



# Religious Educator: Perspectives on the Restored Gospel

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Volume 5 | Number 2

Article 1

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7-1-2004

## Front Matter

Religious Educator

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Educator, Religious. "Front Matter." *Religious Educator: Perspectives on the Restored Gospel* 5, no. 2 (2004). <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/re/vol5/iss2/1>

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The Joseph Smith Translation  
“The Best Two Years of Our Lives”  
Teaching the Fall and  
the Atonement

THE  
RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATOR

PERSPECTIVES ON THE RESTORED GOSPEL

VOL 5 NO 2 • 2004

# The One Pure Defense

*President Boyd K. Packer*

*“Spiritual diseases of epidemic proportion sweep over the world.*

*We are not able to curb them. But we can prevent our youth from  
being infected by them.”*

THE  
RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATOR  
PERSPECTIVES ON THE RESTORED GOSPEL



RELIGIOUS STUDIES CENTER  
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

PROVO, UTAH

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 2

2004



*“The world is spiraling downward at an ever-quickening pace.  
... These are days of great spiritual danger for our youth.”*

*President Boyd K. Packer*

**ON THE COVER:**

**A pristine mountain lake symbolizes  
the pure doctrine that will  
protect our youth.**

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 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.

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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.

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ISSN 1536-4720

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# Editors' Introduction

The world's morals are spiraling downward, but parents and teachers can help youth to find safety by strengthening their faith in Jesus Christ. In "The One Pure Defense," President Boyd K. Packer, Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, emphasizes the importance of the home as our main defense against evil. "This shield of faith is handmade in a cottage industry," he writes. "It can be polished in the classroom, but it is fabricated and fitted in the home, handcrafted to each individual."

The Prophet Joseph Smith considered his new translation of the Bible to be a major part of his prophetic calling. In this issue, we devote four articles to the Joseph Smith Translation, including an interview about an upcoming book on the original manuscripts. Two articles look at the significant, groundbreaking work of BYU professor Robert J. Matthews. And a fourth article shows some Joseph Smith Translation changes that are not in our current edition of the Bible.

Is a Church Educational System mission right for you? Ed and Bunkie Griffith had long planned on serving a mission together, and their decision to submit their papers launched them into an unforgettable adventure. Describing their mission as the best two years of their lives, they share stories from their wonderful and challenging experience in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Driving through the darkness without lights would frighten the most experienced driver. In "Endowed with Power," Steven C. Harper describes his great relief when his parents drove up and led him home with "borrowed light." He uses this metaphor for the light that the temple offers us as it teaches us about the plan of salvation and the way back to our Father in Heaven.

Rather than seeing the Fall as a disaster, Latter-day Saints see it as an immense step forward in humanity's eternal progression. Such teachings set our Church apart from other Christian religions, as Roger R. Keller clearly demonstrates in this insightful article that compares our beliefs on the Fall and the Atonement with those of other churches.

We hope readers will enjoy the strong historical and doctrinal pieces in this issue.

Richard Neitzel Holzapfel, Editor-in-Chief  
Ted D. Stoddard, Associate Editor  
R. Devan Jensen, Executive Editor

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