

Planting a Missional Mindset in Young Disciples in Europe

European young Christians want to make a difference that lasts. They want to be game changers and bring the Gospel in word and deed, in proclamation and justice. When they are discipled well and know who they are in Christ, they desire to live a missional life not just for the moment, but to commit their lives to a cause worth living for. To cross the gap between wanting to make a difference and committing to the cause, it takes people to invest into the young generation, role-models who demonstrate how one can live as a missional Christian at an older age and who challenge them to take the next steps while being willing to mentor them into missional living. The seed of a missional mindset needs to be planted as early as possible and as mission leaders we want to discover ways to plant them and help them grow.

Evi Rodemann is passionate about seeing young Christian people find their kingdom role in this world and to live missional where they are and where God has called them. After high school she set off to study theology and missiology in the Netherlands to know God better and to understand more about how to live and share His Word in our world today. For a number of years she worked full-time, first in a church, and then for about 8 years in various countries outside of Europe. But, Europe has always remained her strongest passion—to see a young generation mobilised. Therefore, she left full-time ministry and went to work in an aluminum company to bring God's Kingdom and along with this directs Mission-Net, a European youth mission congress and movement, under the EEA and the EEMA (www.mission-net.org). She also serves as the youth consultant for the European Evangelical Alliance.

I. Who is this generation of young Christian Europeans?

Mk 2:1-12

1. Generation Y characteristics
2. When do they come to faith?
3. What do they perceive as their biggest needs?

II. What do we mean with a missional mindset?

- Needs to turn into action: Missional lifestyle

Not everything fosters this!

III. The needs of the young generation to help them succeed as life-long Christians

A. Discipleship

"Christ-life transformation, that begins with new birth, impacts every part of life and results in every disciple becoming a disciple maker."

Today: programme instead of process

Discipleship needs to be authentic missional discipleship

- Outward focused, Mt 4:18-22, Lk 5

B. The gap

1. What is missing? Awareness and recognition of the problems
2. What is missing? Missional discipleship through development stages

Win, build, equip, multiply

3. What is missing? Role models
4. What is missing? Planning and evaluating

IV. Possible suggestions for the future

A. Churches / youth work

B. Mission agencies

C. Events

Suggested Readings:

Barna, G. (2003) *Transforming Children Into Spiritual Champions: Why Children Should Be Your Church's #1 Priority*, Ventura, Calif: Regal Books

Lawrence, J. & Ltd, B. (2012) *Engaging Gen Y: Leading Well Across the Generations*, Cambridge, England: Grove Books Ltd