

Brief Notices

Centennial Utah: The Beehive State on the Eve of the Twenty-First Century, by G. Wesley Johnson and Marian Ashley Johnson (Cherbo Publishing Group, 1995)

This attractive volume is one of many Utah statehood centennial efforts by publishers and authors. The Johnsons have a unique approach that actually determines the structure of the book. Utilizing a technique of interspersing historical essays, a few individual profiles, and some current Utah businesses' histories, the publication attempts to tie past to present. Although, there is an emphasis on the contemporary Utah scene, which genuinely hampers the historical integrity of the book, the purpose of the book is to demonstrate Utah's economic vitality in 1996.

Inclusion of corporate stories is apparently based on each business's opportunity or willingness to contribute to the book's publication. Consequently, the volume is, in some respects, paid advertising for those who are included. For whatever reason, several important Utah businesses such as Huntsman Chemical, Nu-Skin International, Geneva Steel, and Pacifi-corp are given little mention, limiting the statewide coverage of this publication.

The book is a welcome addition to the centennial feast of Utah

books. The color photographs in the historical essays create a worthy framework for the publication. *Centennial Utah* definitely adds to the knowledge of what Utah is in 1996 and provides useful sketches that call for greater study of Utah's contemporary business community.

—F. Ross Peterson

The Restored Gospel and Applied Christianity: Student Essays in Honor of President David O. McKay, 1995 (Center for the Study of Christian Values in Literature and the Religious Studies Center, 1995)

This eighth volume in *The Restored Gospel and Applied Christianity* series is an even better read than its predecessors. As word has gotten out over the past decade about O. C. and Grace Tanner's generous prize bequest to the McKay Contest, the student writing competition's quantitative leaps in submissions have stimulated a steady increase in the quality of the best essays—these eleven were the cream of almost two hundred entries.

There's a lot to like in this collection of student essays examining the application of the gospel to life. Matthew Kennington's "Mud," for example, illuminates the

miracles God can work with the meanest, muddiest materials—not only with lowlifes like Matthew’s friend Frank, but with us. The essay challenges whether we can “look up to God at that day with a pure heart and clean hands” (Alma 5:19). I, with the author and muddy Frank, would “kinda like to get cleaned up first” (70). This vivid essay sticks in the mud of my conscience with the probing persistence of those “pesky foxtails that burrowed into my socks and scratched my ankles all the way home” (76).

And that’s just one of the dishes in this smorgasbord of moral readings. “A Big Enough Umbrella for Singing in the Rain” convinces me that God’s love is “big enough to cover all his children” (67). I am moved by the moral of “Te Necesito, Sí”: “If you tell everybody else that God loves them, then He has to love you” (84). “Of Heart and Hand” focuses me vividly on the cracked and inadequate hands of a nurse that must stand in for the hands of the Savior. “Joy Trip” persuades me of its profound premise about the painful but promising costs of living fully: “The price of joy is feeling everything” (77). I resonate with the moral of “Living Leftovers”: God won’t forget us—not protagonist Gary, not the author, not any of us will remain leftovers in the great refrigerator of our Father.

Sure, there’s some unevenness, but I suspect that the determination of just which essays are most valuable will depend upon individual readers. The collection’s motley inclusiveness may turn out to

be a strength for its readership: there should be something here for everyone. If you haven’t yet found something in this 1995 volume to like, you haven’t read far enough.

The volume is available through the BYU Center for the Study of Christian Values in Literature, and the BYU Religious Studies Center, as well as LDS bookstores.

—Steven C. Walker

Prepare to Be Healed, by Milly Day and Richard Neitzel Holzapfel (Bookcraft, 1995)

With this 109-page volume, what you read is what you get. It seems to say, “On your mark, get set . . .” but leaves the “go” to others. This isn’t about how to gain emotional strength, but how to *prepare* to get it.

The obvious need for this volume cries out. Both mental health professionals (such as Day, a licensed marriage and family counselor) and ecclesiastical counselors (such as Holzapfel, a former bishop and institute director) often decry the lack of preparation people bring to the counseling session. The cliché “You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make ‘em drink” is apt; people come for counseling but are not always prepared to accept or to implement the help offered.

Still, the sheer simplicity of this volume might leave some disappointed. The two authors alternate in presenting chapters which explain why people might need professional counseling, how to find