One of the principles of interfaith dialogue is that understanding the faith of others happens most fruitfully in shared lives. Through actually meeting and sharing with people of other traditions, preferably working together in a common cause, insight is much more reliably gained than by judgements made at a distance. This book is a wonderful resource for and record of such meetings. It is a kind of scrap-book of testimony from over a hundred people deeply involved in the practice of inter-faith dialogue. The origins, rationale and experience of dialogue are all explored, together with advice on how to set up more formal dialogue meetings. Chapters on inter-faith issues follow, such as diversity, peace, freedom and engaging civil society. Contributors come from a vast array of traditions, each with a short biography in an index and web-sites to explore for further information. The pages are filled with pictures (unfortunately all black-and-white), showing the world-wide strength of the inter-faith movement. Inevitably with such a diverse collection of authors the emphasis is on accumulation of evidence in the gathering of testimony rather than sustained argument from scriptural or other sources. Nonetheless the overall impression is of the way inter-faith dialogue has touched so many lives for good, and of the encouragement this testimony gives the reader to put down the book and go out and meet some people of another faith tradition.

Nicholas Alan SSF