

**THE 2008 BYU RELIGIOUS STUDIES CENTER
CHURCH HISTORY SYMPOSIUM**



John Taylor

Call for Proposals

November 1, 2008, marks the 200th birthday of John Taylor, third President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (1880–87). To commemorate this important event, the third annual Religious Studies Center Church History Symposium, in conjunction with the Mormon Historic Sites Foundation, will explore President Taylor's life, ministry, and teachings. Compared with other Presidents of the Church, there is a vacuum of scholarly research due to his exile during his administration. This symposium will seek to fill this critical need and provide a better understanding, perspective, and appreciation of his life, teachings, and administration within a historical context.

Symposium papers could focus on such issues as:

- **Education**—His early formal education; apprenticeship as a cooper, wood turner, and cabinetmaker; inheritance as oldest son; role as a musician and composer.
- **Migration**—His immigration to and experiences in Canada; role in the exodus from Missouri in 1838; leadership in the trek to the Rocky Mountains in 1846.
- **Government Service and Philosophy**—His service as city councilman, colonel, judge advocate of the Nauvoo Legion, associate judge in provisional State of Deseret, member of the Utah territorial legislature, and Speaker of the House for five consecutive sessions; contrast of secular and ecclesiastical political systems as found in *The Government of God*.
- **Missionary Work**—His service as missionary or mission president; service in England, Ireland, France, and the Eastern United States; his use of music as a missionary tool.
- **The Press**—Taylor as editor or correspondent, press agent for Joseph Smith's campaign for United States President; *Nauvoo Times and Seasons*; *L'Etoile du Deseret*; editorials written in New York City; political philosophy; or using media as a conversion tool.
- **Administration**—His administration from exile; organization of a Churchwide Primary organization; new editions of the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price; dismantling of the Perpetual Emigrating Fund; leadership during the disincorporation of the Church; relationship with Brigham Young.
- **Teachings**—Analysis of the *Mediation and Atonement*; defense of plural marriage; handling of opposition; strength of testimony during persecution.
- **Family**—His seven wives, thirty-five children, family dynamics underground; descendants in Church leadership; relationships as father, husband, grandfather; conversion practices with extended family members; influence on descendants.

Proposals and papers must be consistent with the doctrines and practices of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They will be judged on the basis of their quality, scholarly content, originality, and contribution to our understanding of John Taylor's life, teachings, and administration.

The upcoming John Taylor symposium will be held at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, in early October 2008. Selected papers will be published shortly thereafter in a volume by the Religious Studies Center.

Proposals due February 1, 2008

A one-page detailed proposal must be submitted no later than February 1, 2008 (earlier proposals encouraged). Those submitting proposals accepted for presentation will be notified by March 1, 2008. If you would like to have your paper considered for publication, the completed paper must be submitted by **October 1, 2008**. Please submit proposals to:

Professor Mary Jane Woodger
275 E Joseph Smith Building
Brigham Young University
Provo, Utah 84602

Any questions can be addressed to Dr. Woodger at the same address or via email at maryjane_woodger@byu.edu, or phone at 801-422-9029.

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RELIGIOUS STUDIES CENTER CHURCH HISTORY SYMPOSIUM***

“John Taylor Symposium”

Proposals due February 1, 2008

Please complete this form and return it with a one-page proposal (a thesis statement with an accompanying outline and bibliography) for your topic,

Mary Jane Woodger
275 E Joseph Smith Building
Brigham Young University
Provo, Utah 84602

Name: Scott C. Esplin

Academic Title: Assistant Professor

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Title of Proposal: Moving Zion “Far Ahead” – The Educational Contributions of John Taylor

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John Taylor Symposium

Symposium and Publication Deadlines

December 1, 2008	Committee issues call for proposals to BYU Provo and Hawaii faculty members
January 31, 2008	Symposium proposals due (2 months later)
March 1, 2008	Selected paper proposals are selected (1 month later)
July 1, 2008	Symposium participants submit completed papers for editing (6 months later)
October 1, 2008	Completed manuscript delivered to the RSC (4 months later)
December 1, 2008	RSC delivers final typeset manuscript to publisher (2 months later)
February 1, 2009	Manuscript ready for printing by publisher (2 months later)
March 1, 2009	Publisher delivers printed books to RSC and committee (1 month later)
March 1, 2009	John Taylor volume is distributed for sale.