

## Upcoming Events

### Y.E.S. 2008

28-30 March, Oxford, Mi.

### Kairos Weekend

28-30 March, Szczyrk, Poland

## EVENT REPORT

### Kairos Summer Conference Christchurch, New Zealand

It's summer down under and "Take Us Higher Up" was the theme for the 100 people who attended the five-day Summer Oasis and Summer Extreme conferences.

The mornings focused on bible study, the afternoons on the sexual revolution, healing, forgiveness, money and being the fifth Gospel.

Summer Oasis is an event for 13-17 year-olds and Summer Extreme is for young adults 18 and up. They were held at the Lamb of God community centre and a local Lutheran church. Each evening the two groups combined at the centre for an evangelistic rally.

The first rally saw the launch of KairosNZ by Tom Caballes, Kairos Director in the South Pacific. The three other rallies focused on responding to the Lord's call to discipleship.

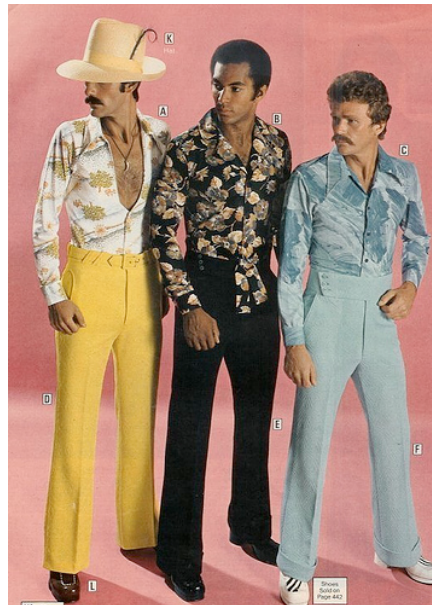
# Youth Culture

newsletter

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## When youth are outta-site!

Modern youth want to both *fit in* and *stand out*, to conform and to be unique. I know. I grew up in the sixties and seventies. I wore those clothes. I was a non-conformist like almost everyone I knew. I was *groovy* and outta-sight. I stood out so I could fit in.



I wanted to fit in to the adult world as well, but I faced two challenges. Modern youth face the same.

Imagine a social environment with ten 16 year-olds, ten 32 year-olds and ten 48 year-olds. What will happen? They will divide into sub-groups, but most likely no youth will mix with the adults and vice versa. Two types of mutually exclusive groups will form: the youth and the adults.

If today's youth want to fit into adult society, why don't they cross the social barrier?

Did you? I didn't.

There are two main reasons. One is mutual boredom. Youth don't want to talk about mortgage rates, baby-clothes, their health and IRAs. Adults aren't interested in the latest on Miley or Akon or the cheat for Halo3. **Word up!**

But the main reason is fear. No one wants to be rejected. Youth put out pre-emptive signals that bar adults from their space: **avoid embarrassment for both of us, don't enter this space.** The adults read the signals and avoid the youth.

Most adult groups don't signal **youth welcome here** So youth naturally assume they are unwelcome, that they won't fit in. "Fine," they think, "I don't want to join, anyway." It only takes a little fear to keep youth and adults in separate circles.

"Is this a *welcoming* Christian community?" Ask your youth. They are probably on the fringe.

### TO THE POINT

If youth are going to join our communities, adults must take the initiative. So, ignore the fear, both yours and theirs. Take the initiative and learn to relate to youth. There **are** mutually interesting topics. Find them and relate on that basis.

If we don't make youth welcome in our community, they will find another where they are.

*The difference between fiction and reality is that fiction has to make sense.*

- Tom Clancy

## It's a Wonderful Life

The following are quotes from web sites on a new cell-phone-based game for teen and sub-teen girls. It may not catch on **but is noteworthy mainly for how it describes high school life.** Developed in Australia it comes to North America this month.

*What does every girl across the globe have in common? She secretly wants to be the Coolest Girl in School. The rpg, [Coolest Girl in School](#), lets her live out her empowerment fantasy.*

*In the game, the objective is to lie, bitch and flirt your way to the top of the high school ladder. Teachers exist to be manipulated. A looming parent signals potential social death. New clothes are procured by stealing from the mall, and bribery is an exit strategy for sticky situations.*

*The developer, [Champagne for the Ladies](#), is billing their new game as the young woman's answer to Grand Theft Auto. Coolest Girl promotes cutting class, spreading rumors and experimenting with sexuality, fashion and drugs as the key strategies to*

### VOCABULARY

**RPG:** role playing game

**Daggers:** giving someone an angry look

**Suck up:** flatter

**Bratz:** Barbie doll's primary competitor and now a movie about being the coolest girl in school.

**Word up:** I agree

**Groovy:** hip, jive, outta sight, horrorshow, sweet, slammin', bad, wicked, hot, and totally cool...



*The Coolest Girl in School is dead! Now it's your turn! Lie, bitch and flirt your way to the top of the high school ladder.*

*power. BUT you must also avoid dying of embarrassment. Even then, good attendance at your funeral will help your score.*

*All interactions occur in the form of a multiple-choice quiz – just like all the cool chick mags! Don't feel like answering a question? Try another action: **suck up, daggers**, bribe or gossip. Check your score in your compact. Remember every action affects your quest for coolness!*

*So, pick your path: cheerleader, artist, outcast, Goth, redneck, egghead, slut, preppie or ice-queen, and never forget: fashion totally matters and communication reigns supreme.*

**NOBODY SAID BEING THE COOLEST GIRL IN SCHOOL WOULD BE EASY...**

## Expecting Anyone?

Early teen pregnancy is expected to rise due to positive media spin.

The announcement in December by Jamie Lynn Spears that she is pregnant at sixteen via her church youth-group boyfriend caused the ratings for her TV show, **Zoey 101**, to go up dramatically. (Nickelodeon, the producer, has a target audience of 5-12 year-olds.)

The movie **Juno** came out in January. It is "a comedy about the bumps of growing up" aka teen pregnancy. It is about to become a video game as well.

**So, Seventeen** magazine polled teen girls and found 48% thought it was possible they would get pregnant in the next five years. Their response is to sponsor a youtube video contest: "[Show us what life dream is keeping you from getting pregnant.](#)"

### The Mixed Message

Unilever's *Campaign for Real Beauty* has two insightful videos for girls (and mothers) here:

[www.campaignforrealbeauty.com](http://www.campaignforrealbeauty.com)

Compare that with their ad for Lynx deodorant. (Note: mothers are the main buyers of Lynx for their teen sons.) [lynx-ad](#)

## Lies & more lies & statistics

- 79% of youth say the adults in their church are easy to talk to. (81% have never spoken to their youth minister.)
- You probably know more about Paris Hilton than you know about any teenager in your church.
- 118 college women were shown 20 ads from women's magazines. All 118 showed some sign of depression afterward.
- 25% of sexually active teenage girls are depressed. 8% of inactive girls are.
- 8% of sexually active teenage boys are depressed. 3% of inactive boys are.
- 30% of teen girls get pregnant.
- 1.5% of teen mothers get a college degree before they reach 30.
- Postponed: a book by Lynne Spears (the mom) on parenting by Christian publisher Thomas Nelson.

**Facts are stubborn things. statistics are more pliable.**

-Mark Twain

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