

four-volume set. Although this new volume obviously benefited from the former work, which is now out of print, it also contains entries on people, places, issues, and events not covered in the earlier encyclopedia.

Contributors to this volume examine the Church's history in every part of the United States, Canada, and over two hundred other countries and territories around the world. More than 450 biographical entries and essays cover those who have served in the Church's First Presidency and Quorum of Twelve Apostles as well as other selected General Authorities and leaders. Sources are listed for each entry, and cross-references are found throughout the volume. The editors have appended a helpful Church chronology to the encyclopedic listings, along with a list of contributors. Unfortunately, this latter list is of little utility because the contributions of each writer are not indicated in this listing. Nonetheless, this work lives up to the editors' expectations: it is a concise, readable, and handy one-volume (albeit a 1,454-page) reference work—a book that would make even former Assistant Church Historian Andrew Jensen smile.

—Russell C. Taylor

Till Debt Do Us Part: Balancing Finances, Feelings, and Family, by Bernard E. Poduska (Shadow Mountain, 2000)

If you worry about money, if you and your spouse have conflicts over money, or if you want help in removing the burden of debt, then you must read Bernard E. Poduska's book *Till Debt Do Us Part*.

The roots of money problems frequently reach outside of money itself. They are actually behavior problems manifested in money-related ways, and behind the behaviors are deeply felt emotions. Money problems will be resolved most completely and readily when the

connections between emotions, behaviors, and money have been taken into account. Thus, *Till Debt Do Us Part* puts the arithmetic of balance sheets and budgets within the context of feelings and family relationships.

Within the broad guidelines of ten financial principles, Poduska uses discourses, exercises, case illustrations, examples, and worksheets to help explain a variety of helpful concepts: how the inherent family rules you bring to a situation affect finances, feelings, and relationships; how communication, intimacy, and finances are interrelated; how success in getting out of debt depends on a recognition of the behaviors that got you there; how to use sound financial practices and behaviors; how to get through the month on the money you have; and how to build stability into your plans for the future.

With regard to money management within the context of interpersonal relationships and family life, there is not a better resource and practical guide than this book.

—Ivan F. Beutler

Historia de los Mormones en Argentina: Relatos de pioneros, by Néstor Curbelo (Buenos Aires, Memorias, 2000)

The challenge of producing a local or regional history of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints outside of the United States is daunting, due generally to a lack of available sources. Often one must depend on locally available conversion vignettes and biographical sketches of members and leaders. A native Argentine, Néstor Curbelo, who is a Church Educational System director, has done just that. He has compiled a commendable Spanish-language history of the growth of the Church in Argentina by drawing heavily on seventy-five oral interviews obtained from critical participants and witnesses of the growth of the Church across Argentina over the past eighty years.

The author recounts several seminal events such as Parley P. Pratt's mission to Chile in 1851 and the translation of the Book of Mormon into Spanish, which was prompted by a series of remarkable impressions and dreams experienced by Militón González Trejo, who detoured to the Rocky Mountains in 1874 while on the way to the Philippines as an envoy of the Spanish Crown. Curbelo also explains that German Latter-day Saints were the first people to welcome Elder Melvin J. Ballard and his party to Argentina in the waning days of World War I and that most converts before 1950 were German or Italian immigrants.

The chapter entitled "Una iglesia de inmigrantes" (A church of immigrants) reflects this trend, suggesting that the Church in Argentina showed an interesting parallel to the history of the early Church in North America, namely, it was also primarily a church of immigrants: "Los inmigrantes generalmente están bien dispuestos a nuevas ideas y amistades. Esto resulta un ambiente propicio para escuchar a los misioneros. . . . Los primeros misioneros en Buenos Aires tuvieron mucha aceptación entre los inmigrantes alemanes, italianos y españoles" (87). ("Immigrants are generally disposed to new ideas and friendships. This results in a willing attitude to hear the missionaries. . . . The first missionaries in Buenos Aires were widely accepted by the German, Italian, and Spanish immigrants.")

After World War II, the net of the gospel spread rapidly across Argentina and neighboring Latin American countries. The next two decades saw more rapid conversion rates and ultimately the development of future leaders of the Church in Argentina and beyond, including current General Authority Elder Ángel Abrea of the First Quorum of the Seventy. Curbelo asserts that these leaders were prepared for their future callings as a result of the full-time missions they served, their exposure to the English language by their North American companions, and

the critical instruction they received from their mission presidents regarding Church organization and priesthood leadership.

In addition to its narrative, this small history, which runs 223 pages, also includes an impressive number of photographs (more than a hundred) documenting both local and North American missionaries, Argentine members and leaders, visits of General Authorities, church buildings (including the Buenos Aires Argentina Temple), and so on. Curbelo has taken an admirable first step toward a complete Spanish history of the Church in Argentina, filling a historical void that until recently has been largely ignored. On a personal note, as a young missionary serving in Argentina thirty years ago, I would often hear the names of the early Argentine Saints spoken of in reverent tones by local branch and district leaders. At the time, this respect piqued my desire to learn more about them, and this interest has remained with me to this day. For the same reasons, I believe many of my missionary contemporaries will appreciate this history as I did.

—Joseph E. Gonzalez

City of Roses, by R. A. Christmas (R. A. Christmas, 2000)

A poet, says Wordsworth, "is a man speaking to men." This is true of R. A. Christmas in his collection *City of Roses*. Christmas's poems have the conversational quality of things revealed quietly and briefly either to strangers or friends. They do not intend to shock or startle but to just speak. The vignettes are self-controlled with a sparseness (and sometimes humor) backed with worlds of meanings.

Dedicated "to the Pasadenans," Christmas's is an autobiographical fiction emerging from his childhood and adolescence in Pasadena, California. The poems remember a male past without nostalgia or ugliness. Though centered in time,