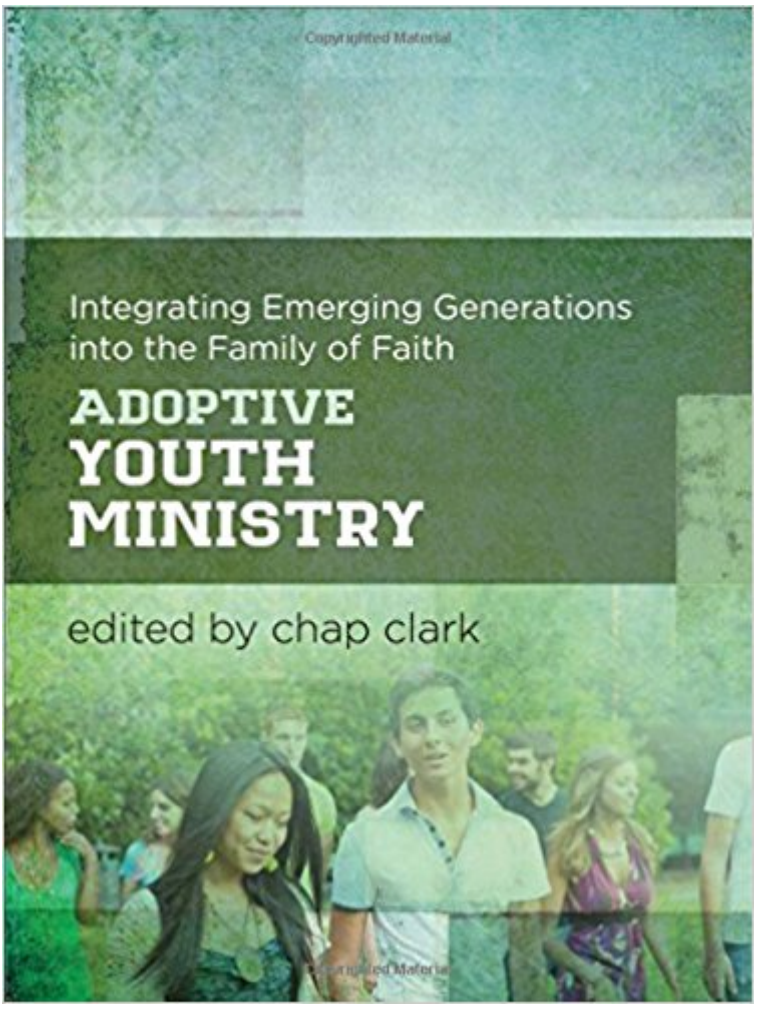
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Adoptive Youth Ministry: Integrating Emerging Generations Into The Family Of Faith (Youth, Family, And Culture)



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Synopsis

Kids desperately need healthy, committed adults who can help them thrive in their faith and become active participants in the life of the church. This requires the efforts of the whole faith community. Chap Clark, one of the leading voices in youth ministry today, brings together twenty-four experts from a variety of denominations and traditions to offer a comprehensive introduction to adoptive youth ministry, a theologically driven, academically grounded, and practical youth ministry model. The book shows readers how to integrate emerging generations into the family of faith, helping young adults become active participants in God’s redemptive community.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Chap Clark, one of the leading voices in youth ministry today, brings together twenty-four experts from a variety of denominations and traditions to offer a comprehensive introduction to adoptive youth ministry, a theologically driven, academically grounded, and practical youth ministry model."Chap Clark has brought together many of youth ministry’s finest thinkers to create this incredible book. Each perspective reflects a unique and important grasp on the ever-changing world of youth ministry. Chap is this generation’s youth ministry professor, and his insight is deeply appreciated and respected. I will tell everyone I know in youth ministry to read this book."--Jim Burns, president, HomeWord; author of Confident Parenting and Creating an Intimate Marriage"For those of us committed to ministry with young people, the task is more complicated than ever before.

We need to move into the lives of young people in ways that are more biblically shaped, more sociologically aware, and more practically effective.Ã Â Chap Clark has done us a great favor by providing insights from a wide range of thoughtful and mature leaders who have given decades to youth ministry.Ã Â Ponder the insights and let them shape your life as you offer yourself to young people in Jesus’s name."--Ken Knipp, vice president of training, Young Life"It is not very often a new framework for understanding youth ministry comes along. Chap Clark has given us a new way to understand, evaluate, and facilitate youth ministry. Adoptive Youth Ministry is a wonderfully original contribution to the academy and student ministry praxis. Those of us in youth ministry and those of us teaching youth ministry will long be grateful for this new paradigm."--Len Kageler, professor of youth and family studies, Nyack College"Chap Clark and his colleagues changeÃ Â the adoption paradigm by using the term adoptive, shifting from top down to peer to peer, from organizational to organic, and from perceived efficiency to heartfelt authenticity. Adoptive Youth Ministry will change the character and culture of your student ministry."--Ron Hunter, director and cofounder, D6 Conference; author of The DNA of D6: Building Blocks of Generational Discipleship"Chap Clark has brought together today’s brightest youth ministry minds to compile the definitive guide for the theory and practice of reaching teenagers."--Jim Candy, youth ministry veteran, author, and church planter

Chap Clark (PhD, University of Denver)Ã Â is professor and chair of the Youth, Family, and Culture Department at Fuller Theological Seminary, where he is also a coordinator of Fuller Studio. He is on the teaching team at Harbor Christian Center Church in Gig Harbor, Washington, is president of ParenTeen, and works closely with Young Life. Clark has authored or coauthored numerous books, including Hurt 2.0 and Sticky Faith.Ã Â Follow him on Twitter: @chapclark.

This is a great text to delve into the culture of youth, youth ministry and youth culture to learn new means to address youth, youth leaders, and parents of youth.

Every Youth Pastor should read this book. Kids today need to sense the family that is church.

Great research. Very relevant and helpful to youth ministry today.

What is adoption? What does "Adoptive Youth Ministry" mean? How is it different from conventional youth ministries? According to the editor of this book, to be adopted means becoming a full member of a nonbiological family. When applied to youth ministry, it means one, more, or even all of of the

following "four foundational premises."1) Recognizing that in every Church and organization, there are insiders as well as outsiders.2) Reminding that we are adopted into God’s family as a child with other children.3) We are vulnerable but Jesus has his eyes on us.4) That we as well as outsiders are called to the gathering.Chap Clark, editor of this book of articles compiled from 20 different contributors says: "Adoptive ministry is vital because we are witnessing the fact that in Christ God has invited those who ’believed in his name’ to ’become children of God’ (John 1:12). This is the message of the good news. Therefore our messageÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •in our lifestyle, service, and wordÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •is adoption."Why is there a need to change from traditional ways of doing youth ministry? Clark gives three reasons. First, we are losing those who had gone through such youth ministries and if things do not change, it will get worse. Second, many young ones in contemporary culture have written off ’traditional faith.’ They are changing but the ministries are not adapting as well. Third, the world we live in are changing, and are often painful, confusing, and abandoning. There is a need to win back trust. There is a need to inculcate hope. A key point from the research in the book "Sticky Faith" is that young people need to feel they are "known, valued, actively engaged, and proactively loved within a community." Rather than providing practical steps, this book focuses on strategy and theology to help us plan and implement adoptive youth ministry. The articles are arranged in four parts.Part One is about the Context of Adoptive Youth Ministry (AYM). It needs to move from institution to organism. Flexible ideas are more important than rigid institutionalization. Some basic things do not change but the ways of delivery do change frequently. Chap Clark highlights five basic levels to think about. Outreach Level: to people feeling left out Welcoming Level: to those who are willing to participate in some Engaging Level: to those who have expressed interest Diverse Relationships Level: connecting people to a broader relation of faith Adoption Level: MentorshipOne needs to rethink about everything we do (programs, events, structures, practices, etc) in order to help connect people with one another as well as with God. Steve Bonner gives insights on understanding the adolescent journey, and how the journey itself is difficult simply because it is a moving target. Churches can play their part in being places of rest and refuge rather than adult-driven programs for the young. Marv Penner touches on a specialized topic of welcoming wounded and broken adolescents into the family of God. We are to beware of ’systemic abandonment.’ Bradley Howell gives his inputs regarding the technological world, that we should learn to keep our focus on people rather than technology. Craig Detweiler sees ’screen time’ as a window to the soul of teens.Part Two is about the CALL where seven articles reflect on theology and ways to think about youth ministry. Almeda Wright argues for a youth ministry that is reflective and to make space for disruptive happenings under the love of God. Michael McEntyre

looks at the relationship between practical theology and youth ministry and how they lead toward closely knitted communities of faith. Later articles show us some possible trajectories on how to see youth ministry in the long run. David Jia and Jinna Sil look at the rising numbers of Asian Americans and their assimilation into American culture. From that experience, they help us understand some perspectives of second-generation Asian Americans, with insights on globalization and immigration concerns.Part Three touches on the PRACTICE of ministry that covers the creating of welcoming spaces, spiritual formation, apologetics, unique middle school perspectives, multiethnic considerations, and Latin concerns. Part Four suggests some SKILLS to adopt if we were to be effective in AYM. Skills like leadership and the appropriate use of power; of communications; of teaching styles; of Church strategies and structures; and so on.So What?There are lots of good stuff packed into one book. At one look, it could be very intellectual. For some, it could very well fall into the TLDR category where people do not bother to read beyond the first few paragraphs because of lengthiness. I can understand the perspective of the authors. It is very difficult to squeeze in so much knowledge, experience, and know-how into just a few pages. With the many authors and contributors, something has got to give. It is a tricky balance between ease of reading and the optimal information given. I like to use the metaphor of computer programming. A program that is written in a compact manner is usually more efficient compared to a program written for ease of reading and structure. The former minimizes programming steps for maximum computer efficiency. The latter maximizes readability at the expense of computer power. Due to the brevity of each article, each contributor has to pack a lot of stuff into a limited number of pages. That is why some needed explanations had to be left out. The assumption is that readers will then need to do his/her own homework.Perhaps, that is the way to go. Get the key ideas from the articles that interest us, and we do our own contextualization and learning. It would be foolhardy to try and replicate exactly what the authors were saying. There is no one way to do youth ministry. Even within the same organization, people and generations change often. What works yesterday may not work today. Use this book as a reference book. Use any article as a launchpad to consider our youth ministries. Not all will be applicable, but it is still helpful to know what is happening elsewhere. It keeps us grounded not only in our own churches, but aware of what’s happening elsewhere. Good resource to have.Useful Website Resource: [...]Rating: 4.5 stars of 5.conradeThis book is provided to me courtesy of Baker Academic and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. All opinions offered above are mine unless otherwise stated or implied.

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