

NEXTGEN MINISTRY REVIEW



EUROPE

EUROPE REVIEW CONTENT



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RELEVANT & FRUITFUL

We are entering an exciting but challenging new paradigm of NextGen ministry and mission. **To be relevant and fruitful, we're going to need to be prayerful and faith filled.** We're going to need to adapt to new models and practices, and discard some cherished old ways. Many of us, established leaders, are going to need to learn to talk less and listen more, to be led and champion new leaders, rather than lead and be served. Younger leaders will need to step up, speak up and humbly and accountably take responsibility.

All this change will be too much for some, but for a coalition of the willing, there is a new frontier of mission.

And within this coalition there is a wealth of knowledge, faith and passion which, when pooled, will equip us like never before, as a global church, to complete the Great Commission within this generation.

So let's begin by digging into the riches of the wisdom we possess: the prayerful, informed wisdom of young grassroots leaders across Europe. These thoughts are the most contextually relevant we possess, and if they become the default starting point for our collaborative integrated NextGen strategy, then we will maximize the fruitfulness of our collective resources. I commend this report to you.



Colin Piper | Global NextGen Ministry Review Project Director

VISION:

**PROVIDING A
FRAMEWORK
FOR
GRASSROOTS
MISSIONAL
STRATEGY
TO REACH
AND
EMPOWER
EUROPE'S
NEXTGEN**

NOT ON WATCH

A GLOBAL OVERVIEW

The next 30 years will represent the largest missions opportunity in the history of the world.

We believe this to be true both locally and globally. This undeniable reality is evident in a steep decline in Christianity among the younger generation globally. With 52% of the globe being under the age of 30, and 42% under the age of 25 (NXT Move, 2023), the reality is this: we may be ushering in the darkest era of Christianity in a thousand years.

Our hope, however, is that the answer can be found in Christianity's dawn over 2000 years ago. Christianity grew from 25,000 to 20 million in 300 years. Christianity grew 800 times in 3 centuries. But, it began with a group of 120 in an upper room. We believe that leaders gathering in "one accord" (Acts 2:1) can create the net of relationship that can help turn the tide on Christianity in the next generation (NXT Move, 2023).

The NXT Move's aim is to initiate collaboration and learning from each other in order to see Christianity accelerate in the next generation. We can turn the challenge of a generation stepping away from the church into an opportunity by building meaningful relationships, formulating common language, facilitating God encounters, and accelerating existing work towards an organic movement that reaches the next generation with the Gospel.

Together we are raising of the sails of relationship and collaboration, for God's wind to blow into the mission of reaching a next generation. We believe this is our greatest mission, and remains to be the church's greatest opportunity in the next 30 years. The question, however remains: will it happen on our watch?

OUR



HEARING
THE
VOICE
OF
LOCAL
LEADERS
TO
SHAPE
A NEW
WAY



DECADES OF INVESTMENT

The review response group included:

- **Twelve leaders** who have been actively working with NextGen for 5 years or less.
- **Thirteen leaders** who have 6 to 10 years of experience with the NextGen.
- **Fourteen leaders** who brought a significant depth of experience, having served 11 to 20 years.
- **Eleven leaders** with over two decades dedicated to NextGen ministry.

The average experience among all participants trends towards the 10 to 15-year mark, and collectively, they represent decades of investment in the spiritual growth and guidance of NextGen. **The leaders represented in this european next generation ministry review are a testament to the diverse and rich experience within the field of contextual ministry.** Each leader's reflection and input were crucial, as they individually and collectively navigate the nuances of ministering to today's youth across different cultures and contexts.

“With an average experience that leans toward a decade or more, these leaders have been pivotal in shaping a **relevant, context-sensitive strategy.**”

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**I BELIEVE WE
NEED TO
COLLABORATE,
JOIN FORCES
TO NOT
DOUBLE THE
WORK, BUT TO
ADVANCE THE
KINGDOM
TOGETHER.**

MART-JAN VAN DER MAAS | ALONGSIDERS

”

ORGANISATIONS AND

NATIONS REVIEWED

24-7 Prayer, Gen Zeal, IFES Greece , Alongsiders Nederland, Uyanis Gencligi, Revive Europe, Words of Hope, Healing Rooms Finland, HOPE Together, Word of Life, Scripture Union, Young Life, Youth for Christ, Evangelical Alliances, One Hope, YWAM, Assemblies of God, Greater Europe Mission, The SEND, Sports Movement, Every Home for Christ, Lausanne and World Without Orphans.



Northern Ireland, Scotland, England, Wales, Ireland, Greece, Netherlands, Turkey, Albania, Finland, Kosovo, Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechia, North Macedonia, Serbia, Belgium, Portugal, Ukraine, Norway, France, Italy, Belarus, Romania, Germany and Switzerland.

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**OUR MISSION IS TO
BUILD UP
THE RUINED WALLS.
GOD IS CALLING A
YOUNG GENERATION
TO DO THAT.
WE ARE HERE TO
EQUIP THEM,
SUPPORT, AND HELP
THEM GROW
IN THEIR
RELATIONSHIP WITH
THE 'MASTER
BUILDER'.**

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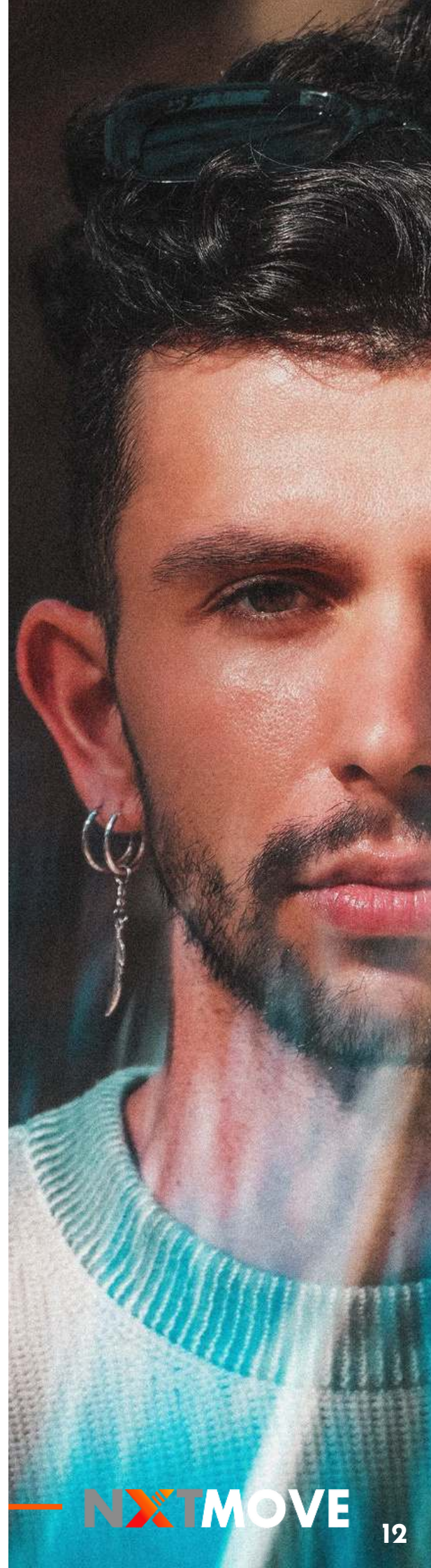
OVERVIEW

**WHAT DID
LEADERS
SAY?**



OVERVIEW

This review explores strategies to effectively engage NextGen in Europe amidst a rapidly shifting cultural landscape. Conducted among NextGen leaders across Europe, most of whom have over 10 years of experience, examines the distinctive characteristics of Gen Z and Gen Alpha while addressing the societal challenges they face, including post-truth ideologies, mental health concerns, and identity struggles. We see the importance of innovative and collaborative ministry approaches that prioritise authentic connections, experiential engagement, Holy Spirit encounters, and long-term discipleship to equip these generations for resilient faith in a complex world.



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**OUR ROLE IS
TO EMPOWER,
EQUIP AND
ENCOURAGE
YOUNG
PEOPLE TO
SEEK GOD IN
DEEP AND
RADICAL
WAYS**

JOSH GREEN | GEN ZEAL

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CHALLENGES IN REACHING THE NEXT GEN



CHALLENGES



1. NextGen and leaders often show low commitment to spiritual growth, with widespread apathy and declining interest in church activities. Worldly influences and distractions compete strongly with spiritual pursuits, making it challenging to maintain young Christians' active engagement in their faith.
2. Secular values, fast-paced digital lifestyles, and individualistic cultures heavily influence NextGen. Issues like mental health challenges, identity struggles, and economic pressures, such as the desire to migrate for better opportunities, impact their resilience and connection to church, contributing to a lack of direction and purpose.
3. Generational divides within churches, compounded by traditional leadership, make it difficult for NextGen to relate to church structures. NextGen ministries often lack relatable leaders close to the age and experience of younger people, which hinders effective mentorship and fails to engage the next generation.

CHALLENGES

4. Many NextGen ministries lack long-term funding and depend on volunteer efforts, limiting their sustainability and ability to support full-time leadership. Financial and resource limitations prevent the development of robust NextGen programs, while a lack of collaborative models and inter-church unity further restricts potential outreach.
5. Churches frequently focus inward, prioritising their younger people over reaching non-Christian youth, leading to minimal external engagement. Disunity among churches and differing perspectives on social issues hinder collaborative efforts, hindering unified and effective outreach to younger people in the wider community.



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**THE NEXT
GENERATION WILL
KNOW GOD'S
WORD AND DRAW
WISDOM FROM IT
TO BE ABLE TO
ANSWER
RELEVANT
QUESTIONS THAT
THEY ARE
BOMBARDED WITH
IN THIS TIME AND
AGE.**

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STRATEGIES TO ENGAGE



FOSTER UNITY AND COLLABORATION AMONG CHURCHES

Build inter-church partnerships to share resources, hold joint gatherings, and **cultivate a united vision for NextGen outreach.**

Collaboration can help bridge divides and create a stronger, supportive Christian community that shares common values, **encouraging NextGen engagement across denominations.**



REVITALISE PRAYER, DISCIPLESHIP AND RADICAL FAITH

Emphasise prayer and a call for **radical, committed lifestyles** among the NextGen. Introduce relational discipleship approaches that create small, close-knit groups **where NextGen can ask questions, encounter the simplicity of the Gospel, and learn to live out their faith authentically** in community.



DEVELOP HOLISTIC APPROACH TO WELLBEING

Integrate mental health resources into NextGen ministries, training leaders in mental health awareness and providing counseling. Educate parents on supportive parenting techniques to create healthier family dynamics, and **address the generational gap in understanding the unique pressures the NextGen face today.**



INOVATIVE **ENGAGEMENT** AND **COMMUNICATION**

Adapt and inovate church communication styles, worship formats, and outreach methods to be culturally relevant for today's generation.

Encourage NextGen led social media initiatives, community service projects, and accessible faith-based content to engage younger people on platforms they frequent, making church feel both relevant and inclusive.



INVEST IN **RELEVANT** **AND SUSTAINABLE** RESOURCES

Increase dedicated funding, time, and resources for NextGen ministry. **Train NextGen leaders in culturally relevant engagement**, mental health support, and real-world faith applications. To **ensure long-term sustainability**, explore income-generating models (e.g., social media-driven business initiatives) and **establish mentorship programs connecting younger people with role models** in both ministry and professional life.



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**EUROPE HAS THE
POTENTIAL TO PLAY A
PIVOTAL ROLE IN A
GLOBAL REVIVAL.
IF REVIVAL SPREADS
ACROSS THE
CONTINENT,
THE MOVEMENT COULD
INSPIRE OTHER REGIONS
THROUGH THE EXAMPLE
OF YOUNG PEOPLE
EMBRACING THEIR FAITH
IN CHALLENGING
SECULAR CONTEXTS
AND IMPACTING EVERY
SPHERE OF SOCIETY.**

SARAH BREUEL | REVIVE

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ACTIONABLE STEPS

PROPOSING A
WAY AHEAD



NXTMOVE

ACTIONABLE STEPS PROPOSED



Create and Strengthen Unity Across Churches and Ministries

- Create unity among churches to host joint NextGen conferences, resource-sharing initiatives, and community outreach projects.
- Encourage ecumenical dialogue focusing on shared goals, such as mission, discipleship, and digital evangelism.
- Develop inter-church teams to create culturally relevant content and resources.

Foster Intergenerational Collaboration

- Establish mentorship programs pairing older, experienced Christians with younger leaders to bridge generational gaps.
- Facilitate multi-generational worship gatherings, emphasising shared faith journeys and collaboration.
- Train parents to engage in meaningful faith conversations, leveraging the finding that family is a key influence for NextGens.



ACTIONABLE STEPS PROPOSED



Reinvigorate a Spirit of Prayer and Revival

- Host regular prayer gatherings that encourage NextGen to engage in passionate, communal intercession.
- Develop prayer chains or virtual prayer rooms where NextGen can submit requests and pray for each other.
- Incorporate teaching about historical revivals and the role of the NextGen in societal transformation to inspire faith.

Promote Discipleship and Relational Faith

- Develop small-group discipleship models that focus on authenticity, accountability, and spiritual growth.
- Encourage peer-led groups, empowering Gen Z and Gen Alpha to take ownership of their spiritual journeys.
- Offer experiential faith-building activities, such as mission trips or service projects, emphasising hands-on learning of biblical principles.



ACTIONABLE STEPS PROPOSED



Integrate Real-World Applications of Faith

- Equip NextGen with practical skills, such as financial stewardship and leadership, grounded in Christian principles.
- Create platforms where NextGen can explore their vocational calling as part of their spiritual identity.
- Partner with local charities and organisations for NextGen to volunteer and apply their faith in real-world scenarios.

Address Issues of Identity Biblically and Compassionately

- Provide clear, biblically rooted teachings on gender and sexuality while fostering a compassionate dialogue that reflects Christ's love.
- Organise workshops on identity and self-worth in Christ, addressing societal narratives and peer pressures.
- Mentoring to guide NextGen through gender-related challenges

ACTIONABLE STEPS PROPOSED



Prioritise Mental Health Support

- Train youth leaders in mental health first aid to provide initial support to NextGen experiencing struggles.
- Partner with Christian counselors to offer workshops or regular sessions for younger people and families.
- Create safe spaces within youth groups where members can discuss struggles like anxiety, depression, or identity issues without fear of judgment.
- Integrate mindfulness and faith-based mental health practices into discipleship programs.

Innovate Faith Engagement with Technology

- Develop engaging, short-form digital content (e.g., videos, reels) tailored to platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube, focusing on faith, identity and purpose.
- Create interactive online Bible study groups or gamified faith-learning experiences that cater to the digitally connected generation.
- Train young leaders in digital evangelism to connect with peers authentically on social media platforms.

ACTIONABLE STEPS PROPOSED



Expand Resource Accessibility and Sustainability

- Advocate for long-term financial investment in youth ministry programs.
- Explore partnerships with Christian businesses and organisations to fund NextGen gatherings and initiatives.
- Establish a resource library (both physical and digital) that includes age-appropriate, faith-based literature, counseling guides, and media tools.

Measure Impact and Continuously Improve

- Use surveys and focus groups to gather feedback from NextGen on ministry programs and their needs.
- Analyse data from events, attendance, and engagement metrics to refine approaches.
- Regularly revisit and adapt strategies based on ongoing research about generational trends and challenges.



EUROPE **REVIEW** SUMMARY



CALL TO ACTION

In a rapidly changing cultural and societal landscape the future of NextGen ministry in Europe hinges on our ability to adapt, collaborate, and innovate. The findings and strategies outlined in this review emphasise the urgent need for a holistic approach—one that integrates mental health awareness, technological engagement, intergenerational collaboration, and compassionate discipleship.

By fostering unity among churches, investing in sustainable resources, and revitalising a spirit of prayer and radical faith, we can empower younger generations to navigate the challenges of life with boldness, resilience and purpose. The call to action is clear: to build vibrant, engaging and empowering communities. Where Gen Z and Gen Alpha can flourish in their faith, find their identity in Christ, and become agents of Kingdom transformation in their societies.

Together, we can ensure that the light of faith continues to shine brightly across Europe and beyond.



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**BY FOSTERING
UNITY WE CAN
EMPOWER THE
YOUNGER
GENERATIONS
TO NAVIGATE
LIFE WITH**

**BOLDNESS,
RESILIENCE,
AND
PURPOSE.**”

STRETCH & STRENGTHEN

The encouraging headline of this review is that leaders were sensing similar things and there is a real unity of thought and heartbeat. The challenge is how do we collaborate in a way that has meaningful grassroots impact cross continentally.

Isaiah 54:1-3 serves as a prophetic image for Europe, depicting a barren woman bursting into song for God is about to give her children. She then gets ready to **stretch** and **strengthen** her tent to accommodate what God is about to do. This resonates with Europe's current state, where there is so much potential for growth and unity in creating spaces for the next generation.

We can see Generation Z and Generation Alpha as pre-Christian not post-Christian. Although these generations may have a few misconceptions about the Church, they are generally open and seeking authenticity.

This openness necessitates a shift in evangelistic approaches, allowing us to introduce and invite people to meet the real, radical, life-changing Jesus. Joining this grace revolution is an incredible opportunity, as integrating the pre-Christian context with diaspora churches is profoundly impactful.

The need is big in the next generation growing up in an own truth / post truth world, lost in a sea of chaos and feeling hopeless when looking the future. But God is beginning to birth something new in our continent; lives surrendered to Jesus, boldness in the few, authentic discipleship and new ways of living missionally.

So let's get ready for what is beginning and what He is about to do in the Next Generation!



Marina Randall
Regional Team Leader: Europe

HOW DID WE DO THE REVIEW?

In the last few years, we have seen an increasing openness to leaders looking at reality; seeing the challenges for the next generation, the fruit of what God is doing, and the sparks of what God is beginning to do. In 2023 and 2024 we conducted an in-depth survey with over 50 leaders, from 24 ministries/movements and across 26 nations in Europe, who serve the next generation (11-25 year olds). It was incredible to hear what the leaders sense God is up to and wants to do in the next generation. The results are consistent with testimonies we have heard throughout the continent.

RESEARCHES WE RECOMMEND



globalyouthculture.net

Global Youth Culture is a OneHope research study covering the trends and behaviors of today's teenagers, the most connected generation.

The Open Generation is a first-of-its-kind international research study to help church leaders understand teenagers around the world.

barna.com/the-open-generation/



NXTMOVE

OUR MISSION

**WE ARE A GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF TRANSFORMATIONAL
RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE VISION TO ACCELERATE
CHRISTIANITY IN THE NEXT GENERATION**

HOW TO CONNECT

Email: marina@nxtmove.global

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Website: nxtmove.global

WHAT CAN WE DO
TOGETHER
TO TURN THE
TRAJECTORY
OF CHRISTIANITY
AROUND IN THE
NEXT GENERATION?

