Van Opstal's "The Next worship: Glorifying God in a diverse world" (Book Review)

Lindsay Van Sicklen

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*Next Worship: Glorifying God in A Diverse World* is authored by Sandra Maria Van Opstal. She is a Chicago born, second-generation Latina and a leading practitioner of multiethnic worship. She was worship director for the Urbana Student Missions Conference and serves regularly as a worship leader and mission trainer with Christian colleges, conferences and local churches. She is a pastor at the Grace and Peace Community in Chicago and has written *The Mission of Worship*.

Before delving into the how to of multiethnic worship, she devotes considerable space to challenges and opportunities, myths we tightly cling to and initial steps towards reconciliation in worship. She addresses our narrow-minded view that worship equals music, indicating that worship is so much broader. An underlying and often repeated thought is the necessity of an environment that exemplifies: hospitality (we welcome you), solidarity (we stand with you) and mutuality (we need you). I really appreciated the repetition of this theme which has been lingering in the depths of my being. The practical aspects include shared leadership and models and components of diverse worship. As changes surface in a given setting, the reader is urged to remember to train others.

This book is a must read not only for worship leaders but for others on the pastoral team as well. The author uses stories and illustrations to clarify her thoughts. Each chapter concludes with sections entitled: key concepts, for reflection, for discussion and a prayer making the book an excellent tool to work through in a group setting. Her appendices on topics such as: worship movements and artists, order of worship examples, components of worship, songs for crossing cultures and teaching language songs all offer specific insights. The concluding notes along with the appendix entitled additional resources provide an abundance of pointers to other readings and websites.

**Reviewer**
Lindsay Van Sicklen