



2018

Lengthening Our Stride: Globalization of the Church

Jacob Rennaker

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/byusq>



Part of the [Mormon Studies Commons](#), and the [Religious Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Rennaker, Jacob (2018) "Lengthening Our Stride: Globalization of the Church," *BYU Studies Quarterly*: Vol. 57 : Iss. 3 , Article 17.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/byusq/vol57/iss3/17>

This Notice is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in *BYU Studies Quarterly* by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

Reid L. Nielson and Wayne D. Crosby, eds., *Lengthening Our Stride: Globalization of the Church* (Provo, Utah: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University; Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2018)

The globalization of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has received a great deal of attention recently by news outlets, scholars, and the Church itself. The collection of essays in *Lengthening Our Stride* manages to survey this broad topic in a way that both familiarizes readers with the impact globalization has had on the Church and gives readers glimpses into exciting new areas of exploration within this burgeoning field of study. The book is edited by Reid L. Nielson, Assistant Church Historian, and Wayne D. Crosby, Director of Global Support and Acquisitions in the Church History Department, and features twenty-one addresses delivered between 2006 and 2015 as part of the annual conferences of the LDS International Society—a collaboration of several organizations at Brigham Young University that was founded in 1989. This book will appeal broadly to Church members who are eager to situate themselves within the global Church.

The book is organized into five thematic sections. The essays in “Poverty and Humanitarian Work” focus on the Church’s responses to poverty and its associated challenges for those around the world. “Public Perceptions and Relations” examines the Church’s efforts to position itself in the public eye and how the Church is understood by others in different countries. The essays in “Peacemaking and Diplomacy” detail ways in which the Church has promoted peace while establishing itself globally. The section “Religious Freedom and Oppression” documents challenges to religious freedom from both

within and without the United States. The final section of essays, “Growth and Globalization,” takes a more personal tone, as the authors draw from their own experiences in a variety of countries and tell stories of Church members from around the world.

While a good part of the section on “Religious Freedom and Oppression” focuses on issues within the United States, the essays contained in the other sections are almost entirely oriented toward the Church in other countries. The final section, “Growth and Globalization,” will be of particular interest to those who would like an honest appraisal from Church leaders of the challenges the Church faces in other countries and cultures. As a whole, this book provides a fascinating insider’s view of a truly global Church.

—Jacob Rennaker

Roy A. Prete and Carma T. Prete, eds., *Canadian Mormons: History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Canada* (Provo, Utah: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University; Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2017)

The late Canadian sociologist Brigham Card once mentioned that Canadian Latter-day Saints orient themselves more north-south than they do east-west, which was his way of saying that Canadian Saints may pay more attention to Salt Lake than they do to each other. Were this still true, it would be difficult to assess any notion of nationalism among Canadian Saints, but Roy and Carma Prete have made a significant contribution to galvanizing a Canadian national LDS identity, even among so disparate a people.

First, this book is beautiful; the photographs and charts on clay-coated