

*Will You Pray About -*

## **The Book of Mormon**

*Dear Rob,*

Please accept this Book of Mormon. I want to share this precious gift and my testimony of the true gospel of Jesus Christ with you. Rob, I know that this church is true because this is our savior Jesus Christ's Church. I know Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God and he restored this church here upon this earth in 1830. I know that this Book of Mormon is true. My favorite chapter in here is 3rd Nephi 11 because it tells about the people over in the American continent and the wonderful opportunity they had when Jesus Christ appeared to them four days after his resurrection to form his church over here. I have fasted and prayed about the Book of Mormon, Joseph Smith, and especially if this is the true Church of Jesus Christ. I know without a doubt in my mind that it is true. Rob, I want you to read and pray with your heart and mind open to the prompting of the Holy Ghost. Let it touch your life like it has done with mine. I wish you all the best.

Love,

*Ruth*

*Dear Ruth,*

(I put a lot of time and work into this, so you better read it all!)

Surprise! I canceled my plans for the day to finally get around to writing you. How much longer are you going to be on your mission? It looks like I'll probably be going on my mission this summer at the usual place. Anyway, I don't want to take all day to write this letter, so I'll get right into responding to your gift.

Thanks for the Book of Mormon...it's my 9th one, including an 1830 edition. When I taught on Mormon-

ism for a semester at my church last year, we used them while I spent a couple weeks going through the Book of Mormon.

Despite your wish, I know that the L.D.S. Church is not the true Christ's Church, and that Joseph Smith, Jr. was not a prophet of the true God, and that the Book of Mormon is not the word of the true God, and is definitely not even an accurate historical account, but is a fairy tale, much like Alice in Wonderland. And yes, I've read the whole Book of Mormon.

Now, instead of me stopping here with my own subjective experience (as you did with your testimony), I will proceed to give you objective evidence why such is the case. Why must I do this?

1) Everyone has a subjective experience to the truthfulness of something (the Koran, in Islam, the Upanishad in Hinduism, the Divine Principle in the Unification Church, the Moonies, etc.) If everyone simply shared their own subjective experience, no one would get anywhere. In other words, how could a person firmly devoted to one group be convinced of the (truth or untruth for that matter) of another if all that was offered to that individual was, "I know that my church and its prophets and its writings are true?" You have your set of presuppositions, or feelings that you believe are from the Holy Spirit, and I have mine, and somebody else from the Jehovah's Witnesses has his set. And guess what - we all contradict each other on very fundamental issues. We must use objective reasons, that we may all work with, to determine who really has the truth.

2) Using objective reasons is, thus, the loving thing to do. 1 Corinthians 13:6 says that love rejoices with the truth. It would simply be unloving to stand by and watch other people, in various religions, go to hell without trying to persuade them that they were in trouble. Persuading is far different from preaching at people (e.g., "I know that I have the truth and you simply must take my word for it"). Persuading entails giving answers or reasons why one should hold your position. It is very loving to try to convince a blind man that he's about to fall in a ditch. He may not believe me until I provide good reasons for the existence of an oncoming ditch (e.g., bringing him over close enough to where he may feel it without falling in).

3) This is what the prophets in both the Bible and the Book of Mormon do. We are commanded to "test all things and hold fast to that which is good" (1 Thess.

