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## Nibley Lecture Series to Be Held

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Our host at the monastery was a very pleasant man named Father Jacob (Anba Yaqub). He graciously walked with me and described the monastic complex while our cameras rolled. I found his willingness to give of his time to be extraordinary—and unexpected.

Knowing that our time was limited, we departed the monastery early in the afternoon and raced back to Cairo and the Church of the Holy Virgin on the banks of the Nile.

As promised, Father Antonios opened the church to us for whatever purpose we wanted. Van Wagenen positioned me on the edge of a pew and asked a few questions about Egyptian Christianity while the cameras churned. A soft light was streaming in the western doors. It was a nice setting for such questions. Then Father Antonios, who had come into the building, accompanied me on a brief walk through the church. He acted demurely at first, saying that I was the scholar and that he was not an expert on the flight of the Holy Family. So I asked him to tell me about the church, which he did, describing its history and architectural features as the cameras rolled.

Then the camera operators went all around the grounds, capturing images of the church. After sunset, the big camera photographed the three characteristic domes from the east side against the dying light. It occurred to me that we had already captured better images than any of those that I had seen in documentary films about the Savior.

Two days later, Friday, October 24, we were in Jerusalem. After unloading our gear at Lion's Gate

following a filming shoot at the Garden Tomb, we found ourselves inside St. Anne's Convent within the Old City. For a third time, I sensed that a generous person had been placed in a position to assist us. The grounds of St. Anne's convent include the pool of Bethesda, the scene of Jesus' miracle narrated in John 5. Our visit had been arranged so that even though the site was not open to the public during the early afternoon, we were allowed inside the grounds. In a charitable act, Father Michel LaVoi gave us carte blanche to visit and film anywhere we liked.

Before any tourists came into the convent grounds, the filming crew shot the area around the pool where Jesus healed the man who had been ill for 38 years. When we visited, the pool was completely dry. This was the first time in 30 years that I had seen it without water. Father LaVoi allowed a small group of us to go to the bottom of the dry pool on ladders to look at the underpinnings of the Byzantine and Crusader structures that once sat atop the pool's edges.

These three experiences, two in Egypt and one in the Old City of Jerusalem, caught me by pleasant surprise. My general experience living and working in the Middle East has taught me not to expect to accomplish a goal as planned, or on time. But there we stood, beneficiaries of the charitable acts of people of other faiths who freeheartedly offered their services and goodness to us. ♦

By S. Kent Brown

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## Nibley Lecture Series to Be Held

A lecture series entitled "The Work of Hugh W. Nibley: On the 100th Anniversary of His Birth" will be held during winter semester 2010 at BYU.

March 2010 marks the 100th anniversary of Nibley's birth. In addition, *One Eternal Round*, volume 19 of the Collected Works of Hugh Nibley, the final volume of the series, will have been published.

The lectures will be held Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Harold B. Lee Library auditorium and are sponsored by the Laura F. Willes Center for Book of Mormon Studies, the Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies, the College of Religious Education, and the Harold B. Lee Library.

During the series, a wide array of presenters will explore the scholarship and scope of Hugh Nibley's work. Richard Bushman will deliver the first lecture, "Hugh Nibley and Joseph Smith," on Thursday, January 14. A few of the other scheduled presenters include Robert L. Millet, "Nibley and the Church"; John W. Welch, "The Lasting Legacies of Hugh W. Nibley"; C. Wilfred Griggs, "Nibley as Mentor"; Eric D. Huntsman, "Nibley and Classical Scholarship"; Daniel C. Peterson, "Nibley as Apologist"; and Terry B. Ball, "Nibley and the Environment."

The complete schedule of lectures will be available on the Maxwell Institute Web site ([maxwellinstitute.byu.edu](http://maxwellinstitute.byu.edu)). ♦