

honest feedback to Church leaders so they can begin a program of improvement from where they really are rather than from where they think they are.

The book is at its best when Brother Dunn draws upon his fine talent for relating an incident or telling a story. I feel more people will be inspired with good feelings from the narrative than ever will honestly try to follow the instruction format and answer the questions. It is not a definitive handbook for leadership training, for it ignores entirely the scientific literature and research findings. It draws upon Church literature and literary sources and is written for popular reader consumption. I am sure that Brother Dunn does not feel that a person can become effective in counseling by reading his chapter on how to counsel others. At best it opens up some new areas the Church leader ought to keep in mind. This volume should be used in connection with some good, on-going, in-service training programs with Church leaders as they work in their Church positions.

## SHORT NOTICES

*Illustrated Stories from the Book of Mormon*. Volume I. Raymond H. Jacobs, Artist; Clinton F. Larson, Narrative and Editing; Joseph N. Revill, Correlator and Writer. Salt Lake City: Promised Land Publications, 1967. 117 pp., \$6.00.

Not knowing just what to expect, as I took the book from its mailing case I exclaimed to myself, "Oh, it's a children's book!" Having read and studied the volume, I have confirmed my initial reaction and could recommend it for children especially.

Volume I is an illustrated "retold" version of I Nephi up to the end of chapter seven. Nearly every page has a full page picture which illustrates a few verses of the Book of Mormon. With each illustration is a minimum of text which tells the story on about an eighth grade level. For example, it begins: "I am Nephi. There are so many things to record about my days! I was born in a land across the sea. It was called Jerusalem. My Father and Mother were kindly and good. They loved God and taught me to love Him. Because I loved God and tried to please Him, He blessed me." Each bit of narration is accompanied by a reference to the original text. I found the most satisfactory way to read the book was, as the publishers suggest, to study it in conjunction with the original text which is printed in full in the back of the book — a method, however, which made me wish the original words had been included with the pictures in the first place. The pictures are pleasantly colorful with a Disney-like quality that makes the characters appear to me like something out of a "storybook" rather than belonging to real flesh-and-blood history.

For reactions other than my own, however, and for my own edification, I asked a family of cousins ages ten to sixteen to evaluate the book. The sixteen-year-old pronounced it "great" and the fifth grader read it with enjoyment and some comprehension. I believe that in our day when the visual aid is stressed in teaching, and children grow up with television, this bright, colorful

volume may indeed be a most attractive way to interest young people in the scriptures. I'm not so sure I would recommend it for adults who, like myself, grew up reading picture-less books whose words stimulated our imaginations into more satisfactory pictures than someone else could create for us.

These volumes would make a worthwhile addition to ward libraries for use in Sunday School and Primary. I feel they may be too expensive for the private libraries of those who would probably benefit most by having them — namely, young families with growing children. The total cost for the projected sixteen volumes is \$96.00, though the publishers suggest an easy payment plan of \$10.00 down and \$3.50 a month for twenty-six months.

I must say, though, that I am impressed and awed by the prodigiousness of the work as I consider this book and its fifteen companion volumes. The authors deserve congratulations for undertaking such a monumental project.

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*The Making of a Prophet.* By Dr. Lindsay R. Curtis; illustrated by Paul Farber. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1967. 129 pp., \$2.95.

Dr. Lindsay's book might be appropriately titled *The Wentworth Letter to Children—Illustrated*. It is a brief history of the Church, much like the Prophet's own narrative, only stated in simpler terms. It covers a few of the main events in the history of Joseph Smith from his birth to the organization of the Church (1805-1830). Two qualities make it especially adapted to children: brevity and excellent illustrations. Each page of one or two paragraphs of reading is beautifully illuminated with a full page illustration.

In the main, Paul Farber, the illustrator, has vividly, accurately, and dramatically portrayed the important events in the beginnings of Mormonism. His illustrations are cleverly done and are eye-catching. He has pictured the men in the story as young men, which they were; and he has Moroni appearing in the log cabin instead of the new Smith home. One can see he has done research before he illustrated. I wondered, however, about Joseph Smith being dressed in evening attire so often; or why he accentuated the length of Joseph Smith's nose; or why he made the Urim and Thummim so large they couldn't fit into Joseph's pocket. But a more serious historical problem would be the errors on the map that dresses the inside front and back covers. The eight witnesses did not see the plates at Fayette. The Smiths lived in the Manchester Township, not the Manchester Village. Their home was north of the Hill Cumorah, not south. Harmony, Pennsylvania, was on the north side of the Susquehanna River, not the south. And Colesville was not on the Pennsylvania-New York state line, but several miles north of there. These inaccuracies are unnecessary. They are not so important, however, when seen in the light of the total purpose of the illustrations to the average layman of the Church.

It would seem to this reviewer that Paul Farber should be given credit for the book, with footnotes by Dr. Curtis. The narrative without the illustrations would add little to many other retold stories of Joseph Smith's youth. The

author did express the stories in simple words that would catch the attention of children, but the narrative without the illustrations would be more of the same that has already been written. Dr. Curtis is also guilty of historical inaccuracies, such as making Joseph the fourth instead of the fifth child of Joseph, Sr., and Lucy Mack; having Lucy paint oilcloths after instead of before they purchased a farm; or having Malachi's words quoted "almost exactly" by Moroni instead of the changed version as noted by Joseph Smith. The author was also free with poetic guesses, such as Joseph's knowing because of the first vision that God and Jesus had flesh and bones, or that Joseph prayed in a "small" grove a "short distance" from home, or that it was a "bleak, cold" day on which Joseph was born, or that it was a "bleached-white" stone that covered the box that concealed the plates of the Book of Mormon.

The introduction states that one purpose of the book is to make the narrative more understandable. This goal has been achieved. It is a much needed work, after the hundreds of books about Joseph Smith that have lacked adequate illustrations. This book would be a fine addition to the libraries of Latter-day Saints who have small children in their homes.

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