

## **Psalms 78:1-72**

### **Telling them to a generation yet to come..**

What an interesting expression! A generation yet to come.

Right now in the world 50 % of all the people in the world are under the age of 25, by the year 2015 50% will be under the age of 12.

Astounding facts and something we as a church will continue to position ourselves not in the past but in passing on the stories of God to another generation. **We are not going to hide them from the generations to come.** Our role, our responsibility is to equip the generations with the tools to tell a generation to come of the goodness of God.

We have a heart, a heart for the lost. A heart to see people won for Christ and encouraged on their journey. We want to see people live the best life. Not just a good life but the 'best life'. We spend time with them, getting in their world's, talking about their challenges, sharing their joys. The bible calls this disciplining.

**As a church we build the generation yet to come.** How amazing is that word. A generation yet to come. In other words, **we don't come to church with our own agendas**, what's in it for me, rather we come with an attitude of reaching out to others. We are not here for ourselves we are here for a generation yet to come.

We don't come out of a sense of 'obligation', this is something I have to do but rather we come with a vision to build the generations to come.

### **So what do these generations look like?.**

Builders

Pre builders ( up to 1926)

- they set up today's society & church
- loyalty, duty important
- conformist
- beginning significantly to die off

**Builders** 1927-1945 (I will cope)

- generous
- hard to lead into new places at times - they can't decide clearly
- conformist
- parents were affected by the depression and so they often hold onto things, money locked away.
- Would not even think of changing jobs

**Boomers** 1945-1960's (I will be satisfied)

- **idealistic in '60s, became \$-oriented in 70s**
- impatient
- first divorce generation -- view marriage as a contract for an exchange of goods and services
- some are starting to come back to church as they start to feel/see their mortality
- now gaining control of the Church
- May never change jobs

**Generation X** – 1960's – 1978 (we will be in relationship and be authentic)

- predominantly single, but may be coupled
- they are very serious parents
- some are violent
- **common theme of excellence**
- they want to know things.
- Change jobs on average every seven years

**Generation Y** 1978- 1995 ( we will experience our lives)

- children of divorce
- integrated into the Internet
- grew up with multiple TV
- **fully unchurched**
- **amoral - have no values**
- education-oriented
- optimistic
- **highly self-centred**
- creative and life style focused

Ten Fears of Generation Y

- I will never be able to have a happy marriage or happy family.
- Someone I know will die of AIDS -- it may be me.
- Do I have to have sex this young?
- Where do I find the time to do everything?
- How can I tell right from wrong?
- Will my friends still like me if I don't go along?
- I will be the victim of violent crime.
- Can I make it financially?
- Can I get a good enough education?
- Something bad will happen to my family (divorce, or divorce #2).

If these people do end up in belief communities, it's usually a rigid one:

- Mormons
- Jehovah's Witnesses
- Islam
- Conservative/fundamentalist Christianity

**Generation Z** – one of the most interesting generations we have come to see. These are children in the 0-12 age bracket.

- **Instant minded**
- Most highly educated, over resourced and over stimulated generation
- Protected from life experiences, both good and bad
- **Smallest of all generations**
- 'while these children benefit from the attention, practical assistance and material provision of their parents, the fact that they usually have only one or two siblings which can create a '**Little Emperor**' syndrome.
- Greater access to technology than any other generation and at a younger age.
- They come from at least two other generations

Why is this generation so interesting? Because they come from two different generations. What do I mean by that?

Well Generation X predominantly on average have waited until they are in their thirties to have children, while the Generation Y so far haven't been waiting as long on average to have children. This means we have a whole generation of children who are being nurtured by two different thinking generations. What we end up with is quite astounding, quite challenging.

There is a nutshell is the other generations. So how do we who are locked into our own generation reach out to people we meet? Good question.

Here are some simple ideas and thoughts for outreach to each of the generations.

### **Builders**

- They need **a traditional approach** that is front on. Where will you spend eternity?
- They want you to be consistent in your approach to them otherwise they will think you are not worth the time to listen to.

### **Boomers**

- Need to be involved with them in their lives.

- They want to see you mean what you say.
- **What is the value of involvement?**
- They are seeking for involvement and often look to other organizations i.e. rotary, loins clubs, sporting groups
- Want to do something worth while for the community.
- Could be invited to help at a working bee to do something worth while for a group.

### **Generation X**

- Want an **informal approach**.
- They want **you in their life being 'very normal'**.
- They need to see Christ as a way to get somewhere they need to go.

### **Generation Y**

- They want **extreme fun**
- Travel is a big thing for them
- They want good training
- They **want the experience** – café style life
- Want to be around others of their generation more than any other generation.
- Need to 'feel' part of something

### **Generation Z**

- need **multi-media** experiences
- Multi-faceted approach.
- They will not sit and just learn bible verses they want to be part of the experience in a very ALIVE, ACTIVE way.
- Kids Connex/Sunday School can not be boring learn this learn that time.

Here we go. To reach generations. Next week we experience 'Presence' an open heaven. That will be something not to be missed. The following four weeks we are starting that series on 'Just walk across the room'. We will be given some valuable skills in reaching out to people.

Jesus stepped out of heaven and walked across the universe to deliberately collide with our lives. A collision that has changed the course of time and now allows people to live 'the best life'.