

**Review**  
**REACHING THE WORLD IN OUR OWN BACKYARD:**  
*A guide to building relationships with people of other faiths and culture*  
Rajendra K. Pillai.  
Colorado Springs, Colorado: Water Brook Press, 2003

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Lately, I have been asked by several pastors, mission executives, mission and ministry facilitators, deacons, deaconesses and congregational lay leaders about any available resources in learning about and reaching out to people of other faiths and cultures. As an indigenous missionary here in Unites States, so far, my answer has been very limited. Now, as an answer to the prayers, this book is God sent to the churches in northern hemisphere in knowing about the god sending gifts of various people groups coming over here in US.

Rajendra K. Pillai a management consultant in global economic development, born in India, presently based in Clarksburg, Maryland is engaged in developing and encouraging Christian writers globally. His management solutions concept is involved in conducting corporate trainings in cross-cultural and management issues for many organizations including USDA and FBI. He has written this book with a foreword by Ted Haggard.

The first part of this book is preparing the reader to check her/his cultural quotient. It is full of information towards preparing the reader on various cultural and religious issues in North America. Chapters in this part present the different phases and faces in the 'land of opportunities' in reaching the world with the Gospel in our own backyards! Pillai very well put this in his own style by writing, " People from other religions and cultures now live, study, and work among us. They are America's most overlooked mission field." Pillai excellently opens up the general derogatory attitude of the homogeneous society towards the uprising of heterogeous society. However, his advice is to make use of this 'American melting pot' as God's compliment to the church to reach out to the new comers.

The second part is a free passport and visa to visit almost all the countries without leaving our reading table. It is a brief package of languages, life styles, food and religious practices of every region in the world. It also helps us to understand what kind of people are living in our backyards and it helps us to approach them with the Gospel in a non-threatening setting. In other words, this part is a miniature of Patrick Johnston's Operation World with special emphasis to evangelism tools in reaching out to our neighbor.

The third part is comprised of interacting tools and guidelines in presenting the Gospel to people of other religions. It can be considered a 'cook book' for presenting the Gospel. The 'recipes' are very 'tasty' but the results may vary according the work of the Holy Spirit. Religious information and comparisons, on Hindus, Muslims, Jews, Buddhists and other religions, their offices in

United States, their websites are noteworthy to know that “we cannot make excuses anymore. The eternal destinies of millions are at stake.”

It is an excellent guide book for synods or dioceses or districts and their mission and evangelism teams to be well prepared with a plan for an ethnic, bi-lingual, bi-cultural, multi – cultural, international, inter-racial and inter-cultural ministries. In general, it is worth reading for any one who prepares and seeing opportunities in “reaching the world in our own backyard”.