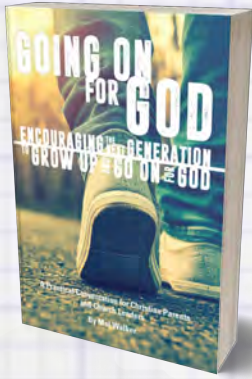




A SEISMIC SHIFT IN STUDENT MINISTRY:

**HOW PARENTS OF Z'S
ARE CHANGING EVERYTHING**



GOING ON FOR GOD

@vfyouth



Mel Walker

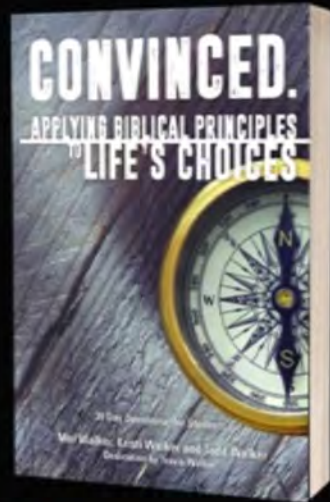
mel@visionforyouth.com

www.GoingOnForGod.com

www.intergenerationalyouthministry.com

www.MelWalker.org

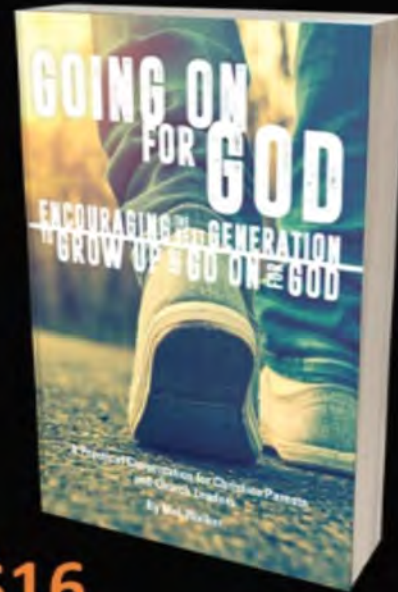




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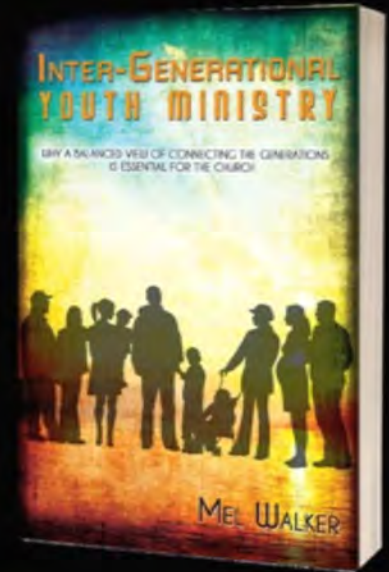


\$15



\$16

BOOKS FOR SALE



\$12

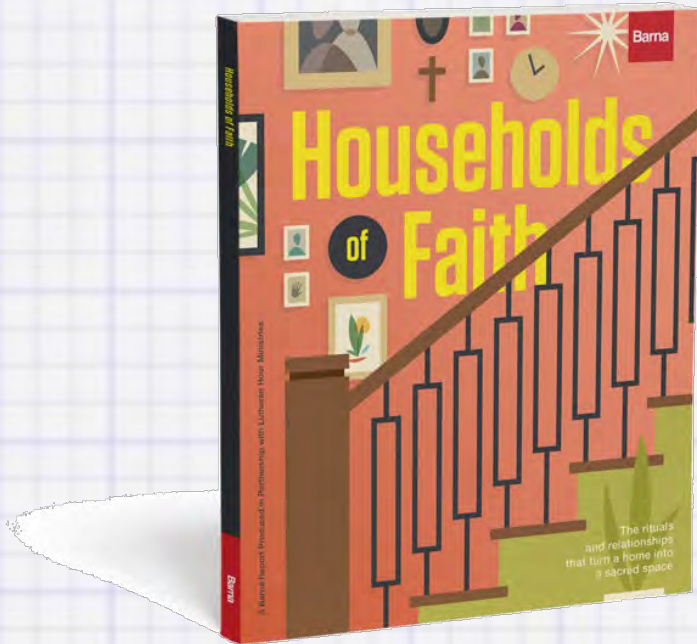


\$5

www.GoingOnForGod.com

Barna

IMPORTANT RESOURCES



<https://shop.barna.com/#>



A SEISMIC SHIFT IN STUDENT MINISTRY:



A SEISMIC SHIFT IN STUDENT MINISTRY:

**HOW PARENTS OF Z'S
ARE CHANGING EVERYTHING**

WHERE ARE WE...

**...AND WHO ARE WE
WORKING WITH NOW?**



GOING ON FOR GOD

National Youth Ministries Conference 2019

REACHING








Z

IMPACT THIS GENERATION FOR CHRIST






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GENERATIONS ALIVE TODAY -

						
"GREATEST"	SILENT	BOOMERS	GEN X'ERS	MILLENNIALS	GEN Z	ALPHA
Pearl Harbor Avg. = 85	Communism Avg. = 70's	The 1960's Avg. = 60's	Scandals Avg. = 45-ish	9/11 Avg. = 25-35	Financial Crisis Avg. = Teens	Donald Trump (?) Avg. = 9-ish



PARENTS / FAMILIES / HOUSEHOLDS OF Z'S -

BOOMERS 	GEN X'ERS 	MILLENNIALS 
<p>Age of Parents* = 50 to 65</p> <p>Avg. Age of Students = 20 +</p>	<p>Age of Parents*= 35 to 50</p> <p>Avg. Age of Students = 15-19</p>	<p>Age of Parents* = 20 to 35</p> <p>Avg. Age of Students = 11-15</p>

***NOTE =**
avg. age of 1st child –
22 for Boomers;
25 for Gen X'ers, 30's now...



PARENTS / FAMILIES / HOUSEHOLDS OF Z'S -

GEN X'ERS



Age of Parents* =
35 to 50

Avg. Age of
Students = 15-19

- “Slackers”
- “Latchkey kids”
- Disdain for authority
- Not loyal to institutions
- Parents high divorce rate

CHARACTERISTICS

PARENTING TRENDS

1. Having children later
2. Having fewer children
3. More likely from non-traditional families
4. Culture of fear...
5. First “tech” generation...
6. Less active in organized religion



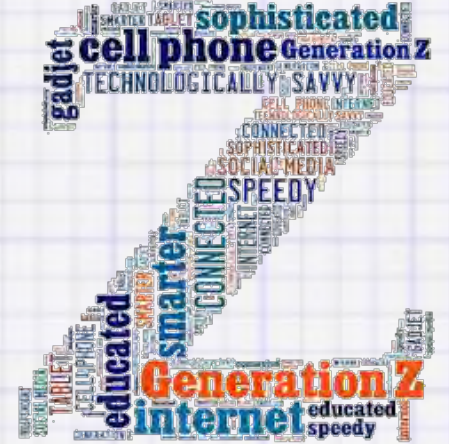
PARENTS / FAMILIES / HOUSEHOLDS OF Z'S -

Be a student of
generational
differences!

**SOME MINISTRY
SUGGESTIONS -**

Be intentionally
inter-generational in
your approach...

Be willing to change
ministry & outreach
strategies!



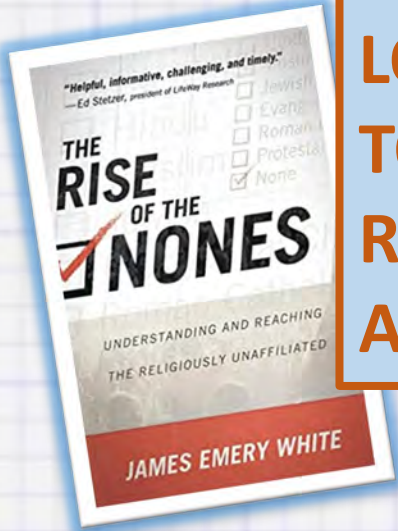
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SOME CURRENT TRENDS

**CULTURAL TRENDS THAT
ARE IMPACTING MINISTRY...**



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**DWINDLING
LOYALTY
TOWARD
RELIGIOUS
AFFILIATION**

**CHANGING
GOALS FOR
CHILDREN &
TEENAGERS**

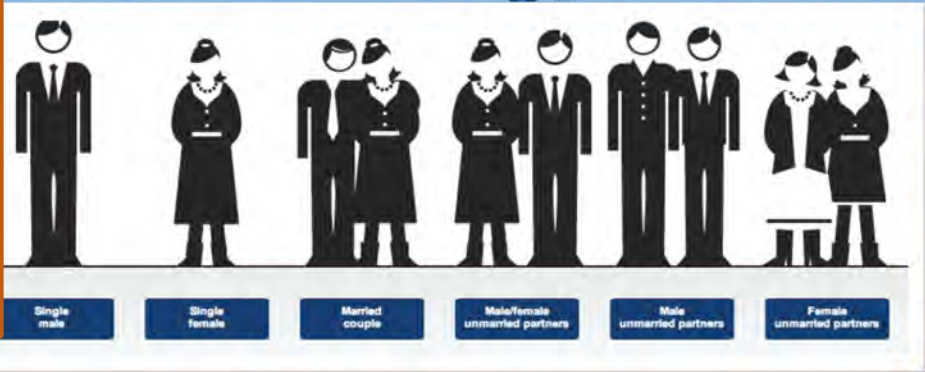
**CULTURE'S
MOVE TO A
POST-CHRISTIAN
& POST-CHURCH
MENTALITY**

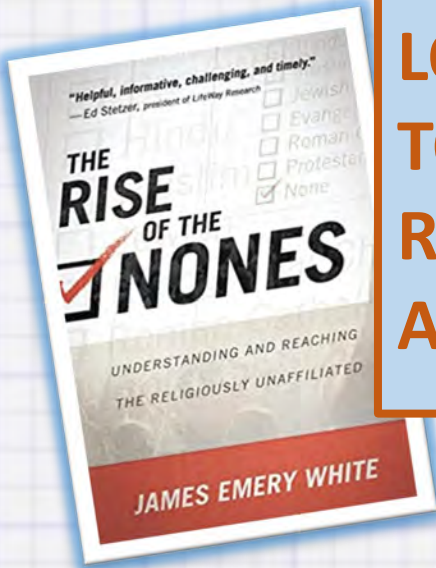


CULTURE

**GROWING
NUMBER OF
NON-
TRADITIONAL,
BROKEN &
DYSFUNCTIONAL
HOUSEHOLDS**

**DECLINE IN
REGULAR
ATTENDANCE &
PARTICIPATION
IN CHURCH**





**DWINDLING
LOYALTY
TOWARD
RELIGIOUS
AFFILIATION**

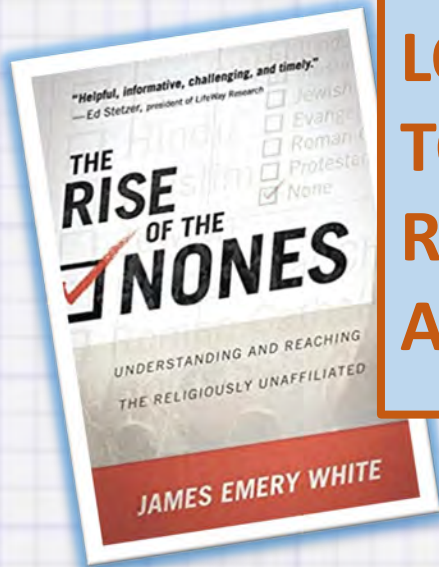


Gen Z Faith Segments



- 9% Engaged Christian
- 33% Churched Christian
- 16% Unchurched Christian
- 7% Other faith
- 34% No religious affiliation

TRENDS



**DWINDLING
LOYALTY
TOWARD
RELIGIOUS
AFFILIATION**

- Today's young adults are not making church a top priority.
- No innate loyalty to a specific church.
- Other things come first...

?



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“One of the acceptable idolatries among evangelical Christians is the idolatry of the family.”

- Kevin DeYoung

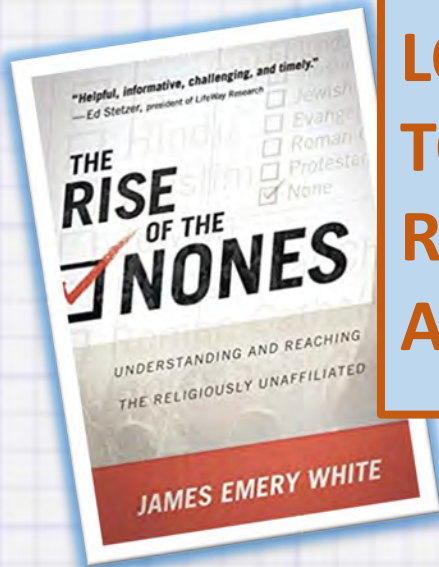


- **Matthew 10:37** *“He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”*
- **Luke 14:26** *“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.”*



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TRENDS



DWINDLING
LOYALTY
TOWARD
RELIGIOUS
AFFILIATION

- Today's young adults are not making church a priority.
- No innate loyalty to a specific church.
- Other things come first...
WHAT ARE YOU SEEING?



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TRENDS

- People only attend 1 in 4 weeks...
- People feel busy and stressed by their schedules
- Many i-options

WHAT ARE YOU SEEING?

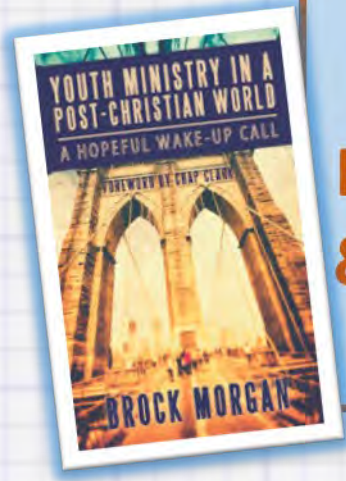
**DECLINE IN
REGULAR
ATTENDANCE &
PARTICIPATION
IN CHURCH**

Barna



GOING ON FOR GOD

TRENDS



CULTURE'S
MOVE TO A
POST-CHRISTIAN
& POST-CHURCH
MENTALITY

- Very little natural “Christian” perspective in culture.
- We have to think like “missionaries” ...
- People are accepting a wide variety of “truths” or beliefs.



POST-CHRISTIAN METRICS

The level of irreligion in America depends on how you measure it. And the vitality of faith in America is much more than simply how people label themselves. Barna Group tracks the following 15 metrics related to faith, which speak to the lack of Christian identity, belief and practice. [% of all U.S. adults]



Post-Christianity is the loss of the primacy of the Christian worldview in culture, especially in the Western world where Christianity had previously flourished, in favor of alternative worldviews...

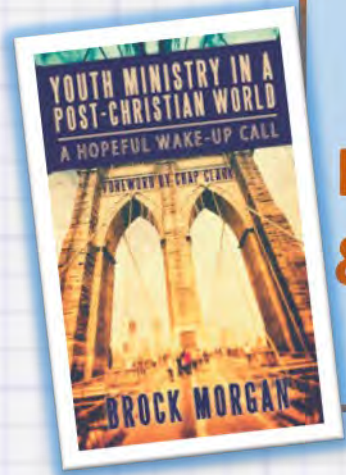
Some Examples:

1. Biblical literacy
2. Frequent attendance in church
3. Consistent giving
4. Biblical ethics
5. Reality of sin
6. Need of salvation
7. Salvation through Christ alone

<https://sojo.net/articles/christendom-bias-and-end-religion>

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/karl-vaters/2017/december/8-assumptions-pastors-cant-make-post-christian-culture.html>

TRENDS



CULTURE'S
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WHAT ARE YOU SEEING?



GOING ON FOR GOD

TRENDS

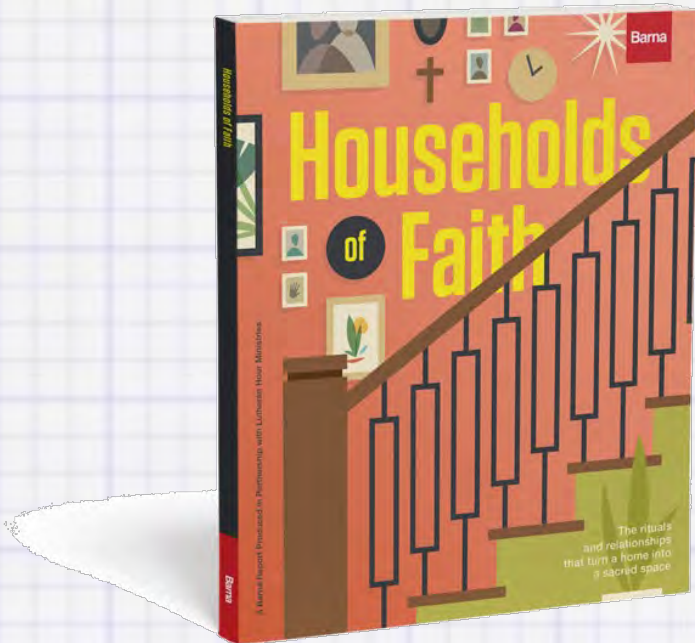
- Trend is not toward traditional, engaged parents & families
- Church will need to be “a family”...
- Champion God’s grace in lives of students...

**GROWING
NUMBER OF
NON-
TRADITIONAL,
BROKEN &
DYSFUNCTIONAL
HOUSEHOLDS**



TRENDS

TYPES OF NON-TRADITIONAL HOUSEHOLDS -



1. Single-parent households
2. Roommate households
3. Multi-generational household
4. Other...
5. Living alone...



TRENDS

- Trend is not toward traditional, engaged parents & families
- Church will need to be “a family”...
- Champion God’s grace in lives of students...

**GROWING
NUMBER OF
NON-
TRADITIONAL,
BROKEN &
DYSFUNCTIONAL
HOUSEHOLDS**

WHAT ARE YOU SEEING?



TRENDS

- Grew up during challenging financial situations
- “Ability & potential” to make money rules the day
- “What do you want to do?”
- Trend away from ministry & calling...

WHAT ARE YOU SEEING?

**CHANGING
GOALS FOR
CHILDREN &
TEENAGERS**



GOING ON FOR GOD

**SOME YOUTH MINISTRY
OBSERVATIONS**

KEY QUESTIONS

**AND SOME STRATEGY STEPS
TO CONSIDER...**



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**HELICOPTER &
SNOW PLOW
PARENTS**

**OVERLY-BUSY &
STRESSED OUT**

**PARENTS KEEP
THEIR KIDS OUT**

**WHEN KIDS
SELDOM COME**

**GOING ON
FOR GOD**

**DYSFUNCTIONAL
AND BROKEN
HOUSEHOLDS**

**NEVER SEE THE
PARENTS**

**DISINTERESTED
& DISTRACTED
PARENTS**



GOING ON FOR GOD

**HELICOPTER &
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GOING ON FOR GOD

HELICOPTER & SNOW PLOW PARENTS

QUESTIONS

BIG PICTURE STRATEGY STEPS:

- 1. Emphasize your mission: What are you trying to do?**
- 2. Involve & include parents & families in your ministries.**
- 3. Communicate well, and communicate often.**
- 4. Equip parents to be a spiritual success with their kids.**
- 5. Don't let them sabotage your mission...**



**HELICOPTER &
SNOW PLOW
PARENTS**

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GOING ON FOR GOD

QUESTIONS

BIG PICTURE STRATEGY STEPS:

1. Why aren't they involved? (Do you know the real issues?)
2. What can you do to interest them? (Utilize resources, maybe other or outside voices...?)
3. How (practically speaking) can you utilize and/or involve parents in your ministry?
4. Keep preaching the Gospel & ministering to their kids.

**DISINTERESTED
& DISTRACTED
PARENTS**

GOING ON FOR GOD



**OVERLY-BUSY &
STRESSED OUT**

**HELICOPTER &
SNOW PLOW
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GOING ON FOR GOD

**OVERLY-BUSY &
STRESSED OUT**

QUESTIONS

BIG PICTURE STRATEGY STEPS:

- 1. Teach spiritual disciplines & habits when kids are young.**
- 2. Don't "over-program" – hold fewer (but, more important) meetings & events.**
- 3. Consider "programs" that are shorter in duration...**
- 4. Utilize technology strategically... but find "off the grid" opportunities...**
- 5. Be conscious & sensitive to the stress of culture. (How can we make our ministries a refuge?)**



GOING ON FOR GOD

**HELICOPTER &
SNOW PLOW
PARENTS**

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GOING ON FOR GOD

QUESTIONS

**WHEN KIDS
SELDOM COME**

BIG PICTURE STRATEGY STEPS:

- 1. What are you trying to accomplish in their lives?**
- 2. Are you willing to GO to them?**
- 3. Find ways to connect with them at other times – you commit to their schedule and get other adults to commit.**
- 4. Utilize other resources to encourage them in their walk with God?**



GOING ON FOR GOD

**HELICOPTER &
SNOW PLOW
PARENTS**

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GOING ON FOR GOD

QUESTIONS

BIG PICTURE STRATEGY STEPS:

1. Use all means to communicate anyway.
2. Provide resources and helps...
3. Make “child safety & protection” a top priority.
4. Keep preaching the Gospel & ministering to their kids.
(We have to believe in God’s grace to change kids’ lives.)

**NEVER SEE THE
PARENTS**



GOING ON FOR GOD

**HELICOPTER &
SNOW PLOW
PARENTS**

**OVERLY-BUSY &
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GOING ON FOR GOD

QUESTIONS

BIG PICTURE STRATEGY STEPS:

1. Offer the “Good News”, hope and help...
2. Remember that the Heavenly Father is the father to the fatherless...
3. Position the church to be “a family” ...
4. Make much of Godly other adults & emphasize the community of other Godly students.
5. Love!!! (And help meet needs in your community.)

**DYSFUNCTIONAL
AND BROKEN
HOUSEHOLDS**



GOING ON FOR GOD

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BIG PICTURE STRATEGY STEPS:

1. Keep lines of communication open with them?
2. Emphasize and communicate your mission: What are you trying to do?
3. Utilize other, outside (and credible) voices to communicate the importance of what you are doing?
4. Find other ways to connect with the parents AND the students?

QUESTIONS

**PARENTS KEEP
THEIR KIDS OUT**



GOING ON FOR GOD

PARENTS
OF GEN-Z

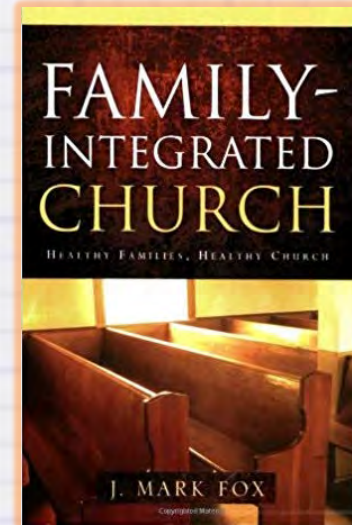
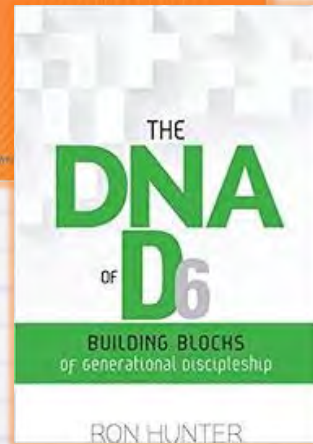
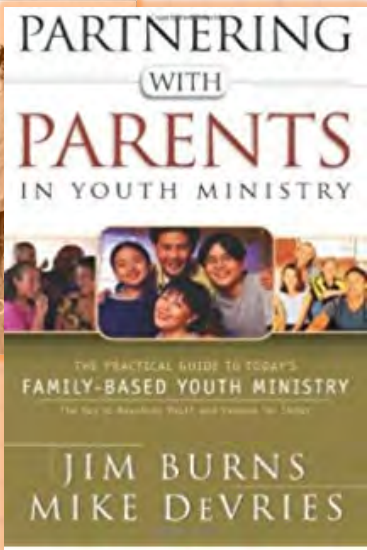
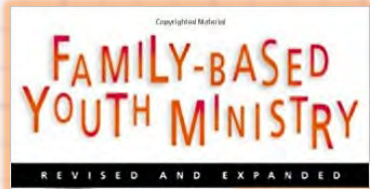
CHURCH YOUTH
MINISTRY

**COLLABORATION
TOWARD
LONG-TERM SPIRITUAL
MATURITY**



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MODELS OF FAMILY MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH



OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS FAMILY MINISTRY HAS BECOME A BIG DEAL IN CHURCH MINISTRY



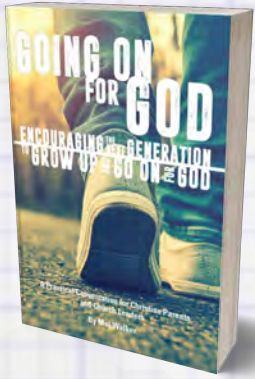
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ROLE OF PARENTS	ROLE OF YOUTH MINISTRY	RESULT
Parents Are Absent	Share the Gospel & Provide Spiritual Mentors	Kids See the Gospel in Action from Loving Adults
Parents Are Disinterested	Significant Spiritual Influence	Kids Are Welcomed and See Church as a Family
Parents Bring Their Children	Responsibility for Spiritual Input & Social Connections	Church Leaders Teach God's Word & Reach Out to Families
Parents Who Serve	Utilize Parents to Help in Church Ministry	Kids See Parents as Willing Helpers
Parents Learn From Church Leaders	Church Leaders Hold Classes to Teach Parents	Parents Learn About Youth Culture & Some Parenting Skills
Parents Collaborate With Church Leaders	Work Alongside Parents to Encourage Toward Spiritual Maturity	Kids Grow Spiritually and Many Go On For God
Parents Mentor Other Parents	Equip Older Parents to Mentor Younger Parents	Kids Learn That Parents Need Input from Others in the Church
Parents Disciple Their Own Children	Stay Out of the Way	Kids Are Isolated From Broader Christian Community



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BOOMERS



GEN X'ERS



MILLENNIALS



SILENT



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ALPHA



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