New Publications

To purchase any of the following publications, please visit www.byubookstore.com and search by book title or ISBN number, or call the BYU Bookstore toll-free at 1-800-253-2578.

Called to Teach: The Legacy of Karl G. Maeser
A. LeGrand Richards
Karl G. Maeser has rightfully been called the spiritual architect not only of Brigham Young University, but also of the Church Educational System. As the first superintendent of Church Schools, he helped found and maintain over fifty academies and schools from Canada to Mexico. He helped develop the public education system in Utah and helped establish the Utah Teachers’ Association. The students he taught personally included future US senators and members of the House of Representatives, a US Supreme Court justice, university presidents, and many General Authorities.


The Oakland Temple: Portal to Eternity
Richard O. Cowan and Robert G. Larsen
The Oakland California Temple plays an important role in the culture of the Bay Area. This book tells the story of the temple from early prophecy to the construction and dedication and through its jubilee. When David O. McKay announced that the Oakland Temple would be built, referring to prophecies by Brigham Young and others, he declared, “We feel that the time has come when these prophecies should be fulfilled.”


Joseph F. Smith: Reflections on the Man and His Times
Edited by Craig K. Manscill, Brian D. Reeves, Guy L. Dorius, and J. B. Haws
This book is a compilation of presentations from a BYU Church History Symposium. It features more than twenty messages about the life of Joseph F. Smith, including chapters by Elder M. Russell Ballard and Joseph Fielding McConkie. Elder Ballard, great-grandson of Joseph F. Smith, describes how the Lord prepared President Smith to lead the Church. Several scholars, historians, educators, and researchers highlight aspects of President Smith’s life, including his boyhood and adolescence, family and personal relationships, doctrinal contributions, developments in Church government, initiatives taken during his presidency in education, building construction, building the Laie Hawaii Temple, creating the seminary program, and public outreach.

By Divine Design: Best Practices for Family Success and Happiness
Edited by Brent L. Top and Michael A. Goodman
The prophets of God continually raise their warning voices and lovingly give counsel to strengthen our families and heighten the spirituality of our children. This is a gospel-centered “best practices” book for husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, that is founded on prophetic teachings and substantiated by good science. This book will help readers gain new and important insights about our most important responsibilities in time and eternity—our families.

By Our Rites of Worship: Latter-day Saint Views on Ritual in History, Scripture, and Practice
Edited by Daniel L. Belnap
While negative meanings are often attached to the words rite and ritual, these terms simply mean “with correct religious procedure; in the manner required, properly, duly, correctly, rightly, fittingly.” Thus the term perfectly describes an array of practices within our Church, including baptism, the laying on of hands, and temple ordinances. This book explores the relationship between the performance of priesthood ordinances (or rituals) and the power of godliness that is mentioned in Doctrine and Covenants 84. Just as in biblical and Book of Mormon times, rites are an essential part of God’s plan for his children. The messages in this book help us understand ritual and its profound role within the Church so that we are able to recognize the transforming power of our rites of worship.

Nauvoo and Hancock County, Illinois: A Guide to Family History and Historical Sources
Kip Sperry
This comprehensive family history reference book describes hundreds of genealogical and historical resources for Nauvoo, Hancock County, and west-central Illinois. It includes descriptions of original records, primary and secondary sources, computer databases, finding aids, guides, websites, indexes, manuscript collections, newspapers, oral histories, historical and genealogical periodicals, library collections, and much more. It also includes an extensive bibliography of genealogical, local history, and historical resources.

The Ministry of Peter, the Chief Apostle: The 43rd Annual Brigham Young University Sidney B. Sperry Symposium
Edited by Frank F. Judd Jr., Eric D. Huntsman, and Shon D. Hopkin
This volume sheds important light on the mission of the man whom Jesus himself referred to as “the rock.” As a sometimes fallible but nonetheless earnest disciple, Peter is an important example of grace, transformation, service, and power. Essays in this collection treat his cultural background and context, his role in the apostolic church, many of his noted teachings, and his important legacy in early Christianity and the Restoration.
Upcoming Events

Sidney B. Sperry Symposium
Friday and Saturday, October 24–25, 2014
The symposium will be held in the Joseph Smith Building. The title of this year’s symposium is "The Ministry of Peter, the Chief Apostle." The symposium will shed important light on the mission of the man whom Jesus himself referred to as "the rock." Presentations will explore Peter’s cultural background, his role in the apostolic church, many of his noted teachings, and his important legacy in early Christianity and the Restoration. Peter is one who overcame his own weaknesses to become one of the most powerful witnesses of the divinity, mission, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The keynote speaker will be Elder Bruce C. Hafen. For updated information, visit rsc.byu.edu/symposia/sperry.

Religious Education Student Symposium
Friday, February 21, 2014
Held in the Wilkinson Student Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., this symposium provides a forum for students to research, write, and present papers about religious subjects from a faithful perspective. All BYU undergraduate and graduate students attending BYU–Provo during winter semester are invited to submit a paper. A number of writers will receive cash prizes for their outstanding work, and all presenters will be invited to a luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, visit http://rsc.byu.edu/studentsymposium. Watch for a call for papers.

BYU Easter Conference
March 27, 2015
The conference will be held in the Joseph Smith Building auditorium. This year Elder Spencer J. Condie of the Seventy will be the keynote speaker. Other speakers will be BYU professors Matthew O. Richardson and Jennifer Brinkerhoff Platt. Each will talk about the Savior, his life, his mission, the Atonement, and his influence in our lives today.

These events are free of charge, and registration is not required. Some event details are subject to change. For more details, please visit us online at rsc.byu.edu/conferences or contact Brent Nordgren at 801-422-3293.

Staff Spotlight

Research Assistant
Katie Carlile is a sophomore from Orem, Utah, studying early childhood education. She has been working at the Religious Studies Center since June of 2013 as a research assistant. Some of her favorite job responsibilities are maintaining the website, organizing parties, and doing other miscellaneous tasks for the faculty at the RSC. She enjoys spending time with her immediate and extended family. Katie looks forward to serving a mission in Lubbock, Texas, later this year.

Editing Intern
Rebekah Weaver is a senior from Boise, Idaho, and studies English language and editing. Sometimes her studies make her dance with joy at the beauty of language, and sometimes they make her stay up all night writing papers and wanting to run away to Europe. Rebekah has done time in BYU Women’s Chorus and on one of the folk dance teams, along with tutoring in the Writing Center and editing here at the RSC. When not reading or writing, which leaves a small block of her life, she may be found cooking, hiking, or trying to convince her husband that running away to Europe is a good idea.

Editing Intern
Shanna Clayton is a junior at BYU and has lived in Provo for ten years. She is currently pursuing a degree in English language and a minor in editing. Shanna has been an editor at the RSC since March of 2014 and enjoys working here. After graduating, she hopes to pursue a career editing children’s books or young adult literature. She is also interested in freelance editing. Aside from editing, Shanna loves dancing (especially ballroom), making music videos with her friends, and eating ice cream.
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 beliefs of the respective authors 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 are provided at rsc.byu.edu/RSCStyleGuide.pdf. All manuscripts should be submitted electronically to rsc@byu.edu. Hard-copy submissions are accepted only if an electronic copy is included.

Manuscripts should be double-spaced, including quotations. 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.

Manuscripts will be evaluated by the following questions:

1. Does the manuscript address a clear thesis? Does the argument proceed cautiously and logically? Is the writing clear? Is it engaging and interesting? If not, why?

2. To what degree is the author knowledgeable on the topic as a whole, as shown, for example, by content, phrasing, contextualizing, thorough use of the best sources, and bibliography? Does the author adequately acknowledge and deal with opposing views? If not, why?

3. Does the manuscript present significant new data or new perspectives? What is its main contribution? Will people want to read this ten years from now? Does it make a contribution without resorting to sensationalism or controversy?

4. Does the author follow the canons of responsible scholarship (uses sound and fair methodology; documents arguable facts)? If not, why?

5. Is the manuscript faith-promoting? Is the piece in harmony with the established doctrine of the Church?

If a manuscript is accepted, authors will be notified and asked to provide photocopies of all source materials cited, arranged in order, numbered to match the endnotes, and highlighted to show the quotations or paraphrases. Photocopies of source material must include title page and source page with the highlighted quotations.

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