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Volume 63 | Issue 1

Article 20

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5-1-2020

## Powe and Jacksons' "E. Stanley Jones & Sharing the Good News in a Pluralistic Society" (book review)

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### Recommended Citation

Wiley, Chip (2020) "Powe and Jacksons' "E. Stanley Jones & Sharing the Good News in a Pluralistic Society" (book review)," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 63: Iss. 1, Article 20.  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55221/2572-7478.2165>

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# Book Reviews

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Powe, Jr., F.D. & Jackson, J. (Eds.). (2018). *E. Stanley Jones & Sharing the Good News in a Pluralistic Society*. Nashville: General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. 136 pp. \$16.99. ISBN 9781945935107

By reflecting on the unique ministry of E. Stanley Jones, the editors of this book compile a collection of essays that examine how the legacy of Jones' ministry is more than relevant in today's multicultural society. As a Christian missionary in India in the early 1900s, Jones was surrounded by a diverse religious culture of thought that ranged from Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva to Mohommad. Due to the pluralistic society in India, Jones sought a way to encourage dialogue among all people on equal ground; and as a result, Jones penetrated India's educated class by adopting three distinctive ministry practices: large lectures followed by a question and answer session, Round Table Conferences, and Christian Ashrams (retreats). Throughout the book, the authors - most of which come from a variety of seminaries, dive into one of Jones' ministry practices by providing context through extensive references to Jones' writings.

Diversity and inclusion are major focal points in today's culture and a hotly debated topic on many campuses across the country. The authors indicate that Jones' views on diversity set him apart from many of his contemporaries at the time even to the point of resigning from the Board of Trustees of his alma mater later on in life because they refused to integrate. The strength of this book is shown by the authors' capacity to demonstrate how Jones was able to encourage all people to speak candidly about what they believe based on their own experiences. Through humility and respect, Jones was able to disarm individuals seeking to argue the supremacy of their religion, a skill Jones focused on after a conversation he had with Gandhi. Gandhi once told Jones if Christianity was to gain ground in India, Christians needed to "study the non-Christian religions more sympathetically to find the good in them, to have a more sympathetic approach to the people" (p. 89).

E. Stanley Jones was once named by *TIME* magazine as "the world's greatest missionary" and yet his name is largely unknown today. The legacy of Jones has much to offer institutions, churches, and seminaries seeking to minister to diverse groups of people by avoiding the pitfall of equating Christianity with western culture. It is recommended for seminary and academic libraries.

## Reviewer

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