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A Grove, a Hill, and a Mountain
The Only True Church:
Boldness without Overbearance
The International Church

THE
RELIGIOUS
EDUCATOR

PERSPECTIVES ON THE RESTORED GOSPEL

VOL 7 NO 3 • 2006

Seek Learning by Faith

Elder David A. Bednar

“Assurance and hope make it possible for us to walk to the edge of the light and take a few steps into the darkness—expecting and trusting the light to move and illuminate the way.”

THE
RELIGIOUS
EDUCATOR
PERSPECTIVES ON THE RESTORED GOSPEL



RELIGIOUS STUDIES CENTER
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

PROVO, UTAH

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 3

2006



*“Learning by faith requires spiritual, mental, and physical exertion
and not just passive reception.”*

Elder David A. Bednar

ON THE COVER:

Walking with hope in Christ is represented by this wondrous nature scene in Harz Forest, Germany.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREAS VITTING

The *Religious Educator* is published three times a year by the Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. This publication serves the needs and interests of those who study and teach the restored gospel of Jesus Christ on a regular basis. The distinct focuses are on teaching the gospel; publishing studies on scripture, doctrine, and Church history; and sharing outstanding devotional essays. The contributions to each issue are carefully reviewed and edited by experienced teachers, writers, and scholars.

Articles are selected on their appeal to and appropriateness for religion professors at each of the Brigham Young University campuses, seminary and institute teachers, and other gospel teachers of adults and young adults. In every issue, we plan a selection of articles that will be helpful and appealing to this diverse audience. 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.

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Manuscripts 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*.

Those manuscripts that meet all criteria and appear to fill current needs will be peer reviewed and will receive a friendly, but careful, review. Authors will then be notified of the decision about publication. This process generally takes four to six months, and publication will generally occur within a year after acceptance has been received.

If an article is accepted, authors will be notified and asked to provide 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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Editors' Introduction

Although many instructors know the principle of teaching by the Spirit, Elder David A. Bednar focuses on a companion principle: helping people to “learn by faith.” This latter principle challenges learners to open their hearts to the promptings of the Holy Ghost, who is the true teacher.

“Both Joseph Smith and Moses faced severe opposition from the adversary in their quest to know God and fulfill His will,” writes Cameron J. Packer. “Through difficult experiences they learned valuable lessons on how to prevail when attacked by Satan.”

As we boldly proclaim that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the Savior’s church, we can also acknowledge the good that exists in other religions, as Eric-Jon K. Marlowe states in his article.

Father in Heaven frequently manifests His favor to us in ways we do not see with our physical eyes but rather with our spiritual insight. In “God’s Manifestations: The Authoring and Finishing of Our Faith,” Richard D. Hawks identifies the companionship of the Holy Spirit as one of the most important manifestations of God’s love that we can have in mortality.

In sections 66 and 75 of the Doctrine and Covenants, the Lord counsels William E. McLellin to join in the cause of building the kingdom. In a thought-provoking article, C. Robert Line looks at the life of Brother McLellin and the interaction between forgiveness and lost opportunities.

After witnessing the struggles of early immigrants to learn how to spell in the English language, President Brigham Young initiated spelling reform in what was called the Deseret Alphabet. Learn what became of this bold experiment.

How does learning about the international growth of the Church affect how instructors teach the Doctrine and Covenants? Professor Donald Q. Cannon testifies that we belong to a worldwide organization, not just an American church, concluding that it helps to share the stories of pioneering members throughout the earth as examples of faith.

Jesus, as the Master Teacher, adapted His message to the culture of the listener. In like manner, we can consider differences of language, culture, ethnicity, and gender as we prepare messages that will reach the hearts of our students.

We close with an article on biblical Hebrew words that we may use without being aware of their heritage, as well as an article on how understanding the character of God can deepen and strengthen our relationship with others.

Finally, we thank Thomas Valletta and Melinda Shaha for their help in producing this issue in conjunction with the Church Educational System.

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

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