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Book of Mormon Studies

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Abstract: This is a series of articles intended for Relief Society course study. It discusses the importance of the Book of Mormon, its coming forth (i.e., the translation, the witnesses, the publication, Joseph Smith), brief overview of its contents, and explains the text from 1 Nephi 1 through Alma 58. Each article features several questions that are helpful in synthesizing and applying the Book of Mormon to daily life.

tions were recommended. The work of the publishing committee was approved, and the Hymn Book was unanimously accepted.

The call was sounded for volunteers to give their entire time to the ministry. Besides the missionaries from America, about fifteen of the local brethren offered their services, which were gladly accepted and used to advantage.

President Joseph Fielding and his two counselors, Willard Richards and William Clayton, were released from the duties of presidency, to enable them to give more time to the traveling ministry. Their labours in that capacity, extending over more than two years, were accepted and commended. This action left Brigham Young, as President of the Twelve, in charge of the Mission.

On the day following, a meeting of Church officers convened in the council room of the *Star* office, Oldham Road, Manchester, where missionaries were assigned to Scotland, Ireland, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Sheffield, Lancaster, and other territory in which they had already laboured.

There were fruits in abundance to show for the labours of those eventful three months. The recommendations of the April conference had been fulfilled. The success enjoyed, if one may presume to analyze it, is attributable to at least three factors: First—and always—they were dependent on the Lord, and received and accepted His direction. Second, when there was a job to be done, they did it, put it behind them, cleared the board, forgot it, and tackled the next problem. Third—also important—they followed up their work. Can you imagine withdrawing missionaries from the Herefordshire region when the work had only been fairly started there? Can you imagine skimming over territory once—and expecting results? No selling enterprise could flourish with such slipshod methods.

It appears that the lesson to be learned from the “eventful three months” is this: Be business-like, and use business-like methods—even in the work of the Lord.

BOOK OF MORMON STUDIES*

MEN will be judged by their motives—and by their motives their success is largely determined. This truth is well illustrated in Alma, chapters 43 to 48, inclusive, which are to be considered for this lesson. These chapters are largely filled with another account of wholesale fratricide, with which the Book of Mormon abounds. The motives of the two people—the Lamanites and Nephites—are contrasted in the eighth and ninth verses of chap-

*Lesson 23 of the Relief Society Course of Study—for use on the first lesson night in December.

ter forty-three: His—the Lamanite leader's—designs were to stir up the Lamanites to anger against the Nephites—to bring the Nephites into bondage.

“And now the design of the Nephites was to support their lands, and their houses, and their wives, and their children, that they might preserve them from the hands of their enemies”—and preserve their rights and liberty and freedom of worship.

The contrast is as night to day—good to evil.

Further reading shows that the Nephites were ever victorious and prosperous so long as they were impelled by these worthy motives. May we learn by this to judge our fellowmen—if we must judge at all—by their motives. May we learn further that so long as our innermost motives are righteous and unselfish, our labours shall be rewarded!

QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the disastrous consequences of seeking power and unrighteous dominion, as illustrated in these six chapters.
2. Read and discuss verses 3, 4 and 5 in chapter 44. How have these principles worked out in the history of our Church? They are in operation to-day and in this land. How?
3. Chapter 45 tells of Alma's disappearance, much as Moses of old. What questions did he ask his son Helaman before intrusting him with the sacred records? Why were they—and are they—fundamental?
4. What was the standard raised by Moroni? What covenant did the people of the Church of God make with the Lord? See chapter 46.
5. The Lamanites, under Amalickiah's leadership, feared to fight the Nephites. Why? Why do the wicked ever fear the righteous, even though the former are stronger in number?
6. What qualities made Moroni the outstanding character of the Nephite nation?

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Bee Hive Hallowe'en Party: To raise funds for their Bee Hive Swarm, the Liverpool Branch Bee Hive girls gave a very successful Hallowe'en party at Durham House, Liverpool, on Tuesday, October 30th. Games, refreshments and many ghostly experiences were greatly enjoyed by all who attended. On this night entrance was gained through the *basement*.

Branch Conferences: Of the Blyth Branch, Newcastle District, on Sunday, November 4th. Members of the Sunday School forcefully portrayed “The Sanctity of the Lord's Supper.” District President Charles E. Alsop, Elder A. Fenton Smith and local Brother William G. Anderson were the speakers.

Of the Hyde Branch, Manchester District, on Sunday, November 4th. President J. Rulon Doxey, Elders Alma R. Wakeling, Lysle P. Monson, Hector P. Sadler and local members discoursed on the