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Front Matter

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THE
RELIGIOUS
EDUCATOR

PERSPECTIVES ON THE RESTORED GOSPEL



RELIGIOUS STUDIES CENTER
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

PROVO, UTAH

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ON THE COVER:

Climbing to new heights is symbolized by El Capitan in Yosemite National Park.

“As we contemplate the sacrifice and hard work that was required to achieve past goals, let us muster the confidence and determination needed to move on to greater heights.”

Elder Robert D. Hales

Editor's Note

One of the expected outcomes or aims of a BYU education is to prepare a student to engage in lifelong learning. Elder Robert D. Hales challenges us all, not just BYU students, to begin a journey of lifelong learning in our lead article based on his talk delivered at Campus Education Week in August 2008.

We then turn our attention to another thoughtful essay by Elder Marlin K. Jensen regarding “Those Who Are Different.” Elder Jensen challenges us all to be more considerate and kind. In his typical personal and affable way, Elder Jensen convicts us of our past failings while challenging and encouraging us to do better as we meet our brothers and sisters along our busy journey through life.

The remaining articles include an interview with Clyde Williams regarding his efforts to collect President Packer’s teachings (published in *Mine Errand from the Lord: Selections from the Sermons and Writings of Boyd K. Packer* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2008]); an examination of the Savior’s last week; the life and ministry of John the Baptist; a personal essay by former Religious Education dean David H. Yarn; a lively debate about the geography of the Book of Mormon by two thoughtful scholars, Andrew Hedges and Matthew Roper; and conversations about the Doctrine and Covenants and lessons from the scriptures.

Right in the middle we have three essays based on a panel discussion from a recent annual Mormon History Association meeting. Steve Harper and John Thomas, colleagues at BYU and BYU–Idaho, join our non-Latter-day Saint friend and colleague Mark Miller in an intriguing discussion that will cause us to ponder some rather important issues.

As we release another issue in the tenth volume of the *Religious Educator*, we hope these essays will provide you with a variety of experiences that will inspire you to worship, study, contemplate, and apply eternal principles that can enrich those who will take the time to consider them. We are grateful to our authors for providing us some food for thought.

Best wishes!



Richard Neitzel Holzzapfel
Editor

Contents

- 1 The Journey of Lifelong Learning
Elder Robert D. Hales
- 15 Those Who Are Different
Elder Marlin K. Jensen
- 19 President Packer's Teachings
Interview with Clyde J. Williams
- 31 The Savior's Questions:
Teachings from the Last Week of His Life
Rick B. Jorgensen
- 47 John the Baptist:
The Miracle and the Mission
RoseAnn Benson and Robert J. Matthews
- 63 Praised Be His Holy Name
David H. Yarn Jr.
- 67 Lessons from the Scriptures:
A Conversation with Keith H. Meservy
Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and Kent P. Jackson
- 77 Document Editing:
Helping Students Quench Their Thirst
Steven C. Harper
- 87 An Outsider's Experience Teaching
Mormon History in Utah
Mark Edwin Miller
- 97 Sweetwater Revisited, Sour Notes,
and the Ways of Learning
John C. Thomas
- 111 Cumorah and the Limited Mesoamerican Theory
Andrew H. Hedges

The Religious Educator

Volume 10 Number 2 • 2009

- 135 Plausibility, Probability, and the Cumorah Question
Matthew P. Roper
- 159 Problems with Probability:
 A Response
Andrew H. Hedges
- 163 “Where Is Thy Glory?”
 Moses 1, the Nature of Truth, and the Plan of Salvation
Dan Belnap
- 181 The Doctrine and Covenants:
 A Roundtable Discussion, Part 1
*Richard Neitzel Holzappel, Grant Underwood,
 J. Spencer Fluhman, Steven C. Harper, and Robert J. Woodford*
- 193 New Publications
- 197 Upcoming Conferences
- 199 Staff Spotlight