

May, 2008

“Best” New Youth Ministry Resources

Best Content and Coolest Design:

Jesus for President: Politics for Ordinary Radicals.

Shane Claiborne and Chris Haw. Zondervan, 2008. 261.70973 Cla

These guys (sounding an awful lot like Mennos), provide a valuable political context for Christ's life, reminding readers that Jesus did not preach the need to put God back into government—he urged followers to live by a different set of rules altogether, to hold themselves apart as peculiar people. The compelling writing is enhanced by a lavish, eye-popping layout. The pages are a riot of textures, colors, photos and fonts. Bonus: some of the photos featured are Marlene's personal friends.

Most Likely to be Confused with an Anabaptist Book:

Deep Justice in a Broken World: helping your kids serve others and right the wrongs around them.

Chap Clark and Kara Powell. Youth Specialties, 2007. 259.21491 Cla

Well-known social justice leaders and youth workers offer ideas of how youth are making a difference in urban, suburban and small-town settings. Each chapter includes discussion questions and ideas to rethink and shape youth ministry.

Coolest Spirituality Ideas:

Imaginative Prayer for Youth Ministry: a guide to transforming your student's spiritual lives into journey, adventure and encounter.

Jennie Oestricher, Larry Warner. Youth Specialties, 2006. 259.224 Oes

Introduces 50 imaginative prayer exercises to allow God to move and speak through the participants five senses.

Best to Take on a Personal Retreat:

Jesus-centered Youth Ministry.

Lawrence, Rick. Group, 2007. 259.211 Law

A dozen youth ministry guru's contribute to this book, each shaping their essay based on how youth ministry would be different if it were totally focused on Jesus. Hmmm....how about yours?

Every Youth Worker Should Watch:

Soul Searching by Christian Smith. Revelation Studios, 2007. DVD 259.224 Smi 79 minutes.

Looks at teenagers around the country to get into their lives and look at their core beliefs. Based on the book: Soul Searching: the religious and spiritual lives of American teenagers by Christian Smith and Melissa Denton. Very well done, not stuffy.

Conference Resource Library

2517 North Main Street North Newton, Kansas 67117

Marlene Bogard, Director Pat Schmidt, Assistant

crlib@mennowdc.org 316-283-6300 www.mennowdc.org on-line catalog

Watch if you Need Some Laughs:

Help! I'm a Small Group Leader (training video)
Laurie Polich. Youth Specialties, 2007.
DVD 259.2147 Pol. 70 minutes / 5 sessions.

A fun training video for leaders who want to understand how they can be more effective. Includes role playing by the goofy Skit Guys and serious input too!

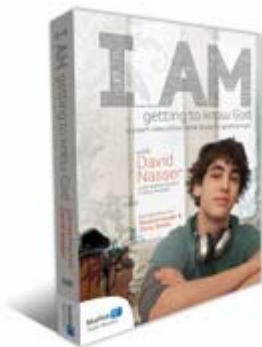
New from Blue Fish TV:

Surviving School. 4 clips, 1-2 minutes long.
DVD 259.2224 Sur
Identity. 4 clips, 1-2 minutes long.
DVD 259.223 Ide

Use the above clips for discussion starters or to play as youth are gathering. Also could be used in Sunday morning worship as a sermon-starter or focus moment during Youth Sunday.

Doug Krehbiel, says this about the following four-part video-driven series:

"My youth want to know when we are going to do more of these studies...



they are engaging and relevant."

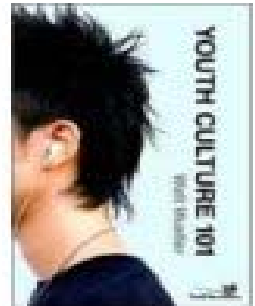
I AM getting to know God. DVD 259.224 Nas
Teens vs. Parents. DVD 259.2142 Mat
Sex. Dating. DVD 259.2221 Dim

More Fine Stuff:

Youth Culture 101.
Mueller, Walt. Youth Specialties, 2007.
259.211 Mue

Every couple of years Walt delivers the newest stuff based on research and observations.

Check out his *Center for Parent Youth Understanding* on the web.



Speaking to Teenagers: how to think about, create and deliver effective messages.
Fields, Doug and Duffy Robbins. Youth Specialties, 2007. 259.213 Rob

Revisiting Relational Youth Ministry: from a strategy of influence to a theology of incarnation.

Root, Andrew. InterVarsity Press, 2007.
259.211 Roo

Injects youth ministry with a strong missional direction, a strong Christology and a call to retool efforts to be present incarnationally with youth, and with good relationships as the goal, not the means to an end.

Growing Souls: experiments in contemplative Youth Ministry.

Yaconelli, Mark. Youth Specialties, 2007. 259.211

Places persons before programs, listening before teaching, Jesus before the youth minister, silence before noise and hospitality to the poor and needy before our materialism.