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Kalantzis and Lee's "Christian Political Witness" (Book Review)

Philip McBrayer
University of Guam

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Christian Political Witness,

by George Kalantzis and Gregory W. Lee. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2014. 240 pp. \$26.00. ISBN 9780830840519

*Reviewed by Dr. Philip McBrayer, Head of Cataloging,
University of Guam, Mangilao, GU*

Christian Political Witness is an edited book and the chapters are topical rather than cumulative, each providing a free-standing discussion of various areas where the Church and the State overlap, cooperate, or come into conflict. This is not a book detailing why Christians should or should not run for office or a template for political action. Instead, it provides thinking points for Christians to engage a secular society politically on a number of issues while remaining Christian.

The various authors of the chapters approach the topics from a variety of theological and political positions so readers will probably find that they agree with some of the writers more than others. It is a good idea for the reader to approach the book open to the possibility that they will have assumptions challenged and perhaps changed.

All of the chapters are well written, thoroughly documented, and clear. Each chapter in this book is only about 20 to 25 pages long but could easily fill several books. This book should be viewed as an introduction or overview of the topics rather than an exhaustive work. This book would be an excellent supplemental reading for a political science class. It would also make a good reference or circulating work for a college library. Lastly, this is a book that should be read by any Christian as it would provide help in formulating Biblically based political positions faithful to the command to be “in the world but not of the world.”

Connected: Christian Parenting in an Age of IM and MySpace,

by Peggy Kendall. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2007.

123 pp. \$12.00. ISBN 9780817015169

Reviewed by Paul A. Roberts, Library Director, Southeastern Bible College, Birmingham, AL.

As stated in the introduction, the purpose of this book is for parents to gain an understanding of how their teenagers understand and use instant messaging (IM) and the social site MySpace. Simply stated, what do parents do with teens who seem to know so much more about technology to enhance their friendships, express themselves, and establish their identity? The book will educate, support, and motivate parents.