Editorial

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**Abstract:** Heber J. Grant writes about reading the Book of Mormon as a boy. Melvin J. Ballard speaks about the book’s purpose of being carried to “all nations, kindreds, tongues, and peoples.”
As I View the Book of Mormon

As a boy of about fifteen I read, carefully and prayerfully, the Book of Mormon, and there came into my heart an abiding and firm testimony of its divine authenticity. From that day to this its wonderful teachings have been a comfort, a blessing, and a guide to me.

I thank God from the bottom of my heart that I read the life of Nephi in my youth. I fell in love with him then, and his life has influenced mine for good more than that of any other character in ancient history, sacred or profane—save only the Redeemer of the world.

The Mission of the Book of Mormon

THE BOOK OF MORMON has not yet fulfilled the great purpose for which it was originally written. Incidentally, of course, it has brought a knowledge of the dealings of God with that ancient branch of the House of Israel on this American continent to the Church and to the world but the Church is merely a custodian of this sacred book to carry it to its real mission.

The primary purpose for which the Book of Mormon was originally prepared is set forth in Mormon's preface to the book, in which he says that the purpose of writing the book "is to show unto the remnant of the House of Israel what great things the Lord hath done"
for their fathers; and that they may know the covenants
of the Lord, that they are not cast off forever—and also
to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is
the Christ, the Eternal God, manifesting himself unto
all nations.'

In the third section of the book of Doctrine and
Covenants the Lord said to the Prophet Joseph Smith
that the chief purpose for which the Book of Mormon
was written was that the testimony shall go to the
knowledge of the Lamanites and other branches of the
House of Israel concerning their forefathers (19th verse)
'and for this very purpose are these plates preserved
which contain these records, that the promises of the
Lord might be fulfilled which He made to His people,
and that the Lamanites might come to the knowledge
of their fathers and that they might know the promises
of the Lord and that they may believe the Gospel and
rely upon the merits of Jesus Christ and be glorified
through faith in His name.'

I recall receiving very distinct impressions both on
Fort Peck Reservation in Montana, while preaching to
the Indians, and also in my visit among the Indians in
South America that there were very many important
things the Lord had to do in preparing these people
for the reception of the Gospel. Many of those things
have already been accomplished and others are under
way. In due time the preparation will have been made
and then will come the glorious day when this Book
is to be carried to the descendants of this branch of the
House of Israel and great and wonderful are the promises
of the Lord unto them when they do receive it.

Mormon. Note that there are no numbered verses

Below: Building in which The Book of Mormon was published