

Youth Ministry in Transition

A webinar presented on March 5, 2014

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Introduction

- Painting with a broad brush stroke



The plan

- The current quagmire
- Unique contexts
- Who are young people becoming
- The shifting roles of youth ministry
- Shifting approaches to youth ministry

Outcomes

- Appreciate the shifting context
- Overview of current research
- Challenged to think strategically about youth ministry
- Exposed to different models of youth ministry
- Challenged to think and assess who you are ministering to and your ministry practices
- Your participation will raise more questions about youth ministry than it answers



The Current Quagmire



- Summary of Smith, Denton and Dean material - MTD
- Clark & Nydam – hurt/abandonment
- Hemorrhaging Faith Study (Canadian young people) – a study of why and when Canadian young people leave the church.
- Individualism
- Consumerism
- Lack of connectedness
- Confusion over the roles of the church and Christian school in discipleship (CRCNA issue)

Unique Contexts

- Every context is unique, keys to assessing your situation.



What is going on?
Why is it going on?
What should be going on?
What should be done about it?

(adapted from Osmer, *Practical Theology*)



Identify the characteristics of a faithful Christ-follower

Who are young people becoming?

- a growing love and understanding of scripture through regular reading and reflection;
- a knowledge of and skill in explaining how their life is informed by the Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, Apostles Creed & the sacraments;
- a growing understanding of the gospel and what it means to live missionally as an adopted son or daughter of God;
- a lifestyle that increasingly manifests the fruit of the Spirit, stewardship of resources, and gracious support of the church and her ministries;
- a desire and ability to share their story and the Story of the gospel with others;
- an ongoing investment in the life of the faith community through regular attendance, participation in worship and the church's ministries.





The shifting roles of youth ministry

- Incorporation into the life (and decision making) of the church
- Equipping adults for ministry to young people
- Equipping young people for ministry

Shifting approaches to youth ministry

- More of the same
- Sustainable youth ministry
- Youth engagement
- Intergenerational
- A combination of the above

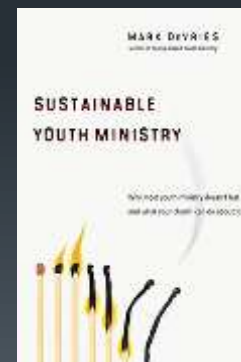
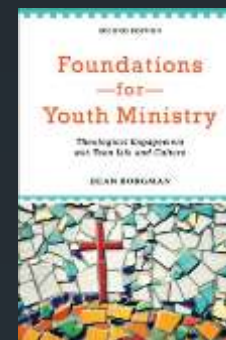


Concluding Observations

- The spiritual needs of young people are unique.
- Alternative and creative approaches to youth ministry are emerging,
 - Warning: Some of the approaches are old models in new clothes.
- A clearer description of how people ought to be disciplined is needed; it should inform one's ministry priorities and decisions.
- Integrating young people into the life and ministry of the church as co-laborers in the gospel is essential.

Resources

- Borgman, *Foundations for Youth Ministry*, 2nd edition (Baker)
- Bengston, *Families and Faith* (Oxford)
- DeVries, *Sustainable Youth Ministry* (IVP)
- Mueller, *Engaging the Soul of Youth Culture* (IVP)
- Dean, *Almost Christian* (Oxford)



Attributions

- Slide #3 Picture, <http://www.turkspainting.com/Photoalbum.html>
- Slide #7 Picture, <http://www.sfkids.org/ages.aspx?age=teen>
- Slide #8 Picture, <http://self-infliction.blogspot.com/>
- Slide #4 Picture,
http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/a/a2/French_Swamp.jpg/800px-French_Swamp.jpg
- Slide #10 Picture, <http://www.teensdrivesmart.ca/index.php/teens/>
- Slide #11 Picture, <http://obcnchrist.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Youth-Ministry1.png>
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<http://matthewmcnuttt.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/sustainable-youth-ministry.jpg>;
<http://www.cpyu.org/files/Engaging%20the%20Soul%20of%20Youth%20Culture/Engaging%20the%20Soul%20of%20Youth%20Culture.jpg>; http://theamericanjesus.net/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/safe_image-php.jpg

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Questions and Answers

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