

I WITNESS Kids




Pass the Popcorn


Paul Frinthal

When I was just 10 years old, my family attended church in the small town of Galesburg, Illinois. It was a small congregation but they always had plenty of things for us kids to do.

We had junior church every Sunday morning. Some very dedicated ladies and priesthood always had some type of lesson followed by refreshments. I must admit that the frosted sugar cookies were always in the back of my mind, knowing they would follow the lesson that day. It was in this environment that I first met The Book of Mormon. Being a big western movie fan, I was interested to hear that this book was written by Indians; that the language was strange and that it took a young boy named Joseph Smith a long time, with the help of others, to transcribe this book into English. I was also amazed to learn that these Indians were not familiar tribes like Apache or Sioux; they came from the land of Jesus long before He was born. How in the world did they get here?

The stories were wonderful, and I remember looking forward to hearing more about the adventures of Nephi and his brothers. Weekends that summer were good for me. On Saturday mornings we would go to the movie theater, where I paid 25 cents for a box of popcorn and the new Hopalong Cassidy movie followed by 25 cartoons. On Sunday morning, it was another challenge for Nephi in my junior church lesson.

 The stories were simple to understand and, from them, we learned there was a right way to live and do everything.

 Somewhere in my teenage "know-it-all" years or my young adult life, I lost that Book of Mormon excitement. This wonderful book sat on a hidden shelf somewhere gathering dust. Those years are lost, and I can't get them back.

Today I am happy to report that the excitement is back. I love to read the wonderful stories that were actually lived by members of the House of Israel who found themselves living in Central America. These are lessons for life and blessings we cannot imagine without The Book of Mormon. What Saturday morning cowboy movie could ever match the excitement found in the pages of The Book of Mormon!

As I wrote this article, I thought about myself as a 10-year-old. How simple was my faith and how exciting was that time! Was it like this for others?

I remember our teacher saying, "Today, children, we will learn about the Nephite captain, Moroni." I think maybe it should be this simple again. Maybe it should be this exciting. Let's get a good seat . . . pass the popcorn . . .





MORONI SON OF MORMON

By David Howlett

Moroni was the last writer in The Book of Mormon. He was the son of Mormon who was a captain of the Nephite armies. _____(A) lived hundreds of years after the birth of Christ. He was born into a nation filled with _____.(B) There were many different churches in his time, but there were very few people who were true followers of _____(C) The _____(D) had grown hardened and they would not repent. Because of this, the Lord would not help them and they were _____(E) into the hands of the Lamanites. All during Moroni's childhood, there were wars separated by short periods of _____.(F) One day Moroni went to hear his father preach to the people. That day his father gave a very powerful _____.(G) Mormon talked about having faith in God, having hope, being humble and, most importantly, about having charity. Moroni learned that _____(H) was the pure love of Jesus Christ. It was a love different from all other loves. Charity was patient. It was kind. It was humble and giving. It endured _____.(I) When everything else failed, charity was still there. This sermon made a strong impression on Moroni, because he later included it in _____(J)

Moroni grew in his _____(K) in the Lord and was eventually called into the ministry. Moroni took a righteous stand even though being a _____(L) was not _____.(M) Moroni served under his father as a captain in the Nephite _____(N) during a time of great contention between the Nephites and the _____.(O) After a series of smaller battles, the Nephite and Lamanite armies met in a final battle at hill _____.(P) When the battle was over, only Mormon, Moroni and 22 other men were left _____(Q) out of the Nephite army!

Before Mormon died, he gave the golden plates to his son, Moroni. Both Mormon and Moroni hoped that one day these _____(R) would be taken to the Lamanites to _____(S) them of Jesus Christ. Many years and many miles later, Moroni completed his writing and then _____(T) the plates on a hillside in what came to be known as the state of New York. Several hundred years later, Moroni appeared as an _____(U) to a young man named Joseph Smith. He told Joseph about the _____.(V) Finally, he let Joseph have the plates. Today, we have The Book of Mormon as a result of this translation.

continued on next page

The words below will complete the story of Moroni.

CHRISTIAN	JESUS CHRIST	ALONE	CHARITY	BURIED
POPULAR	FRIEND	PEACE	TEACH	BOOK OF MORMON
MORONI	NEPHITES	ALIVE	LOST	HOPE
ARMY	LAMANITES	SERMON	FOREVER	ANGEL
TESTIMONY	CUMORAH	RECORDS	FAITH	PLATES
SIN	DELIVERED			

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Looking back over Moroni's life, we can see that many awful things happened to him. He _____(w) all of his family and friends. He was hunted by the Lamanites. Yet, Moroni was never really _____.(x) God was always with him. The three Nephites and even Jesus Christ visited Moroni and talked with him face to face. Jesus Christ was a personal _____(y) to Moroni. This relationship gave him the strength to go on when all _____(z) seemed to be lost. In The Book of Mormon, Moroni wrote the following words to us:

And now I would commend you to seek this Jesus of whom the prophets and apostles have written, that the grace of God the Father, and also the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost, which beareth record of them, may be, and abide in you for ever. Amen. (Ether 5:41 RLDS) [Ether 12:41 LDS]

The testimony which Moroni bears to us is to seek out Jesus Christ as your personal friend. No greater _____(AA) can be given to us.

Answers to Moroni fill-in-the-blank puzzle:
 (A) Moroni (B) sin (C) Jesus Christ (D) Nephites (E) delivered (F) peace (G) sermon (H) charity (I) forever (J) The Book of Mormon (K) faith (L) Christian (M) popular (N) army (O) Lamanites (P) Cumorah (Q) alive (R) records (S) teach (T) buried (U) angel (V) plates (W) lost (X) alone (Y) friend (Z) hope (AA) testimony

MESSAGE

Use the code key at the bottom to decode the message. Answer on back cover.

**A
W
A
O
U**

8-3 8-5 9-3 8-5 8-4 7-4 7-2 9-3 6-5 10-3 7-4 8-4
 7-1 6-1 7-4 9-5 7-3 6-1 8-4 6-4 9-5 8-5 8-5 8-1 6-1
 9-3 7-4 7-2 7-3 9-5 6-5 8-5 10-1 9-4 9-4 9-5 6-1 8-4 6-4
 7-3 8-5 10-3 6-1 6-2 8-5 10-1 9-5 10-4 8-5 10-1 ?

	1	2	3	4	5
6	A	B	C	D	E
7	F	G	H	I	J
8	K	L	M	N	O
9	P	Q	R	S	T
10	U	V	W	Y	Z

*Answers on back cover