

## **PENETRATING THE BARRIERS**

Doctrine and Covenants 2:2

By Raymond White

*D & C 2:2 And he [Elijah] shall plant in the hearts of the children the promise made to the fathers, and the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers.*

These words are the first hint of temple work in our dispensation. Have you ever wondered why Moroni spoke them? The Book of Mormon says nothing about temple work other than that the Nephites had a temple, so why would a Book of Mormon prophet speak to us about temple work? Perhaps there is this connection: There is something that the Book of Mormon and the temple do have in common, they both penetrate barriers.

Jesus penetrated a barrier. When he died, *the veil of the temple was rent in twain (Matthew 27:51)*. In death, he atoned for sin, rent the veil, and became mankind's path to God: *I am the way (John 14:6)*.

When he rose, he told his disciples to announce the good news to the entire world.

*Acts 1:8 in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Sameria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth.*

So Andrew went north to Russia, Peter went south to Egypt, Thomas went east to India, and Paul went west to Greece. The rest went to wherever and tried to fulfill the requirement as best they could. But whichever way they went, eventually they would reach an impenetrable barrier; namely, the oceans.

How could they fulfill the mandate when they had no way of crossing the Atlantic or any other ocean?

Fortunately, there was another great missionary, one who was not restricted by oceanic barriers. He had created the oceans so crossing them was no problem. That missionary was Jesus Christ. The message of the Book of Mormon is that he rose, and that God's love spans even across oceans so that if his disciples couldn't get there, he would take the message there himself. And he did.

There is another barrier, more formidable than oceans: death. How can the dead hear and respond to the good news? They can. That's why we do work for the dead in our temples. What Joseph Smith received at the first, The Book of Mormon, and what he received at the last, the temple ordinances, do indeed have a common purpose. The book shows God's love for a people beyond one barrier, and the temple enables us to bring God's love to a people beyond another. In this way, the Book of Mormon points us to the temple. God reveals that he is very anxious to present Christ to the whole of humanity. What an awesome work we are involved in.