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LDS scientist learns by study and by faith

By Kaylene Morrill, For Mormon Times

Published: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 3:30 a.m. MDT

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Second in a series

Some say that religion and science are polar opposites. But to Jeffrey M. Bradshaw, that is not true.

Bradshaw, a senior research scientist at the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition and a Mormon bishop in Pace, Fla., has found that his testimony has grown as much through service as it has through learning.

"I do believe that the process of learning, of being friends of truth and of being willing to test ideas openly, is something that's compatible with what we believe," he said. "I'm grateful for a church where truth can only help us."



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Courtesy of Jeffrey M. Bradshaw

Jeffrey M. Bradshaw is cognitive scientist and an LDS bishop.

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Bradshaw suspects many scientists come to negative conclusions about religion because they have had experiences with religion and religious people that disappointed them.

Through his experiences, Bradshaw has come to believe that knowledge and revelation come from the same source. He said he has felt guided in searching for the truth throughout his life.

"The kinds of intuitions that guide me in my work often feel very much like the promptings that I get in my spiritual



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life," he said.

"Science works by a kind of faith. Long before a new idea is proven, your senses are primed with an intuition that there is something to be learned by exploring further in a particular direction."

Bradshaw said everything he believes inspires and motivates him to learn more about God's creations.

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