A Free Gift for You

For your complimentary copy of the Book of Mormon, plus a DVD entitled The Plan of Happiness, which tells how this book answers life's most important questions, please find and mark the check box on the detachable part of this program.

A Brief History of the Pageant

The Hill Cumorah and surrounding areas are significant in the history of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and have been the site of gatherings for nearly 100 years. At first missionaries met in this area for an annual meeting called the Cumorah Conference. Later, the gatherings were expanded to include sermons, athletic events, and entertainment, to which the public was invited.

Initially these gatherings occurred at the Joseph Smith Farm. As the Church acquired portions of the Hill Cumorah, the events gradually shifted to the hill.

In 1935, as part of the dedication services for the Angel Moroni Monument, trumpeters played from the crest of the hill for the first time and a musical program was presented. A script titled America's Witness for Christ, which presented scenes from the Book of Mormon, debuted in 1937. This script, with some modifications, became known as the Hill Cumorah Pageant.

Tonight, as trumpeters again play from the crest of the hill, we hope that our message rings out as clearly as it has over the years. With its sound and lighting, its special effects, and its elaborate costuming, the pageant is still carefully designed to present the simple message of Jesus Christ's love for all people.
Welcome to the Hill Cumorah Pageant. What you will experience tonight is a testimony through drama, music, and spoken word that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world. This pageant portrays stories from the scriptures. Over 800 cast and crew members have come together to bring you a message of hope and peace that can be found only in the gospel of Jesus Christ. If you have questions about the pageant, please speak to a member of the cast or visit one of our information booths. We are grateful that you have come to feel the Savior’s love.

The Pageant Story

The script for the Hill Cumorah Pageant is taken from the Bible and the Book of Mormon. Tonight you will see the following 10 story scenes:

1. The Prophet Lehi
   About 600 years before the birth of Jesus Christ, Lehi warns the people of Jerusalem that they must repent, but they reject him. The Lord commands Lehi to take his family and flee from Jerusalem before it is destroyed. Lehi and his family will be led to a new promised land.

2. The Visions of Jesus Christ
   Lehi’s sons—Laman, Lemuel, Sam, and Nephi—return to Jerusalem to acquire ancient sacred records, and then they return again to bring Ishmael and his family back with them. Lehi and Nephi receive visions of Jesus Christ’s ministry.

3. The Building of a Ship
   Having reached the ocean, Nephi is commanded by the Lord to find a tree, make tools, and build a ship. In spite of opposition from his brothers Laman and Lemuel, Nephi builds a ship, and the family sets sail for the promised land.

4. The Voyage to Ancient America
   During the long ocean voyage, some members of Lehi’s family behave wickedly. When Nephi tries to correct them, Laman and Lemuel beat him and tie him to the mast of the ship. The Lord causes a storm to rage until they repent. The ship is guided to the shores of the Americas. Nephi keeps the history of his people on metal plates, which will later become part of the Book of Mormon. Laman and Lemuel are still rebellious and plan to kill Nephi and his followers. Warned by the Lord, Nephi leads his people to safety. His family comes to be known as the Nephites. Their enemies come to be known as the Lamanites.

5. The Burning of Abinadi
   Several hundred years later, many of the Nephites have become wicked. A prophet named Abinadi warns a Nephite king that the people must live righteously to prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ. Only one man, Alma, believes Abinadi’s teachings; the king orders Abinadi to be burnt to death.

6. The Ministry of Alma
   Alma flees into the wilderness, where he becomes a great teacher. Those who seek the truth come to him to learn the gospel and to be baptized. As Abinadi had prophesied, many of the followers of the wicked king are taken captive by the Lamanites and the king is put to death by fire.

7. The Prophecy: A Day, a Night, and a Day
   A few years before Jesus Christ is born, Samuel, a righteous Lamanite, prophesies of the birth and death of the Savior and the signs that will appear in the Americas. Samuel tells the Nephites that on the night when Christ is born there will be no darkness, and that when Christ is crucified, there will be great destruction followed by three days of darkness. Five years pass without the signs being manifest. On a certain day, those who believe the prophecies are to be put to death by the unbelievers, but on that very night the sign is given; when the sun sets, it remains as light as noontide. The righteous people rejoice in the birth of the Savior.

8. The Resurrected Christ Appears in Ancient America
   When Jesus Christ is crucified in Jerusalem, there is destruction and darkness in ancient America. The resurrected Christ appears to His other sheep, the people in the Americas, and testifies that He is the God of Israel, who was slain for the sins of the world. He teaches the gospel and organizes His Church. He then ascends to His Father.

   After 200 years of living in peace, the people again divide into Nephite and Lamanite nations. Most of the people reject the gospel of Jesus Christ. The prophet Mormon abridges the histories of the people, writing them on metal plates. His son, Moroni, completes this task and prophesies that those who read the record may know of its truthfulness through the power of the Holy Ghost. Moroni deposits the plates in a stone box in the Hill Cumorah. After 600 more years, and many of the descendants of the Nephites have become wicked, Moroni delivers the metal plates to him, Joseph translates the record by the gift and power of God, and in 1830 the Book of Mormon is published in Palmyra. Thereafter, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is organized in Fayette, New York, and the message of the Book of Mormon, as prophesied in the Bible, goes forth to fill the world.

10. The Restoration of Christ’s Church
   In September 1823, near Palmyra, New York, the ancient prophet Moroni, as an angel, visits a young man named Joseph Smith and tells him about the record. Four years later, on the Hill Cumorah, Moroni delivers the metal plates to him. Joseph translates the record by the gift and power of God, and in 1830 the Book of Mormon is published in Palmyra. Thereafter, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is organized in Fayette, New York, and the message of the Book of Mormon, as prophesied in the Bible, goes forth to fill the world.