

*Building Sustainable Ministries . . . One Church at a Time*

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## **Youth Ministry Studies (2000-2003)**

### Grading Grown Ups, 2000

#### **Search Institute**

#### **The Study:**

A national telephone survey of youth and adults

#### **The Results:**

“When it comes to providing children and youth with guidance and support, adults score pretty low on the curve.”

There is clear evidence that young people benefit from multiple, sustained relationships with adults outside their immediate family. For example, research has found that the more adults a young person reports that he or she can turn to, the better off that young person is. Yet just 22 percent of the youth surveyed reported having strong relationships with five or more adults other than their parents.

“This latest national study shows that although adults say these positive connections with children and youth are important, we aren’t actually making them happen with any regularity or consistency.”

### Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions, 2003

#### **Barna Research**

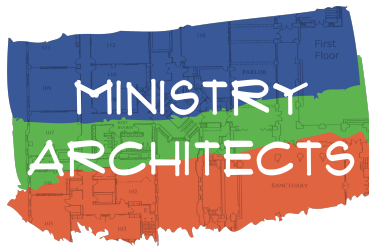
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#### **MINISTRY ARCHITECTS EXISTS TO:**

**DESIGN** sustainable, deep-impact ministries, one church at a time

**BUILD** the competence, joy, and longevity of ministry professionals

**CONSTRUCT** bridges to the best ministry resources available today



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<http://www.barna.org/barna-update/article/5-barna-update/120-parents-accept-responsibility-for-their-childrens-spiritual-development-but-struggle-with-effectiveness?q=children+2003>

### **The Study:**

A quantitative phone survey to assess parental attitudes toward their children's spirituality.

### **The Results:**

Citing research showing that a large proportion of church-going people dropout of church between the ages of 18 and 24, Barna states the importance of families, not churches, taking the lead in the spiritual development of children.

"The church encouraged parents to prioritize the spiritual development of their children and worked hard to equip them for that challenge. Parents, for their part, raised their children in the context of a faith-based community that provided security, belonging, spiritual and moral education, and accountability.

Neither the parents nor the church could have done it alone."

The survey found that only one out of every five parents of children under 13 (19%) has ever been personally contacted or spoken to by a church leader to discuss the parents' involvement in the spiritual life and development of their youngsters.

"To become mature Christians we usually found a symbiotic partnership between their parents and their church."

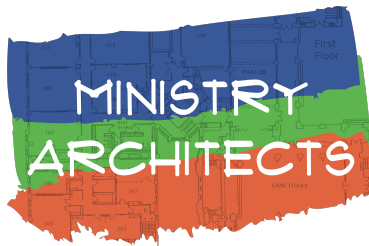
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## Hardwired to Connect: The New Scientific Case for Authoritative Communities, 2003.

**Dartmouth Medical School, The Institute for American Values and the  
YMCA**

<http://www.americanvalues.org/ExSumm-print.pdf>

### **The Study:**

**Focus:** What is the state of American youth and what do they need in order to be healthy?

### **The Results:**

American youth are in a deteriorating state of mental and behavioral health. The adult/cultural reactions to this state are inadequate and contributing to the problem.

“What’s causing this crisis in American childhood is a lack of connectedness...close connectedness to other people, and deep connections to moral and spiritual meaning.”

“We believe that building and strengthening authoritative communities is...our best strategy...authoritative communities are groups that live out the types of connectedness that our children increasingly lack.”

Ministry Architects would like to thank Dr. Nancy S. Going at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. She gathered valuable data from almost 30 years of youth ministry statistical studies. Thank you Dr. Going for making this available to youth workers.

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