REACHING THE NEXT GEN IN ASIA

Building Authentic Communities
WHY DO THIS?

- -
THE NEXT GENERATION IS A PART OF THE LORD’S PLANS FOR THIS TIME.

“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.

JOEL 2:28
GOD PLANNED FOR US TO BE A MULTI-GENERATIONAL CHURCH.

I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

1 JOHN 2:14
GOD PLANNED FOR US TO BE A MULTI-GENERATIONAL CHURCH.

“...This applies to the Levites: from twenty-five years old and upward they shall come to do duty in the service of the tent of meeting. And from the age of fifty years they shall withdraw from the duty of the service and serve no more. They minister to their brothers in the tent of meeting by keeping guard, but they shall do no service.”

Numbers 8: 24–26
TOGETHER WE FORM THE BODY OF CHRIST
PRAYER

Young people in Asia who are yet to know the Lord.
PRAYER

Young people in our churches who are hurting and feel misunderstood.
PRAYER

Young people who have left the church, or have stopped following God.
We would be an intergenerational church—passionately serving God together.
WHO ARE THE NEXT GEN?

Yeji In
1. What is a meme?

1. a term to describe a good song or a beat.
2. A humorous image, video, piece of text, etc, that is copied and spread rapidly by internet users.
3. Nicer way to say, “you’re mean”.
4. a fictional story that is created instantly on the spot
2. What do these emojis represent? 👉 👈

1. Shy

2. Accusing one another

3. Confused

4. Disagreement
3. What is an issue that is important to the next generation? (open ended, type in zoom chat)
Characteristics & Action

1. Digital Native
   - information are immediately accessible
   - rise of nomophobia

2. Fluidity & Openness
   - More open to change,
   - Want to explore different views and experiences
   - go with the flow,
   - want less structure and commitment
Characteristics & Action

3. Interested in societal & global issues
E.g. politics, societal issues, climate change, inequality, poverty, war

4. Different concerns about life now and the future
YOLO = you only live once/ love yourself
Seeking fresh experiences, travel the world, taking a gap year
Instead of usual view of getting a degree and stable job, marriage and children

5. Exude confidence and authority
Vocal, expressive especially on digital platforms
Seem to portray that our life is perfect, exciting and enriching
Yet struggle inside and often alone
Insecurities and fears
- high in depression and anxiety
- Many social media followers but lonely inside
  - Even though we don't say this - parents' views and acceptance are very important but most difficult
  - Do people truly like us?

Want to prove our lives matter
- Great pressure to show off
- Be different and break out of the norm
  - Are we making an impact?

Other big questions
- What is true?
- Who am I? (identity)
- What am I here for? (purpose)
- Where do I belong? (belonging)
Desires

1. **Know us individually**
   - build relationship first
   - listen to us
   - See us as individuals. No Stereotype!

2. **Be a friend**
   - meet us where we are
   - Ask questions

3. **Be role models**
   - Deep inside we look up to you
   - Model what Christian life looks like
   - show us how you cope with struggles
“How you view this generation will shape the way you minister to them, preach to them, mentor them, counsel them and build relationships with them... It’s human nature, the older we get, the more negative we describe [the next] generation...You and I have far more in common with [the next generation] than we do differences. Our human nature, being made in God’s image, gives us more in common – a desire to be loved, for purpose, for relationships, knowing that truth matters.”

– Sean McDowell, at Intentional Discipleship Conference in Manila
Unfiltered Community for Next Generation

Asia 2021 Plenary
Lilly

Youth leader in the Thai church who was struggle with depression.
Depression rates by age, 2009–2017

Percent of population in each age group that has reported a Major Depressive Episode

Source: Journal of Abnormal Psychology, Twenge et al.
Gen Z are seeking authenticity

#NoFilter Stories
79% of gen Z trust companies that do not photoshop their ads, they prefer brands that are authentic.
Luke 18 : 9-14

“The tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven,... saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’
“Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and self-indulgence!”
Vulnerable Leadership
"A leader, first and foremost, is human. Only when we have the strength to show our vulnerability can we truly lead."

- Simon Sinek
  Leadership Author
3 Phrases to create an unfiltered community

1. “I don't know.”
2. “I don't understand.”
3. “I'm wrong.”
3 Phrases to create an unfiltered community

1. “I don't know.”  
   
   ----->  Ask more

2. “I don't understand.”  
   
   ----->  Listen more

3. “I'm wrong.”  
   
   ----->  Apologize more
"Authenticity is the daily practice of letting go of who we think we're supposed to be and embracing who we are.

Choosing authenticity means cultivating the courage to be imperfect."

- Brené Brown
  Leadership Author
Lilly

It’s not a perfect pastor who helps her through the valley of the shadow of death. It's her spiritual mentor who ask, listen, apologize, and pray with her.
Unfiltered Community for Next Generation

Asia 2021 Plenary
Authentic Living
“I see a lot of people serve actively within the church. I think it’s a good thing. But I personally don’t serve much inside church... Must I serve in church or is it okay to serve outside of church? A lot of my friends serving inside the church say there’s a lot ‘just doing it for the sake of doing it’.

*Not her real name*
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How might we understand Gen Z’s ideals and guide them with openness while tapping on our own experiences and lessons learnt?
What if we had a Church that is...
“...SERVING the local community. We don’t want to be just a Sunday worshipper. Instead, we want to feel included in any community service project that is run by the church throughout the week.”
"...not afraid to ENGAGE and even LEARN FROM the world - but at the same time is also known for being DIFFERENT.

CLIMATE CHANGE  LGBTQ  SEXUAL ABUSE

CRITICAL RACE THEORY
“...willing to RELEASE and blesses its young people to serve outside rather than just in its church ministry programs.”
Is there a way forward?
Examining things INSIDE

How central should justice and mercy be to our daily lives?

What’s my church’s role in the community?

What’s my church’s role in addressing unjust systems and structures?
Taking things OUTSIDE

From classrooms and conferences to the streets

Exposure to those in the mission field and marketplace

Life-on-life discipleship
“The Church is very good at keeping people busy.”
Taking things OUTSIDE

From classrooms and conferences to the streets
Exposure to those in the mission field and marketplace
Life-on-life discipleship
“I’m at a stage in my life where I’m looking for authentic pictures of Christ-like living - around tables rather than pews... I remember having a meal with G once at a coffee shop. He could tell us all about the individuals serving us - who they worked, their medical conditions... I would’ve killed for such a church leader!”
Walking ALONGSIDE

What is BIBLICAL justice and mercy?

What does it look like to be IN but NOT OF the world?
“Young people are always watching how the older ones live. The next generation will be molded by the courage and compassion - or lack thereof - in the older generation.”

- Joshua, mid-20s
Engaging & Relevant Discipleship

Presented by Chloe Wu (China)
GenZ (born between 1995-2010) have not lived in a world without digital technology. 96% of this generation owns a smartphone, and 63% owns a tablet.

"Digital Natives" / iGeneration

(Econsultancy)
The digital natives read, think, and learn DIFFERENTLY.

source: Barnes & Noble College
“I’d like to be more challenged intellectually in the church”

—- a Malaysian interviewee
Back to a Biblical Model: Mission-oriented, instead of Program-driven

Teach Them to Fight

young people need to be trained to think and respond apologetically

Fight FOR Them

i.e. Campus Ministries; Christian Education
“Move for God” college camp
Practical Steps

- **Equip**: ministry leaders that serve the need of these groups specifically
- **Examine**: current teaching strategies and approaches
- **Empower**: young people in missional effort and leadership exercise
BUILDING YOUNG LEADERS

HOW? Raising young leaders and integrating them into our leadership teams.
YOUNG PEOPLE CAN LEAD IN THE FUTURE

HERE LEADERSHIP IS PASSED AND THEN PRACTISED alone

YOUNG PEOPLE CAN LEAD NOW

HERE LEADERSHIP IS PRACTISED Together BEFORE IT IS PASSED
YOUTHS ARE NOT JUST LEADERS OF TOMMORROW BUT LEADERS OF TODAY

PASTOR HOW
Q. THE PRINCIPAL WAY OF LEADING TODAY

WHAT KIND OF LEADERSHIP IS DESIRED AND THEREFORE EFFECTIVE AMONGST YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY?
Leaders are people who lead from the front. They are the ones who model the way and set the standards for the group.

Leaders are people who walk alongside us. In fact they are ones who inspire us from the back.
YOUR FOCUS WILL NOT BE ON THE WORK BUT ON THE ONES WHO DO THE WORK

MALCHOM WEBBER
BUILDING YOUNG LEADERS

PERSONALLY  INSTITUTIONALLY
EXPOSE THEM TO BIG PEOPLE AND BIG PLACES

PERSONALLY

YOUNG PEOPLE DESIRE TO BE PART OF SOMETHING BIG NOT SOMETHING THAT IS BORING.
INVEST FOR THEM AND THROUGH THEM

WHEN YOU DO THE FORMER THEY KOW YOU CARE FOR THEM, WHEN YOU DO THE LATER THEY KNOW YOU TRUST THEM
IS THERE A SYSTEM IN PLACE?

LET'S STOP LONGING TO HAVE YOUNG LEADERS AND START LOOKING FOR THEM
Inter-generational Leadership

The cry here is not give leadership and go, but share leadership while you are there.
Discussion Questions

1. What is surprising thing about young generation you learn today?
2. Which of the young leader’s suggestions would you like to explore further and how?