind not to see how it all fits together.

There is one more thing that is a game changer; light detection and ranging (LiDAR) technology. In the National Geographic series “Lost Treasures of the Maya” they use this new technology called LiDAR. By flying a plane equipped with LiDAR over an archaeological area they are able to digitally map the landscape. Using software to remove the vegetation, it exposes what’s underneath the jungle canopy. At this time, they have only mapped a small area of northern Guatemala. What they have found is breathtaking. They have discovered previously unknown cities, defensive ramparts

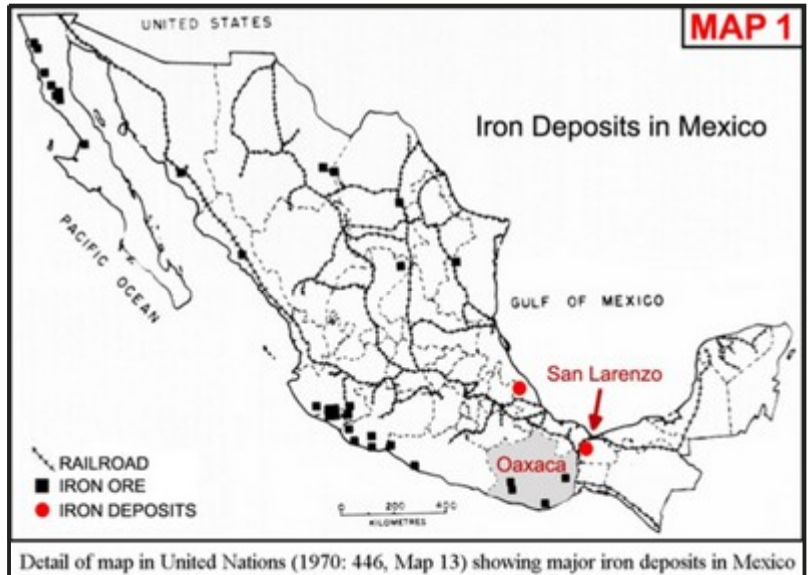
that run for miles, huge earthen fortifications, and multiple roads that interconnect with cities they never knew existed. The archeologists say they had no idea of the massive populations that were around known archeological sites, let alone the thousands of previously unknown structures scattered throughout the unexplored jungle. The scientists now say there was war on a massive scale. Previously they thought it was just small regional skirmishes as in city vs. city. They had no idea the whole civilization was involved in all-out conflict. All of this new knowledge has come forth in the last two years with just a small portion of the Mesoamerican jungle mapped by LiDAR.

Can you imagine what they would discover if the whole of Mesoamerica were mapped with this new technology? What would be revealed if *all* of southern Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Belize were mapped with LiDAR? The scientists claim this new technology is *changing everything* they previously thought they knew about the Maya civilization. God is moving to change the paradigm surrounding the Maya (Nephites, Lamantites). This is just the tip of the iceberg of what’s about to come forth. He is preparing the way to expose the truth of the Book of Mormon and the Messiah who walked among the Maya. It’s all about the testimony of Jesus, who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We know He walked the Americas, but soon the world will know. He taught the people and promised to one day return. With the internet encompassing the whole earth, we now have instant worldwide communication. The stage is now set for the people of the world to see. Who will be the individuals that will play the defining roles? Will it be HCETI? We don’t know the answer but we do know it will be the Lord’s choosing, not man. We just pray that we have done our part to put the pieces together to advance the knowledge to the world of who the Maya are and their testimony of the risen Savior. We know by prophecy contained in the Book of Mormon, that the records secured by Mormon in Hill Cumorah (southern Mexico) are a key to unlocking the mysteries of it all. The world will see. The world will know. But will the world believe? Hold on tight, it’s going to be an amazing journey.

SILVER **TABLE 2**

World Mine Production and Reserves:

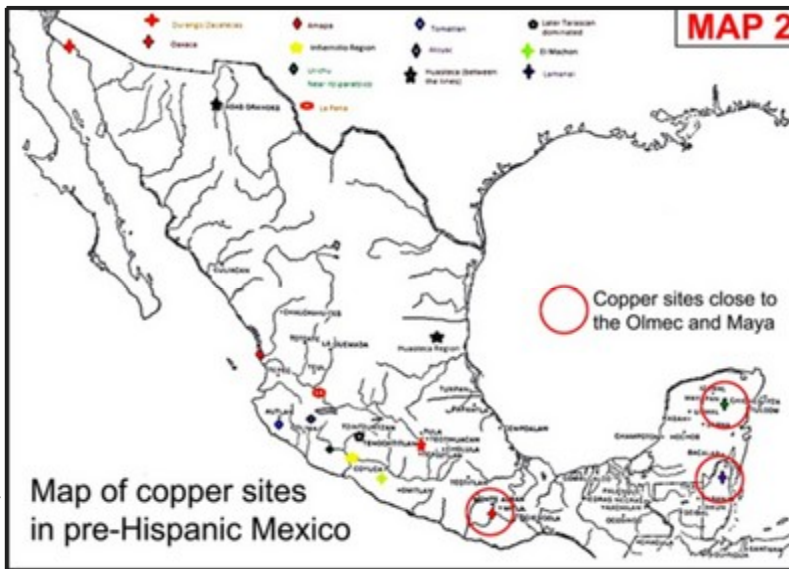
	Mine production		Reserves ^a
	2014	2015 ^b	
United States	1,180	1,100	25,000
Australia	1,720	1,700	85,000
Bolivia	1,340	1,300	22,000
Canada	493	500	7,000
Chile	1,570	1,600	77,000
China	4,060	4,100	43,000
Mexico	5,000	5,400	37,000
Peru	3,780	3,800	120,000
Poland	1,260	1,300	85,000
Russia	1,330	1,500	20,000
Other countries	5,040	5,000	50,000
World total (rounded)	26,800	27,300	570,000



and of copper. And they did work all manner of fine work.”

So, we are looking for evidences of gold, silver, copper, brass and iron and even steel. Gold, silver, copper, iron and even zinc are naturally occurring ores in Mexico and are mined today (Table 1¹). Table 2² shows that Mexico was the world’s top producer of silver in 2014 and 2015. Brass and steel are alloys, created metals from other ores. Brass is made by mixing copper and zinc. The higher the zinc content, the harder the brass. Ancient brass had 5-15% zinc, while modern brass has up to 50% zinc. Not mentioned in the Book of Mormon is bronze, a mixture of copper and 12% tin. Zinc is mined in Mexico (Table 1) but if there is any tin, it is not abundant, so of the two copper alloys, only brass was likely in ancient Mesoamerica.

Steel is an alloy of iron and carbon. It is only mentioned three times in the Book of Mormon at the new world, and only once it mentions smelting. From Ether 4:46 “he did molten out of the hill and made swords out of steel”. Iron ore removed from the ground contains many impurities, mostly carbon. Crude iron is just smelted



from the ground and contains too much carbon to become effective as steel. The trick to making steel is to remove most of the carbon by controlling the oxygen during smelting. Up to 2% carbon in iron makes for strong steel. Mexico is blessed with an abundance of metal ore resources.

“It was established that there are a plethora of massive iron-ore deposits both within and adjacent to the Maya subarea, although there is the probability that numerous micro-deposits, unacknowledged by modern geological surveys, lay scattered across the landscape.”³

Map 1⁴ shows iron ore deposits in Mexico. Note one of the iron ore deposits is at **San Lorenzo**, a site where a large number of iron artifacts were found.

“Non-local iron-titanium (ilmenite) minerals and iron-ore artifacts...were found in large quantities in underground pits in the A4-Ilmenite sector of San Lorenzo (Cyphers & Di Castro, 1996; Di Castro, 1997; Di Castro et al., 2008; Cyphers, 2012).”⁵

Continued on Page 4

Book of Mormon Metals *continued*

Ores of Huitzo, in the northern Etna valley of Oaxaca, and Motozintla-Mazapa de Madero in southeastern Chiapas are mineralogically similar to Olmec artifacts...The massive nature of the Huitzo outcrop made it suitable for mining the pieces from which to shape the many tons of Early Preclassic prismatic blocks, which were exported to the southern Gulf Coast region."⁶

Here is another source referencing iron ore in Oaxaca valley. This source also mentions ancient mines. *"The metal worked at San José Mogote was magnetite, a form of iron. It was extracted from one of the score of ancient iron mines in the Oaxaca valley. Four mines in the valley of Oaxaca have been identified as the source of ores used at that time."*⁷

In neighboring Guatemala iron ore is also present. *"Iron ore boulders in soil are found in neighboring department of Chiquimula, Guatemala and these are collected today for small-scale requirements. Thus the Maya were possibly utilizing material found closer to the Copan Valley for construction materials and pigments"*⁸

Map 2⁹ shows copper ore locations in Mexico. Note the circled areas on the map shows two copper ore sites in Mayan territory and one site in the state of Oaxaca, the same region that shows iron deposits where it is believed the Olmec mined their iron.

To get a feel for just how many metal ores are located in Mexico look at Map 3.¹⁰ Note the presence of Gold (Au) and Silver (Ag) ore in the southern Mayan regions and Iron (Fe) ore and Titanium (Ti) ore south of the Olmec region in Oaxaca.

As noted earlier, there appears to be a connection between the Olmec's possession of iron and the mining of iron ore in Oaxaca valley. And we can see that the locations of gold, silver, copper and iron ores are plentiful and near or within Olmec and Mayan regions. This is the end of part 1. In the next issue of the Cumorah Messenger, we will try and answer the question: Is there any evidence of the Olmec and/or Maya using the metals as the Book of Mormon states the Nephites and Jaredites describe?

Footnotes:

1 https://www.at-minerals.com/en/artikel/at_1568308.html

2 U.S. Geological Survey, Mineral Commodity Summaries, January 2016 p153

3 Blainey, Gordon, Surfaces and Beyond: The Political, Ideological, and Economic Significance of Ancient Maya Iron-Ore Mirrors, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario, 2007 p200

4 Ibid. p169

5 Alava-Valdivia, Luis M.; Cyphers, Ann; de la luz Rivas-Sánchez, Maria; Agarwal, Amar; Zurita-Noguera, Judith; Urrutia-Fucugauchi, Jaime, Mineralogical and magnetic characterization of Olmec ilmenite multiperforated artifacts and inferences on source provenance, Eur. J. Mineral. 2017, 29, 851–860 Published online 30 June 2017

6 Ibid.

7 Ferreira, Jane W., Shell and Iron Ore Exchange in Formative Mesoamerica, with Comments on Other Commodities, The Early American Village, ed. K.V. Flanner, Academic Press, New York, 1976, p317.

8 Goodall, Rosemary. (2007). Spectroscopic studies of Maya pigments. P10-11

9 <http://www.mexicolore.co.uk/aztecs/home/mesoamerican-copper-industry-of-connections>

10 https://www.atminerals.com/en/artikel/at_1568308.html

Cumorah Excavations By David B. Brown © 2019

In early February this year, Neil Steede, his wife Trudy and I traveled to Mexico to meet with archaeologists at Teotihuacan, and then traveled to the Hill Cumorah South location at Jalapa de Diaz. The purpose of the trip was to establish formal relationships with the landowners where the stela mound is located and to confirm that there is evidence to permit a dig at this location.

Our experience could not have been more affirming. From the moment that we took off from Kansas City, the timing of our trip and the connections made were in God's timing and on His schedule.

The connections made with the landowner at the stela mound were very cordial. The vision of what will be happening in the next year was shared and warmly welcomed. There was an air of mutual affinity between all parties as potentials were considered. The presence of God's Spirit was apparent as doors opened and pathways were created. The coming forth of Mormon's library is eminent with a strange and marvelous work about to commence to

be a catalyst for the latter-day harvest.

Affirmations are coming in all forms; science, politics, battles in spiritual realms, and through prophecies. One such prophecy is through a man named Mark Taylor who released this written word in late January of 2018:

The Spirit of God says, "There is a dig, an archaeological find that is coming in an underground vault, which will be so cataclysmic that it will ROCK the Christian world. The answer lies between Jerusalem and Vatican City"

This prophetic word is an affirmation that this library is about to come forth. While the "Jerusalem and Vatican City" aspect may seem that it is supposed to be somewhere in the Mediterranean, we submit that this is actually metaphorical of a timeframe when this library was buried; between Christ in Jerusalem and the establishment of Vatican City. Or, another interpretation is between the resurrection which started the worldwide Christian movement and the establishment of the Vatican which is when man formalized the church as an institution of man and the

spiritual church fell asleep. It is destined to awaken for the bridal feast. That day is upon us.

Neil, Gary Woods and I are returning to Jalapa de Diaz in early April of this year. We plan to be at the stela mound on the hill on April 6th of this year. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to move forward in setting this project in motion so that an archaeological dig can commence during the next twelve months to set a series of events in motion that are necessary to further God's purposes. He is about "to make bare His Holy arm." These records will reveal what God has done and continues to do on a global scale for the salvation of man.

Will you please pray for us and the fulfillment of God's purposes? We all play a part in this. A movement of unity is taking place, and our humble prayers and loving embrace for all of God's creation will assist in bringing His Kingdom into physical existence. The Kingdom of God is about to be made manifest on this Earth!! God bless, and endure to the end!

Adventures In Scriptures

Issue 25
2019

Alma and Amulek Build up the Church

Alma and Amulek went to *churches, synagogues, and temples* preaching *repentance* and the *love of God* to the people. They talked to anyone who would hear their *message* no matter who they were. There were others who joined them that were *chosen* for the *work of building up* the church.

The church was built up and organized throughout the land and was a place where people felt safe and loved by each other. There was no inequality among the people and God's *Spirit* poured out *blessings* upon them.

The message that Alma and Amulek shared was the coming of the Son of God. God loved the people so much that He wanted to send a *Savior* to minister to them and die for their sins so that they might have *eternal life*.

Alma and Amulek wanted the people to *prepare* their *hearts and minds* to receive the Lord's message when He came. In order to *prepare* their *hearts and minds*, they needed to remove the *obstacles* of sin from their lives. They were told not to lie, steal, murder or commit any sin that would keep them from being *pure*.

The people received the message of the coming of the *Son of God* with great *joy* and *gladness*. They repented of their sins and the Lord poured out great blessings upon them.

Alma 11:22-33

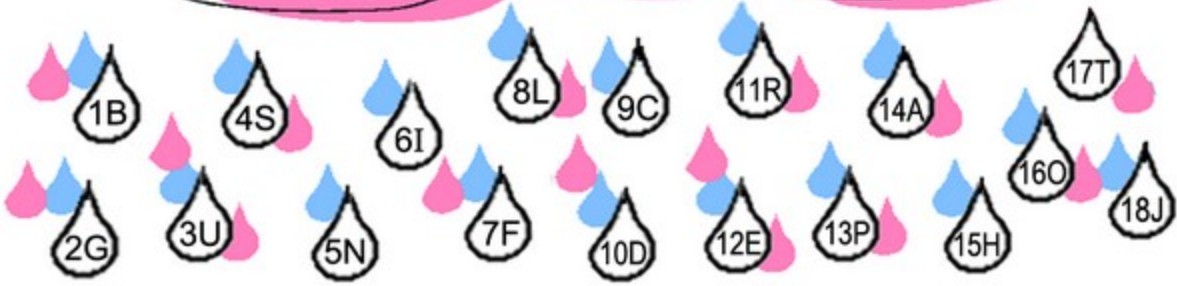
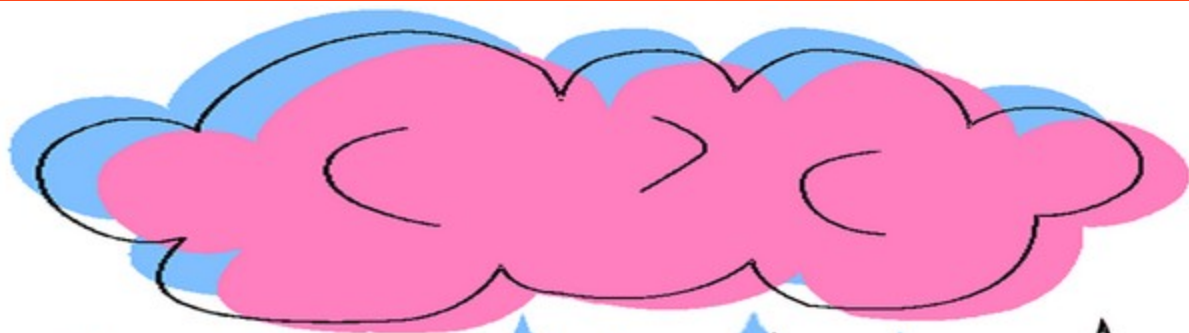
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Word search

Alma & Amulek
build up the church

- Blessings
- Building
- Chosen
- Churches
- Eternal
- Gladness
- Hearts
- Joy
- Love of God
- Message
- minds
- Prepare
- Pure
- Repentance
- Savior
- Son of God
- Spirit
- Synagogues
- Temples
- Work

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



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Prepare your _____ & _____

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Revelations From Archaeology By Mike Brown © 2019

I love to talk about our adventures in the jungles of Mexico and Guatemala. I have been traveling with the Hill Cumorah Expedition Team since its origin in 2001. We have been walking, climbing, studying, photographing and escaping potential problems for almost 20 years now. My favorite “Eureka” mo-



ment has now become a trip we made to Guatemala two years ago. The front of the 2018 Hill Cumorah calendar shows a photo of some team members in the middle of the Guatemala jungle, hot and wringing wet, beside a huge stela (standing inscribed stone). This stone is one of two that tell the story of Ammon’s request to Alma to allow the converted Lamanites to join the Nephites for their protection. It is beautifully carved and it is exactly where we would have expected to see it, in what we believe is the Land of Manti. We were hoping to see some kind of evidence that this was the Manti region, but we did not expect to have it on the “Front Page” so to speak.

This favorite event was preceded by a different favorite event that occurred in Chinkultic, Mexico twelve years ago. That trip was preceded by another and another and another. The first one that I remember was when Neil Steede and I had traveled to Mexico prior to our team trip to make arrangements and get approval for climbing the mountain that we believe is Hill Cumorah. During that visit, we met the person, Ignacio, that had first taken Neil to an ancient site on that mountain over 20 years before. This is the site that Neil had described in some testimonies and in a small booklet that we had prepared to tell about our group and some of the things that had occurred in

this area of Mexico. After a nice visit with Ignacio, he personally wanted to take Neil and I back to that site. We prepared and made the steep climb up the hill. In Neil’s description of the area around the site he spoke of a small stream that was immediately beside this site and it was an area where there was a small pool that had formed from the stream. At the time we were there in 2002, the jungle was pretty thick but I wanted climb through to see if I could find the stream and the small pool that formed near the side of the site (see photo on the page 8). I believed the story when it was told, but the feeling I had when I saw it was amazing. It’s like a warm rush of spiritual confirmation flooding over me. I received this same feeling at another high point for me twelve years ago at Chinkultic, Mexico when Neil, Terry Scott and I visited that site. Neil had described this particular site with a land bridge that was not visible from the front side of this pyramid site. The topography and the placement of the main pyramid is amazing. From the front of the pyramid, you cannot see that there is a land bridge across the ravine to the cliff face behind the pyramid. Neil had described this as a secret pass and when we got to the back side of the pyramid, it was like everything opened up behind the pyramid. There was this land bridge that disappeared into the cliff with very steep sides on both sides that go down about 75 meters. It was an amazing adventure with that warm rush passing through me.

The front of our 2019 calendar is a picture of me sitting down with my

back to the camera while David Brown is standing beside a huge stone stela explaining the Book of Mormon story that the stela is telling. In the past, it would have been Neil, looking, then seeing, and then expressing what the stone is saying. On the one hand, it is difficult to believe that all, or at least



most, of the stelas would be telling stories or lessons from the Book of Mormon. But on the other hand, this was the importance that the Nephites placed upon the coming Christ and the Christ when he visited them and the Christ they chose to follow and honor when He departed. At the time of Christ and for many years after Christ, there were no “ites.” They were all one, in unity, as Christians; followers of Christ. The whole “land” knew Christ and who He was. It is my testimony that the Book of Mormon events took place in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and Belize. They wrote their stories in stone and even in the layout of the main plazas and ballcourts. They left a trail, bread crumbs, that could be followed and anyone that might need



Looking across the City of Nephi “secret pass” where the people of Limhi escaped the Lamanites and ventured to Zarahemla. This is located behind the highest pyramid at Chinkultic in the state of Chiapas, Mexico.

some evidence to bolster their faith, could examine what they wrote and what they did. As Moroni tried to express over and over in his writing, he wanted to be sure that we “get it”, that we understand that it is in and through the blood of Christ and our repentance that salvation comes. The Nephites were just as emphatic as Moroni. They said it over and over again. The other thing that has been unbelievably exciting is that many of the “reason” for events that are not explained in the Book of Mormon (remember that only “an hundredth part” is written) are

**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.

HILL CUMORAH EXPEDITION TEAM, INC

Searching for Truth

c/o David B. Brown
311 N Lee Street
Buckner, Mo 64016

Phone: 816-651-6974
E-mail: dbb92558@yahoo.com

Contributors and Editors

David Brown
Mike Brown
Tim Brown
Terry Scott

Children's Page by Terry and Chris Scott

Revelations From Archaeology *Continued*

fleshed out in the archaeology. We stand there with our jaws dropped open and think, stammer and then say, "Oh my goodness, that is why that happened!" The revelations of discovering what the Book of Mormon doesn't tell us is stunning. So much begins to come to life with each new discovery.

In my case, I know that the Book of Mormon story is true and that it took place almost exclusively in Latin America. However, in our research, as parts of the archaeology and the Book of Mormon story combined, we believe that it is primarily the Ammonites that depart to the land northward. These were the converted Lamanites that traveled to inhabit the land northward that is the United States today. The majority would have departed around 50 BC or just prior to Christ's visit. They knew that Christ would come, die and resurrect, and it is through His sacrifice that they are saved. The Ammonites came from the highlands of Guatemala so they were Lamanites. They were mostly



The spring located next to the stela mound at Hill Cumorah South.

"mound builders", dwellings made primarily of earth with less emphasis on stone. That is why we don't find stone pyramids in the United States; look as you might, they didn't build their cities using stone and cement. They built structures using earthen mounds and wood. So, when Joseph Smith Jr. tells his Elders to go and minister to the Lamanites, it is exactly correct. The Native Americans in Canada and the United States of America are primarily Ammonites who buried their weapons of war and covenanted a sacred bond of peace. So, these Native Americans are Book of Mormon people, but this land is not where the geography of the Book of Mormon took place—that is in Central America.

We haven't even begun to scratch the surface. There is so much more yet to be revealed. We need lots of help and sincerely invite all who are interested to join in the fun; be a part of the HCETI family. We are absolutely open to any and all.