

FROM “IMPRESSIONS ON PLATES OF GOLD”

Book and Lyrics by **Eric Samuelsen**

Music and Lyrics by **C. Michael Perry**

*(Singer from Area 3 stands to the side, dressed as a LAMANITE WOMAN)*

**LAMANITE WOMAN:**

I GRIND THE FLOUR, I BAKE MY BREAD,  
THE JAR OF MAIZE IS OVERFLOWING!  
MY CHILDREN PLAY; THEY’RE LAUGHING, FED.  
THEY KICK UP DUST CLOUDS, NEVER KNOWING  
TOMORROW THEY WILL PLAY AGAIN.  
NO NEED TO WONDER WHEN  
OR IF THEY WILL EAT. WILL THIS BE THE DAY  
THEY SEE THE SOLDIERS... AND RUN AWAY?

I SING A SONG OF PEACE.  
OF HOW IT FEELS WHEN HATE IS GONE  
A SONG ABOUT THE SWEET RELEASE  
FROM ENMITY, FROM FEAR. A SONG  
... OF PEACE.

(MUSIC UNDERSCORE)

**AMMON:** We taught people who all their lives had been warriors.. Hunters of men, destroyers of families, killers of their own brothers and sisters. Those are the people we were sent to.

**HIMNI:** Shaved heads, armor, all those weapons. I took one look, and all I could think was ... I want my mommy!

*(They laugh, the tension is broken momentarily.)*

**AARON:** I wondered if our missions would last long enough to for us to even open our mouths.

**AMMON:** We did preach, and we were listened to. God spoke to their souls. These people are truly ... changed. So much ... that it’s just not safe for them anymore.

**AARON:** What the governor is asking ... is for you to move, give up your homes, your businesses, your farms, your fields, to these people. Our enemies. That’s ... why we’re here.

**LAMANITE WOMAN:**

I BEAT THE BLANKETS — SCRAPING OFF THE  
MUD, NO LONGER CAKED WITH BLOOD!  
WHILE PACKING UP THE BATTLE KIT  
I’VE PRAYED THE END OF IT BE SUDDEN!  
THE WARRIOR WHO OWNS MY HEART  
MAY NOT BE SEEN AGAIN.  
I HOPE FOR A WORLD

WHERE WAR'S NOT AN ART,  
AND NEVER VISIT'S MY SWEET, YOUNG MEN.

(MUSIC UNDERSCORE)

**AMMON:** Sir. I understand your reaction. I really do. We killed their fathers, as they killed ours. Hatred is a river that flows both ways.

**AARON:** Born of fear and ignorance.

**AMMON:** On both sides! Hatred. Do you remember the nicknames we had for them? All the Lamanite jokes.

**HIMNI:** We need to put all that behind us.

**AARON:** We're asking a tremendous sacrifice.

**AMMON:** We thought, if they could have Jershon, we could protect them.

**HIMNI:** The number who have converted is small, and they live under a death sentence.

**AMMON:** These people are our brothers. Enemies once. But no longer.

**AARON:** I know the kind of sacrifice we're asking you to make. Nobody's going to force you.

**AMMON:** If you can't do this, fine, we'll find someplace else for them. This seems to be the best choice.

**AARON:** What do you say? How do you vote?

**LAMANITE WOMAN:**

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