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Kendall's "Connected: Christian Parenting in an Age of IM and MySpace" (Book Review)

Paul A. Roberts
Southeastern Bible College

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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.

The author, Peggy Kendall, is associate professor of communication studies at Bethel University, St. Paul, MN. Although the book highlights instant messaging and MySpace (along with a brief chapter on YouTube), the message goes beyond those mediums. How to deal with youth who use texting and Facebooking instead of IM and MySpace, is the same. The solutions offered by the author are not limited to one or two mediums, but are applicable to whatever the current mode of communication is.

Dr. Kendall's advice is summed up in four general principles: (1) talk with your teenager, (2) set guidelines, (3) monitor activities, and (4) find alternatives. Although these statements aren't new revelations in dealing with young people, applying these principles to real life technology is welcomed. Kendall states, "Because every young person is different and every parent is different, there is no 'right' answer as to how parents should govern the use of technology" (pg. XV). Parents can take the message presented and modify it to fit their child quite easily.

Technology will change and teenagers will use whatever the latest tool to communicate is, and parents need to be alert to the "good" and "bad" of those tools in order to guide their child. This book effectively fulfills its purpose. Highly recommended to parents of tweens as a tool to use for educating themselves.

**The Cross and Gendercide: A Theological Response to Global Violence
Against Women and Girls,**

by Elizabeth Gerhardt. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2014.

181 pp. \$22.00. ISBN 9780830840496

Reviewed by Hannah Bitner, Librarian,

Calvary Bible College and Calvary Theological Seminary, Kansas City, MO

Elizabeth Gerhardt offers a Christ-centered approach to a heart-rending reality: violence against women. With more than twenty years spent ministering to women who have suffered abuse, Gerhardt brings expertise and compassion to this discussion. She believes that rather than just condemning the sins committed against women, the church should act on its belief and stop the violence.

The first part of Gerhardt's book draws a stark picture of the lives many women around the world live as they become victims of human trafficking, forced abortions, honor killings, or one of the myriad of other atrocities that women face. Statistic after bleak statistic inform the reader about the frequency and direness of these abuses.