

Skyline Ward Book of Mormon Testimonies of 2020

Introduction: Ryan Stodtmeister

2020 began with amazing spiritual promise as the Church introduced the Come Follow Me program as a way to guide our study of the Book of Mormon in Sunday School. Perhaps even just as exciting was the fact that the entire Church, from the Sunbeams to the High Priests would all be studying the Book of Mormon together.

As the Sunday School Presidency at the time, Brother Chamberlain, Brother Alcarion, and I discussed and prayed to think of a way to promote faithful and meaningful study of the Book of Mormon that would also provide rich spiritual experiences and memories for 2020. We were prompted to set a ward Sunday School goal and invite everyone to make one entry a month in a personal Book of Mormon reading/testimony journal. We then envisioned a fireside meeting sometime at the end of January 2021 at which members would be asked to share entries from their reading journal as well as their experiences and testimonies of studying the Book of Mormon in 2020.

While such a fireside would have been a terrific capstone to the year, it was willingly sacrificed to protect the health of our ward family and community as well as follow the directions of our church leaders, obey the law, and be good neighbors to our community during the coronavirus pandemic. In the place of a fireside we have produced a written compilation of succinct testimonies of the Book of Mormon submitted by members of the Skyline ward family, which we present to you now and dedicate to the memory of Brother Gil Thompson.

Brother Thompson was the ward Sunday School President before me, and it was my great honor to serve as one of his counselors. My own Book of Mormon journal entry for February 2020 discussed my feelings after the attending his funeral on February 8, 2020. When I heard that Brother Thompson died, I immediately thought of Alma 40:11-12, which reads: “Now, concerning the state of the soul between death and the resurrection—Behold, it has been made known unto me by an angel, that the spirits of all men, as soon as they are departed from this mortal body, yea, the spirits of all men, whether they be good or evil, are taken home to that God who gave them life. And then shall it come to pass, that the spirits of those who are righteous are received into a state of happiness, which is called paradise, a state of rest, a state of peace, where they shall rest from all their troubles and from all care, and sorrow.”

During Brother Thompson’s funeral, when his family testifying how joyful they were at the thought of his resurrection (while tenderly joking a little about his bad eye and limp), I also reflected on Alma 11:42-44, which reads: “Now, there is a death which is called a temporal death; and the death of Christ shall loose the bands of this temporal death, that all shall be raised from this temporal death. The spirit and the body shall be reunited again in its perfect form; both limb and joint shall be restored to its proper frame, even as we now are at this time; and we shall be brought to stand before God, knowing even as we know now, and have a bright recollection of all our guilt. Now, this restoration shall come to all, both old and young, both bond and free, both male and female, both the wicked and the righteous; and even there

shall not so much as a hair of their heads be lost; but every thing shall be restored to its perfect frame, as it is now, or in the body, and shall be brought and be arraigned before the bar of Christ the Son, and God the Father, and the Holy Spirit, which is one Eternal God, to be judged according to their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil.”

In his October 2017 General Conference talk, President Russell M. Nelson asked three poignant questions: “First, what would your life be like without the Book of Mormon? Second, what would you not know? And third, what would you not have?” One of my personal answers to these questions is I would not know, nor would I have a testimony of what happens to us after we die. Without the Book of Mormon we would not have these two scriptures (and many others) that teach our Heavenly Father’s Plan of Salvation so succinctly, clearly explaining the eternal plan God has for all of us and what happens after our period of mortality here on earth ends. I testify that the Book of Mormon contains the eternal truths of the Plan of Salvation and by reading it we can learn and gain a testimony that through the sacrifice and Atonement of our Savior Jesus Christ we are offered immortality and eternal life with Him.

Marjie Christensen

I am thankful for a young, humble man that wanted to know the path to his salvation. While earnestly reading the scriptures to find his answer, he read a passage in the book of James that told him to ask of God. He knelt in a beautiful grove of trees near his home. Miraculously, Heavenly Father and his Son, Jesus Christ, appeared to him and comforted him. They told him that none of the churches on earth were the true church which was established by Jesus Christ in New Testament times. This event led to the tutoring of this young man, Joseph Smith. He was taught and instructed during his maturing years to be ready to retrieve the buried golden plates. He was given the tools to translate the ancient language on the plates. These transcripts were published into the Book of Mormon. This book is a marvelous history full of teachings, both tragic and spiritual. The book is another testament of Jesus Christ. If it is read with a sincere heart the Holy Spirit will fill your being. The words of this book are inspired scripture. I testify the words of the Book of Mormon are true. I am thankful for the peace I feel when I read and study it.

Lynda Morris

Forty years ago I followed the admonition of Moroni in Moroni 10. I asked of God if the Book of Mormon was true and received a powerful confirmation in my heart of its truthfulness and divinity. This year, during a time of isolation and solitary study, I have once again felt the truth and comfort of the Book of Mormon. We read the Book of Mormon how we want to read it. It doesn’t change, but we do. I have been especially impressed reading Alma 32. “Faith is not to have a perfect knowledge of things; therefore if ye have faith ye have hope for things which are not seen, which are true.” Alma 32:21. Learning to trust God in good times and bad is just one of the many lessons the Book of Mormon has revealed to me this year. I’m thankful for the opportunity I’ve had to once again read the Book of Mormon and be nourished by it during a time that has required diligence and patience. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Bill Horn

The Book of Mormon and the New Testament are and were the basis of our introduction to Come Follow Me in 2019 and Home Centered Learning, which was invaluable during the pandemic of 2020. I am not surprised how the Lord prepared us during 2019 as we learned to appreciate the value of Home Centered Learning through the use of Come Follow Me. My testimony is the Lord knows each of us personally and through President Russell M. Nelson he started to prepare us on June 3, 2018, (April 2018 General Conference as well) when he and sister Nelson introduced us to the Gathering of Scattered Israel. The Book of Mormon is a second witness, to our Savior through the Atonement, Jesus Christ. We were introduced to Jesus in the New Testament and the Book of Mormon testifies of his message to come follow him, back to Heavenly Father. As I have read, pondered, prayed over, studied, etc. it became apparent to me the value of reading the Book of Mormon frequently, as I recently discovered scriptures in Ether, which brought a new meaning to providing me a peaceful place to find and in particularly the warnings the prophet Ether taught would take place if the Jaredites didn't repent. I love the land of promise covenant offered to the Jaredites and Lehi and Nephi, and I personally know I never want to lose my inheritance of this land. This Book of Mormon is the words of God and His prophets and when followed, peace will abound in your life. I share these humble truths in the name of Jesus Christ.

Kathi Nelson

Studying the Book of Mormon in 2020 has taken on a whole new dimension. I shall continue to read and ponder what it holds for me. But the experience this time will forever be colored by this year. There has never been a time of greater upset for me than now, all at once: the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Presidential election, the violence spinning off demonstrations against police brutality, the wildfires, the tension in my own home concerning extra family living here as we cautiously watch and pray for our grandson to recover from AML. With such a burden to cope with, despair can be a companion. But my take-away is that I am like a Jaredite, in a strangely designed bowl of a ship, tossed about in the stormy sea. But I have the light—the light the gospel brings, and its assurance that the Lord is with me, knows my distress and has already paid the price for all trials. “Peace, peace, be still.”

Zeth Alcarion

I know that the Book of Mormon is true. I know that it brings more than just happiness, it brings hope. Hope we will have a better life, hope that we will be together as a family, and hope that we will return to our Heavenly Father and his Son Jesus Christ. The Book of Mormon has opened my eyes to many great and marvelous people and things. I am so Eternally Grateful for The Book of Mormon.

Kaylee Alcarion

My testimony of the Book of Mormon has grown and also faded at different times throughout my life. At this time, my testimony is at one of its strongest points. I know that the Book of Mormon is the true word of God. It was placed here on this Earth for us, to help us grow, and to help us learn. I am grateful for the influence of the Book of Mormon on my life and the things I have learned and gained from reading its sacred passages. Throughout these trying times, the Book of Mormon has been my beacon and my light, giving me hope to keep trying and moving forward. I know that the Book of Mormon is for everyone and can be so personal to each and every one of us. I am grateful for my knowledge of the Book of Mormon and the Gospel. I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Charles Woodman

The Book of Mormon is critical to my testimony. I have learned in the years since that when I am “living my life inside the Book of Mormon”, i.e. making reading/study an integral part of my daily routine, all aspects of my life are so much better, and so many mundane things of real life just seem to come together as I focus on the lasting, meaningful issues that come to the forefront when I’m reading every day. It makes perfect sense, and is such wisdom, that a record filled with amazing and beautiful doctrine, and with truths that apply as much today as they did two thousand years ago, would also serve as the physical and spiritual, hold-in-our hands evidence of the reality of Joseph Smith’s mission. We know that if the Book of Mormon is true, then Joseph must have been a true prophet, and if he was the Lord’s prophet, then the church he restored must have been the Lord’s church. As a trial lawyer who deals with having evidence admitted into the record on an almost daily basis, I find it amazing that in the third verse of the book, Nephi lays out the legal foundation for authenticating his record as true. Finally, I have never had the “bolt of lightning” experience where it hit me overwhelmingly that the Book of Mormon is true. However, never ever, in tens of thousands of experiences, have I read a passage from that book without feeling the Spirit whisper that what I was reading was true and real. Beyond that, I have come to see in my own life the truth of the messages and the reality of the doctrines taught. The Book of Mormon is a true record. It is a life-changer!

Calli Smith

I decided this year as I read the Book of Mormon to create a timeline so when I read the stories I would know where they fit in the history of these children of Lehi. What I learned was that everything in the Book of Mormon points to the coming of Christ and His ministry and sacrifice for us. My heart was touched by early prophets declaring faith in a Being who had been foretold, but was yet to come. I love reading of Christ’s appearance and teaching the Nephite people and preparing them to carry on when he was no longer physically with them. I can use those same teachings to keep Christ in my life today, and I am so grateful for that blessing. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Janet L. Muir

I remember listening to my parents read the Book of Mormon to me as a little girl, then as a young girl studying in Seminary and in my Religion class while away at College, and as a young mother reading out loud to three little children, which took over five years to complete. I began again this year reading the Book of Mormon from the beginning. While reading, I have often been struck with wonder and awe at how the words in the book seem to speak so directly to me – about me, my family, this nation, and the world in which we all live; how the history that is written gives us a pattern to follow for our own lives as we seek success and happiness; how the prophecies contained have been fulfilled, are being fulfilled and most certainly will yet be fulfilled as the gathering of the House of Israel – of which we are a part – take place; how we are warned to prepare for the Second Coming of the Lord our God. Most importantly, I am touched by how the book testifies of Christ. I believe in Christ. He is my Savior and Redeemer. I know that through the redeeming and enabling power of His Atonement, as we repent and strive to be like Him through service to others, we can find peace and contentment in a world that is otherwise full of strife and contention, and we can ultimately obtain eternal life as a family! As President Nelson has said, “Immersing ourselves regularly in the truths of the Book of Mormon can be a life-changing experience.” This has certainly been true for me, as I leave you with my witness and my testimony.

Nathan Goode

I like drawing pictures for Come, Follow Me. I liked learning about Helaman and the 2000 stripling warriors. They were brave and were not afraid to fight for their families. The Book of Mormon teaches us to have faith and I want to have faith like the stripling warriors. I know that this Church is true and that the prophet teaches us true things, and I believe in the Book of Mormon. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Laura Goode

My testimony has grown so much this year while reading the book of Mormon. I believe that it is true. The book of Mormon is all about Jesus Christ. We learn a lot of what we believe from the book of Mormon. Reading the book of Mormon before school pushes me through the day. My favorite story I have learned this year is captain Moroni because he was always so prepared. Captain Moroni teaches me to be prepared and to face my fears. I look up to captain Moroni and all the book of Mormon heroes. I have loved reading and studying the book of Mormon this year for come, follow me. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Katie Goode

Come Follow Me has helped me learn more about the Book of Mormon this year. Throughout the year, it has been nice to be able to look to the Book of Mormon for anything. This year I have worked on reading everyday and seeing how it improves my day to day life. The Book of Mormon has made me a much happier person every day I've read and when I read, I feel so much peace and hope for the future and everything Heavenly Father has in store

for me. I know the Book of Mormon is true and love the feeling I get when I read it in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Megan Goode

Studying the Book of Mormon this year in Come, Follow Me has helped me to grow my testimony in so many ways. We've all had to adapt this year, and being able to have the Book of Mormon to read and ponder through all this has been an immense blessing in my life. I know that whenever fear and doubt have crept in, I've been able to turn to the pages of the scriptures to find comfort and peace. One scripture in particular that I discovered this year that has brought me so much comfort is Alma 34:41. It says, "But that ye have patience, and bear with those afflictions, with a firm hope that ye shall one day rest from all your afflictions." I love this scripture and all that it teaches. I know that someday we will all return to our Heavenly Father, and we will rest from our afflictions. My testimony of prayer has also increased so much this year. I know that when we pray to our Father in Heaven, He truly hears us and listens. I've been able to discover this over the course of this year, and I know that when I take the time to sincerely pray, I grow closer to my Heavenly Father and to my Savior. My day is always better when I pray. Prayer is an incredible blessing in my life, and I'm so grateful for it and that I've been able to grow my testimony of it this year. I'm so incredibly thankful for the gospel in my life and the blessings it brings. I'm grateful for all of the experiences that I've had this year that have helped me to grow my testimony of the gospel in so many ways. I know that Heavenly Father is always there and always listening, and that He loves each of us so much more than we can imagine. I know that the scriptures are true and that the Book of Mormon is another testament of Jesus Christ. I know that our Savior suffered and died for each of us, and that He loves us. I know that the gospel is true and I'm so grateful for it. I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Brec Tambo

I am grateful for the Book of Mormon. Throughout the years, I have been strengthened by the simple truths and doctrines found within its pages. One of my favorite verses is found in Alma 7:7, which reads: "For behold, I say unto you there be many things to come; and behold, there is one thing which is of more importance than they all—for behold the time is not far distant that the Redeemer liveth and cometh among his people." I am grateful for this powerful truth in which we learn the Savior will come again. He lives. He loves us. He already has saved us all, and we depend on His grace and atoning sacrifice to live with our families perpetually. Only in and through Jesus Christ can we become exalted beings. I love Him for what He did for us all. The Book of Mormon is the word of God. It can transform our lives and habits so we can become our best selves. It truly is the keystone to our religion, and I would even say to our lives. We learn more about covenants and ordinances that are key for our eternal joy and happiness. I know that as we follow through with the truths and principles found in this book, we will—as President Nelson taught us— "let God prevail." I know this book is true. I know it has the power to heal us, inspire us, reveal unto us the mysteries of God, and will bring us closer

to God than any other book. I humbly share my testimony of this book, in the name of Jesus Christ, of whom this book testifies, amen.

Erika Goode

I have loved studying the Book of Mormon this year with Come, Follow Me. When I was in college my sister and I decided that we wanted to read the Book of Mormon during Christmas break together. We had about 3 weeks, and we decided to read it out loud to each other. We read for about 3 hours every day, and I think that is where my love of the Book of Mormon really started. I have found during the years since then that I never tire of reading and rereading the Book of Mormon. I am always amazed at how much I learn as I read it. I think this year with Come, Follow Me I was really able to not just read but to take the time to study and learn more with myself and my family. I am thankful for the pandemic this year because it has made for more time at home with my family. For me, life slowed down a bit, and I have loved that. I have tried to take that extra time and to really focus on what is important. When we were not able to go to church at the church building, I loved doing church at home because it forced me to prepare and be ready to teach my children the gospel. I love that our focus was studying the Book of Mormon this year, and I am so thankful for the comfort and strength that it gave me during this year.

Jennifer Jensen

Every time I read the Book of Mormon I find something that helps me. Whether it is a rediscovered truth or a new epiphany, there is wisdom, solace, and truth in every page. It is especially significant in this year of home-centered church that there are so many stories about families: Lehi and Sariah, Alma and Alma the younger, Mosiah and his sons, Lamoni and his father, Jared and his brother. Their trials of both unbelief and faith are such powerful lessons. I am so grateful for the testimonies of the Savior and his atonement. They give me so much hope and joy. Speaking of joy, my favorite scripture is 2 Nephi 2:25: “Adam fell that man might be and men are that they might have joy!” The Book of Mormon brings me joy!!!

Cheryl Woodman

Growing up a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, there have been times I have thought how great it would be to be a convert to the Church and go through the conversion process. What I have come to realize is that every member of the Church has to have their own conversion experience. I have been blessed in my life to believe with my whole heart that the Church is true. I am thankful for the experiences I have had as the Spirit has testified to me that the Book of Mormon is the word of God. Our Prophet, President Nelson, asked us to think about what our lives would be like without the Book of Mormon. Pondering that thought helped me to appreciate more and to make the Book of Mormon a part of my life every day. It helped me find more personal meaning in what I was reading. I am thankful for the Prophet Joseph Smith, for his courage to not turn away from what he saw, felt, and knew to be true when it would have been so much easier for him to deny. I testify that as we study this

Book with more meaning and purpose by inviting the Holy Ghost to be a part of our study, the teachings will penetrate and change our hearts with a more personal understanding behind the words. It's heart breaking to read about the loss, the wars, and the division in the Book of Mormon, but then, my heart rejoices from the wisdom, the grace and the promises that can be ours. Our world is full of discord and contention, but it is peace we are promised as we turn to Him, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Heather Keenan

I would like to share my testimony of the Book of Mormon. I was blessed to be raised in the gospel, where daily scripture study was an important thing in our home. Not only as a family, but personally as well. I am extremely grateful to my parents for instilling a love of the scriptures and the habit of reading them into my life. However, as I'm sure with most people, there have been times when reading the Book of Mormon was not a priority in my life. During those times when I've been "too busy" or simply forgotten and been out of the habit, I have noticed a difference in the general peace I feel day to day, which is so greatly needed right now. I love the Bible and the stories told and lessons learned, but the Book of Mormon has a different effect on me. Maybe it's knowing that it was specifically written for our day, or maybe knowing that it occurred here in America, or maybe it's because I can relate to the people in it who are living the ups and downs of life, holding on to the belief taught by their fathers and the hope that Christ will come. I love that each time I read the Book of Mormon, different stories or verses stand out to me, which I know is Heavenly Father's amazing way of speaking to me when I need it.

Liane McCombs

My testimony of the Book of Mormon began when I first started taking the missionary discussions at age twenty-two. It was a life changing experience, and that process resulted in my being baptized by who would become my future husband, Dale. We were married in the Oakland Temple two years later. My testimony of each aspect of the gospel grew year by year, but my testimony of the Book of Mormon profoundly increased when I began teaching Seminary. Through daily studying and preparing Seminary lessons on the Book of Mormon, a greater understanding and testimony of its divine power changed my heart. I felt the Spirit touch my heart as I read the words of King Benjamin and the blessings given to the sons of Mosiah. It was then that I also gained a greater testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith, and his sacrifice in bringing the Book of Mormon to the latter-day generations. My love for Christ also increased when I read the chapters in 3 Nephi, showing His great love for little children, for me, and for all the people of the world. It also gave me an increased understanding of the relationship that Christ has with our Father in Heaven. I will be forever grateful for the decision I made to become a church member, and receive a testimony of the Book of Mormon, and how that single decision has forever changed my life and the life of my family for the better.

Holly Tambo

Although the idea of the Book of Mormon, and the way it came about, can sound really fantastic to many, I just would like to convey, in my very meager attempt to vocalize it, that the Book of Mormon has such a spirit to it, that is undeniable to me—it calms, it centers, and it makes the veil a little bit thinner. Religion is a tool to get to one’s higher spiritual sphere, and this truly has been an instrument for me all of my life. I am grateful for the presence of it in not only mine, but my family’s life! I am so grateful I had this tool to use as a parent. I love and adore the Book of Mormon!

Gordon Muir

I testify to the goodness and peace that the Book of Mormon has brought into my life. For about as long as I can remember I believed the Book of Mormon contained the word of God akin to the Bible. As a teenager, I struggled to read the Book of Mormon through in its entirety, always seeming to get stuck somewhere in Alma. But during my freshman year in college, I did study and read the Book of Mormon in its entirety. During my studies that year, I was especially impressed and touched by the Lord's visit to the people at the temple in the land of Bountiful after they had suffered such great calamity and destruction. Since then, I have accepted the Book of Mormon as a witness of Christ and of his divine role as my Savior and Redeemer. The Book of Mormon has motivated me to repent and to strive to do good and to be good. It has helped me to know and do the will of God. It motivated me and helped impress upon me the need to serve a mission as a young man; and it taught me how I could be a better missionary. Its words have guided me throughout my life, inspiring me to act, helping to answer questions, and otherwise enlightening my understanding about all of the happenings in the world about me. It has helped me know that God loves me and will forgive me of my sins and transgressions as oft as I repent. Most importantly, the Book of Mormon helps me to believe and have faith in Christ, who is the source of the peace, comfort, and joy I have felt throughout my life.

Jody Horn

I have never been so engaged in the study of the scriptures as I have been since the beginning of Come Follow Me. I’m grateful for Come Follow Me and the motivation I have to study each day. I’m especially grateful for the Book of Mormon and all I have learned this year. One thing that has impressed me is the great care Heavenly Father has taken to make sure these scriptures are available to us today. From prophets who wrote the messages, to prophets who protected the plates, to Joseph Smith who translated the plates and published them, all was under the watchful eye of Heavenly Father. I’m so impressed with prophets who have such strong faith that in spite of so much opposition they continued to do the work that was needed. Nephi faced opposition from within his family. Samuel the Lamanite couldn’t go back in the city but had to preach from the top of the wall while stones were thrown at him and arrows shot at him. Abinidi was burned to death for opposing King Noah and continuing to preach repentance. Moroni witnessed the destruction of the Nephites and spoke of his loneliness with

no friend and no place to go. The strength of these prophets helps me to know that I can endure righteously no matter what trials I face. What was required of the prophets in the scriptures seems so much more severe and drastic than anything I would need to experience. However, at times my trials feel overwhelming, and I wonder how that can be when I think about these strong faithful prophets and what they endured. As I continue to read the Book of Mormon I am glad to review things I know, learn new things, and clarify things I still need to understand better. I find peace and calmness in my life as I dedicate time to reading the Book of Mormon daily. I'm grateful to know there is a power in the Book of Mormon that can strengthen us. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Dianne Kane

I want to bare my Testimony that I know the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is true. My testimony has grown so very much because of the Book of Mormon Come Follow Me Program. I have read the Book of Mormon several times, but because of the Come Follow Me lessons I learned and have had my heart touched by certain scriptures. My testimony has grown and helped me with my prayers to get comfort, love, and more faith in our Savior Jesus Christ. I find after my prayers and reading the Book of Mormon I feel peace in my heart that my Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ know and love me. I am so grateful for the Come Follow Me program. I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Stephen Rock

The Book of Mormon provides an additional witness of Jesus Christ and our Heavenly Father adding to the Old and New Testament. Those who read it with an open heart and mind will receive assurance of its truth from the spirit along with a greater understanding and appreciation of the role of the Savior in our lives.

Janice Rock

As Nephi, I too was born to goodly parents who taught me the gospel and blessed me at an early age to appreciate scriptures. But it wasn't until I went to college that I truly gained a testimony of the Book of Mormon for myself. I read with "a sincere heart, with real intent." It didn't come instantly, but over time I was blessed with the assurance that what I was reading, and feeling was true. I know that the Book of Mormon was translated by Joseph Smith and is another testament of Jesus Christ. I also know that it was written to help us through our challenges in this dispensation. I feel a real power when I read regularly! I'm able to deal with "life" in a more positive way. My burdens seem lighter and easier to bear. I'm more at peace. I am eternally grateful for a Heavenly Father who knew that we would need divine support in this life. It's in the pages of the Book of Mormon.

Wolfgang Gupta

This year I learned that Jesus Christ was God's son. That Nephi took the right path and everyone didn't. I learned that Christmas is supposed to make it easier to remember Jesus, but

we should do it all year. It's his birthday. Also, that all of Helaman's Army survived because they prayed for God.

Lizzie Gupta

Studying the Book of Mormon this year has heightened my testimony. I have been in awe at the new relationship with the scriptures I have developed as I use them as my guide to teach my children through life's difficult challenges and prepare them for the world with contemplations of morality. I am in awe of such an opus that provides such nuanced meanings throughout the different stages our life, yet remains constant. This has brought me peace and a feeling of trust in my faith I have never experienced before. It has given me new confidence as a mother and woman to raise my children of God.

Whitney Stodtmeister

I know that the Book of Mormon is true and is another testament of Jesus Christ. I am so grateful for its clarity as well as the clarification that it brings into our life. I finished reading the Book of Mormon for the first time when I was a teenager. I took Moroni's challenge and had the spirit confirm to me that the words, stories, and people in the Book were real and true. Each time I finish reading the Book of Mormon I can remember that spirit I felt. I love that each time I read the Book of Mormon something different stands out to me. This has been very apparent this year. I have been grateful for the Book of Mormon's words of peace and comfort. The people in the Book of Mormon went through many trials and tribulations. Even more than what we have experienced in 2020. But in the end the news is good. Christ was born, lived, and died for us. Because of Him we can be saved and return and live with our families and Heavenly Father again. I love the Book of Mormon.

Beau Keenan

I have a testimony the Book of Mormon was written by prophets of old who communed with our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ through revelation and the Holy Ghost. The Book of Mormon, like the Bible, has taught me that Jesus is the Son of God, the light and life of the world. Reading about the miraculous effect the Savior had on the lives of those who believe in Him in the scriptures fills my soul with great peace. My favorite part of the Book of Mormon being when the resurrected Christ visited the Americas, as described in the book of Third Nephi. Like one religious scholar, Andrew C. Skinner, has explained, "In a way, it picks up where Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John leave off and strengthens their messages." Third Nephi emphasizes the most important doctrines, principles, and themes found in the other Gospels. I would urge any person wanting to know of the truth of the Book of Mormon to, at a minimum, read the Introduction and Witnesses section and the book of Third Nephi, and then take the challenge given in Moroni chapter 10, verses 3-4. Because I took this challenge twenty years ago, I can say Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ are not just some abstract beings somewhere. They are a part of me and you. They listen to us. They know us. When we go to them in faith and do what is right, they will help us through our journey of life.

Dale McCombs

Thanks to my mother, I have a testimony of the Book of Mormon. When I was 18 I was not sure if I should serve a mission. My brother was on his mission and my mother had come to me asking if I was going to go. I told her I wasn't sure and that I needed to find out for myself if the Church was true. She encouraged me to read the Book of Mormon and told me about Moroni's promise to read, ponder, and pray and God would tell you by the Holy Ghost if it was true. I started reading every night before I went to bed. My mom would come to my room and talk to me about what I had read and ask about my feelings. I loved reading the Book of Mormon, but I was getting close to the end of the Book and had not received my testimony. My mom continued to come and ask me how I was doing and would take time to pray with me. I got to 3rd Nephi where the Savior visited the people there. I read in 3rd Nephi 17 how the Savior gathered the little children around him and how he knelt down on the ground and prayed for those who were there. Then how angels gathered around the little children and how Jesus prayed such a prayer that the words could not be written. After Jesus had prayed, as he arose, it says that He wept. Right then the spirit touched my heart, and I knew that the Book of Mormon was the word of God. Mothers have a great influence of their children. Because of my experience I found out for myself that the Church is true. I was called to serve a mission in the Australia Brisbane mission and had so many experiences that strengthened my testimony. The Book of Mormon changed my life I know it is true and as you read if it will also change your life.

Jacob Hansen

The Book of Mormon conveys to me the mind and will of God. The Book can be read on so many levels. If a person wants to know the doctrine of Jesus Christ, clarify the Bible, and deepen their understanding of God's plan for man then they need to read the book. As I have read it my understanding has deepened, but more importantly I have felt God speak to me through the stories and sermons within the pages. But it's not just a nice story book. It's a powerful evidence that Joseph Smith was indeed called by God. He could not have written the book. When you look closely at the complex theology, the complex narrative, and the nuances of the book it's clear that this record is not from him, and we should take seriously his witness as well as the witness of the others who saw and held the plates. It's real. God speaks through it. All should read it and then ask God if it contains His mind and will. I am confident they will receive the same answer I did.

Andi Keenan

Today, I would like to share my testimony of the Book of Mormon. I am incredibly blessed and grateful for the impact that it has had on me and my life. One big way that the Book of Mormon has helped me this year, is how much many of the stories in it can relate to our life today. A big story that can relate to our life in many ways, is the Tree of Life. Pretty much all the main aspects in this story can compare to our lives. The Tree of Life represents Heaven and eternal life. The iron rod represents the covenant path, if we continue to hold on tight, (strive

to stay righteous and keep our covenants), we will be able to live with God again. The great and spacious building compares to drugs, alcohol, pornography, etc. These things can sometimes bring temporal happiness, but the only way to have eternal happiness is by following Christ's example and trying our hardest to get back to our Heavenly Father and Heaven. Lastly, the mist of darkness represents trials and hardships in our life. It can be hard sometimes to keep moving forward in life and trust in God, but if we continue to trust him and keep our commandments, I know that we will be greatly blessed. I am incredibly grateful for Joseph Smith and all the days, nights, work, and effort that he put into translating the scriptures, and all the time that the many men spent, writing in the scriptures, even when it was hard and inconvenient. Reading the Book of Mormon is a great way to help us keep the commandments and get back to Heaven and God. I know that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ are always watching over us and want us to return home to them again.