

strategy. In the introduction, he also mentions three other commentaries dating from the sixteenth to the early twentieth centuries.

Boyd believes very strongly that churches in the twenty-first century must change the way they approach missions. The last two chapters of the book are case studies of his own churches as models of his teaching. Boyd is correct to assert that one way to change is by nurturing and discipling men and women from the ethnic groups who are moving to our cities. He is absolutely correct to argue that the very best people to take the Gospel to unreached groups are believers from those people groups, but he overstates his case that bi-cultural people are the only valid strategy for the new millennium. The author oversteps in his assertion that the need for missionaries to cross cultures in order to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ is past. Boyd's conclusions are valuable material for pastors and missions leaders, even if his overstatements cast a shadow over the book in general.

Hammett, Edward H. with James R. Pierce. *Reaching People Under 40 While Keeping People Over 60: Being Church for All Generations*. St. Louis, Missouri: Chalice Press, 2007. 192 pp. \$24.99.

Reviewed by Mark Platt. Mark serves God as a transitional interim pastor helping churches renew, re-tool, and re-focus after their permanent pastor has resigned. Mark is a veteran pastor who helps churches who need an interim pastor. He is a passionate encourager, leader, and speaker. Over the years, Mark has been a youth pastor, an associate pastor, a church planter, a senior pastor and a pastor of pastors. He has served in country churches and suburban churches, in large churches and small churches around the country. Mark is with Next Chapter Transitions, [www.nextchaptertransitions.org](http://www.nextchaptertransitions.org).

According to Edward H. Hammett, major differences exist among the living generations of Christians regarding their understandings of the world, church, and values. Such differences produced the worship wars, power struggles, and disenfranchised certain constituencies in churches. Since a great number of churches were started in the 1950s, such generational differences pose a pervasive problem that confronts many churches today. Just as the "Generation Gap" has been impacting secular culture for several decades, it was been affecting the church as well. This book is written to help "Builder" (born between 1920 and 1945) and "Boomer" leaders (born between 1946 and 1962) understand younger generations.

Hammett discusses the incredible stressors that affect churches when attempting to target people over the age of sixty or those under the age of forty. On the one hand, if a church targets the over sixty crowd, the church will decline

and cease to exist as these people inevitably pass away. Churches that grow and thrive are churches that have the under forty crowd as their target audience. The future of the church of Jesus Christ is tied to the ability to reach and mobilize the next generation for Christ. On the other hand, if a church targets the under forty crowd, they will lose their significant givers and dishonor the people who gave themselves and sacrificed much for the church.

Hammett believes there a good way to minister to both crowds. He suggests that churches start “*being a church for all Generations*” (cover page). His book offers some thoughtful alternatives that churches can put into practice. This book suggests some ways to get a church out of maintenance mode and into a missional mode to reach the older and younger generations for Christ. Hammett gives a refreshing alternative to forgetting the older generation and going “*contemporary or staying in the past.*” This book provides a plan to develop a “win-win” situation, by reaching people under the age of forty while keeping people over the age of sixty. While some churches think they are forced to choose one constituency over another, Hammett believes churches can reach both of them!

117

One of the best quotes from Hammett is “*We live in a changing world, and the church will either change to continue to spread the changeless truth of the gospel or it will die*” (57). Hammett is a student of change and culture, calling pastors and leaders to lead a change of values and beliefs before changing programs or anything else in a church.

Through this book, Hammett manifests a love for the church. Each chapter concludes with a list of excellent personal reflection questions. Hammett also provides the reader with a diagnostic tool (27) to assist a church in understanding whether or not they are presently in a maintenance mode or a missional mode.

One of the most profound chapters was titled “*Is the Church a Business?*”. Most people in the ministry have been asking this question for years. Hammett notes the church is not like a business in that the goals of the church are not about compromise for the sake of profit and success. Churches are not like a business where the almighty dollar is the only reason for existence. Churches exist to honor God and fulfill God’s redemptive will in the world. Unlike a business, the church is not about serving the stock holders and members, but serving people who are not invested (i.e., the unbelieving world).

Yet, the church is like a business in the sense that the church is about serving the customer (people), reaching goals (God’s commands), using resources appropriately (bearing fruit), and expanding markets (evangelism). Hammett does a great job explaining the ways churches should never adopt business principles, while showing several ways churches should be more like businesses.

Hammett's explicit descriptions of how cultural realities collide with church traditions will inform and help persuade church leaders about altering their church's course. Hammett explains in detail the ramifications of how post-modern values and tastes affect outreach, evangelism, equipping, fellowship, staffing, communication, teaching, preaching, and many other aspects of church ministry. The last chapter of the book advocates the boomer generation (40-60 years) can serve as a bridge between the older and younger generations.

The one limitation of the book is that it seems to be based on the unrealistic assumption that it is easy to persuade both younger and older generations to agree on certain matters related to the church. I do not believe that most people are as selfless and as open to change as advocated. Based on personal experience, I am not as optimistic as Hammett regarding his "win-win" strategy.

This is a book that every person who leads a church, consults with churches, or simply cares about God's church must read! It is worth the price! After reading Hammett's book for this review, I bought thirteen copies for the key leaders in my present church. *Reaching People Under 40 While Keeping People Over 60: Being Church for All Generations* is among one of the more important leadership books I have on my shelf.

118

---

Minatrea, Milfred. *Shaped By God's Heart: The Passion and Practices of Missional Churches*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2004. 184pp. \$24.95.

Reviewed by Grant Horner. Horner is the senior pastor of Eastland Church of God in Lexington, Kentucky. He has a B.A. from Azusa Pacific University, a M.Div. from Anderson University School of Theology, and is working on a D.Min. at Biola University's Talbot School of Theology.

Writing from the perspective of a church consultant and the director of the Missional Church Center for the Baptist General Convention, Milfred Minatrea challenges churches to move from being inwardly focused to becoming outwardly focused, missional churches in his book *Shaped By God's Heart: The Passion and Practices of Missional Churches*. Understanding the difficulty in making that type of transition, Milfred Minatrea, while observing missional churches, discovered nine practices that can help transition a maintenance church into a mission-oriented church. He presents those nine practices along with an introduction on why missional churches are needed. Also included in his book are some structures and strategies of missional churches.

*Shaped By God's Heart* is broken into three sections. In the first section the