

# "The Miracle of the Jerusalem Center for Near Eastern Studies"

**D. Kelly Ogden**

Coordinator of graduate studies in the Religious Education  
Department and former Jerusalem Center administrator

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**NOON**

**238 HRCB**



Fourteen years of experience administering programs in the Holy Land places D. Kelly Ogden in a unique position to share the miracles that took place while establishing the Jerusalem Center for Near Eastern Studies. Ogden's lecture will explore how the Jerusalem Center came to be: securing the land, negotiating with the Israeli government for use of the land, building an extraordinary structure while opposition mounted (making the center an international issue and almost bringing down the government of Israel), and finally obtaining all approvals and moving students in. His fascinating and miraculous account is punctuated by vivid slides of the area in and around the center. Ogden, has guided students on field study trips throughout Israel, the Sinai, Egypt, Jordan, Turkey, and Greece. With graduate degrees in English, Spanish, international education, Hebrew, and Middle East studies, Ogden has delivered scholarly papers in the USA, Europe, Near East,

and South America. He authored or co-authored several books, including the *Holy Land; Where Jesus Walked; Jerusalem, The Eternal City; Discovering the World of the Bible; and New Testament Apostles Testify of Christ*. His articles have been published in the *Ensign*, the *Liahona*, the *Church News*, the *Encyclopedia of Mormonism*, and elsewhere. He is currently preparing a detailed, illustrated study on the life and teachings of the Savior, entitled *Testimonies of Jesus Christ: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John*. Ogden spent five years with the preparation of the Latter-day Saint editions of the scriptures and served on the Gospel Doctrine Writing Committee for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He has offered a variety of Church service, including as president of the Jerusalem Branch in Israel, as a branch president at the Missionary Training Center in Provo, Utah, and as president of the Chile Santiago East Mission.