

## GRASS ROOTS IN MEXICO



STORIES OF PIONEERING  
LATTER-DAY SAINTS

F. LAMOND TULLIS

### DETAILS

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### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

LAMOND TULLIS has been a professor of political science and associate academic vice president at Brigham Young University. He is a specialist in Latin American studies and has written multiple works—books and articles in Spanish and English—on The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Latin America, especially Mexico. He is also a scholar in other subjects. His academic studies, for example, have been published by university presses, including those of Harvard, Utah State, Nebraska, and BYU. Commercial publishers of his works include John Wiley and Sons, Lynn Rienner, and Greenwood Press. His most recent book preceding this volume is *Martyrs in Mexico: A Mormon Story of Revolution and Redemption* (2018). His article “Tzotzil-Speaking Mormon Maya in Chiapas, Mexico” won the Mormon History Association’s Best International Article award for 2018. Tullis received his master’s degree in political science from BYU and his doctorate from Harvard University.

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PROVO, UTAH, AND SALT LAKE CITY—Given its slow beginnings in rural Mexico in the 1880s, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has experienced phenomenal growth in that land. And this despite periods of wrenching social change, political upheaval, and revolution on a national scale, as well as years of forced isolation from North American missionaries and Church leaders in Utah and a decade of dissension and schism among members.

*Grass Roots in Mexico* tells the inspiring stories of nineteen pioneering Latter-day Saints in Mexico, exploring how and why they converted to the Church and what happened to them, their families, and their descendants afterward. Despite personal, economic, political, social, and religious struggles that tested their newfound faith, these members, like countless other Mexican Saints whose stories are yet untold, tuned their lives to the Savior’s gospel of life and salvation and carried on as exemplars to their people.

Placed in historical context, these stories from the late 1800s onward show how good people have faced their many challenges—from poverty and illiteracy to ostracism, imprisonment, civil war, and even execution—with faith, courage, tenacity, and spiritual clear-sightedness. Just as North American Latter-day Saints have their pioneer standouts, Mexican members, like all members across national,

linguistic, cultural, racial, and ethnic boundaries, deserve their recognition too.

The intriguing history in part 1 provides the essential backdrop for the crux of the book—the colorful, inspirational vignettes in part 2. Taken together, these personal accounts provide an invaluable grassroots view of how the Latter-day Saint faith took root in the land by profoundly touching lives, resulting in significant accomplishments personally and in the gospel cause.

Author LaMond Tullis, a BYU political science professor specializing in Latin American studies, traveled to Mexico several times to conduct interviews and to search out and sample the lived religion of the Saints there. The resulting narratives of people who continued to act in faith after their conversion are penetrating and moving. They attest the power of the restored gospel to transform people, infusing their lives—and often those of their posterity—with goodness and progress in an ever-widening legacy of faith.

*Grass Roots in Mexico* was copublished by the Religious Studies Center at Brigham Young University and Deseret Book. Visit [rsc.byu.edu/book/grass-roots-mexico](http://rsc.byu.edu/book/grass-roots-mexico) for more information.

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