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Park, Rah, and Tizon's "Honoring the Generations: Learning with Asian North American Congregations" (Book Review)

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and *The Lord of the Rings*. Both of the authors have written extensively on politics and economics. Along with being a former English professor, Jonathan Witt is also a research and media fellow at the Acton Institute and a writer for the documentary *Poverty, Inc*. Jay Richards is a business and economics professor at the Catholic University of America. These scholars combine their love of Tolkien as well as their political and economic studies in this book.

Much of the book focuses on Tolkien’s views on small government. The authors use the *laissez faire* method of the Shire to express Tolkien’s ideal view of the role of government. The different themes in this book also include greed, freedom, and just war. The authors do a great job of using examples from the books and aligning them with Tolkien’s own beliefs. They also analyze other books and essays on Tolkien’s works in order to pull in different perspectives of his work. Although this is not a biography of Tolkien, it does serve as a way to gain insight to his life experiences.

This book would be of interest to those who have read Tolkien’s books or at least seen the movies. People who study political science and philosophy would be interested in many of the chapters in this book. Tolkien scholars would also find value in the critical examination of this work. Those interested in finding out how his religious beliefs impacted his stories would find value in this book. It is written with a general audience in mind; however, a few might struggle with the economic and political terms in the book. This refreshing work serves as an enjoyable read for all who wish to immerse themselves further into the lore of the Middle Earth saga.

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This book examines the cross-cultural and cross-generational issues in the Asian North American (ANA) Christian community and offers practical and theological resources for church leaders who manage those issues. This collection of essays grew out of a 2009 gathering of ANA scholars and pastors at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (Deerfield, IL) on the state of ministries within ANA churches. Each chapter is written by an academic and a practitioner as a means of integrating theological insights with the practice of ministry. The editors are seminary professors and each of the contributors has substantial experience in Asian-American ministries. Credentials for the contributors are noted at the end of the book.
The first part of the book focuses on the relationship between first and second/third generations in the ANA church from several angles. Those perspectives include that of intergenerational ministry within the immigrant church, the perspective of the disillusioned second generation who are primarily in their twenties and thirties, and the point of view of children’s and youth ministry. The book describes how second and third generation ANA Christians differ in needs and expectations from their immigrant parents and grandparents and how those differences present significant challenges for the church. The relationship between generations is recognized as having the greatest impact on the health of those churches.

The second part of the book addresses areas of church ministry, including pastoral formation, lay leadership, youth ministry, women in ministry, public life, and global mission, all of which are impacted by the generational issues within the church. Multiple viewpoints are offered, reflecting the differences in denominational backgrounds, ministry experiences, and theological perspectives of the contributors.

Dr. Park’s reflection on Ephesians with its attention to the theme of the “household of God” serves as a framework to deepen understanding of the nature and mission of Asian North American churches. The book succeeds in giving ANA church leaders a venue for sharing their insights on cross-generational issues with the broader Christian community. Many of the issues described here in the ANA church context overlap with concerns in the larger context of North American Christianity.

While many ANA churches have served as safe havens for bringing people of similar ethnic backgrounds together for cultural and spiritual nurture, those churches are also challenged to emerge as faith communities that can integrate their Christianity in all aspects of life. The resources in this book can help the ANA church become more aware of how it can engage in God’s work within their own communities and within the larger world.

This book is well documented with references following each chapter. Biblical principles and Scripture support each topic. The book will be of value to Asian North American pastors and church leaders and to students of cross-cultural ministry.