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Welcome to the Ezine of EFCA Student Ministries! We designed the 'Zine to encourage, resource, and connect student ministry workers. If you have comments, suggestions, or critiques, please forward them to Sharon at student@efca.org.

A BOOK TO READ

(AVAILABLE AT NEXTSTEP RESOURCES)

Emerging Churches: Creating Christian Communities in Postmodern Cultures

by Ryan Bolger and Eddie Gibbs

Emerging Churches is filled with the latest research on what's happening on both sides of the Atlantic, it also features fascinating interview testimonies from 49 emerging church leaders on the cutting edge of ministry. It is a multi-national, Spirit-inspired 'testimony' to the insights and challenges present in these groups and churches. The reader will find fodder for discussions, examples worth trying, and inspiration to continue.

WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT

For provocative articles on a wide range of topics, it is still hard to beat www.theooze.com.

Probably the fastest growing community on line is not so much a community but kind of a look up service at www.facebook.com. There is one area for high school students and one for college. Facebook seems to be the way to find and to stay in contact with those people students have left behind.

To make your seniors' transition easier into college or wherever they go, check out www.linczone.com. Register your student and up to 11 pre-screened ministries from their new location will contact them.

AN ARTICLE TO FILE

Emergent Hoopla!

Isn't every generation an emergent generation? What is so special about this generation that they get that cool name? Why should the church be concerned with the emergent church?

History is replete with examples of how at the pivot of major cultural change a new leader captures the opportunity by creating a whole new paradigm. The reformers, the Wesleys, Hybels and others have reacted to the changes around them by creating new churches to reach their particular generation. In this moment of time we have such a phenomenon occurring in the movement called the emergent church. This is not just a recasting of the old boomer forms or simply a re-tweaking of old methods but a new thought process that is producing new practices. There is no cookie cutter that adequately describes the emergent church but Dr. Gary McIntosh has listed in his *Growth Points* newsletter several distinguishing characteristics that probably will not be new to you but may provide a good foundation for future discussions with others and clarify your thinking.

1. They see Jesus and the Sermon on the Mount as central to faith, so social and ethical concerns are just as important to them as spiritual concerns.
2. They see God's footprint everywhere, so there is no secular realm as such, but many, perhaps most things, in the secular realm are considered spiritual.
3. They see community as more important than church, so community happens first leading to church rather than church happening first leading to community.
4. They see dialogue as more important than debate, so they focus on building relationships first by stressing similarities and take up differences after the relationship has been established.
5. They see hospitality as central to discipleship so welcoming others takes place in the secular realm as well as the church.
6. They see worship as an authentic encounter with the living God so prefab worship services are replaced with individual creative expressions.
7. They see shared leadership as the ideal model, so gifted people are free to lead without constraint in a highly collaborative atmosphere.

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8. They see culture as organic, i.e., fluid, shifting, and dynamic so spirituality, community, and faith must be elastic, i.e., An uncharted journey with unexpected detours but always progressing.
9. They see spiritual life as holistic so spiritual growth and expression happens not just in traditional acts of devotion but in all realms and activities of life.
10. They see church as missional, so they see themselves on a mission from God to transform their world.

In the next *EZine* I will give you McIntosh's list of ideas for creating an emergent church.

RESOURCES TO CRITIQUE

(AVAILABLE AT NEXTSTEP RESOURCES)

Celebrate Recovery Updated Curriculum Kit: A Program for Implementing a CHRIST-CENTERED Recovery Ministry in Your Church - by Rick Warren & John Baker

This new updated version is more user-friendly and can be easily implemented on the student level. Can be used for Alcoholism - Divorce - Sexual Abuse - Co-dependency - Domestic Violence - Drug Addiction - Sexual Addiction - Food Addiction - Gambling Addiction and many more!

Experiencing God Together - by Doug Fields

This-36 session DVD based small group curriculum kit compiles the best from several veterans that can be used en mass or ala carte.



CHALLENGE '06

Purdue University will host 6000 EFCA 7-12 graders July 2-7 for our bi-annual growth event. The theme is **beyond - be who Jesus said to be, do what Jesus said to do, say what Jesus said to say, and go where Jesus said to go.** The cost is \$350 which includes five nights lodging, fourteen meals, and all programming. Go to www.efca.org/student/challenge/index.html for more details. You can email student@efca.org to request additional promotional materials. **The early bird registration deadline is March 15th!**

A Survey to Take

In order to better serve the ministries of the EFCA, Student Ministries has developed an online survey. It only takes a few minutes but makes a large impact in the efforts of EFCA Student Ministries. Please help us to better serve you by completing the survey at www.efca.org/student/media/survey.pdf

OPPORTUNITIES IN WHICH TO PARTICIPATE**Sharing Opportunity**

One of the questions I get asked is "What do people use for curriculum?" There are many that do not use curriculum, but some are very good at using it to teach students. A page has been created to serve as a forum to facilitate sharing war stories concerning what has worked and what has not. Go to www.efca.org/student/media/usedcurriculum.pdf - take a look and then send yours to jpiehl@efca.org!

Training Opportunities

Sonlife is offering their new, updated Strategy seminar now called *Enroute*. This is so new that a new name was appropriate. *Enroute* provides not only a great framework for ministry but encouragement for culture exegesis and personal health as well. This training will become the standard for the next 20 years just as *Strategy* was for the last. Check out their website at www.sonlife.com for more details.

Youth Specialties Core training events are scheduled for various places across the country. The Intensives are packed with practical tools and resources to facilitate healthy, balanced ministries. As an EFCA member, you can receive the affiliation rate of \$35 per person on the training. Just enter the special code NDEFY1 into your registration account when you register.

Group Publishing has put together a one day workshop titled "*Bring Jesus Along for the Ride...*" that may be worth checking out. Go to www.group.com/gml for more details.

Rebound 2006 The Sheraton on South Padre Beach, Texas, will be the site of *Rebound*, November 4-7, 2006. Larry Lindquist from Denver Seminary will share from his many years in ministry, and the educating of those going into student ministry, what allows people to stay healthy in ministry over the long haul. Join us in a new place for a refreshing time with peers.