

Anxiety.

We don't have to look far to see it. Anxiety cripples the hearts of many. We live in an anxious world.

We see it among youth. Research indicates that **Generation Z is often considered the loneliest generation.**<sup>1</sup> Despite increased virtual connectivity and social media engagement, youth are feeling more disconnected from authentic relationships. Isolation and depression are running rampant. Furthermore, Generation Z is also recognized as the "first truly post-Christian generation," meaning less and less youth have even heard about the Gospel let alone understand it.<sup>2</sup>

An anxious world is raising an anxious generation, marked by disconnectivity from God and one another. Yet research also shows that having a non-parental, trusted, adult mentor in the life of a youth often shows a correlation with decreasing one's sense of loneliness, while also positively increasing one's sense of purpose and meaning.<sup>3</sup>

The mission field is ripe for Youth for Christ. Youth are hungry for authenticity and purpose.

Fruitful ministry is needed among a lonely and wandering generation.

As I consider this, I am reminded of the gospel of John. He writes, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5). John continues, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). Jesus moved into our broken world filled with darkness, disunity, immorality, and brokenness. His love compelled Him to shine light where there is darkness.



We are now compelled to extend this same love, to uncover God's story of hope to youth in pivotal moments.

Our work is made possible through your generosity. Would you consider a year-end donation to YFC to further mobilize our mission in the community?

Thank you, as always, for considering YFC. Have a wonderful Christmas season!

All for His glory,

Haddon

- 1 SpringTide Research Institute, The State of Religion and Young People: Relational Authority, 2020, 26-27.
- 2 https://www.barna.com/research/atheism-doubles-among-generation-z/
- 3 SpringTide Research Institute, The State of Religion and Young People: Relational Authority, 2020, 26-27.



## **Quotes from Youth**

- "Honestly, I feel like YFC is my second family. And that's something I really appreciate because I know that I have people who actually care and are willing to be there for me and to help me through my struggles and my problems. It's brought me a long way and it's been encouraging for me."
- "Campus Life connects youth to Christ and it's always felt like a second home to me.
  It's a place where I know I can go at the end of the day without stress or judgment."
- "When I walk in I feel welcomed and loved..."



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