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## Get Out of That Rocking Chair

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**Abstract:** The author visited the grave of Oliver Cowdery, whose testimony of the Book of Mormon is found on the headstone. She exhorts the Church membership to read the Book of Mormon, as it contains hidden treasures.

While making a tour of the historical sites of the Church, my husband and I stopped at the grave of Oliver Cowdery in a little cemetery in Richmond, Missouri. Here the Church has placed a large monument in honor of the three witnesses.

As we stood alone in the quietness of the summer afternoon, my husband began reading aloud, from the marker, the testimony of the three witnesses: ". . . And we also know that they have been translated by the gift and power of God, for his voice hath declared it unto us; wherefore we know of a surety that the work is true. And we also testify that we have seen the engravings which are upon the plates; and they have been shown unto us by the power of God, and not of man. And we declare with words of soberness, that an angel of God came down from heaven, and he brought and laid before our eyes, that we beheld and saw the plates, and the engravings thereon; and we know that it is by the grace of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, that we beheld and bear record that these things are true. And it is marvelous in our eyes. Nevertheless, the voice of the

BY GENEVIEVE VAN WAGENEN

# Get out of that rocking chair

Lord commanded us that we should bear record of it; wherefore, to be obedient unto the commandments of God, we bear testimony of these things. . . ."

"Such a powerful testimony," my husband said solemnly as he finished reading.

"How could anyone read that and doubt?" I asked.

Not far from the monument was an old frame house. It had been a proud home once, you could tell from the detailed and delicate carvings on the gables and the artistic columns of the porch. Now it was greatly in need of repairs. The weather-beaten boards bore no trace of paint. On the porch sat an elderly man in a rocking chair. He had a pipe in his mouth, and he rocked contentedly back and forth. He was very observant of my husband and me. The expression on his face seemed to say: "What could you possibly find to interest you here? This old cemetery has long ago been forgotten." He scrutinized our car, craned his neck, and squinted his eyes to read the out-of-state license plates.

"I wonder if he ever left his rocking chair long enough to read what is written on this monument?" said my husband.

"I doubt it," I said. "But just think what it could mean to him. Here, inscribed on this monument, is the map or chart that leads to the treasures of the earth. Hidden treasures—a knowledge of the truth! Yes, the treasures of the earth lie at his door! At his very feet lies his salvation—and he does not know it. It's sad, isn't it?"

"Is he so different from some members of the Church?" queried my husband. "They know of the testimony of the three witnesses. They no doubt own a Book of Mormon, but have they read it? They are too content in their mental rocking chairs to get up and read it."

I wanted to shout aloud to every Latter-day Saint who has not read the Book of Mormon—to stop rocking! Get out of that chair! Avail yourselves of the privilege of reading this glorious book. Follow the admonition of Moroni, when he sealed up this marvelous record: "And 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.)

Don't go on daydreaming and rocking. The richness of your entire life, now and through the eternities, is determined by today's action. Don't procrastinate your time. Discover the truth! Gain a burning testimony. Moroni has given you the key to unlock the treasures that lie at your very door.