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Teaching the Fall of Adam and Eve
Helping Students Understand
Personal Revelation
“Wars and Rumors of Wars”

THE
RELIGIOUS
EDUCATOR

PERSPECTIVES ON THE RESTORED GOSPEL

VOL 5 NO 1 • 2004

Growing Old Graciously: Lessons from a Centenarian

*Elder Stephen Berg Oveson and
Mary Louise Oveson Stoddard*

*“Mal Berg Oveson is the epitome of a person who has grown old
graciously by reflecting courtesy and consideration to everyone.”*

THE
RELIGIOUS
EDUCATOR
PERSPECTIVES ON THE RESTORED GOSPEL



RELIGIOUS STUDIES CENTER
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

PROVO, UTAH

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 1

2004



“As we have talked to her about being a hundred years old, she has commented that life is sweet. We know that she is prepared to accept whatever the Lord has in store for her.”

*Elder Stephen Berg Oveson and
Mary Louise Oveson Stoddard*

ON THE COVER:

A stand of towering redwoods seems a perfect example of aging with dignity and strength.

The *Religious Educator* is published two to three times a year by the Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, 167 Heber J. Grant Building, Provo, UT 84602-2701.

The *Religious Educator* is designed to serve the interests and needs of those who study and teach the gospel on a regular basis. The distinct focuses of the *Religious Educator* are on teaching the gospel; publishing studies on scripture, doctrine, and Church history; and sharing the messages of outstanding devotional essays. The contributions to each issue are carefully reviewed and edited by experienced teachers, writers, and scholars.

We anticipate that the articles published in the *Religious Educator* will appeal to anyone interested in perspectives on the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. Articles will be selected on the basis of their appeal to and appropriateness for religion professors at each of the Brigham Young University campuses, full-time seminary and institute teachers and administrators, volunteer early-morning and home-study seminary teachers, and volunteer institute of religion teachers. In every issue, we plan a selection of articles that will be helpful and appealing to this diverse audience. In each issue, we hope that each group will find one or more articles that meet the individual needs of members of the group. The beliefs of the respective authors are their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, or The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Manuscripts submitted for consideration must be word processed in double-spaced format, including quotations. A minimum of embedded word-processing commands should be used. Authors should follow style conventions of the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th edition, and the *Style Guide for Publications of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, 3rd edition, as reflected in a recent issue of the *Religious Educator*.

At the time an author submits an article for possible publication, the author should submit one copy of the prospective article, an electronic file of the article on an IBM-compatible diskette formatted in Corel WordPerfect or Microsoft Word, and photocopies of all source materials cited, arranged in order, numbered to coincide with endnotes, and highlighted to reflect the quotations or paraphrases. Photocopies of source material must include title page and source page with the quotations used highlighted.

Complete author guidelines, including suitable topics, are provided at the Web site for the *Religious Educator*, tre.byu.edu. Send manuscripts to the *Religious Educator*, Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, 167 Heber J. Grant Building, Provo, UT 84602-2701.

Manuscripts received will be checked to see if they conform to style-guide requirements and will undergo a preliminary review. Those manuscripts that meet all criteria will be peer reviewed and will receive a friendly, but careful, review. Authors will then be notified of the decision about publication.

Subscriptions to the *Religious Educator* are open to anyone interested in perspectives on the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. The subscription rate is \$10 per annum. Subscribers can place orders online at tre.byu.edu (preferred method) or by mail addressed to Creative Works, Brigham Young University, A-285 ASB, Provo, UT 84602-1231. Mail subscriptions must include the following information: name, mailing address, phone number, e-mail address (optional; for renewal purposes only), current CES responsibilities, an indication of the number of years of subscription desired (up to three), and a check or money order made out to Creative Works. Subscription questions should be sent via e-mail to "TRE Subscriptions," catalog@byu.edu. Back issues are available online only.

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Editors' Introduction

At age ninety-eight, Mal Berg Oveson began reading the entire Old Testament for the first time. Now at age one hundred, she continues to study the scriptures each day. In an interview with two of her children, Sister Oveson offers some lessons on life and tips on aging graciously. Believing that life is sweet, she continues to show the same kindness she has displayed all her life.

We know much about the translation of the Book of Mormon, but the Bible has quite a story of its own, from the translation process to its typesetting and printing. In this issue, four BYU professors offer a concise history behind many printings of the Bible, beginning with Tyndale's translation. Complementing this article are images with vignettes on many early editions of the Bible.

The Fall of Adam and Eve is a challenging yet crucial doctrine to explain to students. Douglas S. Ladle, a member of the BYU—Idaho faculty, provides a useful approach for understanding and teaching the Fall, clearly defining the roles of God, Satan, Adam, and Eve in this pivotal event in earth's history.

Ronald E. Bartholomew, instructor at the Orem Utah Institute of Religion, writes of the need to teach students how to receive inspiration, noting that they are “in those seasons of life where there seems to be a more urgent need to learn to receive and understand personal revelation.” He uses Doctrine and Covenants 6–11 as a model for teaching the process of receiving revelation.

The debate over the war in Iraq and the events of September 11, 2001, raise questions about the legitimacy of war and the need to defend ourselves as a nation. Authors Daniel K Judd and Benjamin M. Rogers probe deeply into these issues, writing of “the sobering reality that the future will not be free from terror, destruction, and war.” This article provides prophetic guidance on wars and on our responsibilities as Latter-day Saints.

Richard Neitzel Holzapfel, Editor-in-Chief
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