

The Book of Mormon Institute

By Evan A. Fry

THE BOOK OF MORMON INSTITUTE officially opened on Monday morning, January 8, in the Stone Church, after preliminary sermons on the Book of Mormon theme in all Independence churches on the Sunday evening preceding. Coming closely after the Seventies' Institute, the Book of Mormon Institute had been planned so as to utilize the services of many of the General Church officials and appointees who were already in the Center Place. A very wide field of experience, research, and ministerial backgrounds was therefore made available for this week of intensive study of the Book of Mormon.

A glance at the program of the Institute, or even attendance at a few of the sessions, indicates that it was not so much intended to teach the history of Book of Mormon peoples as to approach the Book of Mormon from other angles. There have been reviews of its miraculous origin, preservation, and translation. There has been a re-examination from many angles of its spiritual meaning, its central witness, its doctrinal teachings, and the evidences of its divinity—historical, internal, factual, and archaeological. Much of the material presented has already been familiar to Book of Mormon students in its main outlines, but there have been interesting differences of approach and interpretation by the various speakers which have done much to increase the appreciation and widen the fields of understanding of those who heard.

The morning sessions were divided into three classes, meeting from 8:30 to 9:30, 9:45 to 10:45, and 11:00 to 12:00. The usual procedure was streamlined—one short song, invocation, main address, ten minutes for questions or comment from the floor, and benediction. At

2:00 each afternoon (except Wednesday) a speaker presented the main topic, and then opened the meeting for a forum discussion with questions and participation from the floor, where problems not touched in the more formal sessions could be thrashed out. The evening sessions, beginning at 7:30, were given over to the Society for Archaeological Research, which sponsored lectures on American Archaeology in support of Book of Mormon claims. These sessions were divided so that audiences in both the upper and lower auditoriums of the Stone Church could receive the full series of lectures, including one from Apostle Paul M. Hanson, one from Seventy H. I. Velt, two from Apostle Charles R. Hield, and two from Elder Roy Weldon. These lecturers, while presenting their own pictures in the main, have drawn heavily from other photographers and the results of other archaeologists and explorers to round out and illustrate the subject matter of their discourses.

A list of those participating in the institute includes Presidents Israel A. Smith, W. Wallace Smith, and F. Henry Edwards; Apostles D. O. Chesworth, Maurice Draper, Paul M. Hanson, Arthur Oakman, C. George Mesley, Reed M. Holmes, D. T. Williams, and Percy Farrow; Seventies E. Y. Hunker, H. I. Velt, Russell Ralston, and George Njeim; Bishop Henry L. Livingston, and Elders Roy A. Cheville and Roy Weldon.

THROUGHOUT THE INSTITUTE there has been the feeling—often expressed but continually in the background of the thinking of both speakers and audience—that as a church we have neglected the Book of Mormon; that we have too often been apologetic in our use of it; that we have been dilatory in using it for missionary work among Jewish and Lamanite peoples. In one of his

early talks, President Edwards stated that the purpose of the institute was primarily to promote the use of the Book of Mormon for spiritual purposes—as Scripture, and secondarily, to strengthen our faith by showing that the lines of evidence regarding the book are growing stronger with the passing years—that they are cumulative. He remarked that in many instances we have spent too much time on *proving* the divinity of the book by use of Bible prophecy, archaeological evidences, etc., but too little time in actually using it for its spiritual content and doctrinal teaching. An important part of the institute has been the re-examination by many speakers, from many different angles, of the spiritual and doctrinal content of the book.

Attendance has been good, though not overwhelmingly large. The difficulties of leaving employment have of course kept many Independence people at home, and kept out-of-town people from attending in large numbers. But the Stone Church has been comfortably filled for most of the morning and afternoon sessions. At the evening sessions, every available seat that could command a view of the screen in either upper or lower auditorium has been filled. Those attending are alert and interested, taking notes, and following the citations with open books in their hands. Several nonmembers have taken this opportunity to learn more about the Book of Mormon, and a number of elders from the Utah Church also have attended several sessions.

ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, January 10, the original manuscript of the Book of Mormon was brought from the bank vaults in Kansas City under police escort and

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of the church school presented the worship service on the morning of December 24. Elder Ammon Beebe is pastor.

Oak Grove, under the pastorship of Elder Gerald Thomas, has one objective for this year—the elimination of the remaining indebtedness on the church. Last year the young adult department sponsored a garden project and netted almost \$500 which was contributed to the branch budget. A church library has been started, and a new book-case is being constructed.

October 6, the Buckner Zion's League sponsored a chicken dinner at which time \$260 was raised for the building fund, and on October 21 a public sale was held at the barn of Brother and Sister George Bilquist. Over \$1,300 was raised from that sale for the building fund. The need of a larger church is apparent and efforts are being made to increase the building fund to the amount required when actual construction can begin. December 10, the Buckner church presented an evening of music as a Christmas gift to the community. The service was held in the large Buckner Christian church and over 260 people attended. Elder Roy Smith is pastor at Buckner.

At Blue Springs under the leadership of Elders Carlos Smith as pastor and Eugene Look, who recently moved to Missouri from Maine, as church school director, the ministry of priesthood in the homes is being emphasized. Priest Howard Martin is in charge of the priesthood visiting program. In addition to the Eugene Look family, there have also moved to Blue Springs Elder J. F. Pinson and family and Priest R. W. Murdock and family. A junior choir, directed by Sister Carrie Baird is making a fine contribution to the services.

Elder Charles Pooler, pastor, and the church school director, Burford Page of Harrisonville have assisted in the recent purchase of a building site. At present the congregation meets in the Youth Center. Both the women's department and the Zion's League have sponsored interesting meetings lately.

MEDOC, MISSOURI.—The following officers were elected at the annual business meeting: Elder William L. Miller, pastor; Elders Clifford L. Miller and George Doubledee, associates; Roy Hight, church school director; Mrs. Harel Scott, secretary; A. A. Barrett, treasurer; Mrs. Pearl Williams, solicitor; Mrs. Tom Williams, historian and publicity agent; and Mrs. Pearl Williams, women's leader.

The annual fall bazaar and chicken supper sponsored by the women was held November 3 at which \$250 was cleared.

Family night for November was held in the lower auditorium. A covered dish supper was the occasion.

Seventy James C. Daugherty held a series of meetings beginning November 29.

An attendance contest was started the first of October. An increase of 15 per cent was noted. The losing side held a New Year's Watch party for the winners. Refreshments were served.

Mrs. Ernest Troyer was hostess to the women December 21. Gifts were exchanged and refreshments were served.

November 26, Albert Troyer of Independence delivered the morning sermon.

T. W. Bath, pastor at Pittsburg, Kansas, spoke December 17.

The Christmas program was under the direction of Mrs. Geneva Moore and treats were shared by everyone.

Phillip Aaron Eldred, son of Mr. and Mrs. Warren was blessed by Elder Arthur Rock of Independence. Linda Rose Winn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Winn was blessed by Elders W. L. and C. L. Miller.—Reported by MRS. LETA WILLIAMS.

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placed on display under a locked glass case from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. for those attending the institute. Publicity regarding this event had purposely been held to a minimum in the advance announcements, but from 1:00 to 5:00, there was a continual double line reaching from the front vestibule of the church, down the east aisle and past the case which stood in front of the pulpit on the floor level. The manuscript was open at the second chapter of Jacob. Beside it was a printed copy of the Book of Mormon opened to the corresponding page, and adjacent to that was the pile of photostat sheets which contain a complete copy of the original manuscript as an insurance against loss or deterioration of the original. Many comments were heard about the legibility and beauty of Oliver Cowdery's handwriting, and the good state of preservation of both the paper and ink of the manuscript.

The institute closed its formal ses-

sions on Saturday night, January 13, although sermons on the Book of Mormon theme were given in each Independence pulpit on the Sunday morning following.

Other reports giving excerpts of some of the lectures and discussions will appear in subsequent issues of the *Herald*.

Truth on the Scaffold

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ing, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."—Zechariah 4: 6.

Truth has so many times in the world's dark history been placed upon the scaffold while its enemies rejoiced in hoping to destroy it. Wrong—wicked and terrible—has so often occupied the throne of power. Yet evil men and nations have never had the last word.

It is not by power alone that great wrong can be destroyed. We must have the Spirit of the Lord to defend us. Let us rely on him.

L. J. L.

Dutch Tracts

Herald House has imported from Holland four of our tracts printed in the Dutch language:

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The Book of Mormon Institute

Part Two

IF TWO OF THE PURPOSES of the Book of Mormon Institute were to increase the faith of the church in the Book and to stimulate its use as Scripture with a spiritual and moral message for our day, those purposes were abundantly realized. One who sat through the entire week of rather strenuous but highly rewarding attendance at classes, lectures, and forums could not help but gain a new appreciation for the Book of Mormon through the sheer impact of so much material, so much testimony, so much evidence from so many different fields of research, so much pictorial proof that the things written about in the Book had once actually existed here in America.

Best attended of all the sessions were the evening lectures, illustrated with Kodachrome slides depicting the findings of several of our own specialists in the field of American archaeology. With these visual aids, the cumulative impact of the evidences presented was overwhelming. Picture after picture, night after night, pounded home again and again the theme. There have been great civilizations in Mexico and Central and South America. The greatest and highest of these civilizations was preceded by an earlier and completely different civilization; it was followed by a decadent and seemingly apostate civilization which built on the ruins of its ancestors. These cultured people knew about the Christ long before he was born; his symbols—the cross and the feathered serpent—are found again and again. Hebraic influence is found in the construction of temples and altars, and Hebraic features are almost always depicted in the carved likenesses of the bearded white God. Egyptian influence is to be found in their buildings, carvings, hieroglyphics, and monuments. All this, of course, is not exactly new to students

of the Book of Mormon who know that Lehi's colony came from Jerusalem in 600 B.C., and that they were descendants of the Joseph who was sold into Egypt, but it was reassuring and stimulating to see again the tremendous bulk of the accumulated proof.

These ancient people were skilled in the arts of masonry, ceramics, pottery, working in gold, silver, and both precious and semi-precious stones. They were informed and accurate in their astronomical observations and mathematical calculations. They must have understood the making and use of metal tools for stone cutting, and machinery for transporting huge blocks of stone for many miles over mountains and rivers. They built mammoth, beautiful, costly buildings, adorning them with fine carvings, sculpture, stone mosaics, and chaste design. They understood some modern principles of surgery, pharmacy, and medicine. There are even some indications that they knew the use of the microscope and telescope. They built roads, bridges, and aqueducts; they built and cultivated terraced farms on the sides of seemingly inaccessible mountains. Until the days of apostasy and corruption, there was no sign of human sacrifice or idol worship.

They were so numerous that "the whole face of the land was covered," and so many buildings were built that in spite of the marvels uncovered, only a fragmentary part of the ruins have as yet been excavated. It is one thing to see a few pictures in a book, or to hear a lecture illustrated with pictures from so many geographical locations that one never does get the connections quite clear. It is quite another thing to sit for six evenings and see picture after picture, each one corroborating those that have gone before, until as we have already said, the combined and cumulative impact is overwhelming and convincing.

By Evan A. Fry

To the impact of these illustrated lectures, of course, was added the impact of all the lectures and discussions held in the morning and afternoon. In these there was a review and re-examination of the other evidences of the Book of Mormon—the evidences found in its doctrinal teachings, in its social and moral message, in its prophetic declarations and warnings, and in other internal evidences. Some of the best minds of the church reviewed again the biblical prophecies concerning the Book of Mormon, and the prophecies of the Book of Mormon itself which have been fulfilled, are now being fulfilled, or are yet awaiting fulfillment. Other good and scholarly men helped those attending to re-evaluate the teachings of the Book of Mormon—its lofty concepts of God and his purposes, the nature of man, the atonement, the church, the Holy Spirit, the social and moral message, and the implications of all these for our day and time.

Still other men bore personal testimony as to their experiences with the book, and recommended methods of using it in preaching, in church school, in missionary work, in personal evangelism. Objections to the book were frankly faced, and the best possible answers given with which to meet the most frequently voiced objections. Some few objections which as yet seem to have no plausible answers were also frankly faced, but viewed in the perspective of the other overwhelming evidences in favor of the Book and in the faith that future developments will eventually solve these objections in the same way that many past objections have been solved, with vindication for the Book of Mormon and its story.

Nursing -

The Challenge of the Second Commandment

By Myrtle Quitmyer

There was considerable attention given to the detailed internal evidences of the Book of Mormon—evidences which are revealed only to the careful and methodical student who knows not only his Book of Mormon, but his Bible, and history, ethnology, language, grammar, archaeology, sociology, psychology, and other sciences. Of late years many new discoveries have been made, and new studies have unearthed evidences from the Book itself—its language, vocabulary, phraseology, grammatical constructions, terminology, personal and place names, accounts of social and political customs, history, a study of the characters which were copied from the plates and taken to Professor Anthon by Martin Harris, and a study of the organization and structure of the various parts of the Book itself. In all of these varied fields, careful research has revealed material which supports the claims of the Book of Mormon.

Part of one afternoon's session was devoted to brief personal testimonies concerning the Book of Mormon, or experiences in which its use had been instrumental in converting prospects. Several personal experiences were told of how a testimony concerning the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon had been received, how truth taught in the Book of Mormon had been found useful in preaching and conversing, how people who were prejudiced and opposed to the church had been converted by a reading of the Book, of its use among the Indians, of how the Book of Mormon had made it easier to believe and to understand the Bible, of how a reading of the Book had revived the dying faith and interest of members, and of how seemingly casual references to the Book of Mormon and its content opened the way for conversations which later led to conversions, and of how Scripture from the Book of Mormon received favorable comment from a

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And thou shalt love thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might, and with all thy strength.

This is the first commandment. And the second is like this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other greater than these.—Mark 12: 35, 36, Inspired Version.

Service Is Love in Action

THE CONCERN OF NURSING is life from conception until breathing ends. In this year of 1951, there are those who are determined to destroy life. So there must be those who will preserve it. The concern of the nurse is to nurture life. Eighty years ago Florence Nightingale said, "Nursing has to nurse *living* bodies and *living* spirits." This has always been the challenge of nursing, which in this year of impending world crisis has an even greater significance.

If you are a young woman, we challenge you to gain nursing skills, to acquire scientific knowledge, and to enrich your spiritual philosophy in a good school of nursing. Why? To enable you to effectively bind up the wounds of a world—sick in body, mind, and spirit.

The old concept of nursing had the nurse only at the bedside of the sick patient. The patient in the hospital, or wherever we find him, still needs the skilled and sympathetic ministry that only a nurse can give; but nursing is a young profession, and new trends and fields are constantly developing. All kinds of talents can be used. Health teachers, writers, and research specialists are in great demand.

Today's trends may call you as a qualified nurse to participate in these fields of research:

1. Cancer
2. Heart disease and its prevention
3. Venereal disease—with need for wider health education
4. Nutrition—with attention to better processing of food

5. Mental hygiene—with increased emphasis on the emotional needs of the child.
6. Degenerative, chronic disease (people are living longer)
7. Rehabilitation programs, for veterans and other handicapped and disabled people. These must be taught: "He that is plenteously provided from within needs little from without."

ZION DEMANDS good homes, good wives, and mothers. As such, graduate nurses will serve a very practical ministry in the redemption of Zion. No other profession can better prepare a young woman for good home life. On the other hand, many sweethearts and husbands may never come back from the war which seems to be staring us in the face. Nursing offers a full life to one bereft of many of life's legitimate, joyful fulfillments.

There are new and distant horizons to challenge the young nurse. In the *American Journal of Nursing* for December, 1950, some of the recent activities of the World Health Organization are reported. Nurses are being assigned to teaching and administrative positions in pediatrics, midwifery, public health, nursing arts, and tuberculosis nursing in such faraway places as Borneo, El Salvador, Haiti, the Philippines, and Malaya. Nurses are serving on demonstration teams in South Korea, Egypt, Pakistan, India, Thailand, and Turkey. Attractive salaries usually accompany these far-flung nursing jobs. Whether the nurse stays close to her

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minister attending a funeral service, although he was unaware of its source.

It was stressed that the Book of Mormon offers an approach to several classes with particular needs and problems—the Jew, the Indian, the atheist, the agnostic—which is unique and effective. It was pointed out that much of the early success of our missionaries was the result of a reliance on the promise of the Book of Mormon that the Spirit would bear witness of its truthfulness to those who read it and humbly seek those who read it and humbly seek such evidence. Perhaps in our modern missionary efforts we would do well to rely more strongly on the Book of Mormon and on God's promises concerning this unique book.

As a Little Child

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to send them home. One evening I tactfully suggested they go home as it was suppertime, but they lingered on, and I spoke a little more forcefully the second time, whereupon Buzzy spoke up, "Leave 'em to me, Sister Booker. Come on gang, and get home." He opened the door and with his thumb pointed the way out. When all were on the porch, he stepped out and in a serious voice, but with a twinkle in his eyes, said, "That's a preacher-lady in there, and she sure can whip hard." Then I decided it was time to examine myself lest in my efforts to teach and lead others I become known as one who "whips hard."

"Except ye become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven," our Master said, and Isaiah predicts a time when "A little child shall lead." It will be well for us who want to assist in building and entering the kingdom to learn some valuable lessons from the little children about us.

Bulletin Board

Meetings at Bartlesville, Oklahoma

Bartlesville Mission now conducts Sunday morning services each week at the Y.W.C.A. building. All members and friends living in that area are invited to attend. Further information may be obtained by calling 5967.
MRS. JOHN GORKER.

Oregon District Priesthood Classes

Classes for all priesthood members in Oregon District will be held the last Tuesday evening of each month for the next six months, beginning January 30, 7:45 to 9:45. Dr. F. M. McDowell's *Priesthood Manual* will be used as the guide.

The only exception to this schedule will be in February when, in place of the usual Tuesday meeting, a priesthood institute will be conducted on the week end of February 24-25. On Saturday evening a supper will be given in honor of the older men. On Sunday the district officers will conduct services, assisted by Bishop M. E. Lasater and Missionary E. L. Vest. These will be held at Central Church, Twenty-fifth and Madiston Streets, in Portland. Theme of the monthly meetings is "Tools to Work With."

J. L. VERHEL,
District President.

Illinois Priesthood Institute

The Northeast Illinois and Chicago Districts will meet at Aurora, Illinois, February 23 to 25 in a combined priesthood institute. A priesthood dinner on Friday, February 23, will be the opening activity. Visiting teaching personnel will be Elder and Sister Stephen Black of Joplin, Missouri, and Apostle D. O. Chesworth.

Spring River District Services

District President Stephen Black and Apostle D. O. Chesworth will visit the Spring River District as follows:

February 12—Berryville, Arkansas
February 13—Aurora, Missouri
February 14—Webb City, Missouri
February 15—Vinita, Oklahoma
February 16—Fairland, Oklahoma

Saints and friends in surrounding areas are invited to attend these meetings.

Central Illinois District Conference

Central Illinois District conference will be held at Taylorville, Illinois, February 3 and 4. General Church representatives will be Apostle D. O. Chesworth and Seventy C. R. Ettinger. All are invited to the Saturday classes and Sunday worship services.

Spring River District Conference

The Spring River District conference will be held at Joplin, Missouri, on February 10 and 11. Women's classes and priesthood classes will be held Saturday afternoon, with preaching by District President Stephen Black on Saturday night. Sunday's activities include a class at 8:30 a.m., prayer and testimony meeting, 9:30 to 10:45, and preaching by Apostle D. O. Chesworth, 11:00 a.m. Business meeting will be held in the afternoon. Pastors should bring the number of those who filed a tithing statement from each branch in January.

Missouri Priesthood Institute

Priesthood members of Spring River and Rich Hill Districts will meet at Racine, Missouri (Ozarks Reunion Grounds), Saturday and Sunday, March 10 and 11. Guest minister will be Elder Harry Simons, President of Central Missouri Stake.

Southern Missouri Institute and Conference

Southern Missouri District conference and institute will be held March 2 to 4 at Kennett, Missouri. Visiting ministers will be Apostle D. O. Chesworth and Seventy D. L. Kyser. Members of the district are urged to attend, starting Friday, March 2. Missionary sermons Monday through Friday by Apostle Chesworth will be preached here following the conference.

Notice to Members in Urbana, Illinois

Mr. and Mrs. Burton A. Barwise, 910 West Church, Urbana, Illinois, would like to contact other members living in the Champaign-Urbana area.

Changes of Addresses

S. W. Johnson
Sanborn, New York

Bantz and Thelona Dowis
711 Upper College Road
Las Cruces, New Mexico

G. Wayne Smith
744 Fifth Street
Aurora, Illinois

James E. Renfroe
103 West 22nd Street
Little Rock, Arkansas

Books Wanted

Mrs. Julius Abegg, 601 West South Avenue, Independence, Missouri, would like to purchase copies of *The Saints' Harp* and *The Saints' Harmony*.

REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS

Prayers are requested for Zendon Mapes, 76 Bennett Avenue, Jackson, Ohio, who has been ill since early fall.

Mrs. E. C. Eckright, who is ill at Grace Hospital in Hutchinson, Kansas, requests prayers for herself and her family.

Prayers are requested for Mrs. Ivan Thompson, Warton, Ontario, who is seriously ill.

ENGAGEMENTS

Deitrick-Jones

Mr. and Mrs. E. Lloyd Jones of Midland, Michigan, announce the engagement of their daughter, Barbara, to Roger Deitrick, son of Mrs. Doris Deitrick of Albany, California. Roger is a student at Graceland College. The wedding will take place in early June.

Van Fleet-Dowker

Mr. and Mrs. John A. Dowker, Jr., of Independence, Missouri, announce the engagement of their daughter, Carol Winifred, to Ronald Nelson Van Fleet, son of Mr. Nelson M. Van Fleet of Ontario, California. Both Miss Dowker and Mr. Van Fleet have attended Graceland College. The wedding will take place in February.

Reppert-Grigg

Elder and Mrs. E. J. Grigg of Coldwater, Michigan, announce the engagement of their daughter, Beverly, to Richard Reppert, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Reppert, also of Coldwater. The wedding will take place in June.

Tesh-Ralston

Mr. and Mrs. Arch Ralston of Coffeyville, Kansas, announce the engagement of their daughter, Kathleen, to George Tesh, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Tesh. Miss Ralston is assistant church school director and teacher of the Zion's League class in Coffeyville Branch.

Yates-Jones

Mr. J. M. Jones of Webb City, Missouri, announces the engagement of his daughter, Lois Mae, to Newell Ralph Yates, son of Mrs. Nellie Yates of Wheatland, Wyoming. Miss Jones is a graduate of Graceland College, class of '50, and Mr. Yates is now a sophomore there. No date has been set for the wedding.