

A NEW PARADIGM IN YOUTH MINISTRY?

LEARNING FROM HISTORY; LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

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“...You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.” Matthew 16:3

“...had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do...” 1 Chronicles 12:32

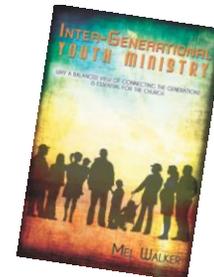


WHERE HAVE WE BEEN? A History of Youth Ministry

1940's to 1970's: “Reach Kids for Christ”

“...The early developers of youth ministries tended to be visionary entrepreneurs with a compelling desire to see young people come to Christ. They saw a developing cultural trend and were highly motivated to do something about it. Their zeal and enthusiasm soon out-distanced established church leaders who tended to be more conservative and more concerned with ministering to adults than they were about evangelizing teenagers. Therefore, this group of influential leaders often took the opportunity to create their own parachurch organizations instead of working inside the traditional church structure.” -*Inter-Generational Youth Ministry* (p.15)

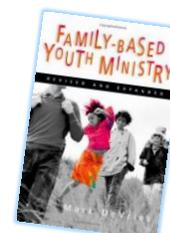
“But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!”
2 Timothy 4:17-18



1970's to 2000's: “Minister to & Through Church Kids”

“Youth ministry became *en vogue*, and a new church emphasis was born. Churches saw the need for youth ministry as a conduit for growth and relevancy, and thousands of churches all around the country began to hire trained vocational youth pastors. If churches didn't have the size or resources to hire a professional youth pastor, they still modeled their youth programs as if they did, and instead recruited lay volunteers to serve...” -*Inter-Generational Youth Ministry* (p.18)

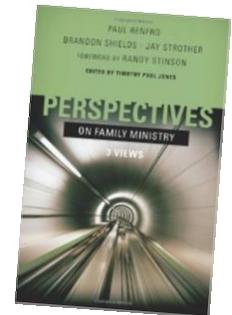
2000's to ? : “Family Ministry”



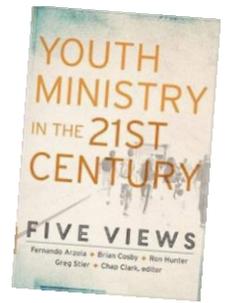
“...Churches and parachurch youth ministries alike have increasingly (and often unwittingly) held to a single strategy that has become the most common characteristic: the isolation of teenagers from the adult world and particularly from their own parents.” -*Family-Based Youth Ministry: Reaching the Been-There, Done-That Generation* (p. 21)

Perspectives of Family Ministry:

PROGRAMMATIC MINISTRY	Ministries organized in “silos”...
FAMILY-BASED MINISTRY	Parents are encouraged to take part...
FAMILY-EQUIPPING MINISTRY	The church is structured to equip parents...
FAMILY-INTEGRATED MINISTRY	Age-group programs are eliminated so parents can disciple their own children...
INTER-GENERATIONAL FAMILY MINISTRY	✓ ✓



WHERE ARE WE GOING: The Future of Youth Ministry



<p>THE GOSPEL ADVANCING VIEW OF YOUTH MINISTRY</p>	<p>Greg Stier</p>	<p>“The modern youth ministry model has largely abandoned the focus of Jesus and delivers, instead, a series of competing programs. We have exchanged mission for meetings. We have separated evangelism from discipleship. We have turned outreach into a program instead of a lifestyle.”</p>
<p>THE REFORMED VIEW OF YOUTH MINISTRY</p>	<p>Brian Cosby</p>	<p>“Youth ministries today often (unknowingly) emphasize what I call Home Depot Theology – ‘You can do it; God can help’... I want to present a clear perspective of youth ministry that conscientiously affirms a consistently Reformed methodology as expressed in the historic ‘means of grace.’”</p>
<p>THE ADOPTIVE VIEW OF YOUTH MINISTRY</p>	<p>Chap Clark</p>	<p>“For the past half-century youth ministry has primarily focused on adults building relationships with (individual) teenagers for the purpose of helping ‘each and every young person grow personally and spiritually’. (Youth ministry) has remained committed to individual young people being the recipients of a relational investment of a concerned adult...”</p>
<p>THE ECCLESIAL VIEW OF YOUTH MINISTRY</p>	<p>Fernando Arzola</p>	<p>“In recent years, there has been an increase in the scholarly examination of ecclesiology. So why hasn’t this occurred in youth ministry? ...Youth ministry programs and churches, therefore youth ministry leaders and practitioners, tend to separate themselves from each other...”</p>
<p>THE ‘D6’ VIEW OF YOUTH MINISTRY</p>	<p>Ron Hunter</p>	<p>“The church, over time, has ‘siloeed’ the age groups by hiring gifted leaders over each ministry. The unintended consequences of such silos caused parents to leave most spiritual instruction to the church... Silos represent isolation and prevent interaction.”</p>

What Have We Learned?

1. The Next Generation Must Be a Top Priority.
2. Churches Must Equip Parents to Be a Spiritual Success with their Own Kids.
3. Churches Must be Intentional about Including Kids from Dysfunctional Families into the “Family of God”.

4. Christians Kids Must Understand that the “Body of Christ” is big.

5. We Must Motivate & Train God’s People to Share Their Faith with Others.

6. The Church Must “Go” with The Gospel – and Must Be Culturally Relevant...

Some Current Trends That Will Impact the Future of our Ministries:

(Some Suggestions to Consider...)

- The changing definition of the family -

- The increasing persecution of Christians -

- An increasing attitude of narcissism -

- The looming economic crisis -

