**Initial Survey Hosted on www.ymhistorysbc.org[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**SBC Youth Ministry History**

The goal of this survey is to recognize significant moments, influential resources, and the people that shaped youth ministry in the Southern Baptist Convention. With such knowledge, I hope to write a dissertation on the history of youth ministry in the SBC - and, if God allows, write the definitive book on the same history after I graduate. Please share this webpage with anyone that can help contribute to this collection of knowledge.

You can skip questions and even come back later to add to answers (Note this creates a new form each time, so type in your name so I can add new answers to old ones.)

**1.** **Name:**

Respondents include Jane Wilson, Jody Dean, Lynn Pryor, Mike Landrum, Jason Peck, Bruce Merrick, Richard Barnes, David Odom, Ken Parker, Wesley Black, Ron Moore, Sue McAlister, Myrte Veach, Paul Kelly, Allen Jackson, Dean Finley, Bruce Edwards, Randy Johnson, Grant Byrd, George Siler, Justin Buchanan

**2.** **Phone Contact:**

**3.** **E-Mail:**

**4.** **Briefly describe your connection to youth ministry in the SBC? (A consultant, youth minister/director, seminary prof, national SBC rep, etc...)**

**5.** **Off the top of your head, what are/were the most formative or valuable SBC affiliated youth ministry books (or similar resources) in your library? The age of the resource doesn’t matter. You can add non-SBC affiliated books if they were influential to the youth ministry in the SBC. (Looking for top ten)**

Of the over sixty resources shared, the top twenty are listed below, ordered by the number of recommendations received:

Fields, Doug*. Purpose-Driven Youth Ministry: 9 Essential Foundations for Healthy Growth*. Zondervan, 1998.

Ross, Richard. *Student Ministry and the Supremacy of Christ*. CrossBooks, 2009.

Black, Wesley*. An Introduction to Youth Ministry.* Nashville: Broadman Press, 1991.

Fields, Doug. *Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry: A Personal and Practical Guide to Starting Right*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

Hall, R. Clyde*. Handbook for Youth Discipleship*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1988.

Reid, Alvin L. *Raising the Bar: Ministry to Youth in the New Millennium*. Kregel Publications, 2004.

Jackson, Allen, and Randy Johnson*. Connected, Committed, & a Little Bit Crazy*. Convention Press, 1996.

Ross, Richard. *Youth Ministry That Lasts a Lifetime.* Seminary Hill Press, 2017.

Sullivan, Ann. *How to Guide Youth*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1982.

Burton, Janet. *Guiding Youth*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1969.

The following tied for the number of recommendations received:

DeVries, Mark. *Sustainable Youth Ministry: Why Most Youth Ministry Doesn’t Last and What Your Church Can Do about It.* IVP Books, 2008.

Finley, Dean Nolan*. Handbook for Youth Evangelism*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1988.

Geiger, Eric, and Jeff Borton*. Simple Student Ministry: A Clear Process for Strategic Youth Discipleship*. Nashville: B & H Publishing Group, 2009.

Hall, Clyde, and Joe Ford. *DiscipleYouth.* Nashville: Convention Press, 1982.

Mueller, Walt. *Understanding Today’s Youth Culture*. Tyndale, 1994.

Olson, Ginny, Mike Work, and Diane Elliot. *Youth Ministry Management Tools: Everything You Need to Successfully Manage and Administrate Your Youth Ministry*. Youth Specialties, 2001.

Ross, Richard*. 31 Truths to Shape Your Youth Ministry*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1984.

Stanley, Andy, and Stuart Hall. *The Seven Checkpoints: Seven Principles Every Teenager Needs to Know: For Youth Leaders.* Howard Pub., 2001.

Strommen, Merton P. *Five Cries of Youth. 1st* ed. Harper & Row paperback ed. Harper & Row, 1979.

The Idea Books

**6.** **As you look back, what were the pivotal SBC youth events/movements that shaped youth ministry in the SBC?**

Almost forty different responses were given. The following twelve are listed in order of the number of responses:

True Love Waits, Centrifuge camps, Disciple Now Weekends, See You at the Pole, Youth Link 2000, State Youth Evangelism Conferences, activities of the national Baptist assemblies at Glorietta and Ridgecrest (e.g., Youth Celebration), training events (including state get-togethers, national training events, conclaves, Youth Ministry Lab, and Disciple Youth), State-led Super Summer camps, mission emphasis (IMB/NAMB, World Changers home and international), youth choir movement in the 1960s and 1970s, formation of the Church Recreation Department & Rec Lab

**7. As you look back, what were the pivotal non-SBC youth events that shaped youth ministry in the SBC?**

Below, the top eight of the nearly forty different responses are shared.

Youth Specialties, Contemporary Christian Music, The Jesus Movement - Expo 1972, Passion Conference and Ministries, non-SBC entities producing excellent Curriculum (Group, Youth Specialties, etc.), Dawson McAlister Conferences, Reach Out Strategy / Youth Solutions – Barry St. Clair Leadership Conferences, Para-church ministries - Young Life, FCA, Youth for Christ.

**8. In your opinion, in the last 70 years, who have been the biggest influencers on youth ministry in the SBC? (Please focus on Southern Baptists but list others if they were influential to youth ministry in the SBC. I also recognize this list could be thousands long, but please think of your top ten.)**

Respondents provided over ninety names. Below, the top sixteen are listed in order of recommendations received:

Richard Ross, Doug Fields, Allen Jackson, Wesley Black, Myrte Veach, Phil Briggs, Bob Taylor, Barry St. Clair, Chuck Gartman, Clyde Hall, Don Mattingly, Jimmy Hester, Dean Finley, Jay Strack, Jane Wilson, Bob Oldenberg

**9. Please describe moments where you felt youth ministry in the SBC was operating at maximum efficiency?**

A rise began in the 1970s and peaked in the 1990s. No one considers the last 20 years, 2000-2020, better than the period between 1970 – 2000. Some felt the 1970s and 1980s provided watermark moments because of the level of denominational loyalty in the local church and the synergy of denominational entities. However, the 1990s stands out as an exceptional decade for youth ministry. Responses against the 1990s include the rivalry of non-SBC resources and the BSSB/Lifeway resources (especially camps and curriculum).

**10. What is youth ministry in the SBC doing better than ever before?**

Ministering to parents and families, not just students, worship and corporate singing, a renewed emphasis on evangelism and discipleship - Vision 2025 Challenge – Floyd, better theology / more theologically grounded youth ministers, greater global awareness, and courage to do missions in the U.S. and overseas, use of technology.

**11. What is youth ministry in the SBC NOT doing better than ever before?**

The overwhelming response was evangelism in both training and emphasis. The next response centered around the concept of perseverance: how do we teach youth to handle failure, the cancel culture, and anti-Christian sentiment. Leadership and calling were other concepts that floated to the top – how do we encourage youth to be godly leaders in non-ministry vocations. Lastly, identifying with a denominational community provided concern for some respondents.

**12. What practice of youth ministry from the past would you like to see renewed?**

The three top responses include evangelism training, supporting local youth ministry leaders with training and networking, and renewal of weekend youth conferences.

**13. Who might have documents that record key moments in the development of SBC youth ministry?**

Almost thirty responses were given. Most responses were affiliated with seminaries.

1. The survey was sent to experienced youth ministry professionals, most with more than twenty-five years of youth ministry of experience. The intent was to help the researcher recognize supporters and influential moments in SBC youth ministry history. Over twenty people participated in the survey. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)