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A Missionary's Story: The Letters and Journals of Adolf Haag, Mormon Missionary to Switzerland and Palestine, 1892

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provide full citations of the originals of each of the poems, as well as a bibliography for further study.

Psalms of Nauvoo will be useful to scholars of Mormon literature for its commentaries and source work, finding a welcomed place alongside other LDS literary anthologies, most notably Cracroft and Lambert's essential *A Believing People: Literature of the Latter-day Saints*. Members of the LDS Church will enjoy the basic history and expressions of faith found in the poetry of some of their most celebrated poets as well as that of others with whom members may be less familiar.

—Gerrit van Dyk

Larry W. Draper and Kent P. Jackson, eds., *A Missionary's Story: The Letters and Journals of Adolf Haag, Mormon Missionary to Switzerland and Palestine, 1892* (Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University, 2015)

In the early years of the LDS Church's formation, it was common for worthy male members to be called to leave their families and serve a mission. Many of their stories of faith and sacrifice have been published to serve as reminders and examples for Latter-day Saints today. *A Missionary's Story: The Letters and Journals of Adolf Haag* is no exception. However, no two missionaries' stories are alike, and this is a story with unique adventures and lessons of its own.

A Missionary's Story provides a brief but powerful history of the life of Adolf Haag. Divided into five sections, the book tells of Adolf's premission life and includes portions from his mission journals, sent letters, and other articles regarding Haag's service as a missionary. Introduced to the gospel in Germany, Adolf was the first of his family to

immigrate to the United States. He settled in Payson, Utah, where he married and began a family. It wasn't long before he was called to serve a mission to Switzerland and Germany, but when he arrived in the field, he was assigned to be a traveling elder in the Turkish Mission, which included Palestine. Adolf's letters and journal entries describe his travels across the United States to New York and to London, Paris, Switzerland, Turkey, Greece, and Egypt, culminating in his arrival in the Holy Land.

Larry W. Draper (a former Church historian and curator at the L. Tom Perry Special Collections) and Kent P. Jackson (BYU faculty member and associate director at the BYU Jerusalem Center) have compiled Adolf's letters and journals into a valuable text that is gracefully accented with photographs and copies of the original scripts. Through the letters and entries he recorded about his mission experience, we get a glimpse into Adolf's life and character, including the love he had for the people he met and his dedication in doing the Lord's will. Adolf's mission was not short of difficulties by any means. Faced with financial and health burdens, Adolf strived to keep the Lord's work his main priority while still caring for his family back home. His letters are full of hope as he describes these challenges, continually reassuring himself and his wife that the blessings of the gospel come through faithful service and sacrifice. Though he struggled to find people to teach along his journey, he recorded the humbling and infrequent event of watching someone enter the waters of baptism.

Draper and Jackson do a commendable job in organizing the many entries and letters that Adolf wrote throughout his mission. There are small guides to direct the reader between corresponding

journal entries and letters, and these clearly state who Haag is writing to in his letters, with a brief biography of each recipient. Truly, Draper and Jackson provide an experience in which one can feel involved in Adolf Haag's mission and in the lives of those with whom he associated. This memorable compilation is an easy and uplifting read for those who are interested in Church history, especially the missions and trials of the early Saints; however, its inspiration touches all who read its pages.

—Bridget Edwards

Samuel M. Brown, *First Principles and Ordinances: The Fourth Article of Faith in Light of the Temple* (Provo, Utah: Neal A. Maxwell Institute, Brigham Young University, 2014).

Samuel M. Brown's splendid and sensitive meditation on the fourth article of faith, *First Principles and Ordinances*, reveals a mind that is simultaneously restless and faithful, rigorous and compassionate, sensible and sensitive. For Brown, the language of our faith, our talk of a loving Heavenly Father, suggests a social dimension to worship. This language locates devotion in an ongoing dialogue not just between Deity and supplicant, but between worshiper, family, and a larger faith community. As he puts it, "Faith to me is a story about commitment and abiding relationships; we limit the power of faith when we fail to see the role we play in our faith" (1).

Brown is also a scientist, a medical researcher, and he shares gospel insights drawn from his professional life. He describes the inevitable tension between "grace" and "works" in terms of patients suffering from illnesses relating to blood pressure. Some patients suffer from shock, which depresses blood

pressure; they need adrenaline. Others suffer from hypertension; they need medications that reduce blood pressure. By the same token, some sinners need to be reminded of God's grace; need to be persuaded that, yes, God's love can even extend to them. Others may need to be reminded that that same loving God will be displeased if one does not make the effort to carve enough time from a busy schedule for service. "Grace" and "works" emerge, not as dueling theologies, but as two equally valid spiritual medications, depending on our needs. Doctrines do not exist in some sterile exegetical vacuum; they are meant to be lived and applied to our own interactions within our faith community (47–48).

I found his penultimate chapter, on the gift of the Holy Ghost, particularly meaningful and moving. Mental illness disrupts our ability to discern the Spirit. Mental illness can damage or even destroy our spiritual senses. He cites the familiar poster-wisdom of "footprints in the sand." But then he asks "how could a person's life story be told with only one set of human footprints? The Mormon version of that visionary beach would have so many footprints that it would be hard to find undisturbed sand" (125). And for those of our brothers and sisters who find themselves struggling with the scourge of mental illness, it becomes our obligation and pleasure to join together to carry them along the beach, for as long as they need.

Brown's book is not just thought-provoking, not just wise. It is inspiring, and I found it terribly moving. It is never incompatible with a mainstream, orthodox Latter-day Saint faith, but there was also never a page I did not find provocative. I cannot recommend *First Principles* highly enough.

—Eric Samuelsen