

*Pioneer Spirit: Modern-day Stories of Courage and Conviction*, by Heidi Swinton (Deseret Book, 1996)

During the sesquicentennial year of 1997, while celebrating the faith and courage of nineteenth-century pioneers, Latter-day Saints were encouraged to recognize that pioneering occurs in many ways and many places. Heidi Swinton's lively book drives home this point—telling story after story of the pioneering spirit of Saints throughout the world.

The author has published a number of original sketches, energetically conducting oral history interviews and drawing from unpublished material, but she has also summarized many sketches first published in the *Church News* or in Church magazines. The stories are from all parts of the world; however, the majority come from England, Continental Europe, and Asia, with fewer from South America, Africa, Canada, the United States, and the Pacific Islands. Because it is difficult, if not impossible, to cover the diversity of the modern Latter-day Saint experience in a work of this kind, *Pioneer Spirit* offers only a sampling.

While the experiences included in this collection are all positive and faith-promoting, they offer numerous examples of trials and challenges. It is easy to feel connected to these new members and modern pioneers. I especially like Swinton's inclusion of a short, relevant scriptural passage for each of the sketches. This volume is a handy, sprightly collection of personal stories that demonstrate the

power of the restored gospel and its capacity to inspire and influence lives for good.

—JoAn Bitton

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*Voices of Old Testament Prophets* (Deseret Book, 1997)

The 26th Annual Sperry Symposium centered on various Old Testament prophets, especially the little-known figures and obscure events in their lives. Interesting details and analyses are included, often for the first time in LDS circles, for example, on the mentoring of Jethro, the rebellion of Korah, the stability of the prophets in the Exile, the saviors referred to by Obadiah, the hopeful stories of Habakkuk and Abigail, and the blessings of the temple in the ministry of Haggai. More familiar themes deal with Isaiah's indictments, the Millennium, the priesthood, and the eternal nature of the gospel.

The unnamed organizers have succeeded in bringing several new scholars to publication. Some of their names will be as unfamiliar to most readers as are the prophets of whom they write. Readers should enjoy getting to know them all.

—John W. Welch