

Growth Points

with Dr. Gary L. McIntosh

Volume 18 Issue 2

PO Box 892589, Temecula, CA 92589-2589

February 2006

Reaching Emergents

The younger “emergent” generation is open to church and the gospel, but new approaches will be necessary to reach them. The following is a brief summary of ideas on reaching them for Christ.

A. Share Compelling Stories.

- What’s Out? — formulas, simple solutions, being the Bible Answer Man.
- What’s In? — conversation and sharing.

Key: a person with a story to tell, talks to another person

Emerging Churches: Creating Christian Community in Postmodern Cultures (Baker, 2005)

“Gibbs and Bolger . . . paint emerging churches as attractive, hopeful and ever-evolving, populated by some of the most vibrant, open-minded and service-oriented young Christians. Readers who are attached to ‘church business as usual’ will be shaken up by this book, while those ready for a change will find it energizing.”

—Publishers Weekly

who has a story to tell, and shares the story of Jesus.

B. Embrace People Into the Community.

- What’s Out? — institutions.
- What’s In? — community.
- Key: provide people opportunities to be involved in community BEFORE they give their lives to Christ.

C. Do Life Together

- What’s Out? — dispensing answers.
- What’s In? — hanging out 24/7.
- Key: emergents want to see us internalize truth, as well as exegete it.

D. Engage Their Senses

- What’s Out? — delivering truth only through proposition.
- What’s In? — delivering truth through all senses.
- Key: use art, music, poetry, media, Internet, drama, lots-n-lots of stories.

E. Become Their Mentors

- What’s Out? — Bible study

leaders.

- What’s In? — parent-like mentors.
- Key: tutor emergents as a learner who has traveled further.

F. Talk Their Talk

- What’s Out? — old words.
- What’s In? — new words for old things.
- Key: let them establish their own identify.

G. Hit the Streets

- What’s Out? — head knowledge.
- What’s In? — experiential knowledge.
- Key: let them see God’s truth acted out

among real people in real situations

For information on scheduling Dr. Gary L. McIntosh

call toll free . . .
1-877-506-3086

e-mail . . .
cgnet@verizon.net

write . . .
PO Box 892589
Temecula, CA 92589

Engage their senses!

Use art, music, poetry, media, and lots of stories.

H. Stress the Kingdom

- What's Out? — concern for just one church or denomination.
- What's In? — concern for the entire church.
- Key: help them become a part of God's total work in the world.

I. Encourage Creativity

- What's Out? — punching the clock on Sundays.
- What's In? — an organic mix of media, genres, and styles.
- Key: allow them to experience the diversities of people's gifts.

J. Connect with History

- What's Out? — simplistic answers.
- What's In? — depth of theological teaching.
- Key: help them connect with the roots of their faith.

K. Challenge the Culture

- What's Out? — blind acceptance of the predominate culture.
- What's In? — biblical critique of the culture.
- Key: encourage them to redeem the world as well as individuals.

L. Give Spiritual Direction

- What's Out? — evaluating life and ministry by outward standards.
- What's In? — evaluating life and ministry by authentically spiritual encounter.
- Key: practice a spirituality that is holistic and indigenized.

Think about it!

According to Eddie Gibbs and Ryan Bolger (*Emerging Churches*, Baker 2005), emergents are passionately linked to Jesus. They see the mission of Jesus as being carried on in their communities, and Jesus is the model for how community ought to be formed as they gather together as the Church.

There is no secular/sacred divide in the minds of emergents. Holistic living leads them to see unity, rather than divisions, between such concepts as natural and supernatural, individual and community, mind and body, and public and private.

In their desire to model Jesus they embrace historical practices of the church as ways to connect ancient and contemporary spirituality. The true measure of spirituality is life transformation, rather than gathering numbers of people in a large auditorium.

These and other concepts point to the fact that the emerging generations, and the churches they start, are indeed founded on a different paradigm than that common to the baby boom generation.

Which of these concepts do you find challenging? Which are troubling?

How might you address some of these ideas in your own ministry in the coming years?



Dr. Gary L. McIntosh is President of the Church Growth Network

For information about training workshops, seminars, and church consultations call 951-506-3086.

Growth Points is published twelve times a year. The subscription price is \$16 (U.S. Bank or World Money Order) per year. Permission is granted for use in a local church. For other reprint usage, advance permission must be obtained. Formerly published under the title *Church Growth Network*. Copyrighted 2005 ISSN 1520-5096