

Confused, Alone, and Without Purpose: Can This Global Youth Culture Find Truth?

The current urban population, connected by consumerism, social media, and the entertainment industry forms the largest global youth culture ever to exist. It spans the globe, sharing the same values, listening to the same music, watching the same movies, and sharing the same posts. They do not look to the church for answers but believe it to be a dead and empty tradition of the past. But God's heart is broken for this lost generation and we need to make the message of his love accessible to them. In this session we want to spark a discussion on how we can start missional evangelistic movements in our secularised cities, sent from our local church.

Luke Greenwood is British by birth, grew up in Brazil, and now lives in Wroclaw, Poland, with his wife Ania and their two children. He serves as the European Director for Steiger, a mission organisation dedicated to reaching and discipling the Global Youth Culture for Jesus. Luke's passion is in evangelism and discipleship among the alternative youth scenes, and has a vision to establish dynamic missionary teams to reach the secularised culture of every major European urban centre. In addition to such projects, Luke often speaks, sharing the vision of Steiger in churches and conferences, as well as teaching each year at the Steiger Missions School. Luke studied music therapy in Brazil and missiology at All Nations in the UK.

I. Statistics of the Global Youth Culture

- A. 2 billion young people in cities today (<http://www.geohive.com/earth>)
- B. In Europe, less than 2% say they have a personal relationship with Jesus (<http://www.gemission.org/mission-and-vision>)
- C. In the US approximately 56 million religiously unaffiliated (2014 Pew Research)
- D. Czech Republic: 91% of young adults have no religion. UK, France, Belgium, Spain and the Netherlands: 56% to 60% never go to church, and 63% to 66% never pray. ("Europe's Young Adults and Religion", Stephen Bullivant)

Question for discussion: What do people you live, study, work with, think about faith, God and Christianity?

II. Characteristics of the Global Youth Culture

- A. Global: Is this the largest unreached group today?
- B. Consumer: Affecting identity and relationships
- C. Secularised: Leaving a gap between the church and society

D. Four lies the GYC believe:

1. We can only be sure of what we see
2. We are here by accident
3. Everything is going to be ok
4. To find God you have to be “religious”

E. Examples from pop culture:

1. Damon Albarn, Blur
2. Lily Allen
3. Elle Mills
4. Lil Peep

III. The spiritual need of the Global Youth Culture

A. Identity crisis - leading to a lack of purpose

B. Relationship crisis - leading to a sense of loneliness

C. Spiritual hunger (ex.: Bring Me The Horizon, Florence And The Machine)

Questions?

IV. Facing the issues

A. There is a cultural gap between church and the Global Youth Culture

B. Most of our evangelistic efforts are not reaching them

C. Exciting hope and mission opportunities

V. How can we respond?

A. Know the scene

1. Build relationships
2. Ask good questions

3. Relevant communication
4. Partnership with the scene

B. Speak truth into the scene

1. Be bold
2. Point to Jesus
3. Preach the Cross
4. Let them experience God's presence

C. Make disciples in the scene

1. Discipleship starts where you are
2. Welcome people into a community
3. Get people involved in the action
4. Invest in a few
5. Study and teach the Bible

VI. A vision for change

- A. Missionary teams focused on reaching the GYC in cities
- B. Partnership with the local church

Questions?