

The Book of Mormon—an Immeasurable Treasure on Our Journey

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Kitabu cha Mormoni—Hazina Isiyopimika Katika Safari Yetu

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As we feast upon the words of Christ found in the Book of Mormon, the Spirit will help us understand eternal truths.

Can you remember a moment when someone gave you a gift that changed your life? This October marks 40 years since I received one of the greatest gifts in my life. While I was in high school, I noticed that one of our classmates had a light that was different from most of the other young people. I enjoyed being around him. One day he told me he was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Then he offered me a gift: a copy of the Book of Mormon. He invited me to read a few pages and meet with two friends who could answer my questions. Those friends were the missionaries.

When I met with the missionaries, they taught me the doctrine of Christ and invited me to follow the prophet Moroni's invitation: "When ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost" (Moroni 10:4).

I read several pages of the Book of Mormon and prayed. Although I did not yet have a deep understanding of all the things that the missionaries were teaching me, I felt in my heart that what I was reading was good and came from God. I received the confirmation of Moroni's promise: "And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things" (Moroni 10:5).

Tunaposherehekea maneno ya Kristo yanayopatikana katika Kitabu cha Mormoni, Roho atatusaidia kuelewa kweli za milele.

Je, unaweza kushiriki wakati mtu alikupatia zawadi ambayo ilibadilisha maisha yako? Oktoba hii inatimia miaka 40 tangu nilipopokea moja ya zawadi kuu maishani mwangu. Nilipokuwa katika shule ya upili, nilitambua kwamba mwanafunzi mwenzetu alikuwa na nuru ambayo ilikuwa tofauti na vijana wengine wengi. Nilifurahia kuwa karibu naye. Siku moja aliniambia mimi alikuwa ni muumini wa Kanisa la Yesu Kristo la Watakatifu wa Siku za Mwisho. Kisha akanipa zawadi ya nakala ya Kitabu cha Mormoni. Na alinialika nisome kurasa chache kisha nikutane na marafiki wawili ambao wangeweza kujibu maswali. Marafiki hao walikuwa wamisionari.

Nilipokutana na wamisionari, walinifundisha mafundisho ya Kristo na kunialika kufuata mwaliko wa nabii Moroni: "Na mtakapopokea vitu hivi, ningewashauri kwamba mngemwuliza Mungu, Baba wa Milele, katika jina la Kristo, ikiwa vitu hivi si vya kweli; na ikiwa mtauliza na moyo wa kweli, na kusudi halisi, mkiwa na imani katika Kristo, atawaonyesha ukweli wake kwenu kwa uwezo wa Roho Mtakatifu." (Moroni 10:4).

Nilisoma kurasa kadhaa za Kitabu cha Mormoni na nikasali. Ingawa bado sikuwa na ufahamu wa kina wa mambo yote ambayo wamisionari walikuwa wakinifundisha, nilihisi moyoni mwangu kwamba nilichokuwa nikisoma kili-kuwa kizuri na kilitoka kwa Mungu. Nilipokea uthibitisho wa ahadi ya Moroni: "Na kwa uwezo wa Roho Mtakatifu mpate kujua ukweli wa vitu vyote" (Moroni 10:5).

After I was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, some friends tried to convince me that I had made the wrong decision. But each time I faced such doubts or opposition, I received renewed confirmation through studying the scriptures and praying to stay true to the covenants I had entered into with God. Since then, the Book of Mormon has been my companion and has become an immeasurable treasure in my mortal journey.

The Book of Mormon is more than just a book. It is another testament of Jesus Christ, written by many ancient prophets through the spirit of prophecy and revelation.

The most significant event recorded in the Book of Mormon is the personal ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ among the Nephites shortly after His Resurrection. The Book of Mormon “puts forth the doctrines of the gospel, outlines the plan of salvation, and tells men what they must do to gain peace in this life and eternal salvation in the life to come” (introduction to the Book of Mormon).

The first edition of the Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ was published in a small town in the state of New York in March 1830. The Prophet Joseph Smith was only 23 years old when he completed the translation of the book in 1829. He translated almost the entire book in less than 75 days, and the printing process took about seven months.

Today, approximately 80,000 full-time missionaries in more than 150 countries are serving as volunteers, dedicating their lives to bearing witness that the Book of Mormon is true and that it testifies of Jesus Christ.

At the most recent seminar for new mission leaders in June of this year, President Russell M. Nelson shared his powerful testimony of the Book of Mormon: “The Book of Mormon is ... the word of God. It teaches the doctrine of Christ and explains more about the Savior’s Atonement than does any other book.”

I would like to offer three suggestions that can help deepen our conversion to Jesus Christ through a study of the Book of Mormon:

Baada ya mimi kubatizwa katika Kanisa la Yesu Kristo la Watakatifu wa Siku za Mwisho, baadhi ya marafiki kutoka shuleni walijaribu kunishawishi kwamba nilikuwa nimefanya uamuzi mbaya. Kila wakati nilipokabiliwa na mashaka au upinzani kama huo, nilipokea uthibitisho mpya kupitia kujifunza maandiko na ku-sali ili kubaki mwaminifu kwa maagano ambayo nilikuwa nimeingia na Mungu. Tangu wakati huo, Kitabu cha Mormoni kimekuwa mwenza wangu na kimekuwa hazina isiyopimika katika safari yangu hapa duniani.

Kitabu cha Mormoni ni zaidi ya kitabu tu. Ni ushuhuda mwingine wa Yesu Kristo, ulioandikwa na manabii wengi wa kale kupitia roho ya unabii na ufunuo.

Tukio muhimu zaidi lililorekodiwa katika Kitabu cha Mormoni ni huduma binafsi ya Bwana Yesu Kristo miongoni mwa Wanefi muda mfupi baada ya Ufufuko Wake. Kitabu cha Mormoni “Kinaeleza mafundisho ya injili, kinafafanua juu ya mpango wa wokovu, na kuwaambia binadamu mambo wanayolazimika kuyafanya ili wapate amani katika maisha haya na wokovu wa milele katika maisha yanayokuja” (utangulizi wa Kitabu cha Mormoni).

Toleo la kwanza la Kitabu cha Mormoni: Ushuhuda Mwingine wa Yesu Kristo lilichapishwa katika mji mdogo katika jimbo la New York mnamo Machi 1830. Nabii Joseph Smith alikuwa na umri wa miaka 23 alipomaliza kutafsiri kitabu hiki mwaka 1829. Alitafsiri karibu kitabu kizima kwa muda usiozidi siku 75, na mchakato wa kichapisha ulichukua takribani miezi saba.

Leo, takribani wamisionari 80,000 katika zaidi ya nchi 150 wanahudumu kama watu wa kujitolea, wakijitolea maisha yao kwa kutoa ushuhuda kwamba Kitabu cha Mormoni ni cha kweli na kwamba kinashuhudia juu ya Yesu Kristo.

Katika semina ya hivi majuzi ya viongozi wapya wa misheni mwezi Juni mwaka huu, nabii wetu mpendwa, Rais Russell M. Nelson, alishiriki ushuhuda wake wenye nguvu juu ya Kitabu cha Mormoni: “Kitabu cha Mormoni ni ... neno la Mungu. Kinafundisha mafundisho ya Kristo na kuelezea zaidi kuhusu Upatanisho wa Mwokozi kuliko kitabu kingine chochote.”

Ningependa kutoa mapendekezo matatu ambayo yanaweza kusaidia kuimarisha uongofu wetu kwa Yesu Kristo kupitia kujifunza Kitabu cha Mormoni:

1. Be Diligent and Consistent in Your Daily Study

Like Alma and the sons of Mosiah, we must “[search] the scriptures diligently, that [we] might know the word of God” and be strengthened in the truth (Alma 17:2).

While serving as mission leaders in the Georgia Atlanta Mission, my wife and I encouraged every missionary to study the Book of Mormon for at least 30 minutes daily. That commitment increased our faith and helped us to seek and expect miracles.

It’s possible that after the mission we may not have the same amount of time available for daily scripture study, but I promise that if you sincerely prioritize studying the Book of Mormon prayerfully each day, you will find greater spiritual strength and confidence in the Lord and His promises.

2. Make Your Study More Meaningful by Feasting upon the Words of Christ

Nephi taught, “Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do” (2 Nephi 32:3).

To feast means more than just reading—it means savoring, pondering, and applying. As you study the Book of Mormon, consider ways to make your scripture study more meaningful. For example:

Use study aids available in the Gospel Library app.

Identify eternal truths that help us understand God’s plan and lead us to make and keep covenants with our Heavenly Father.

Highlight significant phrases and record your impressions to preserve what you have learned during your study.

The Book of Mormon has the power to answer questions of our souls. As Nephi said, we should “liken all scriptures unto us, that it might be for our profit and learning” (1 Nephi 19:23).

As we feast upon the words of Christ, they will open the door to revelation and show us what we need to do in the various circumstances of our life to draw closer to Him.

1. Kuwa na Bidii na Thabiti katika Kujifunza Kwako Kila Siku.

Kama Alma na wana wa Mosia, ni lazima “[tuyapekue] maandiko kwa bidii, ili [sisi] tujue neno la Mungu” na kuimarishwa katika ukweli. (Alma 17:2).

Tulipokuwa tukihudumu kama viongozi katika Misioni ya Georgia Atlanta, tulimhimiza kila mmisionari kujifunza Kitabu cha Mormoni angalau dakika 30 kila siku. Dhamira hiyo iliongeza imani yetu na kutusaidia sisi kutarajia miujiza.

Inawezekana kwamba baada ya misioni tunaweza kukosa muda wa kujifunza maandiko kila siku, lakini ninaahidi kwamba ikiwa utatangeliza kwa dhati kusoma Kitabu cha Mormoni kwa maombi kila siku, utapata nguvu kubwa zaidi za kiroho na imani katika Bwana na ahadi Zake.

2. Fanya Kujifunza Kwako kuwa na Maa-na Zaidi kwa Kusherehekea Maneno ya Kristo.

Nefi alitualika: “Shiriki maneno ya Kristo; kwani tazama maneno ya Kristo yatawaeleza vitu vyote mnavyostahili kutenda” (2 Nepi 32:3).

Kusherehekea humaanisha zaidi ya kuso—humaanisha kufurahia ladha, kutafakari, na kutumia. Unapojifunza Kitabu cha Mormoni, fikiria njia za kufanya kujifunza kwako maandiko kuwa na maana zaidi. Kwa mfano:

Kutumia misaada ya kujifunza inayopatikana kwenye aplikesheni ya Gospel Library.

Bainisha kweli za milele ambazo hutusaidia kuelewa mpango wa Mungu na kutuongoza kufanya na kushika maagano na Baba yetu wa Mbinguni.

Angazia misemo muhimu na andika maoni yako ili kuhifadhi yale ambayo umejifunza wakati wa kujifunza kwako.

Kitabu cha Mormoni kina uwezo wa kujibu maswali ya nafsi. Kama Nefi alivyosema, tunapaswa “kulinganisha maandiko yote na sisi, ili yaweze kuwa kwa ajili ya manufaa yetu na kujifunza” (1 Nepi 19:23).

Tunaposherehekea maneno ya Kristo, yatakufungulia mlango wa ufunuo na kutuonyesha kile tunachohitaji kufanya katika hali mbalimbali za maisha yetu ili kumkaribia Yeye zaidi.

3. Bear Your Testimony of the Truthfulness of the Book of Mormon

Just as Lehi desired to share the fruit of the tree of life with his family (see 1 Nephi 8:12), when we gain a testimony of the Book of Mormon, we develop a desire to share the joy that comes from knowing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

One of our missionaries, Sister Benson, who is attending with us this session, shared with me her desire to help her young brother. At that time, he was preparing to attend college and wasn't sure about serving a mission. I felt impressed to invite Sister Benson to read the Book of Mormon during the first four months of her mission, marking her favorite verses, and then to send that copy to her brother.

Sister Benson sent the marked copy of the Book of Mormon and invited her brother to read from it each night. She later shared with me: "Before my mission, my brother wasn't sure if he wanted to serve a full-time mission. Slowly, over time, as he read the Book of Mormon, he found increasing joy in his life and began to consider serving a mission."

Two weeks before Sister Benson completed her mission, her brother received his mission call. He is now serving in the Mexico Tuxtla Gutiérrez Mission. Through the Book of Mormon, Elder Benson came to see his life with spiritual clarity, which led him to serve the Lord and trust that things would work out. That decision was a miracle—influenced by the power of the words of Christ.

My beloved brothers and sisters, I encourage each of you to deepen your study of the Book of Mormon. I know as we feast upon the words of Christ found in the Book of Mormon, the Spirit will help us understand eternal truths and share our testimonies with conviction with those whom the Lord has prepared to hear His message. The Lord said, "Mine elect hear my voice and harden not their hearts" (Doctrine and Covenants 29:7). I testify that those who ask God in faith will gain a testimony of the truth and divinity of the Book of Mormon by the power of the Holy Ghost. Of this I testify in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

3. Toa Ushuhuda Wako juu ya Ukweli wa Kitabu cha Mormoni.

Kama vile Lehi alivyotamani kushiriki tunda la mti wa uzima na familia yake (ona 1 Nephi 8:12), tunapopata ushuhuda juu ya Kitabu cha Mormoni, tunakuza hamu ya kushiriki furaha inayotokana na kujua injili ya Yesu Kristo.

Mmoja wa wamisionari wetu wanne, Dada Benson, alishiriki nami hamu yake ya kumsaidia kaka yake. Wakati huo, kaka yake alikuwa akijiandaa kuhudhuria chuo kikuu, na hakuwa na uhakika wa kutumikia misheni. Nilihisi kuvutiwa kumwalika Dada Benson kusoma Kitabu cha Mormoni katika muda wa miezi minne ya kwanza ya misioni yake, akiweka alama kwenye vifungu anavyopenda zaidi, na kisha kutuma nakala hiyo kwa kaka yake.

Dada Benson alituma nakala hiyo iliyotiwa alama ya Kitabu cha Mormoni na akamwalika kaka yake kukisoma kila usiku. Baadaye alishiriki nami: "Kabla ya misioni yangu, kaka yangu hakuwa na uhakika kama alitaka kuhudumu misheni. Polepole, baada ya muda, kadiri alivyokuwa akisoma Kitabu cha Mormoni, aligundua shangwe inayoongezeka katika maisha yake na akaanza kufikiria kuhudumu misioni."

Wiki mbili kabla ya Dada Benson kumaliza misioni yake kaka yake alipokea wito wake wa kuhudumu kama mmissionari. Sasa anahudumu katika Misioni ya Mexico Tuxtla Gutiérrez. Kupitia Kitabu cha Mormoni, Mzee Benson alikuja kuona maisha yake katika uwazi wa kiroho, kitu kilichomwongoza kufanya uamuzi wa kumtumikia Bwana na kuamini kwamba mambo yangefanyika vyema. Uamuzi huu ulikuwa muujiza—ulioshawishiwa na nguvu ya maneno ya Kristo.

Akina kaka na akina dada zangu wapendwa, ninamhimiza kila mmoja wenu kuzidisha kina cha kujifunza Kitabu cha Mormoni. Ninajua tunaposherehekea maneno ya Kristo yanayopatikana katika Kitabu cha Mormoni, Roho atatusaidia kuelewa kweli za milele na kushiriki shuhuda zetu kwa usadikisho kwa wale ambao Bwana amewatayarisha kusikia ujumbe Wake. Bwana alisema, "Wateule wangu huisikia sauti yangu na wala hawaishupazi mioyo yao" (Mafundisho na Maagano 29:7). Ninashuhudia kwamba wale wanaomwomba Mungu kwa imani watapata ushuhuda juu ya ukweli na utakatifu wa Kitabu cha Mormoni kwa uwezo wa Roho

Mtakatifu. Juu ya haya ninashuhudia katika jina
la Yesu Kristo, amina.