“No book in recent memory has as much potential to transform the practice of youth ministry as Christian Smith and Melinda Lundquist Denton’s account of the findings of their National Study of Youth and Religion. …

“The results overturn nearly every piece of conventional wisdom about teens and faith. … It should rock the world of every church in the country: In spite of their generally positive attitude toward religion, almost no teenagers, from any religious background, can articulate the most basic beliefs of their faith.”

ANDY CROUCH
"COMPLIANT BUT CONFUSED: UNPACKING SOME MYTHS ABOUT TODAY’S TEENS," CHRISTIANITY TODAY, APRIL 2005
The Faith of the Next Generation
A Church Leaders Forum With Dr. Christian Smith, Stuart Chapin Distinguished Professor at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Co-author of Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers

Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 2 p.m.–3:45 p.m., Upper Gwinn Commons

Join us for a provocative look at the faith of today’s teenagers, with featured speaker Dr. Christian Smith—whose latest book, Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers, draws on the findings of the largest and most detailed study of teenagers and religion ever undertaken, the National Study of Youth and Religion. The goal of the study, according to Dr. Smith and his co-author, SPU alumna Melinda Lundquist Denton, was to encourage discussions in families, churches, and communities about the spiritual health of the next generation and, ultimately, the future of religion in America.

In a presentation designed particularly for church leaders and youth workers, Dr. Smith brings this important discussion to Seattle Pacific University.

Following Dr. Smith’s presentation will be a time for reflections and responses facilitated by Dr. Jeffrey Keuss, SPU associate professor of Christian ministry.

Tickets for the October 19 Church Leaders Forum are $12 per person, which includes refreshments. The deadline for registration is October 7, 2005.

Register early for a special bonus:
The first 100 people to register for the forum will receive a complimentary hardbound copy of Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers.

Week of February 27, 2006

John M. Perkins is one of the great evangelical voices coming out of the civil rights movement. Though his experiences have sometimes been violent and tragic, he communicates a joyous vision for reconciliation and community development that is shaped by the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. He is the founder of Mendenhall Ministries in Mendenhall, Mississippi; founder of the Harambee Christian Family Center in Pasadena, California; co-founder of the Christian Community Development Association in Chicago, Illinois; and founder of the John M. Perkins Foundation for Reconciliation and Development in Jackson, Mississippi, where he now lives.

SPU’s John Perkins Center for Reconciliation, Leadership Training, and Community Development is modeled on the life, teachings, and community development that Perkins’ experiences have sometimes been violent and tragic, he communicates a joyous vision for reconciliation and community development that is shaped by the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. He is the founder of Mendenhall Ministries in Mendenhall, Mississippi, where he now lives.

Registration

DEadline for registration: October 7, 2005. Seating is limited. (To request disability accommodations, please call 206/281-2100 two weeks prior to the event date.)

Register by phone: Call 206/281-2100. Please have credit card information ready.

Register online: www.spu.edu/churchleaders