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## Note from the Editor in Chief

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR IN CHIEF

In September 2005, “The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” issued by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1995, marked its tenth anniversary. To celebrate this significant occasion, *BYU Studies* invited Professor Richard G. Wilkins of the J. Reuben Clark Law School and director of the World Family Policy Center to document several of the key developments in the past decade that the Proclamation has influenced.

Since 1996, the World Family Policy Center, an interdisciplinary academic study center, has promoted scholarly research and cultivated a network of international scholars to support the principles of the Proclamation and to bring that scholarship to the attention of world leaders. Recently, because of relationships fostered over the years by the Center, a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, sponsored by 149 nations, was adopted in December 2004, embracing the outcomes of the Doha International Conference for the Family, including its Doha Declaration. This international legal document—whose full text appears as an appendix below—strongly affirms the central teachings of “The Family: A Proclamation to the World.”

In this article, Professor Wilkins explains the connection between international law, family policy, and the efforts of legal scholars and academic centers. He also argues that despite current efforts to redefine the family, continued erosion of what Article 16(3) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights calls “the natural and fundamental group unit of society” is not inevitable. In the midst of intense academic and political debates, the Proclamation has had notable influence on important international proceedings, providing hope for the traditional family and its supporters the world over.

—John W. Welch, *BYU Studies*