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Gerhardt's "The Cross and Gendercide: A Theological Response to Global Violence Against Women and Girls" (Book Review)

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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,

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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.

Gerhardt uses the second part of her book to build a case for why the church should help these oppressed women. She goes back to Luther and his belief that man is depraved and unable to save himself. Man must rely on Christ's work on the cross to free him from death and sin. Gerhardt believes this freedom allows him to die to his selfish ambition and live a Christ-focused life loving others. She then looks to Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his practical demonstration of Luther's theology in his fight against Nazi Germany. Rather than only condemn the horrible acts Hitler and his followers committed, Bonhoeffer believed it right to resist the regime by helping Jews escape Hitler's brutality. Gerhardt calls for the same kind of action by the church to help suffering and oppressed women.

The Cross and Gendercide is carefully footnoted and includes a nine-page bibliography for further study. Gerhardt builds her case well and gives the church much to think about. Academic libraries would find this a go-to resource to support courses on human trafficking or counseling.

The Dead Sea Scrolls,

by P.W. Flint. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2013.

212 pp. \$29.99. ISBN 9780687494491

*Reviewed by Chelsi C. Cannon, Reference & Special Collections,
La Sierra University, Riverside, CA*

Peter Flint's *The Dead Sea Scrolls* provides an excellent tool for students studying the current importance and historical context of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Flint explains the discovery of the scrolls, their historical use, and their modern scholarly treatment. He discusses the archaeology of the discovery sites, the age of the scrolls, and the often-contested nature of the people at Qumran who likely wrote and used many of them. Several chapters discuss the history of other ancient texts that formed the modern Bible and how the Dead Sea Scrolls contribute to a renewed understanding of the process. Sections provide specific readings and treatments of the contents and ancient uses of the scrolls. The twelve chapters of *The Dead Sea Scrolls* can be read sequentially; however, each one stands on its own. This inevitably creates some repetitive information but also allows the book to work nicely as a reference tool. The author also provides a thorough bibliography and useful indices of abbreviations, definitions, key words, and ancient groups and figures as well as many explanatory tables, graphs, and pictures. The book refers to an online supplement (<http://www.abingdonacademic.com/dscrolls>); however, at the time of this review most of the online resources were listed as "Coming Soon."