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# UPDATE

## Valuegenesis Information You Can Use

This issue of **UPDATE** includes some little-known facts about the youth of the Seventh-day Adventist church, their concerns about their church, and helps us understand more about their attitudes towards God. In this **UPDATE** we want to do the following:

1. See what nurtures a mature Christian faith.
2. Look at programming issues for grades seven and eight.
3. Understand the first choices for issues to explore during high school.

There are a number of concepts that the *Valuegenesis* research clarifies. Remember, doing some things better always makes a difference. Let's look and see what matters and what should form the content your discussions.

### In this UPDATE...

- Don't forget to order your own copy of the *Valuegenesis*<sup>2</sup> book—*Ten Years Later: A Study of Two Generations*

- New *Valuegenesis*<sup>2</sup> insights
- Building a mature faith
- Learning what is really important to early teens and high school students

## What Builds a Mature Faith?

Research on ministry to the young has identified a number of overall goals that target the nurture of the spiritual side of the lives of youth. These have been identified as follows:

1. One overall goal of youth ministry is that of helping the young understand biblical concepts of right and wrong
2. Another is that of helping them make a commitment to Jesus Christ
3. Finally, research shares that seeing God at work in the lives of young people as they change is important as well.<sup>1</sup>

Of the above three, the third item in the cluster focuses on the ultimate outcome for a youth ministry—**seeing God change the lives of young people**. It represents the youth minister's greatest thrill. Almost half (45%) identified this as their most important aspect of God's activity in the lives of their youth.

*Valuegenesis* research provides us additional insight as to the components of a rich and growing faith, one that changes the lives of the youth in the

church and school, a faith that is both rich in devotion to God and in compassion to others. We'd all like to be members of a Christian family that has this dual focus in mind. We call this a mature faith.

Running statistical correlations helps us understand just what, and to what degree, various activities and relationships contribute to this kind of faith. It is interesting to see the types of things that seem to make a difference. Below is a list with the correlation scores that are important. (*Remember, scores of +.30 and better hold the most significant relationships*).

### The top ten correlations that help build a mature faith life

1. Having an intrinsic (devotional) faith life (.62).
2. Sharing your faith (.53).
3. Involvement in service (.52).
4. Loyalty to your church (.46).
5. Quality of religious education in church and school (.41).
6. Supporting an Adventist lifestyle (.40).
7. Showing compassion for others (.39).
8. Definitely believing Adventist doctrines (.37).
9. Participating in a thinking climate in church and school (.35).
10. A warm, supportive family climate (.30).

Get Your Copy of: *Ten Years Later: A Study of Two Generations*

## Programming for Youth

We wondered what insights we could get about programming in the church and school for the youth of the church. We asked the students between grades 6 and 12 about their interest in a number of religious issues and concepts that could form the basis of ministry to them. Their responses are helpful in planning and building ministry topics for exploration. Note the similarity between the answers of the students from grades 7 and 8 as compared to those in high school in grades 9 through 12. These scores share very small variables. *(The table below reflects the percentage of first choices of those that "tend to" and "definitely" agree).* The top ten answers are basically the same for both grades groups.

	Grades 7 & 8	Grades 9 to 12
1. Last Day Events	29%	24%
2. Relationships	16%	17%
3. God's Grace	13%	13%
4. Living for Christ in a modern world	12%	11%
5. Following Christ every day	12%	11%
6. Overcoming personal problems	11%	10%
7. Understanding God's will	11%	10%
8. Forgiveness	10%	8%
9. Application of Bible to my life	9%	7%
10. How to study the Bible	7%	6%

## New Valuegenesis<sup>2</sup> Book Available Now



Yes, I'd like to place my order for *Valuegenesis—Ten Years Later: A Study of Two Generations* by V. Bailey Gillespie and Michael J. Donahue with Ed Boyatt and Barry Gane. **Order your copy today for \$19.95 + \$2.50 S & H.** E-mail your order by clicking this [hyperlink](#)

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### Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup>Merton Strommen, Karen E. Jones, Dave Rahn, *Youth Ministry That Transforms* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2001), 156.

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doesn't happen by  
accident.

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