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## Ten Elshof's "Confucius for Christians: What An Ancient Chinese Worldview Can Teach Us About Life In Christ" (Book Review)

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**Confucius for Christians: What An Ancient Chinese Worldview Can Teach Us About Life In Christ,**

by Gregg A. Ten Elshof. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2015. 109 pp. \$15.00. ISBN 9780802872487

*Reviewed by Rebecca H. Givens, MLIS student, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL*

*Confucius for Christians* is not a book promoting eastern mysticism, nor does it advocate compromising Scripture. It does not deal with Confucianism as a religion. Instead it advocates looking at life with a body of knowledge and history that is bigger than western wisdom tradition based on Plato, and that includes the eastern wisdom tradition of Confucius. “It’s rather an attempt to give expression to those ideas in the Confucian tradition that have been helpful for me as I’ve tried to make my way further up and into the Way of Jesus” (p. 7). Each chapter (Family, Learning, Ethics, and Ritual) begins with a quote from the Analects and a quote from Scripture, and uses literary references and examples from life to illustrate how the Confucian tradition can lead to a deeper life in Christ. This thought provoking book is devotional in nature. It would be a good introduction to eastern ways of thinking. The author is a professor of philosophy at Biola University.

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**Conversation Compass: A Teacher’s Guide to High-Quality Language Learning in Young Children,**

by Stephanie M. Curenton. St. Paul, MN: Redleaf Press, 2016. 90 pp. \$17.95. ISBN 9781605543840

*Reviewed by John E. Palmer, Assistant Director, Reference and Circulation Librarian, Southwestern Assemblies of God University, Waxahachie, TX*

Curenton is Associate Editor of *Early Childhood Research Quarterly* and Associate Professor at Rutgers University. Curenton describes the book as “a conversation-based instructional approach designed to build children’s critical thinking, problem solving, social reasoning, and language skills” (p. 2). One of the book’s main goals is to show teachers how to help “children who speak African American English” and who “are at risk to be misdiagnosed and inappropriately referred to special education programs” (p. x). The book offers instructional methodologies to guide classroom discussions: Conversation Feedback-loop; Question Trail; Conversation Compass; Conversation Map; and Tracking Peer Conversations (p. 3). These methodologies will “help with strengthening the language-learning environment” in classrooms, especially in places where the “home language” differs from that of school (p. 4).