

## Reaching the 18-30's: REPORT TO CTIS&D FORUM 16<sup>th</sup> June 2010

### History

- The absence of the 18 - 30 generation from the church community is both noticeable and concerning, not only for those non Christians within this age group but also for the present and future of today's churches.
- Churches together have recognised this need and wisely agreed that something needs to be actioned to remedy the situation before a "lost generation" occurs to the detriment of those within it.
- A number of Christians belonging to the 18 - 30 (ish) age group from numerous denominations were invited to (and attended) an informal gathering on 6 May 2010 to discuss;-
  - what does church mean to an 18 - 30 year old today?
  - why are there so few 18 - 30 year olds in most churches?
  - what can our churches working together do about it?

### Progress to date

- 6 May 2010
  - Healthy responses from both Christians and non Christians to the questions posed above were received from attendees numbering 17 or so in total
  - Discussions took the form of numerous suggestions and ideas, many of which will be subject to further exploration
  - Both negative and positive comments regarding today's churches were noted and may form the basis of future group formats
  - The culture of the 18-30's generation was reviewed to establish both commonality and differences of this generation with the Church of today
  - Different styles of evangelising and witnessing to the 18 - 30 generation were discussed and reviewed on merit.
  - The unique availability of technology, information and alternative religions to this age group were reviewed as both potential threats and opportunities to Christianity
  - The location of Sudbury was discussed for any relevance to this age group - without conclusion.
- 3 June 2010
  - Lesser number attendees but more focussed group met to continue with feed back from previous meeting and establish route forward
  - Fundamental principles were agreed amongst those present;
    - the group would not seek to create a new church of 18 - 30's but supplement the churches and act as a "feeder unit" - feeding the churches in / around Sudbury able to cater for this age group.
    - the group would be relevant and real to the generation as Christians whilst being diplomats for the churches in Sudbury.
    - the group will need to create a number of facets to address the needs of different sub-groups within the 18 - 30 age group
    - a strong core group of like minded leaders with a common goal is absolutely necessary. Failure to create a cohesive, motivated and dynamic leadership team will lead to failure.
    - Progress will occur with God's blessing, when the group have sought His will and are in unity.

## **Planned Progress**

- 16 June 2010
  - Group meeting / meal at Bulmer Fox
    - to allow the opportunity of the leadership team to create bonds and allow friendships to develop. Thus allowing the right leadership team to form and progress the planning stage prior to implementation.
    - To review and assess the strengths and weaknesses within the team and enable the opportunity of addressing these at an early stage
    - To prayerfully assess progress to date and seek God's direction for the future
    - To begin to cement in place the leadership team based on merit and blessing.
- 3 July 2010
  - Group family day - Walton on the Naze
    - to enable wives / husbands / children of the leadership team inclusion to the project
    - build on bonds and friendships gained thus far effecting a cohesive unified team
    - Seek God's will and timing prior to planning and implementation of God's plan.
- Short term future
  - Make contact with existing groups and explore the benefits of linking or associating with them
  - Attend groups with similar goals and observe techniques / formats
  - Launch group

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11<sup>th</sup> June 2010