

Contemplative Youth Ministry	
Anxiety seeks control (How do I make kids into Christians?)	Love seeks contemplation (How can I be present to kids and God?)
Anxiety seeks professionals (Who is the expert that can solve the youth problem?)	Love seeks processes (What can we do together to uncover Jesus' way of life?)
Anxiety wants products (What book, video, curriculum will teach kids faith?)	Love desires presence (Who will bear the life of God among teenagers?)

Contemplative Youth Ministry	
Anxiety lifts up gurus (Who has the charisma to draw kids?)	Love relies on guides (Who has the gifts for living alongside kids?)
Anxiety rests in results (How many kids have committed to the faith?)	Love rests in relationships (Who are the kids we've befriended?)
Anxiety seeks conformity (Are the young people meeting our expectations?)	Love brings creativity (What's the fresh way in which God is challenging us through our youth?)

Contemplative Youth Ministry	
Anxiety wants activity (What will keep the kids busy)	Love brings awareness (What are the real needs of the youth?)
Anxiety seeks answers (Here's what we think. Here's who God is.)	Love seeks questions (What do you think? Or as Jesus said, 'Who do you say that I am?')

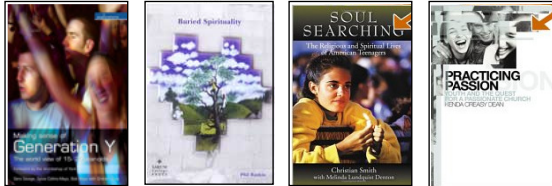


Interesting stuff

- Generation of activists
- Love to talk about life, faith, death and meaning
- Are looking for the authentic (Moral therapeutic deists)
- Intuitive theologians



Recent research and Writing



I'd love churches to :

- Engage with young people where they are
- Become more confident in their faith and being intentionally christian
- Be willing to listen; to explore life and faith
- Have a deeper commitment and recognition of those with a ministry among young people
- Be a blessing to young people and to be a counter cultural voice celebrating adolescence
- Learn from young people
- Move from entertainment and providing religious information to modelling, learning etc
- Discover the blessing and help the whole faith community can be to young people

Methodologies

- Community Audit
- Joining other youth activities
- Partnership
- Community festivals
- Local action
- Environmental projects
- Organisations such as BB



LIVING FAITH

a Diocesan strategy



Youthblog Christian Youth Work & Ministry

Blue Like Jazz

By Ian on September 23, 2010 9:25 AM | 4 Comments

I've been pretty lax at writing up books I've read ... and that have an influence on, or resonance with, Youth Ministry, so (in response to advice that frequently appeared on my school reports) I will try harder.

Blue Like Jazz by Donald Miller is a book that was good for my post modern soul. A Journey of faith that is alive with story, encounter and reality. This semi-autobiographical series of essays manages to critique and yet still celebrate something of Christianity in the form it is often encountered, but at the same time explore and find a richer, deeper and messier Christian spirituality that I completely relate to.

If you want to know why people in their 20's and 30's are so often missing from church, this is a Coupanodisque guide to the failings and assumptions of the previous culture, theology and the landscape, possibilities and language of the new.

a quote:



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Other places where you'll find me



Youthblog.org