Efrem Smith, a senior pastor of The Sanctuary Covenant Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, deals with a very sensitive subject in youth ministry. This book, while it does not so much concentrate on the theories and theologies of youth ministry, its objective is to present both the praxis and holistic approach to youth ministry.

There are nine chapters in this book with a short introduction and conclusion. Chapter one deals with the biblical principles of youth ministry where Smith starts from the Old Testament figures such as Joshua, David, Josiah, Esther, Jeremiah and New Testament figures like Timothy to argue a case concerning God's love for young people. This chapter challenges Churches to seek an incarnational approach to the practice of youth ministry. Thus, challenging teens to embrace godly disciplines instead of engaging in drugs and other evil practices. For this reason Smith proposes that adult church members should become good mentors who should be willing to connect with these young generation in churches. In this manner youth will start remembering the mentorship to godliness rather than to fun activities and pizza. In other words, God should be clearly introduced to young people without fear so they can identify God in their changing lives. The second chapter deals with ‘revolutionary: Adult dreams fuel young vision.’ Smith queries the adult perception toward youth. The way adults view youth is the way they will treat them. When adults acknowledge teens with words, actions and thoughts, they develop a clear self-esteem that makes them feel appreciated in whatever they do. While I can argue that not always does negative words lead to poor bringing up of youths, Smith fails to show the best way adults should rebuke teens. Smith's concern in this chapter is to create awareness that adults whether caregivers, pastors, mentors should be ready to encourage youths with positive words of wisdom and appreciation and above all challenging them to accept Christ in their lives. Chapter three and four deal with holistic and
courageous [raising up boys] virtues of youth ministry. In chapter three, he emphasizes the value of clothing godly image in the teen's soul, mind and body. This being a holistic youth ministry the perception of pragmatism should change to developmental as a means of catering to the needs of the whole young person. This will address the spiritual, social, financial, physical, cultural, generational concerns of young people. On the other hand, teens according to Smith need to be encouraged to develop their self-esteem through mentoring, accountability and spiritual self-evaluation. "Warfare" is the title Smith gives to chapter five which basically touches on issues of raising up young girls whom he calls, queens. While it is not clear as to why this chapter should be different from chapter four on raising boys, the author tries to give God's perception on girls, which does not clearly match the scriptural reference. Indeed, when God created male and female the *Imago Dei* concept was not so special to the girls but to the humanity as a whole. Smith rightly argues that there are false images that are brought to the face of girls through culture, previous actions and religious sexism that need to be changed whenever youth ministry is approached both practically and holistically. Chapters six, seven, eight and nine are all covered with news of teen leadership, multiethnic ministry, service and empowerment. Smith very tactfully handles the leadership and culture issues here with his ministry experience in Ohio and Minnesota. He gives a good picture on the youth cultural issues such as language, dressing, music, and general lifestyle and how to minister to them in their multi-cultural context.

While the purpose of this text is not easy to tell, I must say Efrem Smith writes with enough experience and narratives of that into a book. Smith puts it like this, "My goal for this book is not just to present ideas for a holistic approach to youth ministry but to also present a practical youth ministry model that reaches youth's spirits, souls and bodies" [p. 11]. His audience is Sunday school teachers, youth leaders, parents, pastors and teachers in middle and high schools.

The author has done a very impressive work in detailing testimonies of his ministerial experience into a book. He does try to use scriptures as a basis of his argument but sometimes these scriptures fall short of the theme matching. This book I must say should be well read by church members especially those who are leaders. The book is not an academic treatise; it does not have any reference, bibliography except in page 64 where Smith quotes Mike Yaconelli without even footnoting the reference. This is a big weakness in the academia world where the