



“No book has focused so clearly on how to face religious and ideological rivalry between people who earnestly believe they have the truth while the other does not.” —C. Randall Paul  
*President, Foundation for Religious Diplomacy*



## Healing Our Divides

*Answering the Savior's Call to be Peacemakers*

By David B. Ostler

With a Foreword by Thomas B. Griffith, *Former Federal Appeals Court Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit*

**Available April 23, 2024, in paperback and ebook.**

195 pages, ISBN: 978-1-58958-774-8

\$19.95 Retail | \$11.97 Wholesale

\$16.99 ebook | Kindle, Apple, Kobo, and Google Play

### Description:

*Healing Our Divides: Answering the Savior's Call to Be Peacemakers* is a timely and essential guide for navigating the increasingly polarized and contentious landscape of modern society. Drawing inspiration from powerful and prophetic messages from Latter-day Saint leaders on unity and peace, author David Ostler explores the skills and approaches necessary to eliminate contention and become peacemakers. Through extensive research and personal reflection, Ostler offers concrete and practical strategies for reducing contention, understanding others, and fostering meaningful discussions amidst differences in beliefs and ideologies.

Rooted in principles of religious discipleship and moral integrity, *Healing Our Divides* addresses the urgent need to confront societal division and hostility with love and understanding. Ostler delves into four major themes, including understanding today's divisions, learning practical approaches to reduce contention, recognizing peacemaking as a vital aspect of religious discipleship, and mastering the art of deep and meaningful discussions. With insightful thought boxes prompting self-reflection and engagement, as well as discussion questions for group study, he invites readers to join in the communal effort of healing divides and fostering unity. This book serves as a poignant reminder of our collective responsibility to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ and work towards creating a more peaceful and harmonious world, one interaction at a time.

### ORDERING

Email: [order@koffordbooks.com](mailto:order@koffordbooks.com)

Phone: (801) 572-7417

Dist: Ingram

### PUBLICITY

Lily Smiley

Phone: (801) 572-7417

[lily@koffordbooks.com](mailto:lily@koffordbooks.com)

### GREG KOFFORD BOOKS

11075 S State St

Sandy, UT 84070

[www.gregkofford.com](http://www.gregkofford.com)

## Praise from early reviewers of *Healing Our Divides*

- “No book has focused so clearly on how to face religious and ideological rivalry between people who earnestly believe they have the truth while the other does not. David Ostler has searched sources in social-psychology and comparative theology to present wise advice for (mostly) enjoying life with those who disagree with us. He ends with this potent truth from John Templeton that should be an addendum to the Latter-day Saint 13th Article of Faith: 'Why settle for [religious encounters] based on tolerance alone? More than tolerance, we need constructive competition. When persons on fire with their gospel compete lovingly to give their finest treasures to each other, will not everyone benefit?'" —C. Randall Paul, *President, Foundation for Religious Diplomacy*
- “*Healing Our Divides* is the perfect book for our current moment. There is an urgent need for Latter-day Saint Christians to become better peacemakers—in our homes, workplaces, congregations, communities, and nations. David Ostler teaches correct principles and then offers concrete tools and examples that will empower readers not just to believe in peace but to embody and practice it as well.” —Patrick Mason, *co-author of Proclaim Peace: The Restoration's Answer to an Age of Conflict*
- “Father Lehi taught the principle that there must needs be opposition in all things, with our mortal experience purposely designed to create constant conflict. In *Healing our Divides*, David Ostler masterfully explores how we can embrace disagreement while reducing or eliminating contention. Ostler builds upon his first book *Bridges* by providing practical advice and techniques in how to communicate effectively by broadening our ‘in-group’ to include all of God’s children, and he demonstrates how we can maintain our standards, understand our biases, and discover how to love those whose views differ from our own. The renowned scientist and Jesuit Priest Pierre Chardi said, ‘Someday, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love, and then, for a second time in the history of the world, man will have discovered fire.’ Ostler’s book gives us the blueprint on how we can do this.” —Richard Ferguson, *Executive Director, Scripture Central*
- “At present, the United States is becoming irreparably divided, a nation that will not stand or survive unless as citizens we choose to start listening to, reaching out to, and loving those on the other side of our personal and national divides. David Ostler’s *Healing Our Divides: Answering the Savior’s Call to Be Peacemakers* is an inspired call and practical guide for doing just that. Using the words of scriptures, sages, and modern prophets, as well as the wisdom of our common humanity, Ostler makes a compelling case for the kind of sacrifice, humility, faith, and courage necessary for us to come together. The American Dream will remain a dream as long as there are deep divisions among us. As Ostler says, “Nothing gets better until enough of us decide we want to make it so.” Get this book. Follow its wisdom. Become a uniter. The dream awaits!” —Robert A. Rees, *Co-founder and Vice-President, Bountiful Children's Foundation*

## About the Author

David B. Ostler has lived and served on four continents as a bishop, stake president, mission president, and director of a Church historical site and visitors' center. He has a BA in quantitative methods from the University of Utah and an MBA from Dartmouth College. He retired from a thirty-year career managing domestic and international businesses focused on improving health care through data analytics, consulting, software, and business services. Married to Rachelle, they have six wonderful children who have a wide range of different religious and political beliefs. They split their time between homes in Northern Virginia and Midway, Utah. His first book is *Bridges: Ministering to Those Who Question*.

David is available for interviews and events. He can be reached directly at [dbostler@gmail.com](mailto:dbostler@gmail.com) or through Greg Kofford Books.