

## The Covenant Codex By David B. Brown

In December of 2007 Neil Steede and Don Beebe traveled to Seoul, Korea for a chance to debut the Covenant Codex at an international conference. This is an artifact that was brought to Neil's attention in 2001 from an individual who knew he had an important item of antiquity but could not find a professional who would take him seriously. During the course of the next several years Neil worked to develop the information

concerning the authenticity of this document. From preliminary testing to ensure that the document was constructed of authentic materials to a final translation of the Nahuatl glyphs, Neil has collected a remarkable amount of information that supports the authenticity of this artifact.

Currently there are only four codices in the world that are recognized as authentic. This particular codex appears to have been handed down from

generation to generation and finally surfaced on the collectors market during the mid-twentieth century. But, because of its unique content it has not meet with acceptance by mainstream archaeologists. What would you expect of a document that teaches Christian beliefs? Who can believe that this document of pre-conquest Mexico actually teaches Christian tenants of life-after-death? How can this be authentic? Yet, Neil's in-depth interpretation of



*The Covenant Codex as first photographed by Don Beebe.*

## Peaceful Walk By Chris Scott & David B. Brown

*"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them."* Isaiah 11:6, or II Nephi 9:121

The definition of *peace* is: shalom, amity, concord, harmony, calm, quiet, serenity, stability, etc., a state of being with the absence of conflict, contention, discord, dissidence, strife, trouble, unrest, warfare, etc.

The word *peace* appears in the Book of Mormon 110 times. It is referred to three times in reference to the Prince of

Peace; four times in reference to prophecy; five times in reference to a desire for peace; fourteen times in reference to an admonition or warning from the prophets for peace; nine times in reference to publishing peace and the blessedness of it; nine times in reference to a personal peace obtained or peace as a noun and state of being; sixteen times as a reference to those who were working for peace; and fifty times as a reference to peace being restored to the land. The Book of Mormon is about the establishment of peace within the human

realm, and it allows us to see the tragic outcome of a society without peace. Through the lives of others who have gone before we see the eventual loss of hope when a people are left to receive the justice that the law of sin demands when there is no

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## Peaceful Walk continued

mercy granted from an accepting and loving God. When the people turn away from their Lord and Savior, He can not claim them and they fall under the condemnation of the law. In this sense it is a book of both peace and justice.

The church seal of the Community of Christ brings a message of hope that the leopard shall lie down with the lamb and a little child shall lead them, and that peace will be restored. When we consider the impossibility of a scenario like that we need to remind ourselves that through Christ all things are possible.

We picture the lion or leopard as the aggressor and the lamb as the meek victim. We see in ourselves the same scenarios as aggressor or victims to various degrees. But when we put into practice the principles that Christ taught there is no need to be aggressors or victims. All are loved; cared for and empowered by the love of Christ. "... and a little child shall lead them."

But the Book of Mormon is also a book of hope. How amazing that Mor-

mon was allowed to see to our day and speak to us concerning this calling to peaceful living. In the 7<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Moroni he talks to us today:

*"The church seal of the Community of Christ brings a message of hope that the leopard shall lie down with the lamb and a little child shall lead them, and that peace will be restored."*

*Moroni 7:2 "And now I, Mormon, speak unto you, my beloved brethren; and it is by the grace of God, the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, and his holy will, because of the gift of his calling unto me, that I am permitted to speak unto you at this time;*

*3 Wherefore I would speak unto you that are of the church, that are the peaceable followers of Christ, and that have obtained a sufficient hope, by which ye can enter into the rest of the Lord, from this time henceforth, until*

*ye shall rest with him in heaven.*

*4 And now my brethren, I judge these things of you because of your peaceable walk with the children of men; for I remember the word of God, which saith, By their works ye shall know them; for if their works be good, then they are good also."*

Mormon saw us walking in this day and he has seen the peace that resides within us because of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He reached across the separation of time and space and conveyed hope for us by affirming the good that he sees in our actions.

As we celebrate the risen Christ this Easter season; this resurrected Prince of Peace, may we be found actively working for peace, providing hope and helping to establish peace throughout our circle of influence in every imaginable and purposeful act.

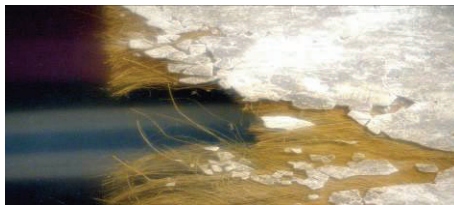
*"And how blessed are they! For they did publish peace; they did publish good tidings of good; and they did declare unto the people that the Lord reigneth."* Mosiah 11:207.

## Covenant Codex continued

the glyphs and pictographs translates into an unmistakable missionary tool attempting to influence the people of its day to turn away from the teaching of the Jaguar Religion and follow the teachings of Quetzalcoatl—it is the only way to find a joyful life eternal. It unmistakably teaches the same concept of "glories" that Paul teaches. That is not the brand of life-after-death teaching brought to the Americas with the Catholic Friars. Where could this teaching originate? Book of Mormon believers have a very good idea where this originates! If this teaching is not handed down from Christ's teachings when he visited the Americas, then at the very least it came from the Apostles of the Middle East and that means transoceanic contact 1,400 years before Columbus.

In order to prepare for this confer-

ence presentation it was necessary for Neil to spend several weeks researching, collecting, and writing the final document that conveys all the known information of the codex. This was accomplished just in time for travel to Korea. The show in Korea was laden with many severe administrative problems by those hosting the conference, but Neil and Don were able to speak with many and share their testimonies about this document. The original codex was supposed to be shipped and present for the show, but it too was



*Covenant Codex plaster and sisal fibers.*

afflicted with roadblocks that prevented it from arriving in time. It was determined that for some reason God wants this material ready for distribution, but He is not ready yet for the Covenant Codex and the information concerning its authenticity to be publicly presented. He has something greater in store for the future—we are certain of that.

In the meantime, there is more testing that can be done to solidify the authenticity of this artifact—an in-depth Carbon-14 testing needs to be performed. This takes money and if anyone is moved to help with this particular project, please contact Neil Steede at E.S.R.S, P.O. Box 4175, Independence, MO 64051. It could be that completing this aspect will fulfill God's requirements to bring this wonderful artifact to the world!

# Bountiful Historical Society

By David B. Brown

Over the last several years Neil Steede has been working on unraveling the mystery of the Palenque Stela Cult. During the mid-twentieth century many Mesoamerican archaeologists were noticing many stela with similar characteristics being found throughout the Chiapas, Mexico and Guatemala region. The similarity of the art style and glyphs bound them into a class all their own that most archaeologists associated with Palenque; hence these stela were attributed to the “Palenque Stela Cult.” The assumption was that Palenque’s influence was complete throughout the region and these stela were a testament to that strong influence. Over the years as more of the hieroglyphs are being translated, it is now understood that the stela say nothing about Palenque (Bountiful). This deepens the mystery for archaeologists because they do not understand why a people of Palenque art-influence would travel the region erecting monuments if it was not for the purpose of establishing Palenque as a power center in the region. This new understanding caused the archaeologists to change the name of the group from the “Palenque Stela Cult” to the “Maya Stela Cult.” Yet, archeologists remain puzzled as to this art-style and glyph influence sprinkled throughout the region.

Neil Steede first came across this group as he was studying the ruin city of Chinkultic which he is convinced is the Book of Mormon City of Nephi. The first clue to identifying this city was the narrow pass located behind the temple that could easily explain the midnight exodus of King Limhi and his people as they made their escape past the drunken guards on the way to Zarahemla. While searching for additional clues at this ruin city he stumbled onto a series of stela that were erected by the Palenque Stela Cult. As Neil began working on the research to find translations he began to notice a pattern; nearly every stela attributed to this Palenque Stela Cult was telling a story that can be found in the Book of Mormon. For example, the discovery of the twenty-four golden plates by the sol-

diers of King Limhi; the twenty-four Lamanite women pleading for the lives of their husbands; the eventual death of King Noah that fulfilled Abinadi’s prophecy; and the escape through the narrow pass. All of these incidents recorded in the Book of Mormon are

*Why did they feel the need to establish a society to erect historical markers; a Bountiful Historical Society? They must have known that one day God would bring news of their history to a curious people who would recognize, understand, appreciate, and publish their testimonies.*

illustrated on stela placed in Chinkultic by the Palenque Stela Cult. One interesting aspect about the addition of these stela at Chinkultic is that it was done 150-200 years after King Limhi’s group abandoned the site. This occupation schedule has been documented at Chinkultic and it parallels the occupation of the City of Nephi in the Book of Mormon. If King Limhi and his people abandoned Chinkultic at about 125 B.C., then the Palenque Stela Cult must have made these monuments somewhere around 50-75 A.D.; the ideal

time for the Golden Age described in the Book of Mormon when the entire region was converted and prosperous.

This pattern alerted Neil to a new possibility. If the people of Golden Age Bountiful traveled to Chinkultic to erect monuments depicting important events that were later chronicled in the Book of Mormon, then what about the other Palenque Stela Cult monuments and stela scattered throughout the region? Do they depict Book of Mormon events as well? As it turns out there are other locations, but they are only recognizable as such through the eyes of a Book of Mormon believer; for example, the writing on the Colossal Heads of LaVenta. Nearly all archaeologists view LaVenta as an Olmec (Jaredite) site only, too early in history for the Maya. Only a handful of archaeologists actually recognize and acknowledge the Maya influence there. However, several of the Colossal Heads and some other artifacts in the area were carved by the Olmec (Jaredites) and then later engraved upon by Maya (Golden Age Nephites) using Ogam script to “hide” the message. And, there are a couple of stela that appear to have utilized a Mayan art style, but again archaeologists tend to over look this fact because they only view this site as Olmec.

So why did a group of people from Golden Age Palenque go around the



*A Palenque Stela Cult monument found on the hill behind the temple in Chinkultic. This stela clearly demonstrates a man tip-toeing and walking toward a narrow opening. If you were trying to illustrate sneaking through a narrow pass, how would you draw it?*

## Bountiful Historical Society Continued

entire region of Maya influence erecting markers that tell stories of their history? Why did they feel the need to establish a society to erect historical markers; a Bountiful Historical Society? Because they lived in a Golden Age where the entire region was already converted to Christ and they were attempting to reach beyond their present to touch future generations by leaving markers of their legacy. They must have known that one day God would bring news of their history to a curious people who would recognize, understand, appreciate, and publish their testimonies. And it worked. Over the last several months Neil has worked on finding markers at important Book of Mormon locations and he has developed a list of places where markers are likely to be found. While their testimony is etched in stone using cumbersome and vague glyph symbols that are hard to interpret, this is the very thing that has allowed their testimony to last. By using the mechanisms

of communication they did it preserved their message from being damaged or erased by people who were opposed to their religious beliefs. And, those “dimmed” priests that followed centuries after could only understand the glyphs on a temporal level because

*They peered into the future and through the grace of a loving Creator they were made aware of how they could testify of their God, and by doing so they validate and strengthen our faith that He will fulfill His promises.*

they did not have the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit to teach them the symbolic spiritual meaning. Hence, the cultures of the region experienced centuries of priestcrafts where a “broken heart” and “pierced spirit” was interpreted as literal sacrificing to remove a

still-beating heart. Our brothers and sisters of the Golden Age must have foreseen this calamity and provided a testimony in stone for those of us who would choose to believe in the words of the Book of Mormon—the monuments they erected are for us! They peered into the future and through the grace of a loving Creator they were made aware of how they could testify of their God, and by doing so they validate and strengthen our faith that He will fulfill His promises. It was their hope and desire that a people of like mind and heart would one day find the key to unlocking the mysteries of the Classical Period Maya. It appears that the Book of Mormon is proving to be that key.

With this new paradigm for understanding the purpose and meaning of the stela that the Palenque Stela Cult erected throughout Mesoamerica we are looking forward to the discovery of more Book of Mormon testimonies etched in stone from the Bountiful Historical Society.

## January Research Expedition By David B. Brown

In mid-January of 2008 a group of seven Hill Cumorah members traveled to the Yucatan of Mexico to further the research for several theories concerning the ruins located in the states of Quintana Roo, Campeche, and Chiapas, Mexico. Mike Brown, Neil Steede, Don Beebe, Scott Norwood, David Brown, Chris Scott and Terry Scott left Kansas City International Airport on a cold and rainy 8<sup>th</sup> of January morning and arrived in Cancun,



*Research Expedition members in Cancun.*

Mexico at 11:30 AM. They immediately acquired a van and spent the next ten days traveling across the eastern states of Mexico visiting many sites, gathering information, taking photos and refining concepts of the Book of Mormon parallels found along the way. The locations visited included Rio Bec, Becan, Calakmul, Yaxchilan, LaVenta Park, Palenque, Chichen Itza, Tulum, and Tancah.

At Rio Bec the group was able to map the area, photograph the architecture, finalize some concepts about the Hill Onidah where Alma preached to the poor Zoramites, and climbed the narrow place on the “Holy Stand.” Neil has already produced a report about the findings we received from Rio Bec and how the culture of Rio Bec is almost identical to that of Calakmul, indicating that both cultures were consistent with Mulekite influences.

Yaxchilan produced excellent results as we were able to locate the

probable base of King Benjamin’s Tower, and the foundation to King Benjamin’s Temple. These findings are included in a report that Neil published in February after we returned from the trip.

LaVenta was a treat for all of the photography we were able to capture. We were specifically targeting the Ogam inscriptions on several of the monuments there and God provided natural lighting that was perfect for the project. These photographs will serve us well in the months ahead as the Mexican Epigraphic Society works on developing a transcription for each monument.

Palenque was a feast of information on the influence of Pakal and the Golden Age people of Palenque who inscribed their testimonies in stone.

Look for a more detailed report of this trip complete with a host of photographs on our website at:

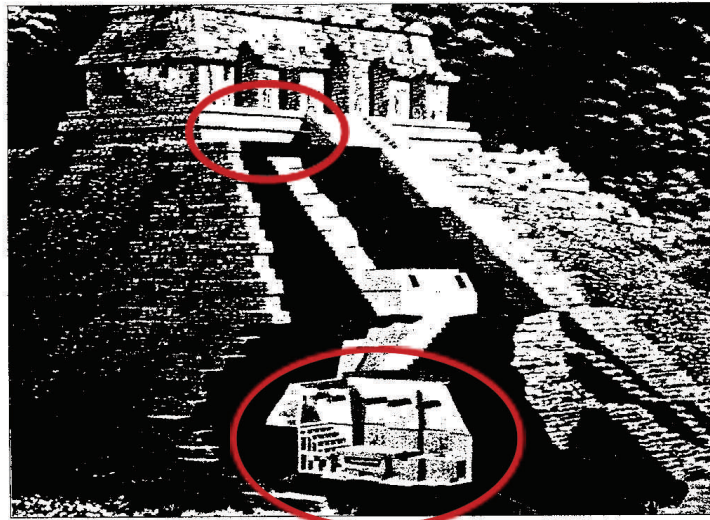
[www.hceti.org](http://www.hceti.org).

Two Words  Hidden Treasure!

This pyramid at Palenque known as the Pyramid of the Inscriptions had a hidden stairway covered by a large stone that led to a secret burial chamber for royalty. The pyramid had been discovered years earlier but no one before Alberto Ruz considered that there might be a hidden chamber.



Large stone covers hidden entrance to royal tomb.



Burial chamber where the death mask was discovered.



Rare & valuable  
Royal Death  
Mask made of  
green jade.

In 1950, archaeologist Alberto Ruz discovered the Pyramid of the Inscriptions at Palenque was built around a royal tomb. Since then we have discovered that most Meso-american pyramids contain tombs.



Under a large flat stone, a secret passage lay undiscovered for years. Steep, dark stairs lead deep into the heart of the pyramid. How exciting to be the first archaeologist to find a long hidden tomb and discover it's treasure.



This highly carved stone covered the tomb of royalty. Buried with him was a fancy mask made of green stones.



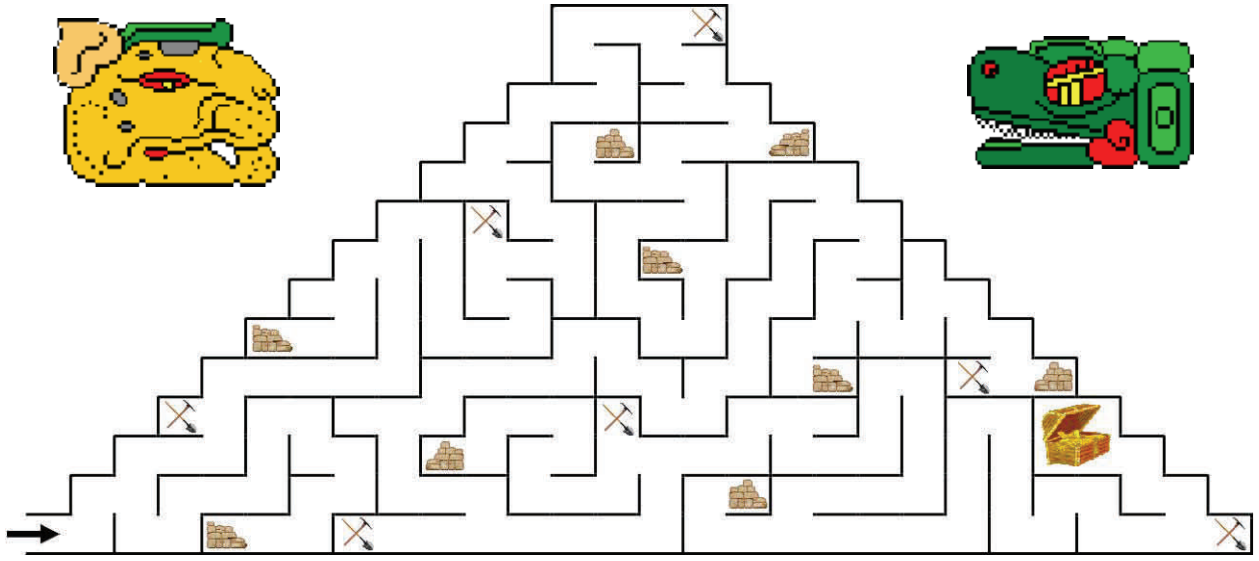
Step Pyramid at Saqqara



Chichen Itza

This step pyramid was built in Saqqara Egypt      This step pyramid was built in Chichen Itza

Enter the secret entrance at the lower left and wander through the tunnels until you find the buried treasure.



[http://www.teach-nology.com/teachers/lesson\\_plans/science/archaeology/](http://www.teach-nology.com/teachers/lesson_plans/science/archaeology/)  
[http://research.history.org/Archaeological\\_Research/KidsPage.cfm](http://research.history.org/Archaeological_Research/KidsPage.cfm)  
<http://www.smm.org/sln/ma/index.html>      <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/pyramids/>

# A Personal Testimony By Chris Scott

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My brother-in-law Eric Scott asked me to write a testimony of my involvement in the Hill Cumorah Expedition Team. So, Eric and anyone else that might take an interest in this group, here is my testimony:

A little over a year ago my husband Terry was invited by Neil Steede to go on a fact finding mission in Mexico. This began my husband's involvement in the Hill Cumorah Expedition Team meetings. Three individuals went to Mexico; Neil Steede, Mike Brown, and my husband Terry Scott. It was a fast and furious trip, touring ruins and museums to find more information for Neil's classes that he teaches every Sunday at Village Heights Community of Christ and later the same day at Buckner Community of Christ Church.

My involvement started shortly after that because I wanted to hear of their adventures and felt like I was missing out on the social aspect of the group as they were eating dinner at a local Mexican restaurant after every meeting. I simply wanted to be apart of what Terry was involved in and excited about.

I have to admit that at first I was extremely bored by the archaeological aspects of the Book of Mormon. I am a fourth generation RLDS member from both sides of my family tree. We all just believed the Book of Mormon on faith, not needing evidence of the book's authenticity. We learned church history from my parents and in Sunday School. Both my mother and camp mentor Jerry Ashby encouraged me to read the Book of Mormon. That was enough for me and that's where it

ended. I was not well versed in the study of the Book of Mormon, but I was familiar with it and knew what it represented.

Soon after my initial involvement in the Hill Cumorah group I found out that one of the members of the group was very good at finishing ceilings. That was very timely for us. Tim Brown agreed to work on our ceilings. I took time off my job because the work that had to be done was in the bedroom and there was no way I was going to get any daytime sleep for my nighttime job while he was working on the ceiling in the bedroom. One day Tim and I were talking about my job and he pushed some emotional buttons that made me very angry. I hadn't realized how angry I was about the circumstances in my life. No one causes that, we have a choice of how we respond to the circumstances we create and encounter in our life. But my relationship with my Creator and Redeemer was really suffering, my prayer life was almost nil at that time.

Tim kept coming back because he had already started the job, and being a person of integrity wouldn't have stopped; plus my husband isn't as crazy as I am. Tim was probably wondering who this lunatic person was that he was working for. One day when he came to the house, Tim was out in the driveway, and I felt this overwhelming Spirit come over me and heard a voice call my name. I had never had an experi-

ence like that before. I felt loved and taken care of. It was the beginning of a time of healing for me. Tim and I started talking about the group after that, and he started to explain what it was all about. I had been to several meetings and had no idea what they were talking about during most of the meetings. I didn't understand that there were prophecies concerning a library of plates and the message to the Israelites. I never understood the necessity of studying the artifacts, engravings, and the history of Ancient America. It seemed like an exercise in futility to me, because of the vastness of the subject. Even with my exposure through the Scott family, it had never quite clicked into place. Anyway, now I'm hooked, and still very ignorant because

*I felt this overwhelming Spirit  
come over me and heard a  
voice call my name.*

of the vastness of the subject. Even though it is a vast subject, my interest in the scriptures and the power of their message has been renewed and it has

instilled in me a desire to learn and study more.

Also, I am very impressed with the power of Neil Steede's testimonies that he relates in the classes he teaches. If you have the opportunity, come and listen to him teach. His message is pure and simple Christianity as spoken to us through the Ancient Americans and these messages they left us *are* written in stone.

It has been a good and timely experience for me to be involved with the Hill Cumorah Expedition Team.

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## In Memoriam

Since our last publication we have experienced the passing of two important members of our team. In November of last year, Dorene Steede passed away on Thanksgiving Day as a result of an embolism. This was a real shock. The entire Hill Cumorah Expedition Team membership is very grateful for Dorene's support of Neil and for the way that she accepted, loved, and supported each one of us. Her cheerful demeanor and joyful countenance was a real blessing to the group and to Neil's efforts to share his gift.

On March 1st of this year we lost Jerry Hedenberg in a drowning incident at Lake Lone Star near Eudora, Kansas. Jerry was a very active and engaged member of the team. He was a member of the 2004 Expedition and stationed at Base Camp when the Proclamation Tablet was found. When Jerry first joined the Hill Cumorah group he and his wife Barbara were living in Decatur, Illinois. They recently moved to Pleasant Hill, Missouri to be closer to their grandchildren and we benefited from their regular attendance. Jerry provided us with a host of testimonies that we are certain will continue to give us direction and hope.

**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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## 2008 Spring Expedition Planned By David B. Brown

The 2008 Spring Expedition is planned for March 28th through April 12th. This year's team includes Mike Brown, Jerry Stoner, Carol Brown and Neil Steede who will be flying into Mexico City on Friday March 28th to begin making contact with archaeological personnel involved with the site of Teotihuacán. Then on Saturday the balance of the team will be leaving Buckner, Missouri to start the trek to Mexico. The driving team is comprised of Tim Brown, Kevin Brown, Joey Fera and David Brown.

The efforts in Jalapa de Diaz this year are intended to focus on the development of investigations on the hill we have called Cumorahcita. The intent is to spend several days mapping and charting the hilltop and terraces. There may also be some additional investigations of the smaller peaks to the south to see if there is any information that can be gleaned from here as well.

Another aspect of this trip involves travel to Yaxchilan and Bonampak. When the team traveled to Yaxchilan in January of this year, they were able to research and identify the foundation to King Benjamin's Tower and King Benjamin's Temple. But, in recent weeks, Neil has realized that Temple 41 which is the backdrop to the tower has buttresses that were added to shore-up the



*A throne seat on Temple 41 in Yaxchilan which we believe to be Zarahemla. This building is the probable backdrop to King Benjamin's Tower.*

structure and in the process the buttresses formed two thrones. He wants to identify the mortar that was used to erect these thrones as this should indicate the era when these thrones were added to the face of the temple. The intent is to determine whether it was done during the time of King Mosiah the elder, or later during the Golden Age.

The desire to visit Bonampak is to investigate the murals and see if there are any clues to indicate the possible origin of the murals, such as, were they painted by Ammonites or are they Golden Age?

And, we are anxious to renew friendships with the people of Jalapa de Diaz. Your prayers are an important aspect of our continued success in developing this understanding of the Book of Mormon lands. Please continue to hold us up for God's blessing and pray that His will be done.