

## Book Notes

*Mixtec Evangelicals: Globalization, Migration, and Religious Change in a Oaxacan Indigenous Group.* By Mary I. O'Connor. University Press of Colorado, 2016. xxiv + 136 pages. \$70.00 cloth; ebook and rental available.

Scholars of new religions will find this book of interest in learning about the ways in which globalization affects conversion processes. The author examines the migration patterns of indigenous Mixtec people who live near Oaxaca, Mexico and how migrants north convert to Pentecostal Christianity and then bring their new faith back south to their home villages. O'Connor identifies both financial and "cultural" remittances in what the migrants provide to their communities, along with the reaction Catholic residents have to the non-Catholic refusal to support the religious facets of communal life. Of special relevance for NRM studies is Colonia Sinai, which was established by a group of non-Catholics ousted from San Antonio Yodondusa Monteverde in 1987. They set up their own settlement with denominational assistance from the Centros Bíblicos. Though this group rejected Catholic practices, especially veneration of the saints as well as dancing and drinking at religious fiestas, they retained other elements of traditional life, e.g. egalitarian access to water and land, and the contribution of volunteer labor to maintain community endeavors. Despite the author's unfortunate theological errors—such as stating that "In the Bible, Jesus was baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit" (21) and neglecting Vatican II reforms which would explain contemporary Catholic inclusion of the laity in all aspects of religious instruction—this book provides valuable insights into the means by which transnational groups bring about religious change.

*Mormons in the Piazza: History of the Latter-day Saints in Italy.* By James A. Toronto, Eric R. Dursteler, and Michael W. Homer. Provo, UT: Brigham Young University, 2017. \$34.99 cloth; ebook available.

This well-documented, fascinating, and elegant volume delivers an exhaustive history of the Latter-day Saints in Italy, as promised in the book's subtitle. The three co-authors—each a respected historian of Italian Mormonism or Mediterranean culture—write in a single voice. They state that the purpose of the book is twofold: to illuminate the history of the LDS Church in Italy and to understand "more clearly the formation, consolidation, and expansion of new religious movements" (x). The majority of the book focuses on the former, but chapters 11, 12, and 13 specifically address the latter. Analyses of the ways in which both missionaries and adherents of new religions navigate the old world and the new fill the volume: successes and failures of missions; emigration