

Mobilising Youth for Mission: Four Priorities

The greatest presence of secularism and atheism in the world is found amongst the young people in Europe. As we embrace the huge challenge of reaching the youth in this continent, there are some priorities that our churches, missionary agencies, organisations, ministries, educational institutions and networks should consider. In this session we will suggest and reflect on four of those priorities: technology, multigenerational leadership, proclamation and a new generation of church planters.

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Introduction - Youth (facts and challenge):

1. Just over half of the world population are under the age of 30.
2. There almost 2 billion young people in the world between the ages of 10 and 24.
3. In many parts of the world, the largest number of atheists and agnostics will be found among young people and young adults.
4. Even in contexts where the church has grown exponentially, we'll find an increasing number of young people in the country becoming atheists.
5. We must think intentionally, strategically and urgently about reaching the youth. Let's consider four priorities as we reflect on our missions to youth.

I. We must be present, invest and create content for *social media* and *technology* in general

A. Statistics on youth and social media

B. Social media is one of the main *Areopagus (Acts 17)* of our present and our future.

II. The formation of *multigenerational leadership* in key teams of our churches, organisations, and networks.

- A. Understanding multigenerational leadership (a leadership team formed by people from different ages holding similar levels of authority)
- B. Benefits of multigenerational leadership teams
- C. Biblical foundation for multigenerational leadership
- D. What is the age of those placed in the most influential roles in our teams, churches and organizations?

III. The verbal proclamation of God's word.

- A. Our present lack of confidence in preaching to a postmodern youth.
 - 1. Possible reasons
 - 2. Has the pendulum swung to the other side?
- B. Recovering the place of proclamation in evangelism and discipleship of young people
 - 1. Questioning some of the reasons why many of us do not prioritize proclamation to youth.
 - 2. Biblical foundation for preaching to youth.
 - 3. Rethinking how we do it, not whether we do it

IV. Motivating, equipping and resourcing a new generation of church planters

- A. Church planting in Europe - some facts:
- B. The urgent need of new expressions of the Church in Europe

C. A new generation of church planters in Europe

1. We must motivate them!
2. We must equip them!
3. We must resource them!

Suggested Readings:

Vista ebulletin (by Redcliffe College): *Youth in Europe: Spirituality, secularism and mission* - <https://europeanmission.files.wordpress.com/2011/01/vista-2011-01-issue-04.pdf>

Vista ebulletin (by Redcliffe College): *Effective Church Planting in Europe* - <https://europeanmission.files.wordpress.com/2011/08/vista-issue-6-july-2011-final.pdf>

Rebecca Knight, "Managing People from 5 Generations", Harvard Business Review, 2014: <https://hbr.org/2014/09/managing-people-from-5-generations>

Jeanne C Meister and Karie Willyerd, "Are You Ready to Manage Five Generations of Workers?", Harvard Business Review, 2009: <https://hbr.org/2009/10/are-you-ready-to-manage-five-g>

Jake Wobbrock, "How Millenials Require US to Design the Technologies of Tomorrow", Wired Magazine, 2014: <https://www.wired.com/insights/2014/09/millennials-design-technologies/>

UNESCO, "Statistics on Youth" - <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/events/prizes-and-celebrations/celebrations/international-days/world-radio-day-2013/statistics-on-youth/>

Marketing, "YouTubers are the New Influencer for Today's Youth": <http://marketingmag.ca/sponsored/youtubers-are-the-new-influencer-for-todays-youth-161175/>

Stuart Dredge, "Why are YouTube stars so popular?", The Guardian, 2016: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/feb/03/why-youtube-stars-popular-zoella>

Josh Sanburn, "Here's What MTV Is Calling the Generation After Millennials", Time Magazine, 2015: <http://time.com/4130679/millennials-mtv-generation/>

John Ortberg, "The Gap: The fractured world of multi-generational church leadership", CT Pastors, 2009:

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2009/summer/thegap.html>