

## **“Welcome to McWorld, May I Take Your Order?” Engaging the Culture of Adolescents and Emerging Adults**

Ever feel like young people today are from another world? These are exponential times! We’re seeing an exploding global youth population... the extension of adolescence... and an emerging global youth culture. What does this mean for your family? What does this mean for the church? What does this mean for world missions? The global church must take seriously the call to reach the nations and the next generation. Gain insight into the world of young people in order to engage them with the gospel.

***Eric Larsen** serves as the Director of Global Youth & Family Ministry and Institute for Mission to the World. He has worked with youth and their families in the local church for 20 years. An ordained pastor, he holds degrees from Covenant College, Covenant Theological Seminary and Fuller Theological Seminary where he earned a doctorate in youth, family and culture. He serves as adjunct professor of global youth and family ministry for Covenant Theological Seminary and Reformed Theological Seminary. He has lived in Kenya, Australia, and the United States, and has served in well over 25 countries throughout Eastern and Western Europe, Africa, Latin America, and Asia-Pacific regions. His work involves training cross-cultural youth ministers and equipping national leaders and local churches to reach the youth in their context. He and his wife Rebecca have four children.*

### INTRODUCTION: NAVIGATING THE LANDSCAPE OF ADOLESCENCE

1. “We’re Not in Kansas Anymore!”
  - a. From Families to Farms
  - b. From the Farm to the City
  - c. From the City to the Web
  - d. Waking Up in Oz
  - e. Follow the Yellow Brick Road

## 2. Shift Happens

- a. What is Culture?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. Welcome to McWorld

## 3. The Journey Within

- a. Body & Brain
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. The Quest
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- c. Three Questions
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- d. Strength for the Quest
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- e. Three Needs
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- f. Three Gifts

#### 4. Trailblazing: 5 Shifts

a. Shift 1

b. Shift 2

c. Shift 3

d. Shift 4

e. Shift 5

***Recommended Reading:***

1. *Hurt: Inside the World of Today’s Teenagers* by Chap Clark
2. *Engaging the Soul of Youth Culture* by Walt Mueller
3. *Cultural Intelligence: Improving Your CQ to Engage A Multicultural World* by David Livermore
4. *The Space Between: A Parents Guide to Teenage Development* by Walt Mueller
5. *Why do they Act that Way? A survival guide to the adolescent brain for you and your teen* by David Walsh
6. *Branded: The buying and selling of teenagers* by Alissa Quart
7. *The Hip Hop Generation: Young blacks and the crisis in African-American culture* by Bakari Kitwana
8. *Third Culture Kids: The experience of growing up among worlds* by Dave Pollock & Ruth VanReken
9. *Youth, Religion and Globalization* by Kenda Creasy Dean
10. *Emerging Adulthood: The Winding Road from the Late Teens to the Early Twenties* by Jeffrey Jensen Arnett
11. *Souls in Transition: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of Emerging Adults* by Christian Smith