

Meeting the Challenge of Reaching Young People Today

The sheer numerical challenge of reaching the rising generation in Europe can seem overwhelming. We may well be reading reports of the churches declining amongst young people. How might we begin to meet this challenge? Are there any signs of hope? Are there practical things we can do to try and reach Europe's young people with the gospel?

Amy Orr-Ewing is the Director of the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics and the Europe, Middle East and Africa Director of RZIM. She leads a team of inspirational apologist-evangelists and speaks around the world on how the Christian faith answers the deepest questions of life. Over the last twenty years Amy has spoken on university campuses, including Oxford, Cambridge, Vienna, Hong Kong, Phoenix, Massachusetts, in the Speakers Rooms and Chapel at the UK Parliament, on Capitol Hill, and to West Wing staff at the White House. Amy speaks in banks, businesses, and consultancy firms, as well as churches and conferences. She gained a first-class degree in Theology and a DPhil (doctorate) from the University of Oxford and is an Associate Tutor at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. Amy is the co-founder of REBOOT, a youth apologetics initiative aimed at helping young people think deeply about faith, which now runs in countries all over the world. Amy is married to Frog and helps lead Latimer Minster, a church plant and community on a farm in Buckinghamshire, and they have three children.

Introduction:

The Climate in which we work to reach the under 40s

Generations:

Millennials

Those born 1977-1994

IGEN

Those born 1995-2010

CHALLENGES FOR THE CHURCH THEN IN REACHING UNDER 40s...

1. We are almost nowhere on most people's radar

Getting onto the radar...

1. Church as people and place as both a site and the laity

2. Online space

3. Find people of peace who open up the networks

2. The financial struggle and the impact on time

3. Anxiety

4. Intellectual Challenges

5. Ourselves – is the church a closed loop?