

# HOW RELIGION AFFECTS TEENS

(Josh McDowell research 2006 to present)

## “COMMUNICATING CHRIST TO YOUNGER GENERATIONS”

“Recent statistics show that 88 percent of churched young adults leave the church after leaving home (Lifeway) and 61 percent of people in their 20s who were once churched are now disengaged (Barna).”

“McPherson referenced Exodus 3:7 by noting that God always sent His deliverers at the response of someone crying out.”

“Students who have a long-term faith...felt the freedom and had the opportunity to explore doubt.”

“The more students were involved in intergenerational worship before graduation, the better they held to their faith in college, according to Powell. Worship with adults of all ages offers opportunities for young people to experience the support and encouragement of many in the church, not just other youth or a youth leader, she said.”

“Youth Transition Network, added that 93 percent of students leaving a high school youth ministry do not know the name of any college Christian ministry.”

““They are not relativistic, they are extreme amorality; there is no truth or right from wrong that is better than another,” he said. He also said they have a great potential to reach others for Christ.”

“Let youth own the ministry. Let them make major decisions. [You] just supervise it.”

“Whoever owns their heart has the most authority in their lives,” he said, urging parents to “build a culture in your home stronger than the culture destroying your kids.”

“The conference closed with Dave Olson, founder of the American Church Research Project, discussing his current research. Olson reported that only the largest churches (more than 2,000 in attendance) and smallest churches (up to 49 in attendance) are growing. The vast majority of churches are shrinking according to his research, which is based on church statistics, not surveys of churchgoers.”

“The smallest churches have intimacy—if you don’t show up, someone calls you,” he explained.

“Large churches have money and resources and people to do really good ministry. Middle churches are too big to be intimate and too small to have money and resources.”

(“Communicating Christ to Younger Generations,” Mission America Coalition, October 10, 2008;

<http://www.missionamerica.org/Brix?pageID=22629>).

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## **“YOUNG PEOPLE”**

“Young people ages 6-17 who attend religious services weekly are linked to positive developmental outcomes, according to a special report entitled *The National Survey of Children’s Health Finds That Children and Parents of Religious Intact Family Do Best on Child Development*. These children and youth exhibit the fewest behavior problems, are more likely to have a high-quality relationship with their parents, and are more likely to exhibit positive social behavior, including showing respect for teachers and neighbors, getting along with other children, understanding other people’s feelings, and trying to resolve conflicts with classmates and family.”

(Gary Foster, “Young People,” *Religious Market Update*, June 25, 2009, p3; [www.garydfoster.com](http://www.garydfoster.com))

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## **“CHURCH YOUTH SEXUALLY ACTIVE, SURVEY REVEALS”**

“A total of 31 percent of the Anglicans – aged 12 to 19 – were sexually active, compared with a figure of 38 percent reported for Western Cape youth in general by the SA Youth Risk Behaviour Survey.”

“The sexually active church-based youngsters appeared to have a higher rate of multiple partners – 66 percent – than the 48 percent reported in the SAYB survey.”

“Sixty five percent of the Anglican youngsters had not used a contraceptive during their first sexual encounter.”

“Only 33 percent of them believed that oral sex was actually sex, and only half that anal sex was indeed sex.”

(“Church youth sexually active, survey reveals,” IOL, February 2006, [www.int.iol.co.za](http://www.int.iol.co.za))

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## **“HELPING CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES & PRODUCT COMPANIES DISCOVER NEW REVENUE STREAMS AND TO BETTER LEVERAGE EXISTING ONES”**

“Quarter Life Crisis A Concourse Group study shows young workers 18 to 34 are ‘extremely dissatisfied’ with their jobs than any other age group, with 50% feeling burned out and 25% seeing an entirely new career.”

“Teen Childbearing has declined since the early 90s, but still cost U.S. taxpayers \$9.1 billion in ’04. Children of teen moms have higher health care, foster care, and incarceration costs than those of older parents, claims a National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy reports. Teen births declined from 62 per 1,000 in ’91 to 41 in ’04, primarily due to abstinence and contraception. The abortion rate dropped from 37 per 1,000 teen girls in ’91 to 22 in ’02, the most recent data available. Still, the U.S. teen birth rate is 4 to 5 times the rate in much of Europe and more than twice that of Canada. Compared with

women who have a first child at 20 or 21, teen girls are more than twice as likely to have a child placed in foster care, to be reported for child abuse or neglect, and to have a son sent to prison. Their kids are far more likely to drop out of high school and their daughters to become teen mothers themselves. (USA Today 10/29/06)”

“Mass Audience Media Today, technology rather than music drives the generation gap. Tech savvy 16-34’s are 25% more likely than 35-49’s to use instant messenger, with over 75% of ages 16-34 currently using at least one service. 40% of 16-34’s belong to a social network site – twice the rate of 35-49’s. Nearly 40% of 16-34’s have met someone face to face after meeting on the Internet. 75% of 16-34 heavy Internet users currently use instant messenger. There are twice as many 16-34’s visiting social networking sites as 35-49’s. 71% of 16-34 year olds have blogged and 33% have participated in peer-to-peer file sharing vs. 12% of 35-49’s. We can no longer simply broadcast messages to a mass audience and hope standard reach and frequency metrics will bring success. (Center for Media Research 10/3/06).”

“Religious Book Sales Down While book sales were up in August for most categories, religious books declined 19.5% for the month (\$27.1 million) and 18% for the year, reports the Association of American Publishers. Net sales overall were up 3.3% for the month; however, year-to-date sales were off 2.6%. (Christian e-tailing 10/23/06)”

“• Surveys indicate that the average age of exposure to pornography is now 9 years old.”

“• During 10/06, the month the U.S. population topped 300 million, the Internet topped 100 million websites.”

(Gary D. Foster, “Helping Christian ministries & product companies discover new revenue streams and to better leverage existing ones.” Gary D. Foster Consulting, (2006):2-4)

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### **“YOUNG ‘HAPPY WITH A LIFE WITHOUT GOD’”**

“The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu said the report must be seen as a wake-up call.”

““This book [Making Sense of Generation Y] stresses the need for investment in relationships with young people and for ‘patient sowing’ of the Gospel story into our culture. There are no ‘instant solutions’, but there are things we, empowered by the Holy Spirit, can – and must – do,’ the Archbishop says in the book’s foreword.”

“Making Sense of Generation Y is based on interviews with 120 young people aged 15 to 25 who have little or no connection with the Christian faith.”

“The number of young people who go to church has halved since 1979, and now less than seven per cent of 15- to 19-year-olds and five per cent of those between 20 and 29 attend church.”

(Maggie Stratton, “Young ‘Happy With a Life Without God’,” Yorkshire Post Today, May 9, 2006, online article)