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New Book of Visual Aids Facilitates Book of Mormon Study, Teaching

Students and teachers of the Book of Mormon will find a new FARMS book by John W. and J. Gregory Welch to be a valuable resource. *Charting the Book of Mormon: Visual Aids for Personal Study and Teaching* is a collection of more than 175 visual aids that promote deeper understanding and appreciation of the Book of Mormon. Designed for multiple use as study guides, handouts, and masters for creating projectable images, the charts convey a wealth of information that will enrich personal study and teaching.

Which ancient records did Nephi's small and large plates comprise? A flowchart illustrating the evolution of the plates of Mormon provides the answer. How might we better grasp Jacob's allegory of the olive tree? A diagram clarifies the symbolism of the tame and wild olive trees and the grafted branches. What was the origin of King Mosiah's monetary system? A chart of Egyptian hieroglyphs provides a striking clue.

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FARMS Annual Banquet Will Celebrate 20th Anniversary

FARMS will commemorate its milestone 20th anniversary at this year's annual banquet. Truman G. Madsen, professor emeritus of philosophy, will be the featured speaker, and he will be accompanied by his wife, Ann. The banquet is scheduled for 5 November 1999 in room 3220 of the Wilkinson Student Center at Brigham Young University. A reception will begin at 6:30 P.M., followed by a dinner at 7:00 P.M.

Following Professor Madsen's remarks and some select musical numbers, FARMS will honor a number of people who have contributed to the success and development of the Foundation since its establishment 20 years ago. Since 1979 FARMS has grown remarkably with the help and generosity of volunteers and subscribers. This banquet gives FARMS volunteers, staff, and friends the chance to meet and discuss current projects, activities of the past year, and plans for the future.

If you wish to attend the banquet, please purchase tickets in advance (use the order form or call the FARMS office) so that we can make the necessary arrangements. Free parking for the banquet is available in the lot east of the Wilkinson Student Center.

The officers and staff of the Foundation look forward to this opportunity to meet or become better acquainted with many of the people who support the work of FARMS.
40-Day Mission of Christ (continued from page 4)

In the early apocryphal writings is evidence for the reality of the post-resurrectional activity of Jesus. By uniformly supporting the clear and unequivocal language of Acts 1:3, and by making the 40-day teaching their principal concern, these writers serve notice that this subsequently despised and neglected theme had top priority among the early Christians. Their writings convey to us a consistent and closely knit body of doctrine, accompanied by an equally organic structure of rites and ordinances—not a farrago of odds and ends in the Gnostic manner. The Gnostic phenomenon itself attests the universal awareness that such a teaching had formerly existed and been lost to the main church. The apocryphal writings themselves fully explain that loss in terms of both secrecy and apostasy, while the great impact of the 40-day image on popular Christianity is clearly reflected in popular legends and cults. The 40-day episode is indeed unique. If it never took place, what was it that produced the singular phenomena that have been attributed to it?—Adapted from Hugh Nibley, “Evangelium Quadragesimae Dierum: The Forty-Day Mission of Christ—The Forgotten Heritage,” in Mormonism and Early Christianity (1987).

New Book of Visual Aids (continued from page 1)

Arranged in 14 sections, these charts consist of tables, diagrams, chronologies, flowcharts, bar graphs, pie charts, maps, and other effective schematics that represent Book of Mormon data in new and thought-provoking ways. General topics range from the history, doctrine, structure, and chronology of the Book of Mormon to its literary, cultural, and geographical features. Many charts highlight evidences for the authenticity of the record. Each chart is explained in a manner that will facilitate individual study as well as guide a person in what might be said in displaying the chart for group instruction or discussion.

The idea for the book was conceived a decade ago while John Welch was responsible for gathering or creating the 500 maps, charts, and photographs needed for Macmillan’s Encyclopedia of Mormonism. “Several personal experiences in working with people in collecting and selecting those graphic images and, similarly, in using such visuals in illustrating many subsequent publications and lectures have convinced me of the value of charts in communicating important gospel information,” Welch writes in his preface to Charting the Book of Mormon. In 1996 Welch focused his research on Book of Mormon visuals and, with the help of a student intern, Morgan A. Ashton, located as many previously circulated Book of Mormon visual aids as possible. Some of these were improved, and many new ones were created. All of these charts were later reformatted and refined on the computer by Welch’s son Gregory. In 1997 FARMS distributed a preliminary packet of about half of those charts. Now that first, loose-leaf collection has been further improved and expanded into a soft-bound book of 177 charts (more than double the number of charts in the first collection). Moreover, to enhance their usefulness, a brief narrative explanation has been added to accompany each chart. These explanations quickly orient the viewer to the contents and purposes of the charts.

Charting the Book of Mormon is the most complete collection of its kind to date. It will appeal to students and teachers alike, but especially to those who wish to become more fully acquainted with the stunning complexity and consistency of Mormon’s inexhaustible record. It can be purchased using the enclosed order form.