

Tiny Zion

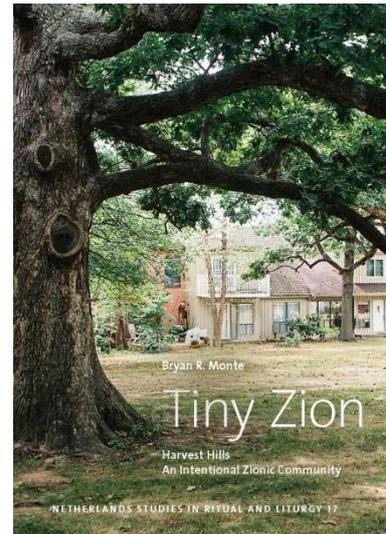
Harvest Hills

An Intentional Zionist Community

Bryan Monte

266 pp.

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Well researched from 24 interviews, 53 surveys, 70 photos and over seven years of observation, *Tiny Zion* defines the religious mythology and cultural history of Harvest Hills, an intentional, Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints community, from 1970 to 2013. *Tiny Zion*, through its cultural, historical and sociological analysis, also proposes Harvest Hills as a microcosm of the RLDS church (called Community of Christ since 2001) reflecting the parallel conflicts and challenges faced during that period including the liberalization of beliefs, schisms, scandals and the dissolution of the Zionist enterprise.

Tiny Zion records Harvest Hills' changing cultural institutions and rituals in the light of the remaining founders' and pioneering residents' original hopes and dreams and the community covenant. In addition, it analyzes Harvest Hills' successes and failures as the larger, RLDS church changed its community-building philosophy from a century of high investment, majority, Dispensationalist gathering to the Center Place to a low investment, minority stay-where-you-are-and-be-of-good-influence strategy in the last and first decades of the 20th and 21st centuries—with a resulting decline in Harvest Hills' RLDS/CofC and the church's North American membership. Finally, *Tiny Zion* includes an analysis and comparison of two previous RLDS communities founded in Lamoni, Iowa and Atherton, Missouri, and the lessons learned from all three related to building community.

Bryan R. Monte is a writer, editor, historian and anthropologist. His articles on Harvest Hills and the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints/Community of Christ have appeared in the *John Whitmer Historical Association Journal* and the *International Journal of Mormon Studies*. In 2009, he received the John Whitmer Association's Article of the Year Award.

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Orders may be sent to the Institute for Christian Cultural Heritage, Oude Boteringestraat 38, 9712 GK Groningen, tel. 050-3634587, e-mail (preferred): icce@rug.nl