
Review of Phillip and Kandace Connor. *Who is My Neighbor?: Reaching Internationals in North America* (Princeton, NJ: n.p, 2008). pp. 91. \$9.97 (\$5.00 download)
Available from: www.reachinternationals.com

-- Reviewed by J. D. Payne, Director, Nehemiah Project and Associate Professor of Church Planting and Evangelism, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky.

This brief, self-published book by the Connors is well worth your time. Here is a resource that is heavily rooted in the authors' personal experiences as they labored to reach recent immigrants with the good news. Both of the Connors are graduates of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary and have several years of cross-cultural experience serving among North Africans, South Asians, Chinese, Vietnamese, Latinos, and French speaking peoples, just to name a few groups. Philip is the designer of the peoplegroups.info project and is working on a Ph.D. in sociology at Princeton University. Kandace has served as a missionary in both Canada and Asia and coordinates their local ministry among internationals.

This work is an excellent primer for cross-cultural evangelism and church planting in either a U. S. or Canadian context. The United States is the largest receiving nation of immigrants (in 2006), and Canada boasts of a population that is 20% foreign born (x). The Connors call readers to the challenge of reaching the mosaic of new peoples who now call the U. S. or Canada home. Instead of advocating the common North American mindset that Hispanics should reach Hispanics, Asians should reach Asians, and African-Americans should reach African-Americans, the Connors challenge their readers to recognize that the Great Commission requires us to cross cultural boundaries and plant churches.

The audience for the book is not the career missionary. Rather, this book “is designed with the everyday Christian in mind—ordinary individuals God is calling to proclaim the gospel to the nations” (x). The book is divided into two primary sections, with the first addressing evangelism among internationals and immigrants and the second addressing discipleship and church planting. The chapters are written in a chronological order showing how a ministry generally develops among internationals.

There are numerous strengths to this work, but I will mention two for the sake of space. First, the Connors’ personal stories not only illustrate the principles, but also help the reader understand how he or she could do likewise in cross-cultural missions. It should be noted that the Connors also share their difficulties and not only the “success” stories. This work tells of real experiences of individuals coming to faith and stories of those who do not come to faith in Christ. A second strength of this work is that it helps the reader better understand the physical and emotional stressors immigrants face when they move to North America.

Though this work draws a bit too heavily from Old Testament passages related to the alien for support for contemporary missiological practice, this is an excellent work that I would feel very comfortable recommending for use in local churches.

There are *very* few books written for a North American audience on reaching recent immigrants with the good news. Here is one such book that blazes the trail, calling the North American Church to service, and setting an example for future authors to follow.