End Matter

Religious Educator

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The Voice of My Servants:
Apostolic Messages on Teaching, Learning, and Scripture

The Religious Studies Center (RSC) at BYU has regularly published landmark scholarship on Latter-day Saint scripture, doctrine, history, and culture. What is sometimes overlooked is that more than seventy significant essays by General Authorities have appeared in its collection of publications. This book contains selections from that collection, authored by prophets, seers, and revelators and published by the Religious Studies Center over the past thirty-five years.

Seasoned by time and coupled with an endowment of spiritual light, the prophets and apostles of our time offer messages with special meaning for all who seek gospel insight.

As the Lord said, “Whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same.”

Banner of the Gospel: Wilford Woodruff

Wilford Woodruff was different from his predecessors in the Church presidency in one particular way—he left an incredibly detailed handwritten record, spanning over sixty years, of just about everything he did and experienced.

He was a man of diversity—miller, farmer, outdoorsman, rancher, horticulturist, diarist, educator, and civic leader. He complemented these skills with deep faith and religious devotion as a missionary, Apostle, Church historian, temple president, and President of the Church.

Through his skillful, inspired leadership and direction, he helped bring about accommodation and change, leading the Church into the social, cultural, and religious mainstream of American society.

This book is a compilation of presentations from the annual BYU Church History Symposium, which was held to gain a greater understanding and appreciation for him and celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of his birth.


Preserving the History of the Latter-day Saints

The pattern of keeping records dates back to the earliest days of the Church, when Joseph Smith, the Church’s founding prophet, announced the divine decree, “Behold, there shall be a record kept among you” (D&C 21:1). Leaders of the Church have strived to obey that command. Contemporaneous records were kept of revelations received by the Prophet, the calling and interaction of early leaders, missionary assignments, the building of temples, and much more.

The Latter-day Saints continue to be a record-keeping people. In fact, there may be no other people on earth of comparable size who have a richer record-keeping tradition than the people nicknamed Mormons. It is a part of the Church’s administrative system, reaching from small committees to the Church’s general conferences and from new members to the most senior
leaders. Because of this tradition, scholars can readily evaluate Latter-day Saint history from a wealth of primary documents.


**Shield of Faith: The Power of Religion in the Lives of LDS Youth and Young Adults**

This book emerged out of the authors’ efforts to provide scientific evidence that shows how religion plays a significant role in the lives of LDS youth. The authors undertook a groundbreaking study that spans seventeen years and three countries. Truly the first of its kind, this study demonstrates how LDS youth with a high level of religiosity are not only less likely to participate in harmful delinquent activities but also more likely to have healthy self-esteem, resist peer pressure, and excel in school.

Each chapter of the book examines a different aspect of youths’ religiosity and how it affects other aspects of their lives. It shows that religion is indeed a meaningful and positive force in the lives of LDS teens and young adults. This important study can help provide our youth with the tools they need to fashion a shield of faith.


**Within These Prison Walls: Lorenzo Snow’s Record Book, 1886–1897**

While incarcerated in the Utah territorial penitentiary for polygamy, Lorenzo Snow preserved his outgoing correspondence in a leather-bound record book. The record book’s significance lies in three areas. First, the record book sheds much-needed light into the thoughts, personality, and personal life of Lorenzo Snow. The deftness with which he puts his thoughts into verse, his vocabulary, and his humor and compassion all reveal facets of Snow’s intellect and character unfamiliar to many Church members today. Second, the record book is significant
for its doctrinal content—particularly Elder Snow’s teachings concerning the pre-earth life.

Finally, it is an important primary source for students of the antipolygamy crusade. His poems and letters are invaluable for understanding how the Saints viewed their persecutions, justified their resistance to the laws, and found the nerve and the will to carry on despite increasingly difficult circumstances.


Joseph Smith, the Prophet and Seer

Since the beginning of the Restoration, many individuals have collected the Prophet’s teachings and attempted to tell his story. Yet the task of reconstructing the life of Joseph Smith is fraught with difficulties, as it is with telling the story of anyone who lived in the past.

Amid the publication of the Joseph Smith Papers, this book adds poignant context to his writings and revelations. Drawing from a lecture series held at Brigham Young University entitled “Joseph Smith’s Prophetic Ministry,” the leading scholars and educators on Joseph Smith shared their wealth of knowledge on his life and history.

These scholars look at Joseph Smith with fresh eyes, mining both old evidence and new discoveries to show who the Prophet was, what he accomplished, and why his life matters. As a result of these efforts, in some ways we may know more about the Prophet than did those who lived during his lifetime, given the intimate look we have into his personal diaries and letters.

Each chapter focuses on a specific period of his ministry from 1830–1844, providing an overview of the major events in Church history and discussing a major doctrinal or historical topic related to that period. This exciting and thorough treatment will lift people’s understanding of the Prophet Joseph and the gospel to new heights.


BYU Religious Studies Center

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A Resource for Gospel Students, Teachers, and Scholars

- Scholarly insights from Church leaders & BYU scholars and educators
- List of available new publications
- Free database of past books & articles
- News of upcoming conferences
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- Links to additional resources

To reach out to a worldwide community, our website includes or will soon include selected articles translated into these languages:
- Español
- Português
- Deutsch

See for Yourself

Take a look
rsc.byu.edu
In 1975, Religious Education dean Jeffrey R. Holland formed the Religious Studies Center (RSC) to facilitate religious study and serve not just the university but the entire Church. Now, as the RSC turns thirty-five, let’s review the RSC’s impact on the university and the worldwide Church.

Conferences
The RSC helps sponsor important conferences and symposia at BYU. In addition to the Sidney B. Sperry Symposium, the RSC has added the Religious Education Student Symposium, the BYU Easter Conference, and the Church History Symposium. These are held annually and are free to the public.

Research and Publications
The RSC funds research and publication of scholarly research, regularly publishing about ten books a year, a journal titled the Religious Educator, and a biannual magazine, the Religious Education Review. “While many people do not recognize the RSC by name,” says Richard Neitzel Holzapfel, publications director, “they recognize many of the books we have published” (see http://rsc.byu.edu/recent).

Global Impact
A major step in establishing a global audience was the creation of the RSC website (rsc.byu.edu). This site offers a blog of recent events, news of upcoming conferences and symposia, a list of our most recent publications, a searchable database of past articles, and translations in Portuguese and Spanish. The RSC is committed to sharing its resources with a worldwide audience.

The Future of the RSC
While serving as president of BYU, President Holland said, “With the horizons expanding at an unprecedented rate for the study of what is ancient and what is modern, it is fitting for us to look to the resources, scholarship, and leadership of the [Religious Studies] Center.”
Upcoming Conferences

The Thirty-Ninth Annual Sidney B. Sperry Symposium
Scheduled for October 29–30, 2010, the topic of the Sperry Symposium will be “The Sermon on the Mount in Latter-day Scripture.” The keynote speaker will present in the Joseph Smith Building auditorium Friday, October 29, at 6:30 p.m.

Student Symposium
The 2011 Religious Education Student Symposium will be held Friday, February 18, 2011, in the Wilkinson Center on BYU campus from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Church History Symposium
The 2011 Church History Symposium, sponsored by Religious Education and the Religious Studies Center, will be held Saturday, March 5, 2011, in the Harmon Building on BYU campus. The Brigham Young University Church History Symposium was established to explore annually a topic of special interest in the experience of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Each year historians meet to share the fruits of their research with each other and with a general audience of interested Latter-day Saints and friends. The symposium has become the premier symposium for scholarship on Church history. Selected papers from each symposium are published in a book by the Religious Studies Center. Hundreds of people attend each year to be enlightened and edified. This symposium is free to attend, and registration is not required.

The BYU Easter Conference
The 2011 Religious Education Easter Conference will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2011, in the Joseph Smith Building auditorium on BYU campus at 9 a.m. Presenters will speak about the Savior, his life, his mission, the Atonement, and his influence in our lives today. The conference will feature notable Church leaders, historians, scholars, educators, and authors. The conference also features special instrumental and vocal presentations. Attending the BYU Easter Conference is an ideal way to celebrate Easter Sunday. Visit http://easterconference.byu.edu for more information.
Religious Studies Center

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Editorial Board Member

Thomas R. Valletta and his wife, Charlene, have been married thirty-eight years. They have five children and thirteen grandchildren, with at least one more on the way. Both Tom and his wife are converts to the Church. Tom received his bachelor’s degree in political science and a master's degree from BYU. His doctorate was awarded by Northern Illinois University. Tom has been with Seminaries and Institutes of Religion (S&I) since 1976, where he currently works as director of S&I Curriculum Services. He has authored a number of articles and books on scripture, doctrine, and Church history. He has served in a variety of callings, including bishop and mission president. Currently he serves as a member of the Correlation Materials Evaluation Committee.

Student Editorial Intern

Laurie Rane Mildenhall is a senior from Encinitas, California. After graduating from high school, she spent several months in Guatemala volunteering for HELPS International, a nonprofit corporation that provides medical care, education, and housing to people in impoverished countries. She then studied business and advertising at BYU before deciding to pursue graphic design. Laurie was married to Nicholas Mildenhall in December 2009 in San Diego. After she and her husband graduate in April, Laurie plans to pursue a graduate degree in graphic design while her husband attends medical school.

Student Intern

Rachael Moore is a junior from Provo, Utah. She is studying home and family living at BYU. While growing up in Provo, Rachael enjoyed participating in outdoor activities and attending BYU sporting events with her family. She enjoys playing the piano, singing, reading, hiking, and playing football. Rachael is currently working toward spending a semester studying abroad in Madrid, Spain. She loves school and, upon graduation next December, hopes to pursue a graduate degree family studies. Rachael currently works as a student assistant for the Religious Studies Center.
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Submission Guidelines

The Religious Educator 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. 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.

Complete author guidelines, including suitable topics, are provided at [tre.byu.edu](http://tre.byu.edu). All manuscripts should be submitted electronically to [rsc@byu.edu](mailto:rsc@byu.edu). Hard-copy submissions are accepted but not encouraged. Send hard-copy submissions to the editorial office at the address listed below.

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*, 16th 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 used quotations highlighted.

Editorial Questions
For questions or comments, e-mail us at [rsc@byu.edu](mailto:rsc@byu.edu) or write to Religious Educator, 167 HGB, Provo, UT 84602-2701.
“The Lord . . . emphasized the need of spirituality as a part of effective communication.”

—President Thomas S. Monson