

## The youth is the Future

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It is known that youth is the future. If one wonders in what direction the present society is heading, an observation of the young generation should be acquired. As a Christian I saw what happens to Churches that restrained and neglected the activity of young people in their congregations. Such a politic often results in a progressive exodus of the youth to other places where they can feel useful. This is, of course, very sad and often leads to slow death of a Church. If there is no youth in the Church, there is no future for the Church. An investment in the young generation, therefore, is not only proper but also very logical.

Similar observation and conclusions must be applied when reaching out to the Jewish people. The modern generation of Jewish population is different from the one that remembers the horrific experiences of World War Two. Although the past is important and we must never forget what happened it is also very important to move forward. When a person looks back all the time he does not know or see where he is going. We should respect the past and never forget, but we should also learn from it and assure that it will never happen again. Every year there are thousands of young people, who come to Poland and other places in Europe to see where a massive execution of their nation took place. They come, they see, and they go back. Nothing changes. There is no interaction, there is no contact with real people, and there is no change of perspective. The Jewish youth goes back with fear and anger to their home country, while the natives remain untouched by the tragedy of a nation that coexisted with them for centuries.

Fortunately this is changing. There is a new movement in Israel that sees this problem and understands the importance of impacting the both young generations for a better future. One of such initiative is an exchange of students and young people between Israel and many countries in Europe. This is a great opportunity, not only to impact and change a perspective of Israel in Europe, but also to reach to the youth in Israel.

Recently, we have contacted organizations in Israel that are involved in such a movement and offered our help and cooperation. The goal is to connect youth Christians with a fresh and healthy perspective on Israel with the youth from Israel. Ten young people from Poland (5 girls and 5 boys) interacting with ten young people from Israel (5 girls and 5 boys). A week in Poland and a week in Israel. We show them Poland and they show us Israel. There is interaction, there is communication and there is a huge impact. Lives are changed and a new perspective is created. This is an excellent environment to establish real friendships with Jewish youth and create bridges between Polish young Christians and Jewish youth.

We are hoping this opportunity will open doors to the hearts of those young people. There are challenges; of course, we committed ourselves to cover the stay of those young Jewish people in Poland. We also had to find Polish youth that would not only have a heart of love towards the Jewish people, but also that would be able to cover their trip to Israel. For some of those young people this is quite a cost, but we believe that God will bless this ministry. We trust God that He has opened those doors for reason and His plan is perfect and worth serving for.

The Philosophy is to not only connect those young people but to ensure an environment that would favor a positive impact. We see the need to use the huge potential of young people and point it in the right direction. Interaction, discussion, activities with much movement, panels, and cultural exchange is encouraged rather than passive didactic learning methodology.

Youth is all about dynamic and it's great to use that potential! They want to make a change, therefore, let us allow them to do that!