

# VISUALIZING THE RESTORATION

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Recently, my siblings and I have been assembling family photographs in celebration of my parents' fiftieth wedding anniversary. I was struck by the scarcity of pictures from earlier years, compared to the tens of thousands of images, accompanied by the thousands of videos, that clutter (overwhelm) my phone, computer, and cloud drive. Today, I document every first step, first meal, first birthday, first tooth, first lost tooth, first snowstorm, first spring flower, first plane ride, and first visit to the beach. My collection of visual memories seems endless.

We live in a visually saturated world. Video calls have replaced the letters, and then the phone calls, we used to use to keep in touch. Remote instruction introduced millions to the world of Zoom calls and video conferencing, with all of their attendant benefits and challenges. Many of us are struggling to keep up with these communication changes.

This issue of the *BYU Religious Education Review* highlights efforts made by many within Religious Education to communicate the

message of the Restoration in a broad variety of ways. In the feature article, Professor Matthew Grey of the Department of Ancient Scripture discusses his research on films about Jesus, offering insights on recent projects like *The Christ Child* and *The Chosen*. In another article, Alex Baugh, chair of the Department of Church History and Doctrine, reflects on newly released videos about the history and doctrine of the Church

designed to help viewers “learn, understand, and feel more deeply the things of the mind and the feelings of the heart.” Professor Anthony Sweat discusses the growth in popularity of the Y Religion podcast, an audio effort to highlight current research produced by faculty within Religious Education that has risen to become one of the top one hundred religion podcasts in America. Reflecting the reach of BYUtv, Professors Gaye

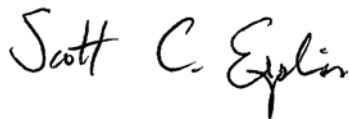


We live in a visually saturated world. Photo by Rebekah Baker, © 2020 BYU Photo.

Strathearn, Barbara Morgan Gardner, Daniel Becerra, and many others take their classroom skills to the small screen through Roundtable Scripture discussions and the popular show *Come Follow Up*. Finally, we highlight student experiences as they continue to deepen and share their spiritual learning in spite of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

We learn and communicate in many different ways. A few nights ago, while listening to a radio broadcast of a basketball game, I realized this was a media format entirely foreign to my children. I still enjoyed the game without the accompanying video, just as I enjoy curling up with a good book when audiobooks abound. But I am also grateful for all the many ways visually, auditorily, and through the printed word that I can celebrate the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Gratefully,



**Scott C. Esplin**  
Publications Director  
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## Upcoming Events

Open to the campus community and the general public

### BYU Easter Conference

**Monday, March 29, 2021**

The BYU Easter Conference will be a virtual event. The keynote speaker is author Marie K. Hafen. Other speakers include Tyler J. Griffin, associate teaching professor of ancient scripture at BYU, and Jennifer Reeder, historian and nineteenth-century women's specialist at the Church History Department. Each speaker will talk about various aspects of the Savior: his life, his mission, his Atonement, and his influence in our lives today. For more information, visit [rsc.byu.edu/conferences/easter](https://rsc.byu.edu/conferences/easter).

### Sidney B. Sperry Symposium

**Friday and Saturday, October 22–23, 2021**

The theme for the 50th annual Sperry Symposium is "Covenant of Compassion: Caring for the Marginalized and Disadvantaged in the Old Testament." In general conference, President Russell M. Nelson spoke about poverty and other humanitarian concerns, declaring, "As members of the Church, we feel a kinship to those who suffer in any way. . . . We heed an Old Testament admonition: 'Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy' (Deuteronomy 15:11)." President Nelson's linking of Old Testament law with modern social concerns highlights the continued relevancy of the Old Testament for confronting modern challenges, including poverty, ethnocentrism, and the world's growing refugee crisis. For more information, visit [rsc.byu.edu/conferences/sperry](https://rsc.byu.edu/conferences/sperry).

*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](https://rsc.byu.edu/conferences) or contact Devan Jensen at 801-422-9304.*

