



# K'inich Yax K'uk' Mo'; Amalickiah

By Kevin T. Brown

The story of Amalickiah is interesting, but it becomes fascinating when you consider the archaeology of this Book of Mormon villain. The story begins in the second chapter of Alma with a group within the Nephite culture who were led by the lower judges of the land which I believe to be the forerunners to the Kingsmen. The leader was a large and strong man named Amalickiah. Amalickiah wants to be king, and the other Kingsmen want the same fortune for him. Amalickiah is very cunning and flattering, and succeeds in leading many Nephites away from the church. Seeing the political move to restore the kingship begin to take root, Moroni tears off his shirt and makes the

title of liberty, rallying the Nephites into a covenant that they will not forsake the Lord their God.



A frieze of K'inich Yax Kuk Mo, also known as the "Great Sun First Quetzal Macaw."

Recognizing that Amalickiah's movement is out numbered, Amalickiah takes those who want to follow him into the land of Nephi. Moroni catches up with him, but Amalickiah and a few others run into the wilderness and escape. Amalickiah then goes to the Lamanites and stirs them to unite with the Amalickiahites against the Nephites. The king of the Lamanites sends a proclamation throughout his land, ordering war against the Nephites. The majority is afraid of the Nephites and refuse to fight. This angers the king, and he decides to give Amalickiah command over the parts of his army that were obedient, thus moving Amalickiah one step closer to the power and rank he desires.

## Developing Your Talents

By Tim Brown

All of us at some point have experienced events that have changed the direction of our lives. Most of us don't think about them in that way. For one reason or another we start a new job, or become interested in a new subject, or find ourselves doing things we never imagined we would be doing. Everyday we have the opportunity to begin anew and to set a new course for our lives simply by choosing to do so. But, there are those life altering events that have an unexpected effect and we are never the same because of them.

There have been two such events in my life. The

first came at an annual family reunion during the fall of 1984. A four-year old boy about the same age as my youngest son drowned in the swimming pool. We had designated times for the pool to be open. When not in use the gate was locked so we wouldn't have to worry about the little ones wandering into the pool area unattended. The pool had been closed for several hours when someone yelled that there was a boy in the pool. After climbing a six foot chain-link fence, I was the first one to reach the pool and found the boy in the bottom of the deep end. I brought him up and CPR

was administered by family members, but to no avail. Even though first aid was given by others, I personally had never been trained, and with four young children, I vowed never to be in a position where I didn't know what to do. From that point on I determined to seek training in emer-

**Inside this issue:**

Developing Your Talent <i>Cont.</i>	2
Amalickiah <i>Cont.</i>	3 & 4
Adventures in Archaeology	5 & 6
A Personal Testimony	7
Invitation to Assist	8

## Developing Your Talents continued

gency medicine.

It just so happened, our local fire dept. was offering an EMT (emergency medical technician) course that next January. I signed up, passed the class and joined one of the volunteer ambulance crews. They convinced me to take the state firefighter course, and eventually I became a full-time firefighter. Our fire department is both fire and EMS (ambulance). While most of the guys like running into burning buildings I never found it very appealing. They like the macho stuff, but my heart has always been with those who need medical attention. There is no greater reward than seeing the difference you have made in someone's life.

The training I took years ago continues to pay dividends I never could have imagined. Because of that training family members call me when they are in need. Because of that training a snake-bitten girl was delivered into our hands two years ago and started in motion a series of events in Mexico that opened doors for ministry that never could have been opened any other way. Because of that training we have been invited into homes in Mexico to help alleviate infirmities and have been able to testify of our Lord and Savior. I am intimately aware that it is not about me, but God is using the training I took for purposes yet unknown. My career has been extremely fulfilling, but not one I would have chosen had it not been for the ex-

*Tim Brown attends to the health needs of a family in Jalapa de Diaz.*



perience of that tragedy in 1984.

The second life-changing experience was a trip I took to Mexico with our adult Sunday school class in 2001. That event changed my spiritual life forever, and set me on a course of scripture study, discovery, and spiritual growth that would not have taken place otherwise. I had not prepared for the trip and couldn't afford it, but went anyway. They needed another driver and I could help if there was a

*"The training I took years ago continues to pay dividends I never could have imagined. Because of that training a snake-bitten girl was delivered into our hands two years ago and started in motion a series of events in Mexico that opened doors for ministry that never could have been opened any other way. Because of that training we have been invited into homes in Mexico to help alleviate infirmities and have been able to testify of our Lord and Savior."*

medical emergency in the group. Neil Steede was to be our tour guide. Before the trip Neil and I were casual acquaintances at best. After the first day, it was as if we had known each other all of our lives. We hit it off and there would be a huge hole in my life without him. Early in the trip several members of the group decided to make a quick day hike to Cumorah and pick up the records (God willing of course) and go back to the hotel. There were five of us that performed this recognizance of hill Cerro Rabon (Cumorah) by hiking up and down the skirt. While we were ill prepared for our journey we survived the trek (barely) and decided to return the following spring. Four of the five have returned to the hill every year since.

We have shared our dreams and experiences with others. We developed a web site so we could share our discoveries and testimonies. Some have rejoiced. Some have returned with us to continue to gather more information. Some have given financially so we can expand our research. Many have found new hope and excitement about what the future holds with the prospect of Mormon's almost forgotten library coming forth.

That one day hike in 2001 has turned into years of study and sacrifice. That one day hike has brought untold joy to many

hearts and souls. That one day hike is the reason Hill Cumorah Expedition Team, Inc. is in existence. We could not have imagined the blessings that would be the result of that one day hike, yet I am convinced God has used it as a tool to help prepare the world for the eventual "discovery" of those ancient records. I have gained an appreciation and love for my Lord that has grown as I have become aware of his great plan unfolding before us.

I cannot imagine my life without the Book of Mormon. I know that may sound silly, but once I truly understood what the Lord has done to preserve this precious record for our day; it became clear this is not just another book. I have loved the Book of Mormon from the first time I read it. It is so pure, so plain and contains a promise that no other book dares. From Moroni 10:4,5 "And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; And if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost; and by the power of the Holy Ghost, ye may know the truth of all things." Only God can give you this testimony and once you receive it, no one can take it away.

This has been a truly wondrous journey with Christ that has left me questioning, "Why me?" Why have I been so blessed to associate and travel in such good company? What else is out there in the great unknown that we have yet to do? The future is yet to be written. What will be written of this generation? Will it be a sad commentary of what might have been, or will it speak of those who were willing to give their all and not hold back?

I am thankful for both of these events in my life. I have found greater purpose and fulfillment than I ever thought possible. My cup runneth over! It helps me look for the positive, even in tragedy, for those events can and do change our future for the better if we let them. We can look for the spiritual opportunities the Lord sets before us and know that the world will be changed if we invest our lives to His cause.

## Amalickiah continued

Amalickiah is sent to compel the dissenting Lamanites to war. He travels to Onidah where many Lamanites fled. The rebel Lamanites feel so strongly about not fighting the Nephites that they have appointed a king to rule over them to oppose the King of the Lamanites. These rebels prepare themselves to fight the army of Amalickiah by gathering at the top of Mount Antipas. Amalickiah convinced the rebel King Lehonti to come down with his army and surround Amalickiah's soldiers, thus delivering up his own men to Lehonti and stepping down to second in command over the entire army. He did this with the Lamanite tradition in mind: if the chief leader dies, then the second in command takes charge. Now being second in command over both armies, Amalickiah ordered one of his servants to slowly poison King Lehonti until he died.

Having successfully used intrigue to gain command over all the army, Amalickiah marches to the Lamanite capital, the land of Nephi, the city of Nephi. The king sees Amalickiah and assumes that this great army is to support the king in his fight against the Nephites, and comes out to meet him. But Amalickiah sends his servants. The servants customarily bow before the king and in response the king put forth his hand to raise them. As the first servant rose, he stabbed the king in the heart, in so much that the king fell and died. Then Amalickiah's servants yelled, blaming the king's own servants for the murder. The king's servants ran for their lives until they reached the land of Zarahemla. The Queen of the Lamanites asked for an explanation of what had happened to the king. Amalickiah and his servants all lied to cover the plot and she believed him. Then Amalickiah took the queen as his wife, and through his cunning, lying, and killing, he achieved his goal of becoming King over all the Lamanites.

His next mission became a massive campaign against the Nephites as he desired to take their land and the land northward. After many, many battles, Amalickiah and the Lamanite army had advanced along the coastline of the east sea and they were camped on the borders of the land Bountiful. After a long, hot hard day of battle, a deep sleep fell upon both

camp and Teancum, Moroni's leader of the Nephite army, snuck into Amalickiah's tent and put a javelin through his heart. The Book of Mormon reports that the death of Amalickiah was immediate. The day broke and the Lamanite army realized that Amalickiah had been slain and Teancum was ready to fight. The Lamanite army was scared. They abandoned their current position, and retreated to the city of Mulek. Since Amalickiah was now dead, his brother Ammoron was appointed king.

It is necessary to tell this story in order to compare it to the archaeology that has been researched and find areas where parallels can be found. The following is a theory; while it can not be proven; there is good, if not great evi-

*"Yax-K'uk-Mo' was a great warrior and very charismatic. He was a very large, strong man. We know that he brought writing to Copan, as well as the ball game. He also had great influence over all the lower Mayan lands...it has been determined through isotopic analysis of Yax-K'uk-Mo's teeth and bones that he was born in the Maya lowlands...such as Tikal or Calakmul."*

dence to support it. This is the story of Amalickiah through the eyes of archeologists.

Yax-K'uk-Mo', or Green Quetzal Macaw, is a perplexing person to archaeologists. What they know of him is expanding every day, shedding more and more light on who he was and where he came from. I will tell you what we know of him so far. He was a young lieutenant in Mexican general Sayaj Kak's army; an army that had conquered Tikal forty-nine years earlier. We know that Teotihuacán had great influence at Tikal during this time and that Yax-K'uk-Mo' was at Tikal prior to becoming king. We understand that Yax-K'uk-Mo' was inaugurated on September 5th, 426, and after being crowned king it took Yax-K'uk-Mo' one hundred fifty-two days to arrive at Copan. We have found that on the same day he was crowned, "Tok Casper" was also inaugurated and given ruling power over the city of Quirigua. This Tok Casper was under the direct supervision of

Yax-K'uk-Mo' and the relationship between the ruling houses of Quirigua and Copan can be described as that of vassal to master. While we know that Yax-K'uk-Mo' was not from Copan, it is believed that he married well, thus becoming king.

Yax-K'uk-Mo' was a great warrior and very charismatic. He was a very large, strong man. We know that he brought writing to Copan, as well as the ball game. He also had great influence over all the lower Mayan lands. The origin of Yax-K'uk-Mo's birth is very vague in the glyphs carved on stone alters. We know that his glyphs continually legitimized his kingship by saying that he came from the north. What has always been a mystery, until recent years, is where he came from, where he was inaugurated, and how he became king.

After a 15 year study, it has been determined through isotopic analysis of Yax-K'uk-Mo's teeth and bones that he was born in the Maya lowlands. More specifically, his origin is of one of the central Maya city states, such as Tikal or Calakmul. This is interesting considering it had previously been thought that he had come from Teotihuacán. There seems to be a great influence of Teotihuacán art and building during his reign, and he is portrayed in several places as having characteristics typical of Teotihuacán.

Archaeological evidence and x-rays suggest that Yax-K'uk-Mo' died at an advanced age and sustained numerous injuries. Some have said that he lived to his eighties. According to archaeologist Jane E. Buikstra (2003), this great leader and founder of the Copan dynasty survived a remarkable amount of blunt force trauma, including a fracture to the right forearm, typical of being hit with a night stick. The break had not been reduced, so that the radius had healed with significant shortening. The bone never healed all the way, causing a nonunion. In short, his injuries are those of defensive nature, and his arm was practically useless. The inferior third of the sternum was thinned to the left, an apparent result of blunt force trauma to the lower chest, which in healing became distorted. He had blunt force trauma to his left shoulder, causing the scapula to separate from the remainder of the bone. This wound never healed, and

## Amalickiah Continued

arthritic change at the shoulder was profound. He had a small fracture of the skull, and the first cervical vertebra in the backbone was polishing on the first thoracic vertebra, so that one bone was grooving the other. Yax-K'uk-Mo' would have had limited movement in his neck, held himself very rigidly, and he probably limped on his right foot. Yet despite all these injuries, he lived a long time by anyone's standards.

The dynasty that Yax-K'uk-Mo' created at Copan ruled for four hundred years with his son taking over kingship when he passed. It is interesting to note that throughout that time, Quirigua was still subservient to Copan. That remained true until the 13th ruler of Copan, 18 Rabbit, was captured and beheaded by the ruler of Quirigua, who was supposedly his cousin. The ruler of Quirigua then started erecting stela in an attempt to prove his legitimacy to be king as coming from the north. Archaeologists have always thought that this again was referring to Teotihuacán. Based on limited translation, that is what we know historically. Now, let's address how Yax-K'uk-Mo' is connected to the Book of Mormon:

We know that Yax-K'uk-Mo' was from Tikal or Calakmul. Let's suppose that he is from Calakmul. We suspect that Calakmul was a Mulekite/Nephite city and we also suspect that Amalickiah was partially a descendant of Zoram and Laman, or a Kingsmen, which would provide a good fit between Yax-K'uk-Mo' and Amalickiah. We also know that King Benjamin married a lady from Calakmul, so there is reason to believe that Calakmul was still a Nephite city at that time. Tikal was taken over by Lamanites years before Amalickiah fled from Calakmul into the wilderness; it is reasonable to assume that he ran to Tikal. This presents another possible connection since we know that Yax-K'uk-Mo' was at Tikal early in his military career. Also, Yax-K'uk-Mo' and Amalickiah were in the army, another commonality. How Yax-K'uk-Mo' becomes king is still uncertain, but that is not surprising considering the secrecy involved when killing a king.

Other similarities include marrying well, becoming kings, and the descriptions of them as large, strong, extremely charismatic men. It is interesting that

Yax-K'uk-Mo' kept trying to legitimize his throne as having come from the north. It is my speculation that he was saying that he was a Zoramite/Mulekite descendant as well as a descendent of Laman therefore he was of royal blood. It also fits wonderfully that Yax-K'uk-Mo'

*It is interesting that Yax-K'uk-Mo' kept trying to legitimize his throne as having come from the north. It is my speculation that he was saying that he was a Zoramite/Mulekite descendant as well as a descendent of Laman therefore he was of royal blood.*

brought the ball game and writing to Copan. Being after the time of Mosiah, Amalickiah would have been familiar with both. Finally, the injuries of Yax-K'uk-Mo' provide a strong connection to Amalickiah, particularly the sternum pushed to the left along with some broken ribs.

Now, when reviewing this objectively, we must recognize the inconsistencies that don't fit. First of all, the time frame is off by 500 years. However, what is interesting is that the time line is off by exactly 500 years. If Yax-K'uk-Mo' was inaugurated in 426 and we subtract 500 years, that puts us at 74 B.C., which now fits perfectly. Another major discrepancy is that Amalickiah was killed, yet we know that Yax-K'uk-Mo' lived a long life even after severe injury based on how his body tried to heal itself. After giving this much thought and prayer, I have formulated a possible answer to the whole story:

Amalickiah runs into the wilderness, reaching Tikal. He joins the army, has the king killed, and marries the queen. He then has many wars with the Nephites, until a stalemate is reached. While Amalickiah is sleeping, Teancum and a servant sneak into his tent and Teancum quickly shoves a javelin into what he assumes to be his heart. He would most likely have to guess, since it was in the middle of the night and dark, and he had to do it quickly in an attempt to not draw attention. Then they quickly run back to their own camp. They assume that Ama-

lickiah is dead when they hear his brother Ammoron has been put in charge of the army. But what if, in his haste, Teancum actually misses the heart, only fracturing the sternum and some ribs? He may have seen a lot of blood and assumed that Amalickiah was dead, because how can anyone survive this? Yet maybe he did survive, though so wounded that they sent him back to Copan to recover while he put his most trusted person, his brother, in charge during his rehabilitation.

This theory is highly possible given that Copan was about the furthest Lamanite city south. To the Nephites, he was dead. When Ammoron was killed by Teancum, his son was given command of the nearest city to Copan, Quirigua. This is further supported by the fact that we know the two rulers were installed on the same day, and that the one at Copan was the leader. Also, it fits that Ammoron is Tok Casper because generations later, 18 Rabbit is killed by the person considered to be his cousin, who is a direct descendant of Tok Casper. I presume that Yax-K'uk-Mo' was inaugurated at Kaminaljuyu, since that was the location of the original Lamanite king.

So, to sum it up, I believe that Yax-K'uk-Mo' is Amalickiah and Tok Casper is Ammoron. Amalickiah survived his attack by Teancum to live a long and painful life and his lineage reigned for four hundred years.

### References

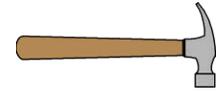
- Buikstra, J. E., Price, T. D., Wright, L. E., & Burton, J. A. (2003). Chapter 10. In *Understanding Early Classic Copan*, edited by E. E. Bell, M. A. Canuto, R. J. Sharer. Philadelphia: University Museum Publications.
- Schele, L. & Freidel, D. (1990). *A Forest of Kings: The Untold Story of the Ancient Maya*. New York: William Morrow and Company, Inc.
- Skidmore, J. (2003). *Copan's Founder*. Retrieved March 10, 2004, from [http://www.mesoweb.com/features/findings/founder\\_text.html](http://www.mesoweb.com/features/findings/founder_text.html).

# Adventures In Scriptures

Issue 2



## Nephi Builds a Boat [1 Nephi 5:62-174]



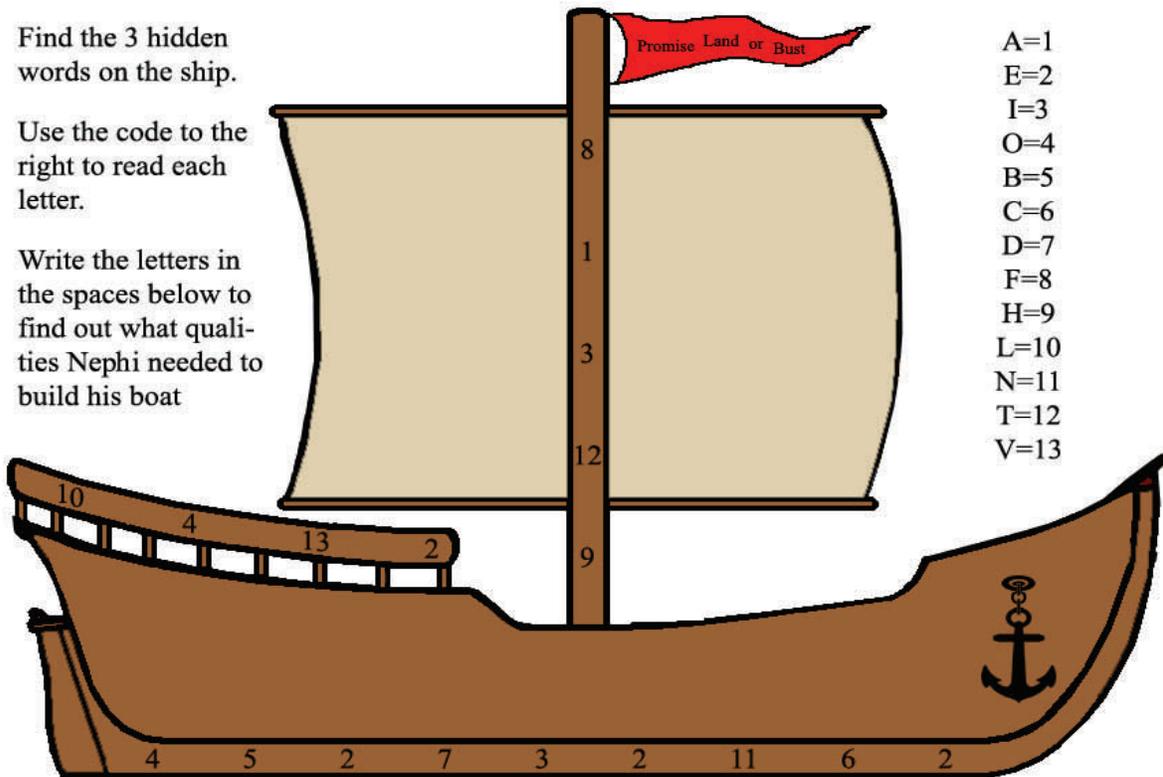
Nephi, son of Lehi, was a man of great faith and prayed to God often. He tried hard to understand God’s direction for his life. The Lord spoke to Nephi and said “Blessed art thou Nephi, because of thy faith, for thou hast sought me diligently, with lowliness of heart.”

Nephi and his family were on a very difficult journey through the wilderness for eight years. When they looked to God for help, God blessed them. They came to a place they called Bountiful, beside the sea. The Lord spoke to Nephi and told him to build a ship to carry them to the promised land. When Nephi began to build the ship, his older brothers, Laman and Lemuel complained and laughed at him. Nephi did not give in to their peer pressure because he had faith in God. He reminded Laman and Lemuel of God’s many blessings on their journey. Laman and Lemuel repented of their anger, because they sensed God’s power in Nephi. They helped Nephi, through God’s direction, to build a ship.

Find the 3 hidden words on the ship.

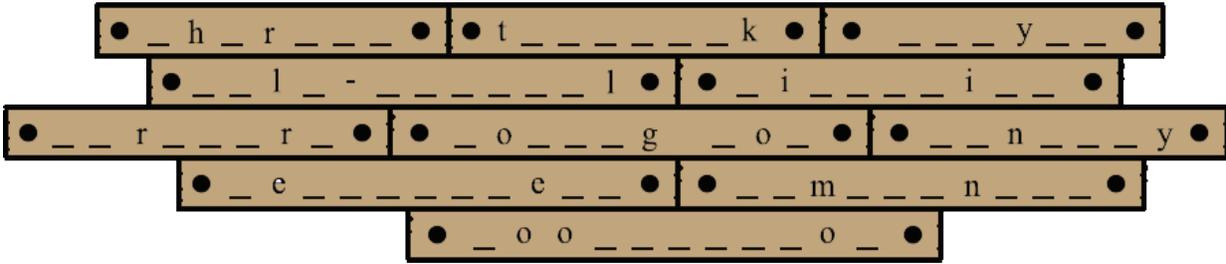
Use the code to the right to read each letter.

Write the letters in the spaces below to find out what qualities Nephi needed to build his boat



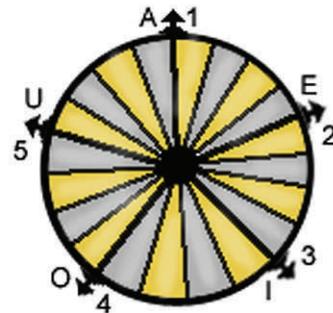
- A=1
- E=2
- I=3
- O=4
- B=5
- C=6
- D=7
- F=8
- H=9
- L=10
- N=11
- T=12
- V=13

Choose the best behaviors listed below to help build Zion. Fill in the ship planks with these words.



- |             |           |              |         |          |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|---------|----------|
| cooperation | hardwork  | loving God   | prayer  | humble   |
| teamwork    | listening | self control | anger   | honesty  |
| helpfulness | laziness  | selfishness  | sharing | jealousy |

Use the Liahona on the right to help you replace the numbers with the correct letters so you can understand the scripture below.



I Nephi 5:59

<sup>1</sup>nd <sup>3</sup>f <sup>3</sup>t <sup>4</sup>s <sup>2</sup>b <sup>1</sup>th<sup>1</sup>t <sup>2</sup>th<sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup>ch<sup>3</sup>ldr<sup>2</sup>n <sup>4</sup>f  
<sup>2</sup>m<sup>2</sup>n <sup>2</sup>k<sup>2</sup> <sup>2</sup>p <sup>2</sup>th<sup>2</sup> <sup>4</sup>c<sup>4</sup>mm<sup>1</sup>ndm<sup>2</sup>nts <sup>4</sup>f <sup>4</sup>G<sup>4</sup>d,  
<sup>2</sup>h<sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup>w<sup>3</sup>ll <sup>4</sup>n<sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup>r<sup>3</sup>sh <sup>1</sup>nd <sup>2</sup>str<sup>2</sup>ngth<sup>2</sup>n <sup>2</sup>th<sup>2</sup>m <sup>1</sup>nd  
<sup>4</sup>pr<sup>4</sup>v<sup>3</sup>d<sup>2</sup> <sup>2</sup>m<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>ns <sup>2</sup>wh<sup>2</sup>r<sup>2</sup>by <sup>2</sup>th<sup>2</sup>y <sup>1</sup>c<sup>1</sup>n <sup>1</sup>cc<sup>4</sup>mpl<sup>3</sup>sh  
<sup>2</sup>th<sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup>th<sup>3</sup>ng <sup>3</sup>wh<sup>3</sup>ch <sup>2</sup>h<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>h<sup>1</sup>s <sup>4</sup>c<sup>4</sup>mm<sup>1</sup>nd<sup>2</sup>d <sup>2</sup>th<sup>2</sup>m.

News Letter (our site)—<http://www.hillcumorahexpeditionteam.com/index.html>

NOTE: The sites listed below are sponsored by the Mormon church. They are worth visiting, and are listed here as additional resources.

Games — [http://www.eprimary.dk/ccc\\_puzzles.html](http://www.eprimary.dk/ccc_puzzles.html)

Comics — <http://mormoncomics.com/index.php>

# In Search of a Destiny; A Personal Testimony By Randall Lawrence

Thanks to a referral late last year from an online acquaintance, I encountered the Hill Cumorah Expedition Team ([hillcumorahexpeditionteam.com](http://hillcumorahexpeditionteam.com); now also [HCETI.org](http://HCETI.org)) and their testimonies regarding their trips to Mexico. This was how my testimony regarding the group was going to begin...I later realized that I needed to go back in my life much further.

As a Junior High camper I lived in Ohio, but I went to camp at Temple Grove in western Pennsylvania, and it was at camp that I became enthralled with a story told by a man named Steve out of the Pittsburgh, PA area. He gave the story of a man who had found the actual Hill Cumorah in Mexico and also found the place or cave where the plates were kept. He caught the attention of this camper with the account of how the man was not allowed to enter. "IT'S NOT YET TIME," he was told.

Growing up in the church I often encountered questions about Joseph Smith, Jr., the "golden plates", and the origin of the Book of Mormon. It was more aggressive coming from those outside the church, but sometimes I encountered questions from doubters within the church regarding the accounts of our history and the story of Joseph Smith, Jr. In spite of the doubters, something inside compelled me to cling to this story I had heard at church camp. Just as the resurrection and empty tomb accounts of the New Testament are keys to the Christian faith, I believed that the seeking and coming forth of further records are keys to the Restoration faith, the story of Joseph Smith, Jr. and the translation of the Book of Mormon. It is a promise given to the Restoration faith.

In my early twenties I attended my first World Conference in 1996. I am the sixth generation in the church, but this was my first visit to Independence. I was elated to finally be in and around the Temple, and I sensed the presence of my ancestors as they had hoped and dreamed for the day when the Temple in the Center Place, or Independence, would be built. Not being a delegate, I freely roamed around the area, meeting people of RLDS, LDS, Temple Lot, and Restoration persuasion. My testimonies from the 1996 World Conference were accompanied with a good Spirit when conversa-

tions focused on what we had in common; the testimony of Christ, or the Book of Mormon. This good Spirit would quickly exit when contention or an "I'm right; you're wrong," attitude developed. One of my experiences at this conference involved getting into trouble by giving an unofficial tour of the Temple to an LDS family during World Conference. I did not know that there were no Temple tours during World Conference. I was just so excited to be in the Temple and enjoyed sharing that passion with others.

One thing that I remember from my "roaming" about the area was a piece of information that I wrote on my World Conference program. It can be found in my WC 1996 3-ring binder in my former congregation of New Philadelphia, Ohio. I met a kind and loving older couple prior to conference who were Temple Corps ambassadors and even had a picture of the Temple on their RV. When I shared my old camp story about the hill and cave, they shared the name, "Neil Steede." Years later, in my thirties, I did a search on this name and did not come up with anything.

In November 2006, I received the link to the Hill Cumorah group's website. I read it all! I was stunned and overjoyed, not to mention touched by the Spirit in places. Here was a group already doing what I had wanted to do! Here was that name again! They were not only doing the work, but they had been doing it for five years! Wow! Double and triple-wow!!! Despite financial difficulties, I immediately sent the group a check. I ended up printing off the whole website so I could share it with others who did not have computer or internet access. I considered who I knew that had read and studied the Book of Mormon in depth. I decided to share the information with my mother and also my former Sunday School teacher/mentor/ friend Bob who taught me the Book of Mormon in great detail. Mom stayed up late reading the material, and my friend Bob read it all in one night. He agreed with the conclusions, but brought up the implications of what it would mean if the other records came forth.

*Here was a group already doing what I had wanted to do! They were not only doing the work, but they had been doing it for five years!*

With great excitement, I planned to attend World Conference 2007. I was heavily involved with the Cyber congregation and had participated in the devotionals in preparation for conference and looked forward to meeting many persons that I only knew from the online discussions over the conference legislation and other issues. And, I had been in email contact with members of the Hill Cumorah Expedition Team and looked forward to meeting them in person.

Just prior to the 2007 World Conference I met Tim, Carol, and Kevin Brown at the Cyber congregation get-together at a local restaurant in Independence. I was privileged and honored to see a replica of the proclamation tablet. I could not have been more thrilled. I was so excited that I forgot to eat at the buffet—barely eating my salad and a piece of chicken. Later

that week Tim Brown again caught me off-guard by giving me a copy of Neil's book, [Why I Believe...In the Historical Veracity of the Book of Mormon.](#)

I received an invitation for lunch at the Brown's, and on April 1, 2007, I finally got to meet Neil and Dorene Steede, and I asked him to sign my copy of his book: "To Randall Lawrence, More than you know, thanks for the interest. Neil Steede 4/1/07." I got to meet more of the team and hear them discuss their plans for the 2007 trip. The Brown's and their guests were all very gracious.

It took almost a month to finalize all my plans, but I moved my residence from Ohio and arrived in Independence to live. I quickly began attending the regular Hill Cumorah Expedition Team meetings in Independence. Tim Brown even asked that I do the devotionals for one meeting--July 12. I have been freely accepted into the group and have listened and contributed at the meetings.

My journey and testimony with HCETI.org (Hill Cumorah Expedition Team, Inc.) is not finished. I look forward to joining them on a trip to Mexico. God and the Holy Spirit are opening doors of ministry in which I would like to take part. You are also invited to take part and support the group in whatever way you can.

**We're on the web at  
[www.hceti.org](http://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: 816-650-3904  
E-mail: [davidbrown@hillcumorahexpeditionteam.com](mailto:davidbrown@hillcumorahexpeditionteam.com)

**Contributors and Editors**

Tim Brown  
Kevin Brown  
David Brown  
Randall Lawrence  
Neil Steede  
Children's Page by Terry and Chris Scott  
Photographs provided by:  
David Brown and Mike Brown.

## Invitation to Assist By David B. Brown

Neil Steede has been involved in archaeology for over thirty-five years and he is the central resource we have for drawing the parallels between the Maya culture and the Book of Mormon people. What is fascinating is that with each class that Neil prepares we have a remarkable amount of new information that further develops the magnitude of the historical events that are recorded in the Book of Mormon.

When one considers the terrain, the distance, the complexity of the society and the remarkable engineering of their architecture it only enlarges our respect for the accomplishments of all the people recorded in the Book of Mormon, especially Alma and the sons of Mosiah when they met after fourteen years and took extreme joy in having changed the face of the social structure and prepared the people to receive Jesus Christ. And having understood the remarkable development of their culture, we can now catch a glimpse of the extreme sorrow Mormon

felt as he watched the life and future of his people bleeding to death on the slopes surrounding Cumorah.

Because of Neil's impressive years of experience, collection of knowledge, and unique perspective, our understanding of the story of the Book of Mormon has now reached a point where it can be traced

from the great tower where the languages were confounded to the last battle that saw the demise of the religion of Quetzalcoatl. We can find remnants of archaeological evidence all the way through and it is now time to place them in volumes for publication.

The call is now going out to anyone having publishing layout experience who desires to donate their talent to this work. We also need artists who can sketch line drawings, give us artistic renditions of moments in history, and those who can develop maps (lots of maps). Our funds are limited and will have to be utilized for supplies. If you feel moved to answer this call, please contact us on the website at [www.hceti.org](http://www.hceti.org).

Neil Steede holds a class every Sunday afternoon at 4 PM at the Buckner Community of Christ church at 1001 South Sibley Street in Buckner, MO. All interested people are welcome. It is extremely informative. Your attendance and interest accelerates the work.



*The 2006 Hill Cumorah Expedition Team.  
Will you consider joining our ranks? Not everyone needs to travel. We have need for researchers and people with printing and artistic abilities.*