



Religious Educator: Perspectives on the Restored Gospel

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Front Matter

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATOR

PERSPECTIVES ON THE RESTORED GOSPEL



RELIGIOUS STUDIES CENTER
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

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EDITOR'S NOTE

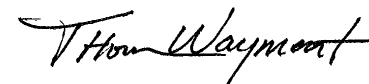
Discussing Difficult Topics

Welcome to our first issue of the *Religious Educator* of 2016. This issue features a recent devotional talk given to students and faculty at Brigham Young University by Elder Ronald A. Rasband, recently called as a member of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. We are delighted to share with you Elder Rasband's thoughts on the topic of religious freedom and fairness for all.

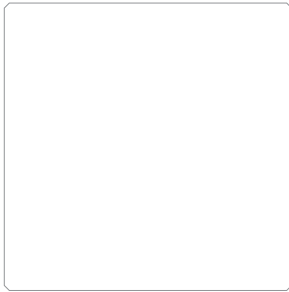
This year we are launching a new series of interviews entitled "Discussing Difficult Topics" that will be loosely tied to the gospel topics essays published through lds.org (see <https://www.lds.org/topics?lang=eng>). The new series will not be a commentary on the essays, nor will it seek to fill out historical details associated with the essays. Rather, the new series will seek to help teachers find ways to approach these difficult topics in the classroom and in teaching settings. We have contacted experienced teachers and scholars and have asked them to articulate ways they have discussed these materials in the classroom, share questions that are typical when teaching these topics, and identify ways to help students find meaning as this new wealth of information is becoming available. This first in this series highlights the topic of plural marriage (see <https://www.lds.org/topics/plural-marriage-in-kirtland-and-nauvoo?lang=eng>). We anticipate that this series will last for the next several years as we discuss some of the other gospel topics essays currently available.

This issue also presents what will hopefully be a continuous series on global Latter-day Saint pioneers. We would like to encourage submissions on the topic of Latter-day Saint pioneers from across the globe. The first of these, authored by Fred E. Woods and Jean G. Huysmans, offers an interesting and detailed account of the service of John Volker in the Netherlands. We hope other such publications will treat the topic of Latter-day Saints from around the globe.

We feel that there are many gems in this issue of the *Religious Educator*, and we hope you enjoy reading these articles as much as we have enjoyed working with these insightful and articulate authors.



Thomas A. Wayment
Editor



On the cover:
Caption.

PHOTO BY ?

Contents

Religious Educator

VOLUME 17 NUMBER 1 · 2016

1	Religious Freedom and Fairness for All ELDER RONALD A. RASBAND	93	“That My Family Should Partake” MARK D. OGLETREE
11	Discussing Difficult Topics: Plural Marriage ANDREW H. HEDGES, RACHEL COPE, GERRIT J. DIRKMAAT, AND THOMAS A. WAYMENT	109	Helping Students Study the Scriptures JOHN HILTON III
23	The Educational Legacy of Karl G. Maeser A. LEGRAND RICHARDS	121	The Consecrated Service of Elder John W. F. Volker: The Netherlands Mission FRED E. WOODS AND JEAN G. HUYSMANS
41	Two Case Studies on the Development of the Concept of Religion: The New Testament and the Book of Mormon KERRY M. HULL	159	The Adolescent Brain and the Atonement: Meant for Each Other, Part 1: The Dilemma MARK H. BUTLER, GENEVIEVE L. SMITH, AND BRITTANY R. JENSEN
65	The Book, the Words of the Book: What the Book of Mormon Says about Its Own Coming Forth JOSEPH M. SPENCER	186	New Publications
83	<i>Reading and Receiving:</i> An Interpretation of Moroni’s Promise(s) GREG WILKINSON	190	Upcoming Events
		191	Staff Spotlights